The Pacific Update Conference is an annual forum for discussing research and analysis relating to contemporary economic and public policy issues in the Pacific. It gathers policymakers, academics, and development partners to discuss the latest economic and social developments in the region.

Wednesday, 15 July and Thursday, July 16, 8:00 am–5:30 pm
Japan–Pacific ICT Centre, USP–Laucala Campus, Suva

Jointly Organized and Sponsored by:

Pacific Department
Asian Development Bank
with support from the Pacific Economic Management Technical Assistance project

Asian Development Bank Institute
Development Policy Centre
Crawford School of Public Policy
Australian National University

School of Economics
Faculty of Business and Economics
The University of the South Pacific
DAY ONE—WEDNESDAY 15 JULY 2015

8:00 am
Registration

9:00 am
Opening Ceremony and Welcoming Addresses

Introductions of Speakers
Satya Paul, Head, School of Economics, The University of the South Pacific (USP)

Welcome Address
Rajesh Chandra, Vice Chancellor and President, USP

Opening Address
Mahendra Reddy, Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts of Fiji

9:30 am
Official Launch
Pacific Opportunities: Leveraging Asia’s Growth
An ADB-ADBI joint publication

Naoyuki Yoshino, Dean, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)

Emma Veve, Director, Pacific Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

10:00 am
Morning Coffee, Tea, and Refreshments

10:30 am
Opening Plenary Session

Regional Economic Outlook
Report based on July 2015 issue of the Pacific Economic Monitor
Christopher Edmonds, Senior Economist, Pacific Department, ADB

Keynote Presentation: Developments on Pacific Labor Mobility
Stephen Howes, Director, Development Policy Centre, Australian National University (ANU)

12:00 pm
Lunch

1:00 pm
Parallel Session 1a: Macroeconomic Policy

Hard Pegs versus Intermediate Currency Arrangements in the Pacific
— with Matthias Helble and Ahmad Prasetyo
Naoyuki Yoshino, Dean, ADBI

The Role of Central Bank in Supporting Fiji’s Economic Growth
Ariff Ali, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of Fiji

Policy Challenges and Responses in the Pacific: A PFTAC Perspective
Scott Roger, Project Coordinator, Pacific Financial and Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC), International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Key Issues in Banking and Finance in the Pacific
Peter Dirou, Senior Financial Sector Expert, Private Sector Development Initiative, ADB
1:00 pm  Parallel Session 1b: Agriculture and fisheries
AusAID  Chair: Christopher Edmonds, Senior Economist, ADB
Lecture  What Do you Want to Know about Pacific Fisheries? Lessons Learnt
Theater  Transform Aqorau, CEO, Parties to the Nauru Agreement
Room 092-001  The State of the Tropics—What Does it Mean for the Pacific?
—with Sandra Harding, Dennis Trewin, and Mark Ziembicki
Ann Penny, Project Manager, State of the Tropics Project, James Cook University

Catalyzing Opportunities in Pacific Smallholder Agriculture
Wesley Morgan, Pacific Policy Advisor, Oxfam Australia

1:00 pm  Parallel Session 1c: Gender inequality and development
AusAID  Chair: Asenati Chan Tung, Lecturer, USP
Lecture  Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration: A Political Tool for Addressing Gender Inequalities in the Pacific?
Theater  Seema Naidu, Gender Issues Officer, Pacific Island Forum Secretariat
Room 092-003  Votes for Women—Increasing Women’s Political Representation in Melanesia
—Kerryn Baker, Postdoctoral Fellow, State, Society & Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU

Gender Based Violence and Its Big Bite on Small Island States- Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu
—with Michael Sivendra
Charlotte Taylor, Assistant Lecturer, USP

2:30 pm  Afternoon Coffee, Tea, and Refreshments

3:00 pm  Parallel Session 2a: Development partnerships and assistance
Japan-Pacific ICT Auditorium  Chair: Sandra Tarte, Head, School of Government, Development and International Affairs, USP
Development Assistance to the Pacific: Trends and Developments—with Matthew Dornan
Jonathan Pryke, Research Officer, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Mapping Chinese Aid in the Pacific
Philippa Brant, Research Associate, Lowy Institute

Relative Effectiveness of External Aid and Foreign Direct Investment in the Economic Growth of Pacific Island Countries: A Case Study of Vanuatu—with T.K. Jayaraman and Hong Chen
Markand Bhatt, Assistant Lecturer, USP

