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Celebrating the Pacific, Shaping its Future

2018 Pacific Update



Abstracts book

Thursday 5 July – Friday 6 July 2018

University of the South Pacific
Lauca La Campus, Suva, Fiji

PACIFIC RESEARCH PROGRAM
AN INITIATIVE OF THE AUSTRALIAN AID PROGRAM



Konrad
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Stiftung

#PacificUpdate2018

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Thursday 5 July 2018

Welcome addresses and opening ceremony

9.00-10.30am, Japan-Pacific ICT Auditorium

- Chair: Professor Arvind Patel
Acting Head of School of Economics, University of the South Pacific
- Welcome remarks: Professor Derrick Armstrong
Acting Vice-Chancellor, University of the South Pacific
- Opening remarks: Her Excellency Ms Amy Crago
Deputy Australian High Commissioner to Fiji and High Commissioner to Tuvalu
- Keynote speaker: Hon. Dr Mahendra Reddy
Minister for Waterways, Fiji Government

PANEL 1A – Climate change

11.00am-12.30pm, Japan-Pacific ICT Auditorium

- Chair: Vijay Naidu
Professor, University of the South Pacific

Economic impacts and implications of climate change in the Pacific
Satish Chand
Professor, University of New South Wales

Challenges and opportunities for integrating funding for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the Pacific
Annika Dean
Lecturer, Climate Change Research Centre, University of New South Wales

This paper examines the overlaps, connections and differences between funding climate change adaptation and funding disaster risk reduction. The paper seeks to critically evaluate key challenges and opportunities for better integration of climate change adaptation funding mechanisms under broader disaster risk reduction schemes. First, the rationale and imperative for integrating climate change adaptation funding mechanisms into broader schemes to address disaster risk reduction and sustainable development is explored. Next, a historical overview of previous and current mechanisms to fund disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation is given. The paper then outlines five key challenges that are inhibiting effective integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction funding. The first challenge relates to the sources and distribution of international finance for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The second relates to accessing international finance and capacity constraints: some of the countries that are most vulnerable to disaster risks including climate change impacts, have the least capacity to access, use, report, and acquire funding. The third challenge relates to the common misalignment between institutional arrangements for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and the budgetary systems in place to allocate, categorise, and track resources at the national level. The fourth challenge relates to inappropriate modalities that inhibit integration. The fifth and final challenge relates to the requirement for climate finance to be “new and additional”. This requirement has perversely discouraged effective integration in some cases. The paper explores opportunities for integration and makes a number of recommendations for how the above-mentioned challenges can be overcome. Throughout the paper,

examples of funding and financing climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in Pacific Island countries are used to illustrate the main arguments of the paper.

The Pacific climate investment database

Kate Duggan and Matthew Bailey

Director; Research Specialist, Griffin National Resource Management

This presentation will demonstrate the Pacific Climate Investment Database (CID) compiled as part of an extensive stocktake of donor investment in climate change in the Pacific region undertaken by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in 2016. CID contains information on 85 current donor (primary) investments in climate change, sourced from information in the public domain. The dashboard allows users to search by donors, countries and sectors, and to view basic details about the investments. The purpose of the presentation is to share the content of the database and show how people can use the dashboard to search for who is investing what in climate change and where. We would also like to begin a discussion on how CID can be kept up-to-date and who is best placed to do this. Following the presentation, we will provide open access login details so that interested people can access the Database directly.

Connecting the dots: oceans, climate and policy

Elisabeth Holland, Taholo Kami and Esala Nayasi

Professor and Director; Adjunct Fellow, Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development, University of the South Pacific; Deputy Secretary Policy, Fiji Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Paris Agreement is a critical cornerstone for the survival of Pacific nations. Key demands were made in ten declarations, including the Suva declaration, by the leaders of 15 Pacific Island countries in advance of the Paris negotiations. The result is an international commitment to: a long-term temperature goal limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius; a periodic five-year review; and increasing ambition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. One hundred and ninety five member nations have signed and 170 nations have ratified the accord. The US move to pull out of Paris and Australian move to cancel the carbon tax stand in stark contrast to the commitment and leadership of the Pacific nations, reinforced by the United Nation's first-ever Oceans Conference , hosted by Fiji and Sweden, generating a global call to action that underscored the connections between healthy oceans and climate change. Fiji, as the first big ocean state (BOSS), to serve as the President of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP23 has the opportunity to catalyse transformation by creating ocean-climate policy solutions. An ocean acidification (OA)/carbon tax imposed on carbon emitting nations to balance the ocean service provided by the absorbing 25% off of carbon dioxide emitted by fossil fuels. OA carbon tax revenues could be invested in sustaining and generating ecosystem services and protecting oceans, and thus, islands resilience. For example, by investing OA tax revenue in replanting coastal mangroves or dilo seedlings, to provide storm protection, create subsistence fisheries, provide livelihood generation, increase community resilience and remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Healthy coastal and ocean ecosystems support the establishment of sustainable blue carbon economies that reduce reliance on intensive fossil fuel emissions and lead by example to build foundational climate solutions and the truly sustainable ocean economies our big ocean states and planet deserve.

