



Australian
National
University



2016 AUSTRALASIAN AID CONFERENCE

ABSTRACTS

Wednesday 10 February & Thursday 11 February 2016

JG Crawford Building 132
Lennox Crossing
Australian National University

Development Policy Centre

Crawford School of
Public Policy

ANU College of
Asia & the Pacific

 **The Asia Foundation**

Day One – Wednesday 10 February 2016

OPENING ADDRESS

9.15am, Molonglo Theatre

Chair: Veronica Taylor
Dean, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific

Peter Varghese AO **Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

Peter Varghese is the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Mr Varghese took up his position as Secretary on 3 December 2012. Prior to that, Mr Varghese held a wide range of senior positions in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra and overseas. He was Australia's High Commissioner to India (2009 to 2012) and Malaysia (2000 to 2002), and also served in Tokyo, Washington, and Vienna. Mr Varghese was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2010 for distinguished service to public administration, and was awarded a Doctor of Letters honoris causa by the University of Queensland in July 2013 in recognition of his distinguished service to diplomacy and Australian public service.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Forging a new development future

10.05am, Molonglo Theatre

Chair: Ewen McDonald
Deputy Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Kitty van der Heijden **Director, World Resources Institute Europe Office**

After the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and with massive funding commitments coming out of the Paris climate change discussions, the international community now faces the real work of translating vision and commitment into action. Some countries think the SDGs will make little difference to their development effort; others are anticipating major changes. So are the SDGs more than a PR device? Will they make a difference? What will public, private and non-governmental actors need to do better, more, or differently to achieve the SDGs? Strategy alignment, integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions into decision making and the respect of the core principles of inclusion will be key factors for success. In a universal framework, policy coherence for sustainable development, both domestic and international, is equally essential. What can we learn from the early adopters on the policy shifts needed to accelerate progress?

Kitty van der Heijden is the Director of WRI's Europe Office. She has a distinguished diplomatic background with notable accomplishments in sustainable development and humanitarian aid. Kitty leads WRI's engagement in the post-2015 Development Agenda, and also works on the international climate regime; the role of the private sector in development; global indicators on resource productivity and efficiency; and inequality. An economist by training (Erasmus University Rotterdam), with hands-on experience in sustainable development, her career has been guided by a motivation to ensure dignified living conditions for all of human society within planetary boundaries. Prior to joining WRI, Kitty was the Ambassador for Sustainable Development and Director of the Department for Climate, Energy, Environment and Water in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. In 2013, she was elected the

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3rd best civil servant of the Netherlands, and in 2014 was elected as “Influencer of the Year” among civil servants and ranked 20th in the top 100 most influential people in the Netherlands dealing with sustainability.

PANEL 1A – Putting political thinking into development practice

11.20 – 12.50pm, Griffin Room

This submitted panel includes a series of papers that aim to provide practical tools for the aid industry (both donors and NGOs) to translate complex political analysis and thinking into programming practice: from design, to ongoing adaptation to changing political processes, to demonstrating results.

Chair: Sandra Kraushaar
Assistant Director, Governance Section, Development Policy Division, DFAT

Designing context-relevant development programmes: a problem-focused political economy analysis tool for aid practitioners

Lisa Denney
Research Associate, Politics and Governance Programme, Overseas Development Institute

We know that development programmes are meant to be context relevant and, increasingly, focused on particular development problems, rather than untargeted institutional development. But how can this be achieved in practice and how can we ensure that political economy analysis is taken seriously as an ongoing process of reflection throughout programming?

Building on experience of supporting development programmes to design contextually and politically aware programmes, this paper will present a framework for development practitioners to analyse the problems in a given context and develop programme interventions around this, rather than falling back on a menu of familiar programme approaches that may have limited relevance to the context. This tool is particularly helpful during design and inception phases and helps development practitioners to put context relevance at the heart of programming in a practical and meaningful way. However it should also enable the ongoing revisiting of the context, to ensure that programming continues to respond to changes in the wider political economy. In theory, this should enable practitioners to get beyond mere lip service to context and develop more effective programmes that respond directly to the political context from which they emerge, moving away from supply-driven approaches to aid. However some of the challenges of enabling this to happen in practice will also be examined.

Everyday political analysis

David Hudson, Heather Marquette and Sam Waldock
Visiting Research Fellow, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University & Visiting Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU; Reader in Development Politics & Director, Developmental Leadership Program, University of Birmingham; Governance Adviser, UK Department for International Development, Rwanda

How can busy frontline staff make the kinds of quick but politically smart decisions that will make their programmes succeed? How can they best carry out a quick scan to ensure current assumptions still hold? Political Economy Analysis (PEA) training and/or a PEA Report helps, but many staff still feel under equipped to interpret fluid political contexts when making frequent and snap decisions. Everyday Political Analysis helps address a gap in the work of program staff on the frontline: how to understand the changing political context and make politically-informed decisions on a day-to-day basis. The average program staff member is faced with having to make multiple politically-informed judgments (updating assumption or making decisions) everyday, often quickly. The EPA tool provides a condensed and accessible checklist of items to conduct quick political analysis and to make this an accessible part of ordinary business practice.

How large, traditional aid programs can be politically smart: experience from Southeast Asia

Thomas Parks

Governance and Fragility Specialist, Development Policy Division, DFAT

The understanding that development is political has received growing acceptance within the international development field over the past decade. Acknowledging the politics inherent in aid has been the easy part – changing the aid business is altogether more challenging. International development donors have been investing in political-economy analysis for years, but with little change to the mechanics and structure of mainstream aid delivery. The recently launched initiative informally called thinking and working politically (TWP) represents an effort by key thought leaders within major development donors to change the aid business fundamentally. Despite widespread interest, however, TWP is still largely outside of mainstream aid operations. One of the challenges has been the striking dichotomy between an idealized model of highly nimble, politically-smart programming, and the traditional large-scale program model. While it is easy to criticize large aid programs for being overly technical, and “ignoring the politics,” it is much more challenging to describe the opposite – a flexible, politically smart program working within traditional program structures.

This presentation will focus on how aid program managers, have found scope for greater flexibility and politically smart approaches for large-scale programs drawing on experience from Southeast Asia. The practice of TWP in large-scale aid programs is surprisingly common, though largely undocumented, and until recently, not recognized as innovative or good practice. Because it is rarely documented or discussed, very few lessons are drawn from a wealth of experience within DFAT and other development donors. The presentation will also explore how this practice of politically smart large programs can be better understood and broadened to encapsulate the mainstream of ODA programs.

The evaluation of politics and the politics of evaluation: playing the game to change the rules?

Chris Roche and Irene Guijt

Director, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University; Head of Research, Oxfam Great Britain

The pressure for development programs to demonstrate results is not going to go away. The demand for ‘evidence-based’ monitoring and evaluation, at least at a rhetorical level, is also destined to increase. Yet as the recent Independent Commission on Aid Impact report on DFID’s approach to delivery of impact notes, there is a growing concern ‘that the emphasis is on short-term, measurable results, over the more complex challenge of achieving long-term, transformative impact.’

Based on research for our recent book ‘The Politics of Evidence and Results in International Development: Playing the Game to Change the Rules’ (co-edited with Rosalind Eyben and Cathy Shutt) this paper will explore these tensions, as well how they arise, and summarise some of the strategies used by staff in development agencies attempting to use the results and evidence agenda to better advantage, while minimising problematic consequences. We will conclude with some thoughts about the options facing development practitioners given the nature of programs that seek to ‘think and work politically’, and also the political context in which they work.

PANEL 1B – Aid and local government

11.20am – 12.50pm, Acton Theatre

Chair: Blane Lewis

Associate Professor and Senior Research Fellow, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU

Development assistance and the pursuit of inclusive growth: the role of local governance institutions

Chilenye Nwapi

Banting Postdoctoral Fellow, Canadian Institute of Resources Law, University of Calgary

As many analysts have opined, given the fundamental changes occurring in the global economy, local governance institutions will have an increasingly important role to play in shaping global development. Although local governance is central in the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda, a look at the strategies of the member countries of the OECD Development Assistance Committee reveals a strong preference for building partnerships with the private sector in developing countries, the need to strengthen local

governance institutions appearing only as a marginal subset of their strategies. Nor has the idea of local governance institutions been fully embraced in the international development literature, due to an orthodox tendency among development practitioners to focus on partnering with organizations while overlooking the general institutional environment that fosters or hampers interactions among those organizations as well as between them and the local people they claim to work for. This research addresses two questions: What role can local governance institutions play in the pursuit of inclusive growth in development assistance? How can such institutions be strengthened to perform that role more effectively? The research will argue that to promote inclusive growth, development assistance must be tailored to the unique circumstances of its target recipients and must be allowed to be domesticated by the recipients themselves. The research is anchored in the theory of localism, a theory that is rooted in a set of arguments about the role of local governments in promoting efficiency in the provision of public goods and services, as well as in promoting democracy and community. Drawing from justice research in social psychology, the research will explore ways by which local governance institutions can be strengthened to promote inclusive growth and enhance development aid effectiveness at the local level.

Decentralized frontline service delivery in Indonesia: sub-district government's roles, responsibilities and realities

Anna Wetterberg, Jana Hertz and Derick W. Brinkerhoff

*Social Science Research Analyst; Senior Policy and Governance Specialist; Distinguished Fellow in International Public Management
RTI International*

One of the main expected benefits of decentralization is better public services through increased responsiveness to local needs. By bringing resources and decision-making closer to the point of delivery, reformers anticipate that services will be better tailed to the specific priorities of each locale (Faguet 2004). By extension, government actors who are located near both providers and communities using services are well-placed to further enhance service delivery.

This paper reports on the findings of a study conducted in Indonesia on the role and functioning of the *kecamatan* in frontline service delivery. In Indonesia's decentralized governance, the *kecamatan* is the sub-district structure that is positioned as the intermediary between villages and districts/municipalities (*kabupaten/kota*). Recent legislation mandates a coordination function for the *kecamatan* in service delivery and community empowerment. However, in practice, the gap between formal roles and responsibilities and actual practice is both large and poorly understood.

This exploratory study of two *kecamatan* sought to fill the gap. It examined three categories of services (health, education, and birth registration) to answer four research questions regarding the *kecamatan* and service delivery related to key competencies, actors, resources, and accountabilities and incentives. Drawing on data from over 80 respondents, the study characterized the *kecamatan*'s ability to fulfill its expected role in terms of horizontal and vertical coordination, community empowerment, and accountability. The findings from the study have implications not only for Indonesia's strategy to improve decentralized frontline services, but for general understanding of the dynamics of decentralized service delivery systems.

Promoting development through greater local leadership and innovative new models – sounds good but is it feasible?

Felicity Young and Graham Neilsen

Senior Director, Health Policy, RTI International; Sexual Health Physician, Stonewall Medical Centre

Prioritising local leadership and sustainable development through local solutions and partners is being closely linked to aid effectiveness by donors and development advocates. Accordingly, bilateral and multilateral donors are encouraging their implementing partners to introduce new and more cost-effective models for in-country management, provision of technical assistance, capacity-strengthening, and measuring impact. The associated rhetoric is strong, and implementing partners working in international development have a strong desire and are committed to do work differently for better outcomes and local ownership. However, once these "new style" projects are awarded, and implementing partners are tasked with building local leadership and preparing local partners for direct donor funding, what is the likelihood of improved outcomes and management follow-through? Many implementing partners have found that localization brings both predictable and unforeseen challenges, including differing understandings of what constitutes local capacity and what types of support are needed to ensure they can administer and be

compliant with funding requirements, and how to best use international technical assistance. Many of these challenges may not be well understood or even be acknowledged by donors, who are largely shielded from and often unaware of the day-to-day realities of project implementation. Similarly, some local partners, finally freed from the constraints of traditional development approaches, may underestimate or trivialise the technical and financial demands, and accountability requirements of the use of donor funding. This paper will review the programmatic experience and financial implications of piloting new leadership and management approaches locally, as well as share lessons learned from two USAID-funded bilateral programs in South-East Asia.

PANEL 1C – Aid in a time of flux: effects of development interventions in post-war middle-income Sri Lanka

11.20am – 12.50pm, Lennox Room

This submitted panel will focus on the effects of foreign aid in Sri Lanka and subsequent development interventions on economic, political and social dynamics of war-affected communities.

Chair: Priyanthi Fernando

Independent development consultant and former Executive Director, Centre for Poverty Analysis, Sri Lanka

‘No silver bullet’: interrogating the donor assumption of “entrepreneurship” in micro and small enterprise interventions in Northern Sri Lanka

Mohamed Munas

Senior Researcher, Centre for Poverty Analysis

With the ending of the three-decade long war in Sri Lanka in 2009, an influx of donor funding, primarily for relief and rebuilding, was directed towards the North and East of the country, the areas that were directly affected by the war. However, five years post-war, these agencies are now either phasing out or reorienting themselves towards a longer-term development assistance model based on a range of assumptions about their ‘target populations’.

This paper attempts to question one such assumption focusing on Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE) development. Donor agencies are increasingly targeting MSEs as the vehicle for increasing wellbeing of people in the North, based on the assumption that people in these areas are ‘enterprising’ and that their ambition is to improve their living standards by engaging in MSEs. However, our analysis shows that how people in the North understand and engage in MSE-related activities is not as the donor-driven programmes understand it. The mismatch reflects at several levels: at the MSE objective level, the future goals/growth trajectory level and at the expected outcomes and outputs of donor aid level. Based on a study conducted in the North of Sri Lanka during September to October 2015, focusing on MSE ‘performance factors’, this paper attempts to analyse the mismatch in development industry project assumptions, understanding of the MSE sector and its operations, and the outcomes and outputs of development aid.

Restoring and rebuilding livelihoods through CDD approaches in conflict settings: Sri Lanka case study

Aftab Lall

Researcher, Centre for Poverty Analysis

Through a study of the intervention of Community Driven Development (CDD), this research unpacks the *process* of CDD and its *effects* on livelihoods in conflict-affected regions in selected areas in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka. The study looks more deeply into how links between CDD and livelihoods are shaped by the complexity, dynamism, and particularities of the local context(s).

The enquiry takes place by a close examination of The Reawakening Project (RaP) which was launched by the Sri Lankan government with funding and technical support from the World Bank to address the livelihood needs of conflict-affected populations in the Northern and Eastern districts of the country. This exercise was carried out as a part of a multi-country evaluation of the *process* by which WB-funded projects were implemented at the community level in order to provide a framework for best practices for future aid design and delivery in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

Using qualitative methods, the study unpacked processes involved in rebuilding livelihoods under the RaP in 4 villages in the coastal Eastern district of Batticaloa. Cases of success and challenges are diverse and not easy to attribute to the project alone. The community-driven aspect of the project resulted in its becoming entangled with social, economic and political dynamics that were shaped by individuals and larger socio-political forces. Though not generalizable to the project in its entirety, the findings from the case studies highlight themes relevant to aid effectiveness in the global South. The paper illustrates how gender disparities, power dynamics, and patronage networks at the village and district level, as well as national-level politics and post-war development, infuse at the macro, meso and micro level to impact the design and delivery of aid.