Reflections on Aid to the Pacific
Siosiua (Josh) ‘Utoikamanu, Consultant and Former Governor, National Reserve Bank of Tonga and Minister of Finance, Tonga
3:00 pm  Parallel Session 2b: Human capital development
AusAID Lecture Theater Room 092-001
Parallel Session 2b: Human capital development
Chair: Matthias Helble, Research Fellow, ADBI
Labor Migration and Human Capital Development in Timor-Leste
David Freedman, Country Economist, ADB Timor-Leste Resident Mission
Financing of Technical Education and Training (TVET) in the Pacific
Frank Thompson, First Secretary, Aid Program, Australian High Commission
APTC- Supporting TVET in the Pacific
Denise O’Brien, CEO, Australia-Pacific Technical College (APTC)
Education and Workforce Skills in the Federated States of Micronesia
Paul VandenBerg, Senior Economist, ADBI

3:00 pm  Parallel Session 2c: Export niche supply chains
AusAID Lecture Theater Room 092-003
Parallel Session 2c: Export niche supply chains
Chair: Caroline Currie, Senior Economist, Pacific Subregional Office, ADB
Pacific DMCs’ Export Linkages
Patricia Sourdin, Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins University
The Efficacy of Export-led Growth among Six Pacific Island Countries—with Baljeet Singh
Sunil Kumar, Senior Lecturer, USP
Lessons From a Successful Niche Product Exporter: Pure Fiji
Austin Mafi, Sales & Marketing Assistant and Dewani Lal, Sales Executive, Pure Fiji

4:30 pm  Closing Plenary
Japan-Pacific ICT Auditorium
Closing Plenary

5:30 pm  End of Day One
Welcoming Cocktail & Kava Reception (by invitation)
## DAY TWO—THURSDAY 16 JULY 2015

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<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>8:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Plenary — Roundtable Discussion on Private Sector Development</strong></td>
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<td>Chair and panelist: Tess Newton Cain, Principal, Devpacific</td>
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<td>Kaleb Udui, Jr., Co-Chairperson, Economic Advisory Group, Republic of Palau and Palau Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td>Peter Dirou, Senior Financial Sector Expert, Private Sector Development Initiative, ADB</td>
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<td>Guy Redding, Team Leader, Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access</td>
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<td>Anita Jowitt, Adviser, Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce &amp; Industries</td>
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<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Morning Coffee, Tea, and Refreshments</td>
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<td>10:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Parallel Session 3a: Tourism Markets</strong></td>
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<td>Chair: Marcus L. Stephenson, Head, School of Tourism and Hospitality Management, USP</td>
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<td><strong>Tourism Markets in the Pacific</strong></td>
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<td>Ilisoni Vuidreketi, CEO, South Pacific Tourism Organization</td>
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<td><strong>Achievements and Challenges in Palau’s Tourism Development</strong></td>
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<td>Kaleb Udui, Jr., Co-Chairperson, Economic Advisory Group, Republic of Palau and Palau Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td><strong>Observations on Tourism Developments in Micronesia: Lessons for the Greater Pacific Region?</strong></td>
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<td>Jerry Finin, Resident Co-director, Pacific Islands Development Program, East-West Center</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Major Trends and Priorities in Pacific Tourism Development</strong></td>
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<td>Christopher Edmonds, Senior Economist, ADB</td>
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<td>10:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Parallel Session 3b: Extractive industries and energy markets</strong></td>
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<td>Chair: Jito Vanualailai, Director Research, USP</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Falling Oil Prices Trigger Initial Economic Gains for Pacific</strong></td>
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<td>Dibyendu Maiti, Associate Professor, USP</td>
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<td><strong>Pacific Islands Fuel Pricing Manual</strong>—with Pritanshu Singh</td>
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<td>Alan Bartmanovich, Petroleum Adviser, Economics Development Division, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)</td>
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<td><strong>The Pacific Appliance Labelling and Standards (PALS) Programme:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Importing Efficiency Instead of Fuel</strong>—with Emily McQualter and George Wilkenfeld</td>
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<td>Makereta Lomaloma, Energy Efficiency Advisor, SPC</td>
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<td><strong>Solomon Islands: State-Owned Enterprise Financial Management Issues</strong></td>
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<td>Emmanuel Joseph Iyabora, Lecturer, University of Fiji</td>
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### Day Two Continued