PANEL 1B – Gender and social analysis

11.00am-12.30pm, Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Video Conference Room 1

Chair: Nalini Singh
Executive Director, Fiji Women's Rights Movement

Child protection systems in the Pacific and opportunities and challenges of intersection with responses to violence against women

Shelley Casey, Brigitte Sonnois and Nilesh Goundar

Independent Consultant; Child Protection Chief, UNICEF Pacific; Program Manager, Australian High Commission, Fiji

Recent global and regional studies have highlighted that children's right to survival, growth, development and protection is undermined by violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation in their homes, schools and communities. In particular, women and children in South Pacific countries experience some of the highest rates of family violence in the world. Violence against Pacific children is most often perpetrated by those entrusted with their care - parents, family members, and teachers. Evidence shows that this violence can result in long-term negative consequences for children's health, well-being and development. In addition, children who grow up in a violent home are more likely to be involved in an abusive relationship as an adult, thus contributing to inter-generational transmission of violence. This paper outlines the Australian Government and UNICEF's efforts to support countries' and communities' efforts to strengthen child protection systems in the Pacific. It highlights the added responsibility that governments, families, and communities have to protect their most vulnerable members; and scope for further investment in effective and sustainable prevention, early intervention and response services to meet the unique needs of children. The paper also aims to develop a deeper understanding of the intersection between violence against women and violence against children in the Pacific. Based on the Australian aid program and UNICEF's experience in the region, it identifies concrete opportunities for enhanced coordination between these two sectors, with a focus on strategies to: better address common risk factors and social norms underlying violence against women and children; improve coordinated case management and integrated service provision where there is a co-occurrence of intimate partner violence and child abuse; and ensure that service providers have capacity to meet the unique needs of child and adult survivors.

Gender and politics: the Pacific Leadership Program and CEDAW in Tonga

Mereani Rokotuibau and Chris Roche

Independent Consultant; Associate Professor and Chair in International Development, La Trobe University

Recent influential work on 'thinking and working politically' and 'doing development differently' has been justifiably criticised for being somewhat gender blind. Using the case of the Pacific Leadership Program's (PLP) work with Tonga's Women in Leadership Coalition as an illustrative example, this paper summarises the findings of the Developmental Leadership Program's (DLP) overall gender and politics research. This research draws on the experience of three in-depth case studies and a review of 14 development programs which are making headway in their work on aspects of power, politics and gender. In 2015, as part of its ongoing work fostering women's leadership and building the capacity of civil society organisations in the Pacific region, the PLP began supporting a coalition of women's organisations advocating for the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in the Kingdom of Tonga. At that time, the coalition faced fierce public opposition to its campaign, including major anti-CEDAW demonstrations in the country's capital. In this context, the PLP partnered with the Civil Society Forum of Tonga to provide the coalition with adaptive leadership training and a retreat for reflection and strategy development, as well as research and analysis. This support has enabled the coalition to take an increasingly politically informed approach, build bridges with opponents, and address the specific gendered challenges it faces. This case is an example of how a politically informed approach can be necessary to achieve gendered aims. Conversely, it also shows how the links between gender and issues such as religion, tradition and democratisation mean that political analysis is strengthened by a gender lens. However, in this instance, the sheer weight of opposition to CEDAW has meant that taking a politically informed approach has ultimately involved temporarily putting aside the goal of ratification in favour of less controversial causes. In reality, gender sensitivity and thinking and working politically are two sides of the same coin - both are working processes which aim to understand, engage with and ultimately reform unequal power

dynamics to bring about change. Much of the innovation on effective implementation, and on bringing these two approaches together, is coming not from academics but from practitioners.