‘Life and debt’: Assessing the impacts of participatory housing reconstruction in post-conflict Sri Lanka

Vagisha Gunasekara

Senior Researcher, Centre for Poverty Analysis

Sri Lanka’s Owner Driven Housing Assistance (ODHA) scheme is a donor- and government-supported initiative to help construct housing for those returning to their areas of residence at the end of the conflict in 2009. While the ODHA is a commendable initiative for rebuilding the lives of those displaced by war, available evidence indicates an increase in household debt among the beneficiaries of such housing schemes and their vulnerability to livelihood insecurities after resettlement. The question that this paper sought to answer was whether the ODHA program is the cause or catalyst for beneficiary indebtedness. The conclusion of this paper, based on the findings of an analysis of ODHA beneficiaries in the Northern Sri Lankan districts of Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi and Jaffna, is that the housing programme is not the cause, but a catalyst, of indebtedness among beneficiaries. An inadequate understanding of the social, economic and cultural contexts that define the lives of beneficiaries on the part of donors and implementers appear to be contributing to unintended and negative repercussions of housing assistance. This paper illustrates how post-conflict participatory development projects such as the ODHA scheme can further perpetuate the vulnerability of conflict-affected populations unless donors and policy makers have a holistic understanding of the varying contexts that define the experiences of development beneficiaries.

PANEL 1D – Global health

11.20am – 12.50pm, Barton Theatre

Chair: Joel Negin

Associate Professor of International Health and Acting Head of School, School of Public Health, The University of Sydney

Assessing the role of the Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies in promoting regional public goods for evidence-based policy decisions

Krishna Hort, Dale Huntington and Peter Annear

Senior Technical Advisor, Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne; Director, Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies; Associate Professor and Head, Health Systems Governance and Financing Unit, Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne

The Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies (APO) is a collaborative partnership of governments, international agencies, and researchers that promotes evidence-informed health system policy regionally and in all countries in the Asia Pacific region. The main function of the APO is the collection, analysis and dissemination of information and research evidence on health care systems, policies and reforms. Since launching in 2013, the APO has produced 15 national health sector reviews, 6 Policy Briefs, and 4 edited volumes of papers. These functions position the APO as an agent of ‘regional public goods’ (RPGs). RPGs provide benefits that cross national borders, are freely available to users without cost (non-excludable), and are not reduced by consumption by any one user (non-rivalry).

This study aims to assess the extent to which the production and use of APO products are consistent with the characteristics of RPGs, and to what extent the APO can strengthen its role as a provider of RPGs. Key characteristics assessed include the extent of any benefit to low and middle income country (LMIC) users, and the extent of cross country engagement in production of outputs, and in the utilisation of products.

A self-administered questionnaire was distributed to the APO Board, the Technical Advisory Committee, and the network of associated national research institutions, to obtain the opinion of key APO stakeholders and participants on RPG relevant characteristics. From the 48 potential respondents in the purposive sample, 12 responses were received.

Stakeholders identified that the production and use of APO products satisfied some of the characteristics of RPGs, including cross national collaboration on production, and cross national benefits, with preferential benefit for LMICs. The APO could be considered an appropriate RPG for development assistance funding, particularly in the areas of technical support and dissemination, which would enable greater engagement in, and increased use of these products, by LMICs.

Global governance for health: protecting vulnerable people from infectious diseases in countries with weak health systems

Yasushi Katsuma

Professor, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies (GSAPS), Waseda University

The outbreak of Ebola in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and the delay in responding to the health crisis, need to be reviewed when we discuss the means of implementation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The following 3 points will be discussed.

First, it is important to learn lessons from the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, analysing the problems at 3 levels: country, regional and global.

At the country level, we need to analyse why the three governments did not comply with the International Health Regulations (IHR). It is also useful to analyse why the UN country teams were not able to assist the governments in reporting the Ebola cases to WHO.

At the regional level, it is necessary to analyse why the regional office AFRO did not intervene in the perceived failure of the governments to report to WHO.

At the global level, it is critical to analyse the behaviour of both WHO headquarters and the UN Secretariat. Why didn't WHO engage in early response, while MSF repeatedly called for attention? Why didn't WHO declare the Public Health Emergency of International Concerns (PHEIC) at an earlier stage? Why didn't OCHA play more proactive roles in the post-conflict countries? Why did the UN Secretary-General have to organize an unprecedented health mission, UNMEER?

Second, it is necessary to improve the global governance for health so that we will be able to effectively respond to future health crises, particularly in countries with weak health system. There may be a few scenarios for reforming the current global governance for health.

Third, when we formulate development strategies and plan health programs to achieve the SDGs, it is recommended to take into consideration of not only the possibility of natural disasters but also of health emergency situations. The protection strategy to mitigate the health risks themselves and the empowerment strategy to help the vulnerable people become more resilient with adaptation methods should be pursued in order to promote human security.

Australian health assistance in Indonesia and the region – impacts and opportunities won (and lost?)

Debbie Muirhead

Honorary Research Fellow, Nossal Institute of Global Health, University of Melbourne

Australia has been a valued development partner of Indonesia for a number of years. As part of the recent 40% cut in Australia's aid to Indonesia, health assistance is disproportionately declining. Over recent years this has included a focus on saving the lives of mothers and newborns, preventing and treating HIV and AIDS, the spread of emerging diseases and, importantly, strengthening health coverage and systems to address these and other challenges.

Rather than only supporting human development in region, health assistance currently carries large diplomatic, economic growth and trade and investment opportunities. This paper examines impacts past and future of health assistance in the region along these dimensions, highlighting Indonesia as an example. It illustrates how these benefits gained and lost can be quantified, and discusses implications for future health related support.

PANEL 1E – Aid effectiveness: macro issues

11.20am – 12.50pm, Weston Theatre

Chair: Derek Rooker-Smith
Assistant Secretary, Office of Development Effectiveness, DFAT

The morally defensible allocation of foreign aid: how to effectively assist developing countries while enhancing self-sufficiency, agency, and improved power structures

Sarah W. Dickerson
PhD Candidate, University of Maryland

This paper examines whether foreign aid is morally defensible, and if so, how it might be effectively administered. It explores the origins, history, and objectives of aid before turning to the arguments put forward by critics regarding the moral defensibility of the practice.

Many of aid's critics have suggested that it be drastically reformed or abandoned in favour of practices that reduce dependency, corruption, and poverty in recipient countries. However, this paper illustrates that many scholars – including Martha Nussbaum, Mathias Risse, and Paul Collier – defend the allocation of foreign aid. An underlying assumption is that prosperous nations cannot sit idly by while the impoverished struggle.

This notion prompts a discussion about the ways in which international donors could effectively provide assistance. The most promising development assistance promotes self-sufficiency, agency, and improved power structures. Micro-credit and micro-franchise programs have the capability to fulfil these requirements because they help aid recipients start their own independent businesses and earn their own incomes. Furthermore, Rainer Forst suggests that donors could complement aid schemes by giving locals a voice in how their governments function. This kind of aid is not only ethically desirable but also effective because recipients embrace the projects as their own and have a voice in shaping them.

Resolving the great aid debate: power and politics in the pursuit of more effective aid

Jo Hall
PhD Candidate, ANU

The great foreign aid debate has reached an impasse. Opposers of aid sit at two extremes – those who believe it does not work and those who believe it is an imperialist agenda. Supporters of aid believe that aid can work better, particularly if it is managed better.

This review of the current state of the aid effectiveness literature finds it has been dominated by economic theories of development since the 1940s, but relatively quiet on actual theories of aid. Aid should help achieve development aims, but these aims are disputed and changing. Considerations of power relations and politics have been neglected in spite of the evidence. The experience of the non-government organisations may be helpful in this regard.

Meanwhile the concept of foreign aid has broadened to development cooperation and aid effectiveness has become 'development effectiveness', with no clear consensus on what this actually means. Increased numbers of southern donors and non-government organisations have multiplied the numbers of projects and different approaches. The rising complexity is detracting from the basic question of what types of development cooperation or aid work best in what situations.

At least two things are needed to help resolve the debate: increased consideration of power and politics in the prevailing economic theories, and more explicit and disaggregated theories of how particular types of aid can help achieve development aims in particular circumstances. Moving the debate in these directions has implications for how best to measure the effectiveness of aid.

The first review of an aid donor by recipient countries

Alfred Schuster and Sara Carley
Development Cooperation Advisor, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat;
Deputy Director – Development Effectiveness, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

In 2014, representatives from Pacific countries and other development partners undertook the first ever review of a donor, New Zealand. The review was undertaken in tandem with the regular OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) review of New Zealand's development cooperation.

Since 1962, developed country aid donors have peer-reviewed each other's programmes under the auspices of the OECD Development Assistance Committee. And since 2010, Pacific Islands Forum nations have peer reviewed each other's progress in implementing the principles of the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action through the 2009 Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific (Forum Compact), with particular emphasis on their use of national systems for development planning and budgeting, public financial management (PFM), progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and aid management. These reviews are facilitated by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

This presentation draws on the experiences and findings of New Zealand's review to highlight strengths of the process and propose suggestions for improvement. It explains why New Zealand undertook to be reviewed, what was learned and why other donors and development actors, including international and regional civil society organisations, should submit to similar scrutiny as part of their commitments to mutual accountability and to strengthen partner country feedback and influence on donor practice.

PLENARY SESSION: What will the SDGs mean for Asia?

1.50 – 3.20pm, Molonglo Theatre

Are the new Sustainable Development Goals relevant for Asia? What if anything will they mean for domestic and development cooperation policies and practices of the Asian powers, such as China, Korea and Indonesia? Hear from the experts who have led their countries' engagement in the formulation of the SDGs. Are they happy with the outcome? What difference, if any, will the SDGs make for Asia?

Chair: Julia Newton-Howes
Chief Executive, CARE Australia

South Korea and SDGs: poster child for successful poverty eradication and new initiatives for SDGs

Eun Mee Kim

Dean and Professor, Graduate School of International Studies and Director, Institute for Development and Human Security, Ewha Womans University

South Korea's poverty eradication, economic development and democratization in the 20th century made it the only country that transformed from extreme poverty to prosperity in the 70 years of UN history from 1945 to 2015. South Korea's poverty eradication and economic development was achieved not by the Washington Consensus, which highlights Western-style free market with economic liberalization, but with the developmental state with industrial policies, and export-oriented industrialization with trade protectionism. This formula, which is viewed as mixing components as "oxymoron" to the West, actually worked in Japan, South Korea and China. Such distinct Asian-style development led to successful economic development in many East Asian nations and the Asian economy as a whole.

The insurmountable challenges South Korea faced since 1945, which included extreme poverty, colonialism, and war, are not very different from those that developing countries face in 2016. Thus, it is not surprising that many developing countries have sought South Korea's development cooperation as they too wanted to achieve poverty eradication, economic development, and democratization. South Korea's development success has been used as an alternative lesson to be shared with developing countries within the MDG era. And the South Korean government has been eager to share its own development experience in its official development assistance (ODA) although it is a rather new donor. It has joined the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) in 2010, hosted the G20 meeting in 2010 and introduced the development agenda, hosted the fourth and final High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4) in 2011 in Busan and played an instrumental role in the final document of HLF-4 named, "Global Partnership for Effective

Development Cooperation,” which highlighted development effectiveness vis-à-vis aid effectiveness of the earlier HLF agenda.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have brought new opportunities and challenges to South Korea as a donor. South Korea announced two new initiatives at the UN Development Summit in 2015, which include “Better Life for Girls” initiative and the “New Rural Development Paradigm” inspired by South Korea’s successful rural development program in the 1970s named the *Saemaul Movement* (New Rural Village Program). On the other hand, South Korea faces internal challenges of aid fragmentation, relatively low levels of public awareness on development cooperation, and need to support North Korea for economic cooperation. In addition, South Korea also must link domestic social and economic challenges such as a rapidly aging population, growing relative inequality, and a relatively high level of youth unemployment. Will South Korea rise up to the global challenge of climate change, poverty, war and conflict in the era of SDGs as a responsible global citizen?

Dr. Eun Mee Kim is Dean and Professor at the Graduate School of International Studies and Director of the Institute for Development and Human Security at Ewha Womans University. Her fields of interest include international development cooperation, foreign aid, the political economy of development, globalization, and multiculturalism. She has served as a civilian member on the Committee for International Development Cooperation under the Prime Minister’s Office, the Policy Advisory Committee in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Policy Advisory Committee in the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family. In 2012, Dr. Eun Mee Kim received the Service Merit Medal from the Republic of Korea for her contributions to the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness.

What will the SDGs mean for China’s poverty elimination? A comparative study of China’s poverty eradication in implementing the MDGs (2000-2015) and SDGs (2016-2030)

Ye Jiang

Director of the Institute for Global Governance Studies, Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS); Professor, School of International and Public Affairs, Shanghai Jiao Tong University

This presentation mainly focuses on what will the SDGs mean for China’s poverty elimination. Before discussing the topic fully it first displays several relevant numbers to show the change of international extreme poverty line from implementing MDGs to implementing SDGs and that of China’s extreme poverty line; the history of USD and RMB exchange rate from 2000-2016; and China’s extreme poor population and the change of the percentage of extreme poverty in China.

By using these numbers the presentation expresses the different backgrounds for China’s poverty reduction in implementing MDGs and that in implementing SDGs. The differences are that the extreme poor population in China has become lower in implementing SDGs but economic growth has been slower, China was an ODA recipient in implementing MDGs but has already become an international aid provider in implementing SDGs, and poverty reduction has been integrated with the three dimensions of economic growth, social development, and environmental protection in implementing SDGs, while in implementing MDGs they were generally separated. Against the different backgrounds it seems that the following challenges will be what SDGs mean for China’s poverty elimination. Firstly according to SDG 1 China will strive for elimination of poverty instead of just for reduction of it, which causes the so called “last-minute dash”. Secondly China is experiencing “new normal” of slower growth while trying to eliminate poverty in implementing SDGs. Thirdly, it is a great challenge for China to integrate the poverty eradication into the three dimensions in SDGs – promoting economic, social, and environmental developments simultaneously. Fourthly, China has to balance the elimination of poverty at home and providing international development assistance in implementing SDGs.

Through the analysis of two important documents – (1) “Communique of the Fifth Plenary Session of the 18th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee” (10/29/15) and (2) “Decision of

the CPC Central Committee and the State Council on winning the fight against poverty” – the presentation will discuss new solutions to the above challenges for China’s elimination of poverty in implementing SDGs.

1. Both documents reiterate Chinese government’s (the Party’s) commitment to eliminating poverty in China to 2020 (70 million according to China’s poverty line).
2. Not like implementing MDGs China’s fighting against poverty in implementing SDGs will be wholly depending on herself without any foreign ODA and China will treat poverty relief as an important way to increase domestic demand and spur growth as China enters the "new normal" of slower growth.
3. "Precision" poverty relief will be an important approach to fight poverty which is different from the previous "one size fits all" approach – social security system will cover all the countryside in China.
4. Against the background of implementing 2030 SDGs. China will integrate SDGs into its poverty eradication with the balance of economic, social and environmental dimensions. Especially it will follow the principle of adhering to protecting environment and realizing green growth – "the insistence on conserving lush hills should not waver."
5. In the process of eradication of extreme poverty in China there will be two steps: first to 2020 eradicating whole poverty in China according to Chinese standard – RMB 3200/year; and second to 2030 eradicating whole poverty in China according to the World Bank standard – USD1.9/day.
6. Focusing on the elimination of China’s whole poverty first while assisting other developing countries to reduce and eradicate poverty through South-South cooperation with the principle of CBDR in implementing SDGs.