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Parallel Session 3c: Disaster risk management and climate change</strong></td>
<td><strong>AusAID</strong> Lecture <strong>Theater</strong> Room 092-003</td>
<td>Matthew Dornan, Research Fellow and Tess Newton Cain, Visiting Fellow</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Vanuatu and Cyclone Pam: An Update on Fiscal, Economic, and Development Impacts</td>
<td><strong>Development Policy Centre, ANU</strong></td>
<td>Taniela Faletau, Safeguards Officer, Pacific Subregional Office, ADB</td>
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<td>Towards A Behavioral Toolkit: Assessment and Disaster Risk Reduction Through Strategic Partnerships in the South Pacific</td>
<td><strong>RMIT University</strong></td>
<td>Linda Brennan, Professor and Judy Lawry, Senior Lecturer, RMIT University</td>
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<td>The Climate Change-foreign Aid Nexus: Case Study of Pacific Island Countries</td>
<td><strong>USP</strong></td>
<td>Gyaneshwar Rao, Lecturer and Baljeet Singh, Lecturer, USP</td>
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<td>Assessing Poverty and the Vulnerability of Households in Tuvalu to Disasters</td>
<td><strong>Victoria University of Wellington</strong></td>
<td>Tauisi Taupo, PhD Candidate, Victoria University of Wellington</td>
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<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Parallel Session 4a: Budget support (Roundtable)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Japan-Pacific ICT Auditorium</strong></td>
<td>Matthew Dornan, Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU</td>
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<td>Mckinnie Dentana, Under Secretary–Economics, Ministry of Finance and Treasury, Solomon Islands</td>
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<td>Lily–Anne Homasi, Senior Program Manager–Tuvalu, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia</td>
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<td>Laisiasa Tora, Country Economist, Pacific Subregional Office, ADB</td>
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<td>Jerome Pons, Human Rights Focal Point, Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific</td>
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<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Parallel Session 4b: Health sector</strong></td>
<td><strong>AusAID Lecture Theater Room 092-001</strong></td>
<td>Gregory Ngirmang, Minister of Health, Palau</td>
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<td>Republic of Palau Health Care Financing</td>
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<td>Ronesh Prasad, Economist, Fiji National University</td>
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<td>Assessment of the Overseas Patient Referral Systems in Four Pacific Islands Countries</td>
<td>—with Wayne Irava and Shyamajanaka Mahakalanda</td>
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<td>Practical Policy Solutions for Ending Preventable Child Deaths in the Pacific Timor-Leste Region</td>
<td>—with Raul Schneider</td>
<td>Nancy Waites, Policy and Advocacy Manager, World Vision</td>
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<td>The Economic Costs of Non-Communicable Diseases in the Pacific: Causes, Crisis, and Consequences</td>
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<td>Ian Anderson, Director, Ian Anderson Economics</td>
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</table>
2:30 pm  Afternoon Coffee, Tea, and Refreshments

3:00 pm  Parallel Session 5a: Long term fiscal planning and modeling (Roundtable)
           Japan-Pacific  Chair: Siosiua (Josh) ‘Utoikamanu, Consultant and Former Governor, National Reserve Bank of Tonga and Minister of Finance, Tonga
           ICT Auditorium

           Shiu Raj Singh, Country Economist and Rommel Rabanal, Senior Economics Officer Pacific Department, ADB

           Iris Klaus, Macroeconomic Advisor, PFTAC-IMF

           Rup Singh, Senior Lecturer, USP

           Brian Wabaiat, Senior Fiscal Policy Officer, Department of Finance and Treasury, Vanuatu

           Primula Kingmele, Chief Policy Analyst, Economic Reform Unit, Ministry of Finance and Treasury, Solomon Islands

3:00 pm  Parallel Session 5b: Regionalism and trade facilitation
           AusAID  Chair: Rob Jauncey, Regional Director, Pacific Subregional Office, ADB
           Lecture
           Theater
           Room 092-001

           WTO and Regional Institutions: Complementary Institutions for Trade Facilitation
           Richard Pomfret, Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins University and Professor of Economics, University of Adelaide

           The Pacific’s Connectivity and Its Trade Implications
           Matthias Helble, Research Fellow, ADBI

           Growth Impact of Foreign Direct Investment in Pacific Island Countries: A Revisit
           Hong Chen, Senior Lecturer and Baljeet Singh, Lecturer, USP

           Making PACER Plus Work for Pacific Exporters—The Importance of Rules of Origin
           Uwe Kaufmann, Trade and Economic Analyst—Lecturer, University of Adelaide

4:30 pm  Closing Plenary Session
           Japan-Pacific  Drivers of Growth Spurts in Pacific Island Economies
           ICT Auditorium  Ronald Duncan, Emeritus Professor, ANU

           Panel: Review and Highlights from the Conference

           Closing Ceremony

5:30 pm  Closing Dinner at the Oceania Centre for Arts, Culture and Pacific Studies (by invitation)