Menstrual hygiene: the last taboo – the Fiji situation

Presented by Michael Sami (on behalf of Lisa Natoli, Burnett Institute, Water Aid)
Head, International Planned Parenthood Federation Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific

In a developing country where education is free and there is an increase in the focus on gender issues, there are still problems faced by young girls in Fiji. With a traditional culture of story-telling, it should be the easiest way to provide information to adolescent girls reaching puberty and teach them about menstrual hygiene. However, this is not the case, and some are caught between the different information that they get and how to make an informed choice. Myths usually replace facts and, in the culture of story-telling, can become misleading. During the research, there were a number of insights that provided the team with ways to initiate an intervention. From the poor facilities in some settings and how these individuals have adapted to it, this paper delves into the stories of these communities. Being multi-cultural also comes with its unique intervention strategies and beliefs. While the findings respectfully acknowledge these cultural beliefs, it also shows readers why some are caught off-guard with menstruation hygiene and the different practices that make it difficult to cope with. With embarrassment from spotting while at school, to celebrations of becoming a women, we see how some traditions have evolved with changes in environment and influences. Geographic location also plays a huge role in the quality of products that an individual has access to, and in resource poor settings, how they come up with innovative ways to address menstruation but not menstrual hygiene. This research forces the reader to acknowledge just how important menstrual hygiene is, and the gaps in addressing this in different communities, revealing mechanisms we can use as lessons learnt to improve the situation for future generations.

PANEL 1C – Health

11.00am-12.30pm, Japan-Pacific Centre Video Conference Room 2

Chair: Neil Sharma
Former Minister for Health, Fiji Government

Reorienting health systems towards people-centred integrated care in the Pacific

Aparnaa Somanathan, Shuo Zhang, Ajay Tandon and Aneesa Arur
Program Leader; Senior Health Specialist; Lead Economist; Senior Economist, World Bank

With NCDs a leading cause of mortality and morbidity in the Pacific, there is an urgent need to re-orient health systems to ensure that people receive a continuum of services at the different levels of care within the health system and according to their needs throughout their life. The four leading NCDs alone account for an estimated 60 percent of deaths in the Solomon Islands and 80 percent of deaths in Fiji (WHO 2014). Service delivery systems in most Pacific Island countries are hospital-centric, with primary health care under-funded and under-staffed and care often delivered in a fragmented manner. People-Centred Integrated Care (PCIC), which addresses fragmentation in patient services by improving coordination and provision of care from risk factor control and community-based disease management to inpatient care and rehabilitation while engaging patients as active partners in disease management, has emerged as the appropriate response to tackle NCDs. This paper presents global examples and evidence on the key service delivery reform levers (“the what” of PCIC) and the implementation support levers (“the how” of PCIC) and how they may be adapted to Pacific Island settings. The paper does this by reviewing integrated care innovations globally as well as ongoing pilots in the Pacific, such as in Samoa. The paper systematically analyses “the what” and “the how” in terms of the different building blocks of health systems – service delivery, governance, and health financing - and discusses their applicability to Pacific countries. PCICs reforms are an inherently disruptive process because they imply changes to health care structures, organisation workflows and the creation of new roles, processes and working practices. Thus, creating the right enabling environment is key to reform success. This paper emphasises “the how” of the reform process and steps that Pacific Islands countries may undertake in this regard.

Knowledge translation for SDG implementation: the Pacific Health Governance Research Network

Tess Newton Cain and Donald Wilson

Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Queensland; Head, School of Health and Primary Care, Fiji National University

The Pacific Island region is presently at the coalface of several major global changes and challenges to health: climate change induced impacts on health, food insecurity and nutritional/diet shifts, new and old infectious and non-communicable disease burdens, and water scarcity and insecurity. All of these deeply interrelated challenges to health are projected to intensify in coming decades. The Pacific Health Governance Research Network is led by a multi-disciplinary team at the University of Queensland, with funding from the Global Change Institute. Its overarching purpose is to support knowledge translation within the Pacific Island region with a focus on implementation of the SDG within the sphere of health governance, at local/national/regional levels. This presentation will (1) provide an introduction to the Network, its objectives, its proposed methodologies, what it has achieved so far, and what is envisaged for the future and (2) outline how the School of Public Health at Fiji National University has participated in the Network so far and how it plans to participate further to progress research, publications, and policy influence. The presentation will include a summary of the outcomes of the inaugural workshop convened by the Network that was held in Brisbane in February 2018.