Professor Ye Jiang received his MA in History at East China Normal University in 1987 and his PhD in Law at Fudan University in 1998. He is the director of the Institute for Global Governance Studies, Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS). He is also a professor and PhD supervisor at the School of International and Public Affairs, Shanghai Jiao Tong University. He is concurrently vice-chairman of the Chinese Association of World Ethno-Nations, vice-chairman of the Shanghai Institute of European Studies, and council member of the Shanghai Association of International Relations. Since 2013 he has been the chief expert in the study of the UN post-2015 development agenda at SIIS and has co-edited a collection of articles with Thomas Fues entitled The United Nations Post-2015 Agenda for Global Development: Perspectives from China and Europe. He is the author of five monographs and about 100 articles published by academic journals both at home and abroad. In late 2012 he was winner of an Award for Major Foreign Policy Research by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China.

PANEL 2A – Aid, agriculture and climate change

3.40 – 5.10pm, Griffin Room

Chair: Mellissa Wood

General Manager – Global Programs, and Director, Australian International Food Security Research Centre, ACIAR

The impact of international development aid policy on local development: findings from the National Agricultural Advisory Services program in Uganda

Samuel Bernard Ariong, Mel Gray and Kate Davis

PhD Candidate; Professor of Social Work; Lecturer, Department of Social Work University of Newcastle

This paper examines the shifts in multidimensional discourses of international development aid policy and poverty reduction in Sub-Sahara Africa, drawing on a qualitative case study of a Ugandan National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) program. While Uganda has benefitted from substantial global donor funding, poverty, famine and hunger remain widespread. This study highlights the importance of context for determining the success or otherwise of high-level programs at a local, rural level. The paper

draws on data from individual interviews with 15 successful progressive farmers in the three rural districts of eastern Uganda who have benefited from the donor aid-driven NAADS program. Analysis of this data has identified four themes pertinent to success. The first theme is economic factors, including assets endowment (e.g., land, cows, radios, carts, motorcycles, bicycles), knowledge, infrastructure such as roads, telecommunications network, and irrigation facilities, access to local markets and credit facilities, the presence of agricultural research institutions, and the existence of non-governmental organisations. The second theme is political factors, such as the prevalence of peace, stability and security, government effectiveness, rule of law, voice and accountability, and participation of farmers in decision making through decentralized governance. The third factor required for success is favourable climatic and environmental conditions in terms of rainfall, fertile soils, low prevalence of pests and diseases, and geographical location. Finally, socio-cultural factors, including culture, social networks, attitudes, self-initiative, focus and gender relations, play an important role. Preliminary findings suggest a significant relationship between context and the success of progressive farmers in the implementation of international development aid policies aimed at poverty reduction. Establishment of 'what worked and what did not work' for the progressive farmers is useful not only to policy makers but to other smallholder farmers still entrenched in poverty and wanting to access the NAADS program.

Taking stock of international contributions to low carbon, climate resilient land use in Indonesia

Angela Falconer and Skylar Glenday

Fellow and Advisor, Climate Policy Initiative

With its high contribution to global land use, forestry and agriculture emissions, Indonesia has a key role to play in meeting climate stabilization targets. This paper discusses the role of international development partners in financing mitigation and adaptation actions in the land use sectors in Indonesia, evaluating what progress has been made to date, what challenges have been met, and what opportunities lie ahead to effectively support Indonesia. The paper provides a 'deep dive' sectoral analysis of international development partner data collected for the Indonesian Landscape (Ampri et al. 2014), supplemented by literature review and expert interviews.

The paper finds that the enabling environment for investments in land use in Indonesia remains weak and the focus of international development partners on supporting indirect enabling environment activities is therefore well directed. Support helps to improve information, transparency and governance, to tackle illegality and allocate and manage land more efficiently. But, international cooperation faces many implementation challenges and there is room for systematic improvements to increase its effectiveness. Parallel support is also needed to further support scale up of direct implementation activities to develop sustainable agriculture and agro-forestry value chains, ecosystem restoration and sustainable livelihood options for rural communities.

Donor-supported road projects in Cambodia: accountability challenges for climate-resilient practice

Bunlong Leng

PhD Candidate, University of Melbourne

Multilateral donors provide financial and technical support to least developed countries largely in environment- and climate-sensitive sectors. Their business-as-usual projects may actually increase climate vulnerability and even hamper the progress of sustainable economic growth. However, climate-resilient development practice can be (re)designed to reduce climate risks, while still promoting economic growth. Little research has been done on the act of addressing climate vulnerability, especially in donor-funded international development projects. This research aims to fill in this gap by applying an interdisciplinary case study approach to investigate challenges in implementing climate-resilient practice in the Provincial Road 150 improvement, which is being technically and financially supported by a Multilateral Development Bank and the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience funding in Cambodia.

Road infrastructure investments remain an important instrument of choice for international development aid policy and decision makers. Though the theory and practice of climate-resilient road infrastructure projects is emerging and there are no affirmed methods of mainstreaming climate-resilient measures, the research found two different mainstreaming methods: climate-vulnerability risk assessment and climate-adjusted environmental assessment. Whether climate-resilient measures are mainstreamed through *ex-ante* environmental assessment, or if a separate tool for vulnerability risk assessment is used, is not deemed to be important. What is most important is having the resources to address operational challenges. The research findings illustrate that accountability for climate-resilient practice, as used in the Provincial Road

150 rebuilding, was constrained or challenged by at least three related capacities: technical, institutional, and financial. Overcoming the three challenges in practice is essential to harness the benefits of climate resilience funding criteria. The findings of the Provincial Road 150 project illustrate funding stability is of most concern for all actors involved, but particularly the implementing agencies and beneficiaries. There is scope to address challenges to integrate climate resilience at the project level and enhance knowledge management, including facilitating access to information on climate risks for involved stakeholders. Though further consultation with decision makers is necessary, the implications are that the multilateral donors and their clientele must consider environmental change concerns in future road and other infrastructure investments for the benefits of all. This study opens up opportunities for further research on climate-resilient development practices in other similar projects or other developing countries.

Training seedlings: applying lessons from food security and resource management programs in East Sumba

Shannon Ryan, Anne Crawford and Emma Wanchap

*Manager, Food Security and Climate Change; Senior Research and Evaluation Advisor; Manager, Policy Research and Government Relations
World Vision Australia*

Food security and resource management are critical issues for pockets of Southeast Asia, with the region's economic growth and ongoing structural transformation increasing demand for limited natural resources. One of Australia's closest neighbours, Indonesia, is home to communities that suffer from food insecurity resulting from widespread environmental degradation, in part caused by poor natural resource management. On the island of Sumba, deforestation, burning, and damaging land practices coupled with the traditional 'king-slave' land tenure system have resulted in a sense of hopelessness, exhibited in reduced agriculture productivity and unstable livelihoods.

In response, World Vision designed a three-year program, INFOCUS: Increase Food Security within the Community through Sustainable Livelihood and Natural Resources Management System. INFOCUS sought to improve food security through restoring the degraded landscape by building awareness of sustainable practices to ensure that natural resources are used wisely and empowering community members to take responsibility for their protection. Results to date have been encouraging: the program has succeeded in increasing community mobilisation, organisation, and agency; improving vegetation, soil fertility, and water availability; establishing high-value timber demonstration plots; and increasing small crops production.

The evaluation process has also revealed opportunities to strengthen program delivery and build our understanding of food security and natural resource management challenges in the Indonesian context. The necessary time lag between community awareness and change, and between landscape restoration and increased food security is difficult under standard project timelines. Addressing the income/ economic development gap between project inception and high-value timber harvesting remains challenging, as do attempts to link timber harvests to education.

This paper will assess INFOCUS, highlighting the solutions that have been developed to address existing challenges. Solutions include developing a continuum of community income generation; cultural mapping to address land tenure; and addressing policy issues with local government. From this paper, development practitioners and government actors will be better informed of the benefits and challenges of agroforestry projects in degraded environments within complex cultural and land tenure systems like East Sumba and can apply these learnings to future programs.

PANEL 2B – Australia, PNG and Fiji: aid and beyond **3.40 – 5.10pm, Acton Theatre**

Chair: Tess Newton Cain
Visiting Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Institutional linkages programs – the key priority for Australia’s spending programs in PNG

Paul Flanagan
Centre Associate, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Foreign advisors are being sent home from PNG. This paper will explore the history of foreign advisors in PNG drawing on literature and the author’s own experiences as team leader for Australian foreign advisors in the PNG Treasury from 2011 to 2013. In what is clearly a difficult situation, the presentation will argue that building institutional linkages is still the most appropriate form of assistance that Australia can provide to PNG.

Migration, merchandise trade and tourism: a tale of Fiji and Australia

Neelesh Gounder
Senior Lecturer, School of Economics, University of the South Pacific

This paper estimates the long relationship between migration, merchandise trade and tourism between Fiji and Australia. The theoretical argument relies on the idea that migrants bring knowledge of local business culture, political bureaucracy, religion and language of their former home countries. These contact networks and preference for former home country goods stimulate trade with immigrant country of origin. Despite globalization bringing countries together and innovations in technology reducing transportation costs, there exists considerable transaction costs when trading across borders. Empirical evidence has shown that migrants could play a role in reducing these types of costs and complement trade.

In particular, this paper analyses the impact of migration from Fiji to Australia on (1) merchandise exports from Fiji to Australia and (2) Australian outbound tourism to Fiji. Empirical results suggest that migration has a positive effect on Australian demand for merchandise imports from Fiji and outbound tourism to Fiji. The results show that there may be important and robust ties between Fijian immigrants and Fiji. These results also give support to the hypothesis that Fiji’s exports to Australia could be driven by preferences for particular goods as well as through information networks generated by Fijian migrants.

Assessing the impact of public finances on the PNG-Australia borderland

Laura Simpson Reeves and Mark Moran
*Senior Research Officer – Development Effectiveness; Professor, Chair for Development Effectiveness
Institute for Social Science Research, University of Queensland*

Torres Strait Islanders and Papua New Guinean (PNG) nationals living in the PNG-Australia borderlands have relatively unrestricted access across the border for customary or traditional activities, under the legal framework of the Torres Strait Treaty. Due to the marked inequality across the border, PNG nationals cross for a variety of reasons, including access to superior health services and to acquire goods not available or too expensive at home. This free movement provision has led to tensions in the region and increased pressure on local resources and infrastructure, particularly health services, with an average of 2,500 presentations annually to clinics on the outer islands. This has had significant impacts on the public and economics systems for both Australia and PNG.

The interplay of public finance expenditure emanating from Australia strongly dominates the borderland economy, influencing cross-border mobility and attendant public health and security risks from disease transmission, quarantine and transnational crime. A feature of the Australian welfare system is that people living in the remote periphery receive the same level of welfare entitlements as people living in the inner city; this has not been the case in PNG. PNG’s status as a weak state exacerbates this, and is leading to increased pressure on resources and infrastructure on the Australian side of the border. In fact, this unrestricted access to the Torres Strait may absolve the PNG government from further developing this area of the state.

By problematizing current policy framings and analysing the asymmetric socioeconomic context of the region relative to other borderlands internationally, this research investigates alternative finance modalities that seek to improve effectiveness across both sides of the border.

Advising: the counterpart perspective

Bridi Rice

Former Strongim Gavman Program Senior Legal Policy Adviser in PNG and Master of Arts (Research) Student, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University

The term 'adviser' in the sphere of international development evokes responses along a spectrum that starts with respect and appreciation, and moves towards varying measures of contempt, disdain and resistance. This variation in reaction is not limited to any one stakeholder in the development paradigm. Counterparts, advisers, donors, academics, bloggers and contract managers alike traverse this spectrum as various iterations of development programs go through cycles of political and development fashion that values advisers one day and casts all technical assistance aside as a waste of money the next.

The purpose of this research project is to unpack the intimate nature of the adviser-counterpart relationship and understand how fundamental this is to achieving change. The research aims to look beyond the well-publicised and formal program design factors that impact technical assistance programs, and focus on the inherently human, political and process reliant nature of technical assistance and how it operates in an adviser-counterpart scenario in the governance sector.

As part of the project, research is being conducted in Papua New Guinea by way of quantitative survey, qualitative interview and observation.

By primarily exploring the questions of technical assistance and the role of advisers from a counterpart perspective, the research aims to understand whether the prism within which donors view and value technical assistance is similar or different to the expectations, understanding and operations of counterparts and their organisations.

PANEL 2C – Aid, conflict and justice

3.40 – 5.10pm, Weston Theatre

Chair: Andrew Egan

Assistant Secretary, Stabilisation & Recovery Branch, Humanitarian, NGOs and Partnerships Division, DFAT

Supporting peace processes in Southeast Asia: have politically savvy, flexible approaches become the norm?

Seema Chandra, Thomas Parks and Patrick Barron

First Secretary (Development Cooperation), Australian Embassy, Yangon, Myanmar; Governance and Fragility Specialist, Development Policy Division, DFAT; Regional Director, Conflict and Development, The Asia Foundation

Peace processes are by nature deeply political, unpredictable, and often incredibly messy. The results of aid to peace processes can be hard to measure and even more difficult to attribute to a particular intervention. Supporting these processes with aid funding has increasingly relied on flexible, politically smart, locally-led approaches, out of necessity. Yet, the usual guiding principles for practitioners say very little about Thinking and Working Politically and Doing Development Differently approaches. So, how can a practitioner design an aid intervention that effectively supports a peace process?

Drawing closely on examples from Myanmar, the Philippines, and Nepal, this presentation will assert that politically savvy aid programming is becoming the norm in support to peace processes in Southeast Asia. The presentation will also include a framework for politically smart peacebuilding strategies, developed by The Asia Foundation. It will review some of the important lessons learned (and being learned) by donors and implementing partners designing, managing and implementing Australia aid programs – including:

- integrating political-economy analysis into the program cycle
- building credibility with key decision-makers and stakeholders
- ensuring broad stakeholder buy-in to interventions
- building and fostering relationships with, and across, implementing partners
- testing innovative approaches (and being prepared to fail at times)
- ensuring the program can be adapted to changing contexts, and
- flexible monitoring and evaluation methods that can handle a rapid pace

To do all this effectively, programs must be flexible, adaptable and politically smart. This requires bold and risk-tolerant environment, where investment is made early to understand the context, and where the evolution of the program is tightly-bound to ongoing analysis. For the program manager, building relationships and credibility - with key decision-makers, implementing partners, parties to the process and inside our own institutions – is also essential.

