

# **The United States New Zealand 2011**

## **Partnership Forum**

THE POWER OF PARTNERING: *Global Challenges and the Role  
of the US NZ Partnership*

### **Future Partners Report**

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## **Introduction**

For the first time in its history, a group of twenty-one American and New Zealand future leaders joined the delegates at the fourth US NZ Partnership Forum in Christchurch from 19-21 February 2011. On the first day of the conference, The Right Honourable Jim Bolger challenged us to develop and convey our vision for the partnership and the planet twenty years from now. We Future Partners deliberated on this challenge until the moment the earthquake devastated Christchurch and, several weeks later, we reassembled to complete our work. This Report sets forth our vision.

The *Pacific Partners* Report,<sup>1</sup> which formed the foundational discussion points for the Forum, highlights the shared values and common interests between the United States and New Zealand. Our group of Future Partners built on this report by discussing the shared values we, as a new generation, see emerging across the globe. We recognize that our generation defines success differently than the current leaders, and we must utilize this new definition of success to create a sustainable future. We further recognize that our group does not fully represent the wealth of backgrounds and opinions present in our generation of New Zealanders and Americans. Many voices, including some of the most historically underrepresented, were not at the table during our deliberations. In order to ensure a just and sustainable partnership moving forward, it is imperative that these voices join us.

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<sup>1</sup> Center for Strategic and International Affairs, Southeast Asia Program and The New Zealand Institute of International Affairs, *Pacific Partners – The Future of U.S. – New Zealand Relations* (February 2011).

Our time together in Christchurch was cut short by the earthquake and, as a partnership, we responded effectively and immediately to that crisis. We came together in the moments, days, and weeks that followed and continued to build our partnership and help the people of Christchurch. Today, this partnership and the world face a series of challenges that require the same reaction, dedication, and urgency to solve. They are slow-motion crises, which permeate our lives but do not shake us to the core. They do, however, require both long-term planning and urgent action. They require us to act now.

We wonder, why is it that we can respond so effectively to earthquakes but not extreme poverty? Tsunamis but not climate change? The immediate need for food and water but not the long-term pressure on our global resources?

These long-term issues require long-term solutions. Intergenerational problems require intergenerational leadership. Therefore, we challenge you to think of us not as future partners but as current partners here to collaborate with you to solve the urgent and ever-diversifying issues we face. Together we can redefine success and solve these slow-motion crises.

This Report proposes a new definition of success and outlines how this new approach can be applied to examples of three specific issues demanding immediate action, one global, one bilateral, and one domestic. Together we will ensure that the US NZ Partnership is an example to the world of effective cooperation to solve today's pressing issues.

## **Success Redefined**

Success must be defined more broadly than one factor: economic growth.

Real success requires:

- An inclusive and equitable society;
- A healthy and sustainable environment;
- Long-term thinking instead of election-cycle mentality; and
- Multiple voices at the table and actually listening to those voices.

## **Implementing a new definition of success**

Though there are many slow-motion crises affecting us today, this Report highlights three and provides a new paradigm for addressing each one by utilizing our definition of success.

*Climate Change* – global issue

Climate change will require interdisciplinary action, creativity, and a focus on all people, the planet, and profit together.

- Innovation in business occurs through interdisciplinary collaboration: One example of such collaboration is WhalePower, a company created by Dr. Frank Fish after he noticed the shape of a whale flipper, and together with experts across disciplines, they used the shape of the flipper to create wind turbines that were 40% more efficient;
- Climate change affects the Pacific in unique ways, and the United States and New Zealand can be leaders: Specifically, many island nations, such as

Tuvalu, face displacement. These people will lose their cultures and their homes. We must bring leaders from these countries to the table, early and often, to determine how best to relocate them safely and in ways that work for them;

- We need to recognize that many choices made by the United States and New Zealand will affect these island countries, and they must be present at the decision making table;
- Success means including environmental impacts in the bottom line: Specifically, the private sector must utilize a triple bottom line, focusing on social, economic, and environmental issues together. It must role model the best techniques for ensuring that people and the planet are prepared for a better future;
- Therefore, the public sector can bring people together from the region to determine how best to prepare for the future of displaced people, and the private sector can include long-term planning in its triple bottom line. Together, leaders from both sectors in New Zealand and the United States can ensure that the Pacific is a place of prosperity in the future.

#### *Poverty through a trade lens – bilateral issue*

Today 2 billion people live in poverty, and by 2020, that number is likely to rise to 3 billion. Addressing poverty requires that we act now.

- Trade agreements must be reoriented to emphasize international development as well as profits;

- Developing nations benefit when they have open access to developed countries: Thus, countries need to eliminate trade barriers on goods from all countries with both lower GDP and per capita GDP;
- Developed nations also benefit from opening trade barriers: For example, businesses today benefit from the vision of yesterday's leaders, and we must carry this forward to ensure success for tomorrow's leaders. Today, Starbucks benefits from trade agreements forged with China a generation ago; it makes more money on its stores in Shanghai than its stores in New York City, and it expects to triple its presence in China by 2015. Opening trade barriers to developing countries, therefore, benefits the developing and developed world together;
- Any free trade agreement must include mechanisms to ensure that those who initially suffer setbacks from free trade are compensated and are able to benefit from the new trade agreements. This compensation should include retraining workers who are entering new industries, relocation benefits, and extended unemployment benefits during the period of transition.
- The United States must open its doors to New Zealand, and New Zealand must in turn open its doors to developing countries throughout the Pacific.

### *Inequity* – domestic issue

When discussing issues such as climate change and trade at the global and bilateral levels, we often think of the United States and New Zealand as homogenous entities with homogenous interests. This approach, however, overlooks the rich diversity of

each country and further ignores the systemic gender and racial inequities persisting in both countries.

- This is a slow-motion crises with immediate effects in today's world: underprivileged and underrepresented youth are at the center of the recent revolts throughout the Middle East;
- We must place our shared challenge of domestic inequity on our bilateral agenda, and we must be intentional about including all people at the decision making table *before* decisions are made rather than asking for their input after deliberations have ended;
- We must be proactive in valuing diversity through inclusion, utilizing both top-down and bottom-up initiatives;
- The United States and New Zealand can be global role models and develop our partnership more deeply by addressing inequities together.

## **Conclusion**

These slow-motion crises are big, but they are not insurmountable. Together, we can address them, but we must begin now, and we must act with the same sense of urgency we utilized on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and the continuing response to the earthquake. We invite you to join us as intergenerational leaders in order to redefine success for the future, and provide global leadership, through our partnership and our shared vision of a better future.