Food and nutrition security in Port Vila, Vanuatu

Sarah James

Visiting Fellow, ANU

Pacific Island nations such as Vanuatu have long been considered food secure with their fertile volcanic soils and plentiful rains. However, extensive social and environmental changes resulting from rapid urbanisation and climatic change are creating unique vulnerabilities to food security in urban areas. Representing more than a quarter of the Vanuatu population, residents of Greater Port Vila are faced with high rates of poverty and limited resources such as land. These factors exacerbate the 'nutrition transition' as people are increasingly reliant on cheap but largely nutritionally poor imported foods. This has long-term negative implications for population health and resilience to disasters and climate change, particularly for low-income and informal urban communities. To date, however, agricultural policy has largely focus on rural development, with development actors giving little attention to urban areas in Vanuatu. To provide an evidence base for policy development, a household survey and focus groups were undertaken across seven communities within the Greater Port Vila area, examining access to and acceptability of fresh, nutritious food. This research was implemented by Wan Smolbag and funded by World Vision Vanuatu. The research findings highlighted the vulnerability of urban households to food insecurity, with limited ability to produce their own food and high reliance on purchased foods (both local and imported). We identified key barriers to increasing consumption of fresh local food, including land to garden, convenience (time to garden and prepare food) and price. These findings indicate the need for a multi-sectoral, multi-pronged approach to policy and action to address urban food security. Such policies should address issues of production and self-sufficiency including protecting agricultural land and developing urban agriculture. However, policies must also critically address factors such as distribution and cost for those without land and reliant on purchasing local fresh food to encourage greater consumption.

Spending better for health in the Pacific – a study of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Kiribati

Maude Ruest, Robert Flanagan, Nicolas Rosenberg, Peter Wallace, Susan Ivatts and Xiaohui Hou

Health Economist, World Bank; Independent Senior Public Financial Management Specialist; Health Economist; Economist; Senior Health Specialist; Senior Health Economist, World Bank

As population grows and ages, many Pacific countries are having to manage more chronic and complex diseases with limited financial resources. While total health expenditure per capita in most Pacific countries is as expected given income levels, in the decade to 2014, real total expenditure per capita in reviewed countries declined or stagnated, principally because high population growth offset nominal increases in expenditure. Health expenditure is largely public, with varying high reliance on external financing and low out of pocket payments. However, as countries' income levels rise, support from some traditional development partners (such as Gavi, Global Fund) is decreasing. Governments must consequently explore alternative domestically-sourced funding to meet needs in the health sector. Past

levels of financing are unlikely to be maintained. This highlights the need for developing more effective models of care, including more integrated approaches to service delivery. Options for increasing budgets are limited. Indeed, economic growth forecasts are modest, health already represents a large share of national expenditure, small populations and high informal sectors limit earmarked health financing revenue options, and ongoing low out of pocket payments facilitate pooling of risk and equitable access to healthcare. In this context, efficiency gains are the main potential source for additional money for health in the short term. This presentation will summarise challenges and opportunities identified in the Health Financing System Assessments recently conducted in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Kiribati. Priority actions identified to achieve immediate and ongoing substantial improvements to health service delivery include strengthening governance and accountability arrangements, improving quality of expenditure by targeting high return health interventions and large expenditure categories, and increasing partnerships and collaboration within health and across sectors.

PANEL 2A – The urban opportunity (organised by UNESCAP)

1.30-3.00pm, Japan-Pacific ICT Auditorium

Chair: Anna Naupa
Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP

This panel will facilitate an interactive discussion to highlight positive examples of Pacific Island states and cities promoting integrated resilience approaches, and provide a more in-depth understanding of the policy areas that need to be addressed if countries are to localise the SDGs and implement the Pacific New Urban Agenda in the region.