Innovations in access to justice for Africa's poorest: lessons learned, insights gained

Adam Dubin

Assistant Professor of International Public Law, Universidad Pontificia Comillas, & Adjunct Professor of International Development & Human Rights, Politics Department, New York University - Madrid

The purpose of this paper is to review recent innovations in access to justice in Sub-Saharan Africa, exploring both the successes and challenges in bringing access to justice to poor, vulnerable and geographically isolated populations. In particular, the paper will focus on recent technological developments being implemented to expand justice, along with other changes currently shaping the justice landscape in the Sub-Saharan African region, including the use of university legal clinics and one-stop shops to provide more multi-dimensional approaches to providing justice. The paper will conclude with a discussion of challenges and recommendations facing the region's justice sectors, and seek to isolate the primary lessons learnt from many of these experiments with access to justice in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Rowing upstream: the chronicles of Lebanon's donor funded water sector reform

Rim El Kadi

PhD, ANU

The paper explores the challenges of implementing successful water sector reforms in a fragile, post-civil war, aid dependent developing state. The various reform actors and their respective roles in supporting or undermining the various stages of the reform process are discussed. In particular, some of the controversial dilemmas that are associated with donor funded initiatives are explored with the aim of explaining reform failures and informing future aid interventions and strategies.

The paper draws on a completed PhD research project. Based on a case study approach, the research examines the water sector reform in post-war Lebanon using quantitative and qualitative methods. 43 key informants spanning the various institutional actors groups were interviewed and their views on the reform were analysed. Furthermore, a donor funded survey was conducted on 1000 households across Lebanon to provide a quantitative statistical representation of water consumption and spending patterns, as well as attitudes towards the reform process and the donors' roles.

The paper identifies a number of significant local and foreign actors and articulates their various roles in the reform process in a complex institutional and political landscape. The qualitative analysis of the key informants' interviews highlights the complex interactions between the donors and the policy makers, and the resulting impact on the unfolding reform. The household survey results also reflect the general public views in relation to the reform.

The paper concludes with some findings in relation to the reform outcomes from both the perspectives of aid effectiveness and sustainability.

Development and reparations in post-conflict situations

Christoph Sperfeldt

PhD Candidate, Centre for International Governance & Justice (CIGJ), ANU

Over the past two decades, transitional justice has gained considerable interest in the peacebuilding and development community. The 2011 World Development Report "Conflict, Security, Development" recommended that transitional justice be used as one of the 'core program tools' in the pursuit of breaking cycles of violence and enabling development in fragile and conflict-affected situations. This has reinvigorated calls for enhanced links between development cooperation and transitional justice initiatives. Reparations to victims of mass atrocities are seen as one key component of transitional justice. So far, reparations and development have generally been conceptualised and approached independently. However, in practice both are increasingly concerned with tackling the structural causes of violence, which are often associated with unequal development opportunities, marginalisation and social exclusion. Thus, there is an increasing acknowledgement of the need for development practitioners and transitional justice practitioners to coordinate their efforts, if they are to deliver effectively on the dual objectives of post-

conflict recovery and justice. An enhanced and complementary interplay between the two fields cannot just help address survivors' immediate needs, but also strengthen civic trust and create minimum conditions for survivors to contribute to an inclusive reconstruction process. This paper provides a brief overview of the debate around reparations and development and looks at some of the opportunities and pitfalls, before discussing implications for international development actors. The paper is complemented with some field observations from Cambodia.

PANEL 2D – Aid to Indonesia

3.40 – 5.10pm, Lennox Room

Chair: Anthea Mulakala

Director for International Development Cooperation, The Asia Foundation

The unexamined gift: Australia's aid relationship with Indonesia

Robin Davies

Honorary Professorial Fellow and Associate Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU

The timing was diabolical. The Indonesian government was to execute two Australian drug traffickers just weeks before Australia's 2015 aid budget was to be announced. The Australian government had already foreshadowed dramatic across-the-board aid cuts, without saying where they would fall. Any major cut in aid to Indonesia risked being perceived as retaliatory, not least because Australia's then Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, had earlier appeared to foreshadow such a penalty. In the event, Indonesia's allocation was cut by a huge 40% but this was no greater than the cuts suffered by most non-Pacific recipients of Australian aid. In any case, both before and after the executions, the Indonesian government stated explicitly that Indonesia no longer needed Australian aid. Indonesia, it was said, accepts Australian aid because Australia wishes to give it. So, the country that was then the largest recipient of Australian aid was apparently also the country least interested in receiving it. This presentation will provide both a historical and a contemporary perspective on this fascinating state of affairs. It will examine the magnitude and preoccupations of Australian aid to Indonesia, trace the origins of Indonesia's 'aid us if you want to' sentiment back to the events surrounding the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004, and examine the ongoing relevance of aid to a large, middle-income country like Indonesia. It will conclude by suggesting that Australia's aid to Indonesia has been wrongly conceived by both sides. Australia has been too obsessed with quantity and cross-border threats. Indonesia has been too dismissive about what Australian support might achieve in key areas.

An evaluation of GAVI HSS project implementation using Paris Declaration principles

Budi Perdana, Laksono Trisnantoro and Mubyasyisyir Hasan Basri

Planning Division, Bureau of Planning and Budgeting, Ministry of Health, The Republic of Indonesia; Director of Hospital Management Unit, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Gadjah Mada, Indonesia; Director of Hospital Management Unit, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Gadjah Mada, Indonesia

The effectiveness of official development aid programs in supporting Indonesia's reform agenda has been widely questioned and discussed. However, aid program implementation has made remarkable progress following the Paris Declaration. As coordinator of the national development plan, Bappenas (Indonesia's national planning board) is attuned to the issue of aid effectiveness and along with the Ministry of Finance has issued regulations to further enhance the effectiveness of foreign aid.

GAVI HSS (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization – Health System Strengthening) is a grant project funded by GAVI and implemented by the Ministry of Health. However, the implementation of GAVI HSS, which was scheduled for completion within two years (2008–2009), was delayed for more than five years.

This study reviews the implementation of the GAVI HSS project, with a particular focus on the mechanism that helps strengthen the partner institution's capacity to improve aid effectiveness. This descriptive qualitative case study evaluates the implementation of the GAVI HSS project using the Paris Declaration principles – namely Ownership, Alignment, Harmonisation, Managing for Results and Mutual Accountability – and indicators as an evaluation tool. Interviews were conducted with all project stakeholders, including units in the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, and Bappenas as well as UNICEF and WHO as representatives of GAVI in Indonesia. The analysis shows that the most influential factor affecting the

implementation of GAVI HSS is a grants utilization strategy that is functioning suboptimally. This mainly due to the perception that GAVI HSS is not an integral part of the health program, but rather a complement of programs that have been funded from the state budget. GAVI funding is also seen unpredictable, mainly due to an uncertain disbursement schedule.

Measuring the effectiveness of bilateral aid programs: the Australia Indonesia Partnership for Maternal and Neonatal Health

Krishna Hort, [Louise Simpson](#) and Nugroho

Senior Technical Advisor, Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne; Partnership Director, Australia Indonesia Partnership for Maternal and Neonatal Health; Planning and Budgeting Assistant, Australia Indonesia Partnership for Maternal and Neonatal Health

The Australia Indonesia Partnership for Maternal and Neonatal Health (AIPMNH) is an Australian government funded program which aimed to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality in the province of Nusa Tenggara Timur, Indonesia. During the period 2009-2014, reported maternal deaths fell by 40% in AIPMNH supported districts (14 of the 21 districts), while reported neonatal deaths fell by 7%. We asked the opinions of government partners at District and Provincial level and AIPMNH technical advisers (all Indonesian nationals) to identify what contributed to the effectiveness of AIPMNH.

Our assessment is based on framework of criteria developed from the principles of aid effectiveness, as set out in the Paris Declaration and its derivatives; recent DFAT policy statements on aid performance; and the program design and monitoring and evaluation framework (MEF). A self-administered questionnaire asked respondents to rank achievement and contribution to effectiveness for 26 criteria grouped into three elements; partnership, management, and technical quality on a score of 1 to 5.

We received 92 responses from district level program managers, 18 from provincial level managers, and 31 from AIPMNH technical advisers. Overall, respondents ranked partnership and management as making a higher contribution to effectiveness than technical quality, and this difference was more marked for the Government of Indonesia managers than for the technical advisers. Average assessments of each of the effectiveness elements for respondents grouped by location and affiliation, were significantly correlated with assessments of achievement, with partnership more strongly correlated by program advisers, and technical quality more strongly correlated by district government partners.

Current approaches to development effectiveness either focus on the high-level principles (mainly related to partnership and management), or on the technical aspects through the monitoring and evaluation perspective. However, the effectiveness of the AIPMNH program was seen as related to each of the three effectiveness elements, suggesting the program's approach of local ownership, local solutions, adaptation and learning contributed to its effectiveness.

PANEL 2E – Aid and public opinion

3.40 – 5.10pm, Barton Theatre

Chair: Priyanka Sunder

Government and Policy Advisor, Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)

What do Australians think about aid?

[Camilla Burkot](#) and Terence Wood

Research Officer and Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU

This paper will provide an overview of our recent research on Australian public opinion about aid. It will cover headline levels of support and show that while most Australians are broadly supportive of government aid, they also tended to favour aid cuts. It will also show that most Australians want Australian aid given to help other countries rather than to advance Australian interests.

The paper will then show how support differs across different parts of Australian society. It will show younger people, women, and people on the political left tend to be more pro-aid, while—intriguingly—both the very religious and the non-religious are more supportive of aid than people who report being religious but rarely attending religious service. The paper will show that people who have more cosmopolitan world views also tend to be more pro-aid.

The paper will conclude by looking at the relationship between knowledge of aid and support for aid, and by discussing the impact of priming and framing on support for aid.

Why do people get involved with international development? Modelling individual dynamics of engagement in the UK

Jennifer vanHeerde-Hudson and David Hudson

Visiting Research Fellows, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University & Visiting Fellows, Development Policy Centre, ANU

In this paper we investigate competing drivers of actions towards global poverty (e.g. donating money, volunteering) in the British public. Existing research demonstrates that citizens are motivated to support government aid from a cost-benefit, prudential calculus about whether aid benefits them or the country, and a moral duty to give aid. But to what extent do these drivers map onto personal actions to address global poverty? And what role is there for underlying values, such as ideology or attitudes towards race? And how important are economic evaluations in the context of austerity and whether ‘charity begins at home’. Drawing on a unique panel dataset (5 waves over 2013-2015), we dynamically model change in engagement at the individual level. We find that engagement is driven by social norms, morality, and a sense of political efficacy, and is undermined by immigration sentiments and (counter-intuitively) by improving economic mood. We conclude by exploring what the last finding means for the conventional wisdom about the effects of economic recession on attitudes towards redistribution, in particular to distant strangers.

CONFERENCE DINNER

6.30pm, Great Hall, University House

Chair: Anthea Mulakala

Director for International Development Cooperation, The Asia Foundation

Bob McMullan

Former Parliamentary Secretary for International Development

Executive Director, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Bob McMullan has had a long and distinguished career as one of Australia’s pre-eminent Labor politicians. As National Secretary of the Labor Party, he directed the ALP’s three successful election campaigns in the 1980s. He served in the Australian Parliament from 1988 to 2010, representing Canberra first in the Senate and then in the House of Representatives, holding a number of Ministerial and other senior roles.

International development has been a lifelong passion of Mr McMullan. He served as Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance from 2007 to 2010, where he is remembered in particular for his work on disability and climate change financing. From 2011 to 2015, Bob McMullan has represented Australia on the Board of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

Bob McMullan is currently a Visiting Fellow at the ANU Crawford School. He also serves as President and Chairman of the Board of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness.

Day Two – Thursday 11 February 2016

PANEL 3A – Aid and the private sector

8.10 – 9.30am, Acton Theatre

Chair: Alwyn Chilver
Director, Economic Growth, Palladium

Credit guarantees and access to finance in the Pacific region

Peter Dirou and Paul Holden

Team Leader: Access to Finance and Lead Economist, Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative (PSDI)

Credit guarantees are often promoted as an instrument to overcome the lack of lending to businesses in the Pacific region. Guarantees can take several forms, with the main variants being guarantees of individual loans and guarantees of a portfolio of loans. Within these variants, there are many alternatives for allocating risk — ranging from a 100% guarantee of a loan or portfolio to a lesser proportion, depending on types of loans, risks and maturities — and for allocating fees and charges.

There is no theoretical justification for the use of credit guarantees, however, especially when the reasons for the failure of banks to provide business finance is more to do with an unwillingness to lend than risk aversion.

Practical experience also suggests that there is a weak case for using credit guarantees to increase business access to finance. There are isolated examples of success, but few rigorous evaluations of guarantee schemes have been undertaken. Where they have been, they do not demonstrate an increase in lending relative to what would have occurred without any guarantee. Nine credit guarantee schemes are operating in the Pacific, but none have resulted in any appreciable increase in lending and several have suffered significant losses. In addition, in order to make a substantial difference to the amount of credit granted, guarantee schemes would have to be very large, and well beyond the scale of the schemes operating in the Pacific region.

Rather than increasing the use of credit guarantees, a more effective route to increasing business access to finance involves comprehensive reform of the business environment, alongside the promotion of trade credit and a greater use of secured transactions frameworks. Furthermore, there is a real danger that resort to credit guarantees will stifle the development of credit assessment and risk management capabilities in Pacific banks.

Innovative financing of cataract surgery – the case for piloting a Development Impact Bond

Lachlan McDonald, Alex Rankin and David Lansley

*Senior Economist; Global Lead, Policy and Advocacy; Policy Officer
The Fred Hollows Foundation, Australia*

The persistence of treatable cataract blindness among poorer cohorts in developing countries typifies the resource constraints in development. Despite being a relatively straightforward and cost-effective procedure, access to cataract surgery is often severely restricted because public health systems are chronically under-funded and private providers concentrate on for-profit services for wealthier patients. NGOs attempt to fill the gaps, but their impact is limited by increasingly scarce, competitive and expensive finance from official development assistance and public donations.

Two complementary bright spots have emerged, however, that could act as a potential circuit breaker. Social enterprise hospitals are showing that it possible to sustainably provide affordable quality cataract surgery at high volumes, with fees from non-poor patients cross-subsidising low-cost treatment of the poor. Private capital, via impact investment, is also emerging as a powerful new source of development finance.

But while examples exist of private investors extending concessionary loans to scale up *established* social enterprises, private finance has not been so forthcoming for “greenfield” investments, as the risks are judged too high.

Against this backdrop, Development Impact Bonds (DIBs) have the potential to extend the cataract social enterprise model to new areas. Using a guarantee from a credible third-party to repay investors for agreed outcomes, DIBs can reduce the risk to investors and thus encourage greater private sector involvement.

While there has been considerable interest in DIBs, to date the concept remains largely untested. The Fred Hollows Foundation has attempted to address this gap by coordinating one of the world's first DIBs in health care. Beginning in 2016, private investors will channel capital to a start-up social enterprise cataract hospital in Cameroon.

Through a successful application of the DIB concept The Foundation aims to build confidence in this fledgling market and reduce the costs of future deals in eye health and elsewhere. Importantly, DIBs will not be applicable in all contexts. Lessons learnt from this pilot will therefore also be valuable for identifying the factors that make projects suited to the DIB model.