Resilience as a policy narrative in urban planning

Meg Keen
Senior Policy Fellow, ANU Department of Pacific Affairs

Framework for Pacific resilience: urbanisation through a regional lens

Teea Tiira
Climate Resilience Secretariat Coordinator, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

Joshua Wycliffe
Permanent Secretary, Fiji Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment

Reflections on the Greater Honiara Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan and urban resilience

Stanley Waleanisia
Permanent Secretary, Solomon Islands Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey

Sanitation marketing in peri-urban Port Vila

Iva Koroisamanunu
WASH Project Manager, Live & Learn Education

PANEL 2B – Climate change (2)

1.30-3.00pm, Japan-Pacific ICT Auditorium

Chair: Henrickson Malsokle
Executive & Policy Officer, DG's Corporate Service Unit, Ministry of Finance & Economic Management

Are we sinking yet? Measuring the effectiveness of climate change adaptation at the community level in small island developing states

Viliamu Iese, Morgan Wairiu, Helene Jacot Des Combes, Elisabeth Holland and Serena Heckler
Research Fellow; Deputy Director; Senior Lecturer; Director, Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development, University of the South Pacific; Programme Specialist, Natural Sciences, UNESCO Office for the Pacific States

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are considered to be amongst the most at-risk regions in the world against sudden and slow onset climatic events. Understanding the real effectiveness of climate change adaptation at the community level in SIDS is critical to reduce vulnerability and improve overall resilience. However, most of the monitoring and evaluation frameworks from adaptation projects are measured during 'good times' but not against the real reason why the adaptation intervention was put in place. The aims of this paper are twofold: to present a methodology (toolkit) for measuring community-based adaptation effectiveness and residual loss and damage, and to present the results of the application of this methodology to adaptation in the tourism and agriculture sectors in five countries: Fiji Islands, Samoa, Cook Islands, Solomon Islands and Timor Leste. The toolkit aims to explore and address key challenges in measuring the effectiveness of climate change adaptation at the community level. These challenges include the lack of inclusion of loss and damage and residual risks in Project-led monitoring and evaluation frameworks; the unsustainable model for planning and implementing adaptations at the community level (donor driven/project led); the challenges of multi-hazard risks versus specific hazard adaptation approaches in communities; the difficulty in attribution of climate change impacts; and lack of baseline data and continuous monitoring data before, during and after adaptation interventions. Our community-based climate change loss and damage toolkit and application documents lessons learned and furthers the conversation on the specific steps needed to address the challenges in measuring the effectiveness of community-based adaptation and documenting residual loss and damage.

Human rights, climate justice movement and the neoliberal ecological modernisation framing of vulnerability and dispossession in climate change agenda

Kaushal Sharma
Program Director, Fiji Women's Rights Movement

The objective of this paper is to discuss ways in which theoretical ideas of 'vulnerability' and 'dispossession' may contribute to critiques of human rights and humanitarianism under neoliberalism with specific reference to human rights movements involved in climate justice within the neoliberal context. The first part of the paper draws from Judith Buter's work on vulnerability and dispossession to critique three particular theorisations of vulnerability: relationality, ethical responsibility and grounds for solidarity and resistance. The paper calls for reframing of vulnerability within the neoliberal context of climate change. The second part of the paper focuses on climate change as a threat to human rights and how the grounds for framing vulnerability in terms of corporeal interdependence, ethical responsibility and solidarity can help shift the prevailing climate change discourse from ecological modernisation into human rights framework of climate justice. The paper concludes by stating that if utilised productively, human rights framing of climate change offers a possibility for reconfiguring the language of vulnerability and dispossession to recognise corporeal interdependency and ethical responsibility well as foster grounds for solidarity and resistance.

Evaluating climate change relocation in Fiji: a case study of Vunidogoloa village

Tammy Tabe and Teresia Powell
Lecturer; Project Coordinator, Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development, University of the South Pacific

Relocation has been projected to be the ultimate climate change adaptation option for Pacific Island countries and communities facing issues with rising sea levels (Birk and Rasmussen 2014, Barnett and

Chamberlain 2010). Many coastal communities in the Pacific have either been relocated further inland or are anticipating resettlement, due to increase sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and storm surges (Yeo, S. 2014., NA, 2018., and Tronquet, C 2015). In 2014, the village of Vunidogoloa in Fiji was relocated about two kilometres inland from the original village site, following many years of enduring rising sea-levels, coastal erosion, inundation, and storm surges (Charan et.al 2017). The villagers of Vunidogoloa have been settling into their new home for at least four years. This paper will be based on an evaluation study that will be conducted in Vunidogoloa in May, 2018. The paper aims to assess the planning and implementation of the relocation, and evaluate villagers' experiences during and after the resettlement. Findings from this paper will assist in strengthening the relocation guidelines and climate change policy of Fiji.