From public to private: transforming subsistence farmers to commercial profit-oriented agribusiness

Rochelle Spencer, Davina Boyd, John Davis, Catherine Mthinda, Charles Masangano, Stanley Khaila, and Geoff Heinrich

Co-Director, Centre for Responsible Citizenship and Sustainability and Lecturer, Development Studies, Murdoch University; Project Manager, Centre for Responsible Citizenship and Sustainability, Murdoch University; Honorary Research Fellow, Centre for Responsible Citizenship and Sustainability, Murdoch University; Senior Lecturer, Extension Department, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi; Associate Professor, Extension Department, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Agriculture Extension Consultant (formerly Dean, Faculty Development Studies, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2007–2013); Senior Technical Advisor for Agriculture, Environment and Sustainable Livelihoods, Catholic Relief Services Southern Africa Regional Office, Zambia

There is growing awareness that subsistence agriculture cannot eradicate rural food insecurity and that small-scale rural enterprise is integral to inclusive economic development. Governments and development agencies are experimenting with alternative approaches to pluralistic agriculture extension with the demand-driven extension model gaining favour. Pluralistic extension services aim to transform subsistence farmers to commercial profit-oriented agribusiness. This paper uses a case study of Catholic Relief Services' private service provider (PSP) model against the backdrop of Zambia and Malawi's pluralistic extension policies. The research uses a mixed methods approach combining qualitative key informant interviews and focus groups, with quantitative surveys including the Malawi and Zambia Progress out of Poverty instruments and questions around the value of private service provision, trust and social capital.

We address larger development questions in debates on public versus private service provision, for example, do free agricultural extension services to the rural poor foster dependency and compromise agency? Are private sector services economically viable for poor smallholder farmers? The research findings highlight the complexities and critical issues involved in operationalising the neoliberal and participatory ideologies underpinning the shift to a user pays system. For this system to work smallholders must have the capacity, and the willingness, to pay for services from PSPs. Our case study reveals that smallholders have limited capacity for agribusiness risk, they focus on food security, and rely on multiple sources of small income (local agricultural labour, vegetable gardening, petty trading). Therefore, capacity building for smallholders to engage PSPs that support them to organise in groups, work cooperatively and undertake group marketing, make it easier to address economies of scale and to share risk, increasing their income and livelihood opportunities. Our research has found that smallholders are willing and able to pay for PSPs when these opportunities are realised thereby improving agency and the viability of paying for services.

Resisting the formulaic: measuring the impact of aid on entrepreneurship and development

Simon White

Independent Policy Advisor

How do donor and development agencies allow their programs to be flexible and adapt to changing circumstance while ensuring taxpayer funds are well spent and create a positive and significant impact? This paper reports on the results of current research on how private sector development and entrepreneurship contributes to sustainable development. It presents the challenges facing public policy-makers and program managers as donor interventions become more market-oriented and systemic. The growing, sometimes competing, demands for results and evidence require program designers and managers to constantly monitor and respond to systemic changes. Formulaic blueprints for measuring results are no longer appropriate. This paper describes indicators and approaches used to better assess how private sector development supports broader development ambitions. While developed and developing-country governments want to measure the impact of their programs against expenditure, it is also important to generate evidence to guide program revisions and to better understand how programs

affect the market and government systems entrepreneurs operate within. While “top-down” planning frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, reconfigure donor programming, there is an even greater need to understand the experiences and behaviour of entrepreneurs in a “bottom-up” process of diagnosis and program design. This paper focuses on the hourglass of top-down and bottom-up program design and management in which the ambitions of programs are clearly delineated while responding to changes in market and government systems.

PANEL 3B – Climate change and global public goods

8.10 – 9.30am, Barton Theatre

Chair: Robin Davies
Associate Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU

International financing for climate change adaptation in Small Island Developing States

Stacy-Ann Robinson and Matthew Dornan

PhD Candidate, Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU; Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Among the countries most vulnerable to climate change and its impacts are the 57 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) located in three main geographic regions – the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS); the Caribbean; and the Pacific. SIDS have prioritised adaptation to climate change, but given the cost of adaptation and limited domestic financial resources, many have looked to attract financing from traditional and non-traditional donors. It is frequently argued that SIDS are disadvantaged compared to other developing countries in their access to such financing, given capacity constraints. Yet, there is little empirical evidence in the academic literature to support this claim. This paper explores the experience of SIDS to date with international climate change adaptation financing. By assessing the determinants of OECD climate adaptation financing commitments using a multivariate OLS model, the paper finds that SIDS have not been disadvantaged to date in terms of their access to climate adaptation financing. At the same time, governance (as reflected by the World Governance Indicator scores) and aid dependence (ODA/GNI) are important determinants of climate adaptation financing, meaning that SIDS that suffer from poor governance or that receive low levels of aid are less likely to receive high levels of climate adaptation financing. The study draws on interviews with 65 senior national and regional climate change and finance officials in the Caribbean and Pacific to gain further insights into the experience of SIDS in accessing climate adaptation funding. These interviews are also used to support recommendations regarding how international climate change adaptation financing, including the partially monetised Green Climate Fund, can be better structured to facilitate more direct access by developing countries, including SIDS

Financing the future: how much will the SDGs cost and can developing countries afford them?

Romilly Greenhill, Chris Hoy, Paddy Carter and Marcus Manuel

Team Leader, Development Finance; Research Officer; Research Fellow; Senior Research Associate, Overseas Development Institute

This report provides the first systematic attempt to analyse the cost and affordability of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets related to ending extreme poverty, attaining universal primary health care and universal secondary school completion by 2030. On a country by country basis, the authors calculate the cost to end extreme poverty and source the latest health and education estimates from Chatham House and UNESCO respectively. The total cost to meet these three targets is estimated to be \$148 billion a year in low income countries alone.

To determine if these targets are affordable for developing countries, the costs are compared to the potential amount of government revenue that could be mobilised. IMF and World Bank estimates of countries’ tax capacity are used to estimate potential government revenue. These estimates are based upon on how much extra revenue countries can realistically be expected to raise given their level of development. A further assumption was made that only half of potential government revenue would be directed to achieving these targets. This is founded on what the average OECD country spends on health, education and social protection.

This exercise illustrates that for these SDG targets to be met, public resources in developing countries will not be enough. There is a total financing gap of \$84 billion a year, which is almost exclusively in low income countries. It is argued that aid has an important role to play in filling this gap as most of the interventions to meet these targets will not be met by the private sector. A key recommendation that emerges from the analysis is that aid donors should commit to providing at least 50% of their aid budgets to least developed countries.

“Socialism masquerading as environmentalism”? International climate finance and party politics in Australia

Jonathan Pickering and Paul Mitchell

*Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance, University of Canberra;
PhD Candidate, School of Global, Urban and Social Studies, RMIT University*

The fulfilment of wealthy countries’ commitment to mobilise \$100 billion a year in climate finance by 2020 will hinge on maintaining domestic political support in contributor countries. Predictability in flows of climate finance is likely to enhance the overall stability of the climate finance system and the broader climate regime. However, at present it remains unclear how the 2020 target will be achieved and little is known about what drives fluctuations in support among contributor countries.

This paper explores domestic and international factors that may explain fluctuations in national support through a case study of Australia’s climate finance from 2007 to 2015. The analysis tracks two domestic factors that may influence support for climate finance – (i) the federal government’s party orientation and (ii) public concern about climate change – and two international factors – (iii) commitment to multilateral agreements and (iv) international peer pressure.

We find that the government’s party orientation on domestic climate policy and aid explains some but not all variations in Australia’s stance on climate finance. International peer group effects have helped to moderate the positions of two governments that were otherwise reluctant to embrace substantial action on climate change. In particular, we argue that the Abbott government’s \$200 million pledge to the Green Climate Fund (after having previously decried the fund as “socialism masquerading as environmentalism”) is best explained as a response to Australia’s increasingly isolated position in global climate diplomacy.

Our analysis highlights a concern that national support for climate finance remains vulnerable to political partisanship on climate change and aid, even if public support for both may remain solid. However, improved multilateral oversight of national pledges and more established replenishment cycles could bolster support in contributor countries.

PANEL 3C – New perspectives on aid, recovery and statebuilding

8.10 – 9.30am, Weston Theatre

This submitted panel, developed in conjunction with the Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium (SLRC), will discuss livelihoods, basic services and social protection in conflict-affected situations in eight countries – DRC, Uganda, South Sudan, Sierra Leone, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, based on a six-year panel research program led by a team based at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI).

Chair: Thomas Parks
Governance & Fragility Specialist, DFAT

Aid in fragile and conflict-affected situations: new perspectives on building state capacity

Lisa Denney

Research Associate and Country Lead for the Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium (SLRC) Sierra Leone programme, Overseas Development Institute

Capacity building lies at the heart of much development work. Yet surprisingly, it remains poorly theorised in practice. Too often, capacity building is reduced to training programmes or equipment supply, crowding out more creative development methods. Through two years of research exploring efforts to strengthen state capacity to prevent malnutrition in Sierra Leone, this paper argues that capacity building is operationalised in a narrow manner, focused on technical knowledge and tangible outputs that ignore the capacity of systems, the human face of service delivery, the plurality of the health system and the complexity of seemingly simple change processes.

What is needed is a smarter model of capacity building that is people-centred and systematically aware. Three changes to current approaches are suggested. First, capacity building should pay closer attention to the intangible dimensions of capacity, including state-society relations. Public perceptions of the quality of a service matter as much as its 'objective quality'. When people have little confidence in the capacity of a provider to deliver quality care, they are unlikely to use that service – as demonstrated during the Ebola epidemic.

Second, capacity building should engage with how people actually use services. Donors tend to focus on state health systems to the detriment of the plurality of providers that people actually use – from traditional healers to drug peddlers. Building a more people-centred health system will require engaging with this reality, and building a nuanced understanding of how people navigate the services available to them.

Finally, donors need to lose the modular approach to capacity building, which attempts to improve the performance of discrete organisations and individuals in the hope that this will 'aggregate up' into stronger systems. But this often does not happen in practice. Support should not only target the units within a system but also the connections between them.

Aid in fragile and conflict-based situations: new perspectives on state legitimacy and statebuilding

Rachel Slater, Richard Mallet and Hamish Nixon

Research Director for the Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium (SLRC) and Research Fellow in Social Protection; Researcher, Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium (SLRC); Research Fellow in Politics and Governance

Overseas Development Institute

The conversion of 'rule by domination' into 'rule by authority' is first dependent on an accumulation of legitimacy. But how do political actors gain the trust, confidence and consent of those they seek to rule, both during and after conflict? And what can aid agencies do to support this? The governance literature suggests that legitimacy comes in different forms, and can thus be built through various means. One influential approach sees legitimacy as an output- or performance-based product. To put it crudely, this view predicts that governments become legitimate when they deliver stuff that's good for citizens (security, jobs, and basic services). Historical evidence from particular contexts – primarily Western Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries – lends broad support to the idea that public services can help cement in a social contract between citizens and young states, but recent research has raised questions over whether legitimacy can simply be bought through delivery. Drawing on original survey data from five fragile and conflict-affected countries (FCAS) (DRC, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Uganda), this paper argues that the provision of basic services is a necessary but insufficient condition for the accumulation of legitimacy. We show that *how* services get delivered – that is, the processes of planning, implementation and accountability – matter just as much (if not more) than what is actually provided. These findings suggest that legitimacy is the outcome of *both* performance *and* process functions. This fresh take on legitimacy has two implications. It demands that donors pay closer attention to the everyday detail of how services are delivered. And it reinforces the notion that public services could act as vehicles of interaction and engagement between states and citizens – but that a relational rather than transactional view of the relationship between service delivery and statebuilding is needed for more effective programming of aid in FCAS.

Aid in fragile and conflict-affected situations: new perspectives on stakeholders and statebuilding

Rachel Slater and Richard Mallet

Research Director for the Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium (SLRC) and Research Fellow in Social Protection; Researcher, Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium (SLRC)

Overseas Development Institute

In post-conflict situations, the question of whether the continued presence of donor agencies, NGOs and other non-state actors contributes to or undermines statebuilding and peacebuilding looms large. It is frequently asserted that the delivery of services by non-state providers (NSPs) – for example, NGOs servicing hospitals in northern Afghanistan or faith-based organisations delivering education services in DRC – crowds out the government and slows progress in state capacity development. Furthermore, it is argued that state legitimacy will be undermined, that the compact between citizens and the state cannot be cemented, if the state itself is not delivering services to its people.

Drawing on survey data from five conflict-affected countries (DRC, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Uganda) this paper explore the extent to which individuals' perceptions of government are influenced by who

delivers water, health, and education services and social assistance. Overall, it finds little evidence for the assertion that the presence of NGOs and other NSPs crowds out the state nor any consistent relationship between the provider of services and perceptions of government actors. The paper concludes by exploring the implications of the findings for choices made by international actors about how it supports service delivery in conflict-affect situations.

PANEL 3D – Global health: lessons from PNG and the Pacific 8.10 – 9.30am, Lennox Room

Chair: Bob Warner
Visiting Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Immunisation programs in the Pacific: health security threats and implications for donors

Stewart Tyson, John Clements, and Rebecca Dodd

Independent Consultant in International Health; Associate Professor, University of Melbourne and Independent Consultant; Director of Health and Education, Pacific Division, DFAT

This paper presents findings of a *Review of Immunisation Programs in the Pacific* commissioned by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 2015, and carried out in collaboration with New Zealand, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the World Bank.

In line with global trends, routine immunisation in many Pacific countries has stagnated or deteriorated as health ministries and their development partners juggle competing health demands. Many of the global and regional immunisation targets set by international health agencies and are likely to be missed. Despite the cost-effectiveness of “new” vaccines such as pneumococcal, rotavirus and human papilloma viruses, many Pacific countries cannot afford to provide them sustainably. This situation is exacerbated by declining aid budgets and reduced access to GAVI resources: few Pacific countries qualify for GAVI financing, and those that do will likely ‘graduate’ in coming years.

Weak immunisation systems pose an on-going “health security” threat to all countries in the region, including Australia and New Zealand. The review examined the role of development partners in supporting immunization programs and found that while support is technically sound and valued by recipients, there has been insufficient focus on the principles of aid effectiveness. For immunisation programs to be successful, they need to be better integrated into primary health care, and the health systems on which they rely need to perform effectively. Partners often pay too little attention to these factors.

The review is based on a desk review of published and official documents and three weeks in the field interviewing key informants and making site visits.

Implementing global strategies to improve maternal health

Susan Crabtree

PhD Candidate, Centre for Development Studies, University of Auckland

Throughout the developing world, implementation and widespread scale up of effective maternal and neonatal health care remain a critical development challenge (Thomas et al., 2014). Drawing on findings from my recently submitted PhD, in this paper I discuss the longstanding status quo in Papua New Guinea of high rates of maternal death due to pregnancy and childbirth related causes. Using the complexity theory concept of path dependence, I trace reported rates of maternal mortality since independence 40 years ago and explore international development strategies designed to improve maternal health. Although maternal health has been identified as a key health system priority in Papua New Guinea, analysis reveals few changes to the system providing health care during pregnancy and birth, and little change in the numbers of women dying of maternal health causes.

I argue that strategies to improve maternal health are implemented into existing social systems. Therefore, in order to stimulate effective change to improve maternal and neonatal health outcomes, I make a case for international development strategies to move beyond technical interventions in isolation. In any system, it is the actions of individuals and their relationships that contribute to, or hinder, effective and sustainable change. To improve maternal and neonatal health, global health strategies must be cognisant of, and

engage with, the existing intersecting social systems to effectively disrupt the status quo. Implications arising from global maternal health strategies are explored.