Gender transformative climate change action

Keren Winterford and Tamara Megaw

Research Principal; Research Consultant, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney

The Pacific region is one of the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Communities in this region are exposed to a high range of climate hazards, and many have very low existing adaptive capacity or resources to absorb these impacts. Within Pacific Island communities, women and children are often the most vulnerable to climate change and are marginalised by its impact. There are many initiatives underway to address climate change in the Pacific, from local and community-led, to national and regional programs. Yet every development initiative has equity impacts, whether intended or not. In order not to reinforce existing inequalities, it is important to ensure that action for climate change includes targeted efforts to achieve equitable outcomes and further strengthen climate change resiliency. This paper presents research conducted by the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology Sydney, commissioned by Plan International Australia. The research focuses on the question of what climate change action which is gender transformative looks like, that is, addresses the root causes of gender inequality, particularly unequal gender power relations, discriminatory social norms and legislation. The research is part of Plan's global focus and commitment to advancing children's rights and equality for girls. The research, conducted in early 2017, included document review of existing material and resources and research, especially focused in the Pacific and primary research with communities and stakeholders in Fiji and Solomon Islands in order to learn from past NGO climate change action programming. The paper will present findings of the research and explore dimensions of gender transformative climate change programming, enablers of effective gender transformative climate change action, particularly in the Pacific and consider how gender-focused climate change programming can be gender transformative. The paper will also explore notions of gender transformation in the context of Pacific cultures.

PANEL 2C – Business development, economic growth and security

1.30-3.00pm, Japan-Pacific ICT Auditorium

Chair: Sandra Tarte

Director, Politics and International Affairs, University of the South Pacific

New Zealand's Pacific reset: navigating the sea change

Anna Powles and Michael Powles

Senior Lecturer, Massey University; Senior Fellow, Victoria University

In early 2018, the New Zealand Government announced the country's most significant shift in foreign policy towards the Pacific Islands region in decades. During the previous three National-led governments, Pacific policy was driven by economic development and defence engagements with high-level diplomacy largely neglected. By 2017, the Pacific policy inherited by the new Labour-led coalition government lacked strategic depth. The Government's call to "shift the dial" in its relations with the Pacific Islands region reflects three inter-related factors. First, a desire to elevate engagement with the region to the level of genuine partnership based on five Cabinet-approved guiding principles: understanding, friendship, mutual benefit, collective ambition, and sustainability. Second, a growing recognition of critical shifts within the Pacific Islands regional order including the nexus between the proposed Biketawa Plus, the Pacific Islands Forum Blue Pacific narrative, and wider Indo-Pacific

security trends. And third, rising strategic anxiety that the Pacific is an increasingly contested strategic environment. What is less clear is what a recalibrated New Zealand foreign policy towards the Pacific will look like in practice, how it will seek to shape policy responses to critical events in the region such as the upcoming independence referendums, and what the broader implications are for Pacific regionalism. This joint paper will present the preliminary findings from a research project funded by Massey University examining New Zealand policies in the Pacific Islands region.

Security and vulnerability in the Pacific Islands: the political economy of transnational crime

Jose Sousa-Santos

Managing Director, Strategika Group Asia Pacific

Transnational and organised crime lies at the nexus of security and vulnerability in the Pacific Islands region. It is an under-researched – albeit not new – phenomena in the region and an increasingly prominent feature of the security landscape. The Honiara Declaration (1992) on law enforcement cooperation and the Nasonini Declaration (2002) on regional security both identified the risks and impact of transnational and organised crime but there remain significant gaps in knowledge in terms of what is known about the nature and extent of transnational and organised crime in the region. Recent grey literature by the Pacific Islands Forum (2016) and United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (2016) noted that Pacific Island countries and territories are increasingly vulnerable to transnational and organised crime due to porous and weak borders enabling illegal logging, migrant and drug trafficking, money laundering, small arms trafficking, environmental crimes (including illegal logging and wildlife trade), and increasingly – electronic crime. Moreover, transnational and organised crime is recognised as a multi-dimensional driver of fragility (OECD, 2015) and a cross-cutting threat to sustainable development (OECD, 2015). Despite this, the socio-economic impacts of transnational and organised crime on Pacific Island societies and governments have yet to be comprehensively documented (Walton & Dinnen, 2016:3). In light of regional moves to expand the Biketawa Declaration to address non-traditional security issues, this paper seeks to highlight three critical issues: (1) the increasingly blurred nexus between transnational crime in Asia, Latin America, and the Pacific; (2) the central enabling factors within the region including gaps within the security sectors; and (3) the political economy of transnational and organised crime in the Pacific.

Putting the ‘community’ in business facilitation

Adam Trau

Resilience and Livelihoods Technical Advisor, World Vision Pacific & Timor-Leste

Internationally, business facilitation approaches to economic development and poverty alleviation typically support businesses that are owned and operated by an individual or a family, focused primarily on generating revenue and increasing profit. This does help caregivers increase their household income and improve the well-being of their children, particularly when integrated with other sectoral activities. However in Vanuatu and elsewhere in the Pacific, individual or family businesses that do not contribute to a common good or service for the community are often viewed critically, and can increase jealousy or tall-poppy syndrome and associated community disruptions. In partnership with impact investment firm The Difference Incubator (TDI), World Vision in the Pacific & Timor-Leste has adapted conventional business facilitation approaches by incorporating non-financial goals related to social or community return into the model of businesses supported. The businesses are essentially community-scale social enterprises that are profitable and contribute to a community need through the market. Community is thereby placed at the heart of the local business model. They are also supported to contribute to outcomes in other sectors, for example a business within a pilot project in Vanuatu, Pango Green Force, in health and the environment. Community businesses are in the unique position of being able to generate sufficient profit for shareholders and for reinvesting in the business, while at the same time servicing community needs through the market. The primary output from the training program is a ‘community business plan’. One section is the standardised business planning approach, and the other embeds a community action plan within the business model. By embedding a community action plan, businesses are required to be explicit in terms of how their operations and profits will be utilised for the good of the community. They are then supported to track, measure and report back to the community.

Integration, business and economic growth

Frank Youn

Australia-PNG Business Council

This presentation will argue that business and economic growth can only be achieved through some level of integration with nearby larger economies, as well as other economies in the region. For Pacific Island countries, regional economic integration is not an option but a necessity for sustainable economic growth. PACER Plus provides an opportunity and a road map for achieving this, especially by following the framework for foreign investment in the Agreement, which will provide a stable and predictable environment for investors. Pacific Island countries need to act to improve the ease of doing business for both domestic and foreign business to attract international investment and to facilitate greater domestic investment. Recent developments in labour market access for Pacific Island countries to Australia are encouraging, but more work can be done to move towards a more open and less regulated arrangement to reduce the costs to business and encourage further growth. There are opportunities to use new and innovative financial structures to unlock capital in the Pacific Island countries to partner with private and donor investment for needed infrastructure development and growth in medium, small and micro business enterprises.

PANEL 3A – Labour mobility

3.30-5.00pm, Japan-Pacific ICT Auditorium

Chair: Satish Chand
Professor, University of New South Wales

Expanding labour mobility in the Pacific: new sectors and new markets

Ben Czapnik
Economic Development Adviser, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

Much of the academic and policy discussion around labour mobility focusses on unskilled workers from the Pacific taking advantage of opportunities in Australia and New Zealand. However, the scope for labour mobility schemes to promote employment, development and people-to-people links is much broader. It's worth noting that intra-regional mobility between Pacific Island countries is also a high priority for the region, especially for the smaller island states which have included this issue in their SIS Regional Strategy 2016-2020. The classic stereotype for labour mobility is unskilled workers relocating to developed countries like Australia and New Zealand to save and remit. However, some of the SIS countries in the region are actually looking to bring in workers, preferably from other countries in the region, including semi-skilled workers. There are barriers to this movement of workers between Pacific Island countries which deserves attention in labour mobility discussions. Some Pacific Island countries have an excess of semi-skilled or skilled workers and have trouble finding job opportunities for them. This is being partly addressed through new schemes in Australia and New Zealand which target semi-skilled workers, such as NZ's Canterbury Reconstruction pilot which targeted carpenters, and Australia's Pacific Labour Scheme which targets workers in tourism, aged-care and other sectors. A key priority in future will be to find ways to develop and support the movement of skilled and semi-skilled workers while minimising the risk of "brain drain" in Pacific Island countries.