Preparing the PNG health workforce for an emergent pandemic: health security and health systems strengthening in action

Joel Negin and Glen Mola

Associate Professor of International Health and Acting Head of School, School of Public Health, University of Sydney; Professor of Reproductive Health and ObGyn, School of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Papua New Guinea

The Ebola crisis in West Africa highlighted the vulnerability of all countries to emergent pathogens. This is particularly true for those with weak health systems such as many of those in the Asia-Pacific region. Papua New Guinea shares many health systems characteristics with Liberia and Sierra Leone – low number of trained health workers, weak health governance, insufficient health information systems and poor medicine procurement mechanisms. This challenge has been acknowledged by many actors including the World Bank, WHO and DFAT. Health workforce training and retention is a clear deficit in PNG – trained health workers per population has gotten worse from 2009 to 2015 and only 25% of the medical officers required are being produced each year – thus making a robust response to any future epidemic less likely. While DFAT and others have committed to health systems strengthening and have noted the importance of health workforce training and retention, there is a gap between rhetoric and action. Our presentation examines the gap between policy and action in epidemic preparedness and health system development in the Asia-Pacific using PNG as a case study.

Aid effectiveness in nursing and midwifery: a multi-sectorial approach

Michele Rumsey, Caroline Homer, Jodi Thiessen, Amanda Neill and Lin Lock

*Director of Operations and Development, World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development; Associate Dean (International and Development), Faculty of Health, and Associate Head of WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development; Project Manager, WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development; Associate Professor, Faculty of Health
University of Technology Sydney*

Engaging in many projects in one country or region allows greater understanding of cultural nuances, political agendas and other development partners doing similar work. Working together to create change in several areas can have greater impact than concentrating on one project alone.

That is our experience at the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre at University of Technology, Sydney (WHO CC UTS). While donor funding comes and goes, our partnership with the South Pacific Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers Alliance (SPCNMOA) is steadfast and influences all the work we do. The SPCNMOA is a group of the most senior nursing and midwifery officers in each South Pacific Country along with senior regulators and nurse/midwife educators. Acting as Secretariat to this group ensures the development agenda is closely in-line with countries' national agenda.

An example of this in action is shown through recent projects underway in Papua New Guinea (PNG). The WHO CC UTS is partnered with the National Department of Health through projects such as the Maternal and Child Health Initiative and technical advice to the Nursing Council of PNG. These two projects, both funded by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, allow greater understanding of what factors are impacting the health workforce of PNG and knowledge can flow between the projects. They also link between health educators, educational scholarships provided by Australian aid, nursing and midwifery regulation, ministerial governance, and associations (nursing and midwifery).

Through this cohesive, multi-sectorial approach, insight gained and lessons learned are fluid, as are relationships that are built within the National Department of Health and the greater health workforce across the country.

PANEL 3E – Humanitarian aid

8.10 – 9.30am, Seminar Room 8

Chair: Steve Scott
Assistant Secretary, Humanitarian Branch, DFAT

Using aid to buy humanitarian space: the politics of Myanmar's Rakhine State

Alex Douglas

Project Manager, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue's Rakhine State Project

This paper investigates the politicisation of aid and humanitarian assistance in Myanmar's Rakhine State, which was the site of communal violence between the majority Buddhist and minority Muslim communities in 2012. This paper is based on observation and over a hundred key informant interviews with residents of Rakhine State, including senior government officials, NGO staff, leaders of violent groups, politicians, and aid recipients, conducted over the course of 20 field trips to Rakhine State between 2013 and 2015. This research was undertaken in the course of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue's project to reduce violence and promote stability.

This paper charts how the humanitarian sector's focus on the Muslim community (which constituted the overwhelming majority of displaced persons) increased the Buddhist majority's grievances against humanitarian actors, resulting in a riot that forced the temporary suspension of operations. In order to regain humanitarian space, senior leaders of the aid sector decided that their emergency operations needed to be complemented by development programs that could be rolled out in the Buddhist community, thereby 'buying' humanitarian space.

This paper finds that this rebalancing has so far failed to change the overall political dynamics for two reasons. Firstly, despite sustained efforts there has been a failure to substantially change the religious make-up of beneficiaries because of the nature of modern development assistance, a siloed development bureaucracy, and humanitarian norms. Secondly, this rebalancing was not matched by a political strategy to change community sentiment. These findings provide insights into the politics of how aid is distributed, the differential political impacts on development versus humanitarian assistance, and how international aid can exacerbate conflict.

The business of saving lives: accountability to whom? Private sector engagement in humanitarian action

Nicole Rencoret

Consultant, Humanitarian Advisory Group and Master of Business Administration student at Warwick Business School, University of Warwick

The release of DFAT's strategy on engaging the private sector in aid and development has generated increasing interest on public-private partnerships, and raised questions on how businesses can address development objectives as part of their core activities. Less attention, however, has been paid to how the private sector engages in the context of humanitarian crises. Recent disasters such as Tropical Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu and the Nepal earthquake saw unprecedented engagement on the part of the private sector, where in some cases businesses became the bearers of aid.

The humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence drive humanitarian activities including risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery. 'Traditional' humanitarian actors such as governments, the UN and NGOs use these principles as standards against which they stand accountable, report and measure the impact of their work.

But what relevance – if any – do these principles have for a telecommunications company helping to restore networks in the aftermath of an earthquake, or a logistics expert deployed to the airport to support in the sorting and distribution of pallets of aid following a cyclone? Furthermore, how does the private sector determine whether their engagement in a humanitarian crisis resulted in bang for its (humanitarian) buck?

Drawing on research including interviews with a range of stakeholders with experience in the Pacific, this paper will present evidence of gaps in accountability measures and reporting practices, highlighting existing guidance and standards that can serve as a means for holding *all* humanitarian partners accountable. It will also highlight the current absence of mechanisms through which the private sector can report and measure its engagement in humanitarian action.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Launch of the 2015 Australian aid stakeholder survey results
9.40am, Molonglo Theatre

Chair: Stephen Howes
Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU

*In 2013 the Development Policy Centre conducted the first ever comprehensive survey of Australia's aid stakeholders, canvassing their views of the Australian aid program. Since then Australian aid has changed dramatically: AusAID is no more, the focus of aid has shifted, and the aid budget has been cut dramatically. In 2015 the Centre re-ran the stakeholder survey, and the data from the two surveys provides a unique opportunity to examine the impacts of these changes. In his presentation **Terence Wood**, Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU, will reveal what the 2015 Australian aid stakeholder found. He will look at what has gotten better, and what has gotten worse, and offer suggestions for improving Australian aid.*

PANEL 4A – Australian aid policy
11.00am – 12.30pm, Molonglo Theatre

Chair: Stephen Howes
Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU

*This session provides an opportunity for further discussion of the stakeholder survey (see plenary above) as well as general discussion of recent developments in Australian aid policy. The panel will include: **Terence Wood**, Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre, and co-author of the 2015 Aid Stakeholder Survey; **Richard Moore**, Former Deputy Director General, AusAID; **Marc Purcell**, CEO of the Australian Council for International Development; and **Alison Baker**, Principal, Development Assistance, GHD.*

PANEL 4B – Aid to and from Asia
11.00am – 12.30pm, Acton Theatre

Chair: Gordon Hein
Senior Vice President of Programs, The Asia Foundation

Are there any long-run commercial benefits for Australia of its aid to Asian countries? A dynamic panel econometric technique analysis

Sabit Amum Otor and Matthew Dornan
Research Associate; Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU

This study investigates the long-run effects of official development assistance (ODA) on Australian exports to recipient countries. It uses dynamic panel econometric techniques and the Gravity Model of international trade to explore the relationship between ODA from Australia and other OECD DAC donors and Australian exports to 17 Asian countries between 1980 and 2013. The modelling results suggest that Australian ODA is associated with higher exports to recipient countries, and that causality runs in both directions (meaning that Australian ODA causes Australian exports, and vice versa). In the long run, on average, one dollar of Australian aid is associated with \$6.60 in Australian exports to recipient countries. This figure declines only slightly in the post-2006 period, after the Australian government's decision to untie Australian aid from domestic procurement requirements. Interestingly, and contrary to the results of similar exercises for other

donor countries, the results suggest that ODA from other DAC countries does not crowd out, but rather increases, Australia's exports to Asian countries.

The changing role of Indonesia in development cooperation: the shifting rhetoric of South-South Cooperation

Miranda Tahalele

PhD Candidate, Gender and Development Studies, ANU

The last decade has shown a significant shift and progressive action on Indonesian South-South Cooperation within its development cooperation policy. Indonesia's role in South-South Cooperation can be traced back to the first Asian-African Conference in 1955. More recently, South-South Cooperation has been contextualized as part of President Joko Widodo's *Nawacita*, or the Nine Development Goals. His narrative brings a strong sense of nostalgia for his predecessors, especially President Soekarno's notion of anti-colonialism and solidarity in South-South Cooperation. However, the questions of whether Indonesia has moved beyond its old rhetoric to more sound policy, and why Indonesian South-South Cooperation programs remain difficult to advance, remain.

This paper will discuss Indonesia's shifting role as a recipient of aid to a provider country through South-South Cooperation, and how it has evolved over time, through the examination and review of historical perspectives. Based on literature review and the author's personal experiences working in the area of Indonesian South-South Cooperation, this research is a preliminary study that looks specifically at policy shifts within South-South Cooperation from the Soekarno to the Widodo presidencies. It examines the contexts that recognize a strong narrative of national identity and power projection. It will specifically identify how identity and power significantly shape development cooperation. However, significant challenges remain around Indonesia's positioning among other middle-income countries, and how South-South Cooperation can develop into a sound development cooperation policy. The paper concludes by arguing that even though Indonesian South-South Cooperation has evolved, there is still a need to achieve a balance between power and identity to contribute more to the development cooperation context.

China's triangular aid cooperation, a promising new trend?

Denghua Zhang

PhD Candidate, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

China as an emerging donor has attracted growing international attention and triggered mixed reactions to its impact on the international aid regime. Interestingly, while sticking to its own modality of foreign aid and emphasizing on the South-South cooperation, China is conducting an increasing number of triangular aid cooperation in partnership with traditional donors and international organizations. This new phenomenon has not received sufficient academic attention and remains poorly understood. Based on the author's recent fieldwork and over one hundred interviews in Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Cambodia, China, Australia and New Zealand on China's triangular aid projects, this research project proposes to analyse the main features of China's triangular cooperation. It argues that global image building due to China's growing attention to its identity as a great power, and China's growing emphasis on learning to improve its aid effectiveness serve as the main motivations for this new type of aid modality. Policy implications on how to engage China on development cooperation will also be provided including focusing on pilots projects, strengthening engagement, identifying areas of natural partnership and starting from less sensitive public welfare projects.

PANEL 4C – Migration: Pacific and Timor-Leste

11.00am – 12.30pm, Weston Theatre

Chair: Richard Curtain

Visiting Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Seasonal labour migration and development in the Pacific

Rochelle Bailey

Research Fellow, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU

To encourage economic development in the Pacific, recent labour mobility programs such as Australia's Seasonal Worker Program (SWP) and New Zealand's Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme (RSE) offer

employment opportunities for nations in the region. Governments involved in the bilateral agreements regulating the RSE and SWP schemes expect workers to contribute significant investments to be used for development in Pacific island nations. However, workers' contributions do not necessarily reflect orthodox policy assumptions, which in the Pacific region are often framed within the modernisation paradigm. Using ethnographic research from 2007 until 2016 with ni-Vanuatu seasonal workers from a number of communities (including the Lolihor region of Ambrym which is often referred to as the 'successful model'), this paper highlights the expectations of seasonal worker incomes to contribute to development and redevelopment and the actual outcomes achieved through localized forms of development.

With a lack of waged employment at home, participants perceive these schemes as an additional source of income that can meet individual and community needs. Evidence shows that seasonal workers' earnings contribute to school fees, new housing, water infrastructure and community projects, new businesses and have been included in funding the ceremonial exchange economy. An important finding of this research is how workers' earnings are redistributed throughout islands supporting a number of extended kin; through the ceremonial economy, fundraising or other means of exchange. In most parts of the Pacific, the concept of individual ownership of incomes is contested. This also influences potential development goals. Workers are in constant negotiation in the use of their incomes with their immediate family, extended kin and their communities. Earnings are often bound to prescribed social obligations and requirements. If misappropriated this hinders development goals. Pacific seasonal workers are reaching their development specific goals through various forms of remittances, and continue to generate new targets for their families and communities, while maintaining social obligations through reciprocal relationships.

'On the ship, you can do anything': development impacts of international cruise ship employment for i-Kiribati migrant women

Sophia Kagan

Labour Migration Technical Officer, International Labour Organization

The increasing feminization of international labour migration, particularly in low paid occupations such as domestic work, has fuelled an ongoing debate regarding whether female migrants are in fact beneficiaries of the commonly touted development impacts of migration, or merely passive players driven into migration through forces of globalization, who derive little benefit for themselves and their families. This debate is not only important from a research perspective, but also from the perspective of informing policymaking as to whether governments should facilitate and promote female migration. In a unique set of circumstances around 100 i-Kiribati women with almost no migration experience were employed on international cruise ships during the period of 2004 to 2012 under an agreement between the Government of Kiribati and the Norwegian Cruise Liner (NCL) company. Based on in-depth qualitative interviews with many of these migrants, this study looks at the degree to which women were 'empowered', as a result of their cruise ship employment through three variables: (1) the extent to which women had control over their earnings (proxied by remittance decisions) relative to their control over their earnings before cruise ship employment; (2) whether the women felt that their position within their family was strengthened as a result of their migration (in terms of power dynamics with parents and husbands); and (3) whether their experience impacted on their subjective sense of confidence and independence, and to what extent this influenced future plans and ambitions.

Labour mobility between Pacific Island countries

Carmen Voigt-Graf

Senior Research Fellow, National Research Institute (Papua New Guinea), and Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU

In this paper I will provide a brief overview of labour migration flows within the Pacific Island region. The main example I will draw on is the flow of Fijian workers to the Pacific's largest labour market, Papua New Guinea (PNG). Some demographic and economic characteristics of the Fijian labour force in PNG will be discussed, and will be linked to economic developments in PNG. The impact of regional trade agreements with labour mobility provisions on labour mobility flows will be analysed. The paper seeks to discuss some reasons behind the small scale of labour mobility within the Pacific Island region.

Experiences of young Timorese as migrant workers in Korea

Ann Wigglesworth and Zulmira Fonseca
Independent Consultants

Timor-Leste is one of 15 countries which have access to the South Korea's Employment Permit System allowing foreign workers to fill job roles on temporary visas for up to five years. Since 2009 several thousand Timorese workers have participated in the government to government program. This arrangement is promoted by the Government of Timor-Leste to give Timorese young people aged 18 to 39 access to jobs and to learn job skills that they can use on their return home.

A small pilot survey of returned workers was undertaken in Dili in July 2015 to find out more about their experiences of work in in Korea as well as information about their post Korea employment experiences on return to Timor-Leste. Although less than half the workers sent to Korea successfully completed their assignment, those interviewed generally spoke well of their employers and valued the experiences they gained. The survey showed that although many workers have struggled to adapt to the high expectations of work demands that are normal in Korea, many felt they had developed useful work skills and were able to contribute to their families' wellbeing through their income. On returning to Timor-Leste, few have succeeded in obtaining regular work and many see returning to Korea as their main option. This research raises questions about whether the objective of the program for the government has become more focused on merely delivering financial remittances rather than working to ensure that the skills of returning workers are utilised better in the domestic economy of Timor-Leste.

PANEL 4D – Research and culture

11.00am – 12.30pm, Seminar Room 8

Chair: Debbie Muirhead

Honorary Research Fellow, Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne

What is effective aid in a research for development context? Using theory-based approaches for designing, implementing and evaluating research for development programs

Bethany Davies, Julien Colomer, Brian Belcher and Daniel Suryadarma

Senior Consultant, Clear Horizon; Monitoring and Learning Officer, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); Professor, Faculty of Social and Applied Sciences, Royal Roads University and Senior Associate Scientist, Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR); Senior Scientist (Impact Assessment), CIFOR

With significant finance being channelled into research and knowledge for development programs internationally, organizations that work in this field are being challenged to answer: what does aid effectiveness look like in the context of knowledge creation and utilization?

The challenge is multi-fold. Research and knowledge creation are unpredictable; we don't know what we will find out. Knowledge-based interventions tend to operate early in results chains, with multiple stages and multiple actors required to achieve impacts on the ground, and with the time lags and feedback loops of complex systems. Theoretical understanding of how knowledge-based interventions work is still not well developed. And the knowledge creation process is, by necessity, becoming more diffuse, with research-for-development activities becoming increasingly inter- and transdisciplinary; the interventions themselves are often multi-pronged.

To deal with these challenges, three organisations working in a UK International Climate Fund-financed knowledge-for-development partnership have trialled the use of theory driven approaches for design, monitoring and evaluation and learning (DMEL) as a method for assessing and communicating the contribution of knowledge to broader social, economic and environmental impacts.

Experience so far shows that theory driven approaches are appropriate and helpful for designing, adapting, and evaluating knowledge for development programmes. The approach provides a framework to develop a testable, causal model connecting research activities to policy and practice changes and ultimately to the desired social and environmental impacts. Enhanced attention to the "sphere of influence" and the identification of key actors who need to be involved (boundary partners) has supported more effective program design and implementation, by focusing attention on the intermediate results that knowledge programs are able to manage towards delivering. The approach enhances our ability to test theories about

the role of knowledge in policy and development and therefore to enhance learning about how investing in knowledge for development works. In other words, it has begun to shift the emphasis of DMEL from an accountability-driven administrative task to a process that is central to project design and organisational learning.

This collaboration has also revealed a number of constraints and opportunities for further improvement. We have found that theory driven DMEL approaches are frequently constrained by a failure to adequately resource or incentivise systematic DMEL approaches, with a real or perceived disjuncture between stated support for systematic DMEL and actual resource allocation and performance management. There are also frequently real or perceived conflicting demands, expectations and prescribed DMEL approaches from multiple donors. Practically, there are few published examples of applied theory-driven approaches in relevant programs and sectors; limited hard data on DMEL as a critical impact delivery mechanism and a lack of knowledge, experience and institutional flexibility to support adaptive management during the activity cycle of knowledge generation programs.

This presentation will share lessons based on the experience of applying theory driven DMEL to their investments in enhanced DMEL techniques. This has involved developing theory of change models and tracking performance in relation to: creating enabling internal systems and cultures; improving internal capacity and practices; and influencing debates and practice with the wider donor and practitioner community. The presentation will highlight key findings from the application of theory driven techniques in programmatic areas and insights into the factors that enable and constrain the development of evaluative cultures, and will outline priority next steps for internal practice.

International agricultural research and multi-stakeholder partnership in the era of the SDGs. New practice agenda, new science agenda

Andy Hall, Kumuda Dorai and Jerone Dijkman

Senior Principal Scientist, Agriculture Innovation Dynamics, Agriculture Business Unit, CSIRO; Director, LINK Ltd; Senior Research Officer, Independent Science and Partnership Council of the CGIAR

The recent framing of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the emphasis on the importance of systemic change as an impact pathway has highlighted the importance of developing architectures of multi-stakeholder partners operating at local to policy levels. This paper reviews current practice in multi-stakeholder partnership from the perspective of international agricultural research organisations, particularly the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. Bilateral and multi-stakeholder partnerships are not new phenomena in international agricultural research. However the application in the strongly research centric has presented a number of challenges. These include a tendency to give primacy to research framing to partnerships goals and to favour research leadership in governance mechanisms. A related problem has been that where multi-stakeholder partnerships have been developed impacts at scale have often been elusive. This is often because the focus is on innovation platforms that then prove difficult to progress and scale beyond successful pilots. These experiences raise many questions about the most appropriate role of research in multi-stakeholder partners and about the types of partnership architectures need for impact at scale, particularly in the context of complex problems that require systemic change as a route to impact.

After reviewing existing practice in both the international agricultural domain and in global multi-stakeholder partnerships tackling general development challenges, the paper develops a typology of partnerships modes appropriate to different tasks depending on the complexity of the challenge being addressed. This is used to explain the role of research in each of these categories and to highlight the limitations each of these modalities places on ambitions for achieving impact at scale.

In conclusion the paper suggests that research practice and the science agenda of international agricultural research will need to further adapt to fulfil its ambition to engage and contribute more fully to the unfolding SDG implementation process. A critical aspect of the new science agenda is the development and application of frameworks to help better understand how to use partnerships as an effective tool for innovation and impact.

Aid and archaeology: the role of cultural heritage in sustainable development

Katherine Harper

The University of Sydney

Investment in cultural heritage preservation is often promoted by those who believe in the universal value that heritage has to offer all people in understanding our joint history. However, in developing countries,

investment in heritage should also be promoted by the aid sector as it can assist in long-term and sustainable development.

Since the mid-90s academics have discussed the link between heritage preservation and economic growth. Countries with ‘cultural capital’ are able to use these assets to generate positive economic outcomes. In more recent years, as aid has moved away from econometric models, academics have argued for the holistic impact that investment in cultural heritage can have on development. Studies and works have appeared that analyse how cultural factors have an impact on development processes both in the short and long-term.

Yet the link between cultural heritage and sustainable development is a conversation that continues to exist on the periphery of both development and heritage discussions. The Millennium Development Goals adopted by the international community in 2000, for example, made no specific reference to heritage or even to culture. Similarly the Sustainable Development Goals released last year failed to give culture a prominent role in sustainable development.

This paper looks at why the international community should make cultural heritage part of the mainstream conversation about sustainable development. It is argued that cultural heritage should be seen as driver of sustainable development, impacting economic, social, and environmental sustainability. Using existing research and case studies, this paper reviews how cultural heritage contributes to various sustainable development goals, such as environmental sustainability, inclusive social growth, inclusive economic growth, and peace and security. The paper then looks at some of the obstacles preventing culture from being part of the mainstream debate, and puts forward arguments as to how these issues might be overcome.

PANEL 4E – Power, politics and marginalisation

11.00am – 12.30pm, Lennox Room

This submitted panel will challenge siloed approaches to inequality and injustice (‘no one left behind’), argue that use of a siloed approach, often built on Western identity categories, can contribute to the marginalisation of particular groups, and call for an intersectional approach to the analysis of, and responses to, social inequality and injustice, drawing on local practice.

Chair: Gillian Fletcher
Research Fellow, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University and Developmental Leadership Program

Interlinkage, Intersectionality, Praxis and Policy: Pacific feminist approaches to climate justice

Noelene Nabulivou

DIVA for Equality, Pacific Partnerships on Gender, Climate Change and Sustainable Development (PPGCCSD), and DAWN Associate, Fiji

Noelene Nabulivou will speak about climate justice—not climate change—and argue that Australia’s reluctance to act decisively on fuel emissions and reduction targets is, in part, an effect of power relationships in which those who are most affected by climate change are also excluded and marginalised, and proposing some ways that this can change.

The prickly edges of ‘Inclusion’ & ‘Diversity’ – the experience of IWDA and the Fiji Women’s Movement

Bronwyn Tilbury

International Women’s Development Agency

Bronwyn Tilbury will speak about work underway in Fiji that seeks to make visible, and to address, the intersections between social hierarchies, injustice and inequality. This work, instigated and implemented by civil society activists, is supported by International Women’s Development Agency (IWDA).

Special rights or just human rights? Learning from the politics and practices of LGBT advocacy in Kyrgyzstan

Cai Wilkinson

School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Deakin University

Cai Wilkinson will speak about the political economy and strategies of transnational lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans* and queer (LGBTQ) human rights activism, focusing on the experiences of local activists in Kyrgyzstan; a country that is hostile towards non-heterosexuality and gender variance.

'If the herd of cows splits up, the tiger can eat them': Using a diversity and values framework to promote equality and social justice in Myanmar

Gillian Fletcher

Research Fellow, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University and Developmental Leadership Program

Gillian Fletcher will draw on work she has undertaken with civil society networks in Myanmar to argue for a shift in focus from assuming homogeneity among diverse groups towards identifying and responding to intersecting social hierarchies (which usually cluster around race/ethnicity; class/caste; gender and sexuality).

PLENARY SESSION: International climate change – Perspectives on Paris

1.30pm, Molonglo Theatre

Chair: Frank Jotzo

Deputy Director, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU

The Paris negotiations on climate change are a critical event for anyone with an interest in international development. This international panel, with leading analysts from Australia and Korea, will analyse Paris outcomes and their consequences.

Howard Bamsey, Adjunct Professor, Regulatory Institutions Network, ANU and formerly Australia's Special Envoy on Climate Change

Howard Bamsey was, until recently, Deputy Secretary of Australia's Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, and Australia's Special Envoy on Climate Change. He is one of Australia's most experienced negotiators, playing a key role in international climate change negotiations. Professor Bamsey was Deputy Secretary in the Department of the Environment and Water Resources from 1997 to 2002, and head of the Australian Greenhouse Office until 2006. He is currently a visiting Adjunct Professor at the Regulatory Institutions Network, College of Asia and the Pacific at the Australian National University.

Jaehyoung Lee, Professor, Korea University School of Law and Legal Advisor to Korean delegation to UN climate change negotiations

Jaehyoung Lee is a Professor at Korea University School of Law. For the last 7 years, he has also served as Legal Advisor to the Korean delegation to the UN climate change negotiations. A graduate of Korea University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Professor Lee has wide experience in the area of international economic law and is a member of a number of advising committees to the Korean government in relation to foreign and environmental policy, economic affairs, and sustainable development.

Stephen Howes, Professor, Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Stephen is a Professor of Economics at Crawford School of Public Policy at The Australian National University. He is the Director of the Development Policy Centre, He served as Director of the International and Development Economics program of the Crawford School from 2009 to 2014. Prior to joining the Crawford School in 2009, Stephen was Chief Economist at the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). He worked from 1994 to 2005 at the World Bank, first in Washington and then in Delhi, where he was Lead Economist for India. In 2008, he worked on the Garnaut Review on Climate

Change, where he managed the Review's international work stream. Stephen also serves as a Board Member for CARE Australia, where he chairs the Program and Operations Committee. He is also Chair of Femili PNG, an NGO which supports survivors of family and sexual violence in Papua New Guinea. He has previously served on the Board of the Pacific Institute of Public Policy, and on the Advisory Council of the Asian Development Bank Institute.

PANEL 5A – Social and gender analysis

3.10pm – 4.40pm, Acton Theatre

Chair: Sarah Goulding
Senior Specialist Gender Equality, DFAT

Microfinance and social hierarchy after international intervention: Timorese case studies on both sides of the border

Melissa Johnston
PhD Candidate, Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University

Microfinance is an everyday feature of life in rural areas of both Timor-Leste and West Timor (Indonesia). What effect does all this microfinance have, especially on its target beneficiaries, poor women? The results of my PhD fieldwork on women's economic empowerment programmes show a number of unintended negative effects. My paper begins with a brief background on microfinance in Timor-Leste and Indonesia, while making a case for comparing Timor-Leste, with its high levels of international microfinance, with West Timor, which features predominantly national and local microfinance. The high degree of cultural similarity between both areas strengthens the analysis. In terms of a contribution to the extensive literature on microfinance, my qualitative and ethnographic findings show neither wholesale empowerment of women, nor the absolute penetration of neoliberal market values into rural communities, but rather a solidification of village hierarchies in both cases, many extant during Suharto's New Order (1965-98). Hierarchies are strengthened in a variety of ways; most egregiously by usurious credit from village elites to the most vulnerable, including victims of the war. I argue that currently, microfinance has the effect of further marginalising poor, low-status women and trapping them in patrimonial and patriarchal systems. In addition, relatively affluent village leaders across all four rural sites justified and enforced their economic dominance by appeal to three sources, the State, the Church and *adat* or traditional practice. I argue that well-intended microcredit programmes aimed at the grass roots to empower women and reduce poverty have nevertheless made village social stratification harder to overcome, even when some women village leaders experience greater empowerment.

Understanding the intangible: Evaluating a gender norms change program in Solomon Islands

Tracy McDiarmid and [Erin Goddard](#)
Evidence and Learning – Gender; Policy Advisor
World Vision Australia

While the issue of violence against women is receiving renewed attention in Australia, recent data suggests the level of abuse against Pacific women remains a critical issue requiring urgent attention. In the Solomon Islands, a nation that is the most reliant on Australian aid per capita, two out of three women report suffering physical violence from their partner.

With 90 per cent of the population identifying as Christian, faith-based responses are particularly well-placed to address pervasive masculinities and the devaluation of women often perpetuated by cultural and faith leaders. World Vision's Channels of Hope for Gender (CoHG) model has been notably successful in exploring norms and values from a faith perspective and mobilising faith leaders' influence to challenge harmful misconceptions and reduce violence against women.

Although the personal stories of impact from CoHG project participants are striking, World Vision identified the need for a greater cumulative and quantitative understanding of the model's success. As such, two independent evaluations were commissioned: a research team from the University of Queensland conducted an evaluation of the Community CoHG project in Weather Coast and Temotu, while researchers from the Australian National University evaluated the Community Vision for Change project in Honiara.

Though the evaluations differed significantly in their approaches and the contexts in which they operated, both found that the CoHG projects had largely fostered commitment to change from communities and faith leaders; increased openness to discussion about gender relations; and demonstrated progress towards greater recognition of women's rights. The dual evaluation processes, however, also cast light upon the complexities of measuring progress in shifting those social norms which underpin gender-based discrimination and violence. In addition to outlining the evaluation approaches, this paper will explore key findings and learnings from the evaluation process and reflect on the broader challenges and opportunities of capturing data on social norms.

Exploring how 'participation' and 'inclusion' are constructed into local NGO projects that provide services for people with disabilities in rural Cambodia

Nuth Monyrath

PhD Candidate, RMIT University

With a view to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities (PWDs), particularly in Asia and Pacific countries, the Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) introduced the Development for All (DfA) policy, which makes references to disability principles such as inclusion and participation. In Cambodia, to implement the DfA policy, DFAT entered into partnership with the Australian Red Cross (ARC), which in turn provided sub-grants further to many non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating in Cambodia. However, little has known about how PWDs participated and how their inclusion took place through this DFAT funded initiative. This research aims to thoroughly explore how disability approaches, participation and inclusion of PWDs were constructed into the NGO programs, and how these processes have effects on the lives of PWDs. To achieve this objective, a qualitative case study of a Cambodian grassroots NGO, touted as the Capacity Building for Disability Cooperation (CABDICO), was conducted. Not only does this research provide opportunity for Cambodian PWDs to express their voices in relation to a development initiative that affects their lives, it also provides insightful information to development workers and disability rights advocates on how participation and inclusion of PWDs can be enhanced in response to the needs and priorities of PWDs. One key finding is that without taking into account the Cambodian social, economic and cultural contexts, DFAT approaches to disability, inclusion and participation did not address the priorities of Cambodian PWDs as aid beneficiaries on the ground. As a result, Cambodian PWDs continue to embrace their worldview about disability.

Gender analysis of Oxfam savings and loans groups in Timor-Leste

Sara Niner, Katy Cornwell and Christina Benevides

Lecturer and Researcher, School of Social Sciences, Monash University; Research Fellow, Centre for Development Economics and Sustainability, Monash University; Research Coordinator, Timor Surveys

This research aimed to find out about the gendered social dynamics of Oxfam-partnered Savings and Loans Groups in Timor-Leste and if they have been successful at either economic or social development. Led by Monash University academics, a local research team consulted with sex-disaggregated focus discussion groups in 2015 about their motivations in establishing savings groups and if men and women had different roles, participation and benefits. A key focus of the research was any negative impacts on women such as increased work burdens, or any kind of 'backlash' as recent research into economic empowerment programs has suggested (Mayoux 2005; Eves and Crawford 2014; Hughes et al 2015). The research found firstly, that saving and loans groups were hybrid organisations based on prior networks and indigenous modes of sociality mixed with introduced microfinance methodologies. Savings groups are very clearly a vehicle for building economic and social resilience and protection, including for some, a growing sense of agency or social empowerment. While support for women's leadership was unanimous, the lack of women's leadership of mixed gender groups contradicts this. Strengthening of women's overall participation and leadership has the potential to raise the status and empower women but this would require conscious programming. One of the key findings of this research is that mixed gender groups can entrench gender discrimination or become networks for building gender equity and understanding. To build gender equity, strategies for groups are required such as gender balance (critical mass of women) and effective gender awareness and enabling policies. Both mixed gender and women-only savings groups do have the potential to empower women but currently few have this agenda and related outcomes.

PANEL 5B – Aid and governance

3.10pm – 4.40pm, Seminar Room 8

Chair: Michael Wilson

Assistant Secretary, Governance and Fragility Branch, Development Policy Division, DFAT

The role of international donors in media reform in Myanmar: dealing with the fluctuation of political will by the state

Nwet Kay Khine

PhD Candidate, Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University, Thailand

This paper studies the role of international donors in developing Myanmar's new media landscape during the past five years under U Thein Sein's government. Since the initial period of reform, official development aid to Myanmar has increased manifold and a growing number of donors have focused their efforts on the media sector, which is viewed as a catalyst for democratic change. As a consequence of having one of the most repressive censor regimes for several decades, media development in Myanmar lags far behind its neighbours. Coordinated and individual donor activities are focusing on building the skills and capacity of media, expanding media outreach, promoting access to information among the public and crafting new media legislation. Most of the international donors which provided aid outside government systems until recently have shifted their strategy and now devote more attention to collaboration with the government.

This study combined a historical method with ethnographic interviews with multiple media stakeholders, including government officials, journalistic institutions and aid beneficiaries, to analyse a longitudinal process of change in Myanmar's media ecosystem. The paper argues that during the transition phase (2011-2015) international donors had to dance to the tune played by former military officials and needed patience in dealing with the fluctuation of commitment by Thein Sein's government. Though the rule of semi-military government is coming to an end with some positive results, authoritarian elements are still strongly embedded in law-making, opposing the values of democracy and pluralistic society that donors primarily aim for. Many journalists and media activists believe that the newly installed legal framework governing the media sector opposes liberal values. After a stunning victory in the recent national election, the legacy of past reform will now be succeeded by a government led by Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy. In the post-Thein Sein period, both policymakers and media donors need to review substantial areas of concern in regulatory frameworks and improve the quality of media laws and functioning by reviving a genuine media democracy that could stop the continued domination of state-owned media over non-state entities.

Political settlements and the politics of inclusion

Alina Rocha Menocal

Senior Research Fellow, Developmental Leadership Program, University of Birmingham

This paper explores what political settlements are and why they are now at the centre of donor efforts to foster more peaceful and effective states and societies. Analysing available research, the paper finds that, at least in the short to medium term, more inclusive political settlements at the elite level are crucial to avoid the recurrence of violent conflict, and to lay the foundations for more peaceful political processes. The literature also suggests that, over the long term, states and societies underpinned by more open and more broadly inclusive institutions are more resilient and better at promoting sustained and broadly shared prosperity.

However, there is a big gap between these two findings: further research and learning are needed on how a political settlement with a narrow focus on elite inclusion can be transformed into a more broadly inclusive political order. The paper highlights insights from the literature that could help develop a more incremental approach to promoting inclusion.

Aid and social movements in Cambodia

Sokphea Young

PhD Candidate, University of Melbourne

Development aid serves several purposes of the recipient and donor countries. Recipient countries whose regimes are neither pure democracy nor authoritarianism tend to call for aid, but also often criticise aid on the basis that it interferes in their internal political affairs. In particular, they criticise aid that aims to

empower grassroots communities and to democratise their regime. This paper investigates how aid given by international development agencies, and aid raised by non-governmental organisations, prompted grassroots social movements in Cambodia from 2005 to 2015. In addition to a review of relevant published information such as media and academic research reports, field interviews were conducted with several key informants and experts who were involved in a number of grassroots community movements pertaining to social and environmental issues caused by government malpractice. The empirical evidence suggests that not only did aid contribute significantly development to Cambodia but it also empowered grassroots communities to mobilise against malpractice of the government's policies. The paper argues that aid directed at empowering local communities creates long-term impacts on government performance.

PANEL 5C – Financial management and private sector challenges in small countries 3.10pm – 4.40pm, Lennox Room

Chair: Rob Christie
Assistant Secretary, Pacific Analytical and Effectiveness Branch, Pacific Division, DFAT

History, geography and public financial management in small island states

Kylie Coulson
Adjunct Professor, Curtin Business School, Curtin University

Understanding the factors impacting public financial management capacity in small island states is crucial for delivering effective aid. Existing research has shown that the small populations in many Pacific island countries result in limited pools of human capital. This leads to shortages of technical skills and capacity in public financial management, and is considered one of the primary causes of poor performance, as measured by the results of Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) assessments.

To date, limited attention has been given in the research literature to other factors that may affect public financial management performance, such as colonial heritage, systems of government and geographical location. This paper explores these other factors that contribute to the relative performance of public financial management systems and processes in small island states around the world, including the Caribbean, and the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans.

Through examination of PEFA assessments conducted in 33 small island states and territories, trends in relative performance have emerged. It was expected that the greatest variances in average scores would be between groups of islands with different historical backgrounds and thus different systems of government and approaches to public financial management (e.g., former British vs. French colonies), rather than geographical locations.

However, of the 31 performance indicators measured by the PEFA assessments considered, only 13 recorded greater score variances when comparing historical backgrounds rather than geographical regions. This suggests that average public financial management performance varies to a greater extent between small island states in different geographical regions than between those with similar political and historical backgrounds.

This may have implications for donors and development partners when planning and prioritising public financial management reform, particularly for regional approaches. Future research could consider whether regional organisations (e.g. the IMF's Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC) or the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI)) have contributed to relative performance in specific regions, or could be increasingly utilised to build capacity within and between regions.

Towards 'problem driven' public financial management reform in Pacific island countries

Richard Bontjer, Sierd Hadley, Tobias Haque, Philipp Krause, Vinayak Nagaraj, Johannes Wolff
Director, Public Financial Management, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Research Officer, Overseas Development Institute; Economist, World Bank; Team Leader – Public Finance, Overseas Development Institute; Principal Development Economist, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade; Economist, Asian Development Bank

The need for 'problem driven' and tightly prioritized Public Financial Management reforms in developing countries in general, and capacity-constrained Pacific island countries in particular, is increasingly well established within the academic and policy literature (Fritz, Kaiser, and Levy 2009; Porter et al 2010,

Andrews, Prichett and Woolcock 2012, Haque et al. 2013, Haque et al. 2015). However, views as to what this means in practice remain divergent. Development partners appear to struggle to ensure consistency with ‘problem-driven’ reform principles when designing and implementing technical assistance programs. At a recent conference in Fiji, PFM practitioners from the region (including officials working within Pacific finance ministries) called for more work to help address continued tendencies for PFM reform plans and processes to be excessively ambitious, and not adequately reflect the importance of capacity, political-economy and resource constraints.

Responding to this concern, the World Bank, the New Zealand Aid Program, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Asian Development Bank, and the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Center – working with experts from the Overseas Development Institute – have undertaken research to better understand the extent to which existing PFM approaches in Pacific contexts are consistent with ‘problem driven’ approaches, and suggest both country and region-level mechanisms by which such consistency can be improved. Drawing on case study evidence from Kiribati and Tonga and a broader review of recent literature and experience, we summarize findings regarding the extent to which PFM technical assistance in the Pacific island countries is currently adequately prioritized, coordinated, and context appropriate.

We find that PFM reform efforts have had an important positive impact in strengthening the operation of often well-established pre-existing systems and processes essential for basic control and the timely provision of resources to delivery units. Such benefits have often been the incidental result of broader-reaching and more-ambitious reform programs. Reform efforts have been less successful in introducing new and additional systems and processes, especially those that require coordination and behaviour changes across numerous government agencies in order to be effective. This finding is consistent with existing literature regarding the importance of political and institutional context to the successful implementation of New Public Management reforms (Schick 1998), and earlier reviews of financial management reforms in Africa (Andrews 2010).

We also find that PFM reform plans have played an uneven role in supporting prioritization. In some countries such reform plans have facilitated coordination and discussion among development partners. In other countries, such plans have had little impact on coordination and prioritization efforts. In most cases, PFM reform plans are excessively ambitious in terms of the breadth and extent of reforms expected over a short period. In practice there is a de facto prioritization of reforms, but this does not consistently relate to government development priorities.

We present preliminary recommendations for governments and development partners to improve coordination and prioritization through country and regional mechanisms. These include: i) investment in development partner coordination through increased communication between all involved parties; ii) development partners and governments adopting a set of agreed good practices for prioritising and implementing PFM reform efforts, with an emphasis on prioritization and coordination; iii) governments establishment working groups with a clear mandate to lead and coordinate PFM reform efforts, potentially overlapping with existing groups leading the coordination of budget support; iv) providing training on problem-driven approaches to Pacific island official and development agency staff; and v) building a clear, common understanding of the appropriate practical role and function of PFM systems in Pacific island economies between governments and development partners (including addressing the tension between investment in strengthened basic systems and additive reforms informed by theoretical and empirical evidence.

The relevance of the Doing Business Indicators to Pacific island economies

Paul Holden and Terry Reid

Lead Economist and Business Law Reform Expert, Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative (PSDI)

Research into the sources of economic growth over the past decade has identified institutions as a key determinant of investment and entrepreneurship. The most widely recognized attempt to measure the institutional environment for doing business is the Doing Business Indicators (DBIs) produced by the World Bank. The DBIs rank countries in a number of dimensions that affect businesses. The dimensions are then consolidated into a single doing business rank that supposedly shows where countries place in terms of how easy it is to do business relative to other countries. While Pacific island economies are among the most progressive reformers in implementing legal and institutional reforms, their efforts have been essentially ignored in the DBIs. This paper demonstrates that for the Pacific region, the DBIs fail to take into account just how much business environments have improved over the past decade.

PANEL 5D – Aid and education: lessons from PNG

3.10pm – 4.40pm, Barton Theatre

Chair: Alison Chartres

Assistant Secretary, Development Policy & Education Branch, Development Policy Division, DFAT

Education policy in practice, global lessons from PNG

Adeola Capel and Regina Mabilia

Research Fellow, Australian Council for Educational Research; PaBER Coordinator, Curriculum Development & Assessment Division, Department of Education

Papua New Guinea (PNG) has introduced a suite of policies to improve learning outcomes over the past decade. However, there has been little research to ascertain whether these policies are known, understood or implemented at the school level. Component three of the Pacific Benchmarking for Education Results (PaBER) pilot program is supporting policy makers in PNG, Samoa and Solomon Islands to answer a simple question: specifically, are centrally developed education policies being implemented at the school level?

The PNG design of PaBER Component three was ambitious. It involved 132 schools across all 22 districts in PNG. The quantitative component involved a questionnaire and observation guide that was designed by all three pilot countries through consensus. Close to 1884 participants completed the questionnaires. The population included head teachers, teachers, parents and school board members. Questionnaires were designed, piloted and refined for each cohort and observations were completed at each school. The qualitative component included interviews at eight schools which represented urban, rural, remote and extreme remote schools that had either performed highly or poorly in Year eight national exams. A total of 72 interviews were conducted with head teachers, teachers, parents and school board members at the selected schools.

This presentation will provide an overview of Component three of PaBER in PNG. It will reflect on the practical challenges involved in planning and conducting field research across PNG. It will then summarise the results from the quantitative and qualitative data collection tools. The presentation will conclude by discussing what lessons governments and donors can learn from the research design and results and how the findings can be incorporated into future policy formulation within PNG and the wider Asia-Pacific region.

This presentation will be of interest to researchers and research funders who are working on aid and international development policy in the Pacific and Asia.

Improving quality education in a world obsessed with student numbers: evidence from Papua New Guinea

Anthony Swan and Grant Walton

Research Fellows, Development Policy Centre, ANU

The inclusion of education quality related targets in the Sustainable Development Goals recognises the importance of improving learning outcomes for children in school rather than just getting children into school. However, we argue that raising education quality is not only inherently difficult but exacerbated by legacy policies in many developing countries focused on meeting the Millennium Development Goal for universal primary education. Our evidence is from Papua New Guinea where policy reforms aimed at improving access to education have rapidly increased student numbers. We estimate that the direct cost of public provision of primary and secondary schooling will increase by an average of 60% between 2012 and 2030 due to pure increases in student numbers resulting from these reforms rather than from any effort to improve education quality over time. We argue that there are strong political incentives to prioritise public spending on improving access to education at the expense of education quality. We recommend that the international community should help developing countries plan for, monitor and report on education quality in a transparent manner, in addition to directly providing resources for improving school quality. They also have a role to promote quality schooling and explain the potential trade-offs between improving education access and quality.

PANEL 5E – Forces shaping aid policy, and how we can influence aid for the better
3.10pm – 4.40pm, Weston Theatre

In this submitted interactive session panellists will discuss and debate forces that have led to change and continuity, and cover the aid policy making process more broadly.

Chair: **Chris Roche**, Director, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University

Panellists: **David Hudson**, Visiting Research Fellow, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University & Visiting Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU; **Jo Spratt**, PhD Candidate, ANU; **Ben Day**, PhD Candidate, ANU; and **Jennifer vanHeerde-Hudson**, Visiting Research Fellow, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University & Visiting Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU

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