Sending country governance

Stephen Howes and Richard Curtin
Director; Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Why have some countries done much better than others in providing workers to New Zealand's Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme and Australia's Seasonal Worker Programme? This paper argues that one reason is that some countries have much better methods for sending workers than others, that is, better governance of labour mobility in the sending countries. The paper surveys the different methods countries have used to govern the sending of workers, and tries to discern the features which make for successful governance of labour mobility in sending countries. While the results are preliminary, they suggest that there is no single model which works better than others. However, one feature for success seems to be that employers be involved as much as possible in the selection of workers, and that their preferences typically for rural and returning workers be respected.

Second, the government role in the process be streamlined and efficiently executed. The presentation also lays out an agenda for further research in this area.

Labour mobility in the PACER Plus

Alisi Kautoke-Holani

Deputy CEO, Tonga Ministry of Commerce, Consumer, Trade, Innovation & Labour

Labour mobility presents one of the few viable opportunities for sustainable development in most Pacific Forum Island Countries (FICs). The prospects of development for these island nations are highly constrained by the inherent disadvantages of their smallness, isolation, vulnerability to natural disasters and, in some cases, rapid population growth. For these small economies, trade integration is particularly essential for sustainable development and labour mobility may yield the largest gains for FICs from international trade. The PACER Plus Agreement presented an opportunity to increase and secure these gains for the FICs and was established as a key priority in the negotiations since its inception in 2009. This paper discusses the role of the PACER Plus in increasing FICs' gains from labour mobility and the conditions that were required to deliver these gains. It also examines the text of the PACER Plus Arrangement on Labour Mobility to assess how much of these conditions were met. The discussions in this paper reveals that the Arrangement on Labour Mobility may not live up to the anticipated role of the PACER Plus in enhancing the labour mobility gains for FICs.

How many wins make a winner: seasonal labour mobility in the Pacific

Yvonne Underhill-Sem and Evelyn Marsters

Director; Research Operations Manager, New Zealand Institute for Pacific Research, University of Auckland

Labour mobility is destined to retain a critical development role in the Pacific. Decent work for all Pacific citizens in their home countries is a distant possibility, so employment in other countries is increasingly the reality. In 2017, the New Zealand Institute for Pacific Research (NZIPR) published a review of a decade of research into Pacific labour mobility, titled 'Labour mobility in the Pacific: a systematic literature review of development impacts'. The report signals that a small set of well-known researchers dominate as authors because they have worked at the interface of inter-agency relationships between the New Zealand government, the World Bank, and selected universities. While more recent research surfaces the complex social impacts of seasonal labour mobility, the policy dial remains stuck on the triple win approach. This paper reports on evidence of the existing positive and negative impacts from the consultations conducted over the last 12 months in Kiribati, Fiji, and Tonga. The research examples highlight that future options for international labour mobility need to be strategically managed to ensure the mitigation of negative impacts and the enhancement of economic and social outcomes.

PANEL 3B – Partnerships in urban disaster preparedness, emergency and recovery (organised by University of Melbourne)

3.30-5.00pm, Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Video Conference Room 1

Chair: Jennifer Day

Senior Lecturer, University of Melbourne

This panel session describes some outcomes of partnerships between aid actors, governments and the private sector – particularly, in how these partnerships resulted in certain outcomes for urban communities in the Pacific.

Margaretha Wewerinkle-Singh

Senior Lecturer, University of the South Pacific

Mohammed Ziar

Town Planning Officer, Ministry of Local Government, Housing & Environment, Fiji Department of Town & Country Planning

Robert Dodds

Shelter Manager, Country Cluster Support Team – Pacific, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Tom Bamforth

Global Focal Point (Coordination), IFRC Shelter Cluster, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

PANEL 3C – Climate change – student panel

3.30-5.00pm, Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Video Conference Room 2

Chair: Sanjesh Naidu
Economist, UNESCAP

From sinking to syncing: negotiating a climate consensus and regional coalition behaviour of Pacific Island states

George Carter
PhD Student, ANU

In multilateral climate change negotiations, inter-state coalitions or political blocs are an essential feature of the regime. Coalitions allow states to manage regime complexity, and for the 14 Pacific Island states involved in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), allow these small frontline vulnerable states a louder voice. However, beyond the traditional UNFCCC blocs of G-77 China, AOSIS, LDC, in recent years, Pacific Island states have created and/or participated in new forms of climate networks that extend the 'state-centric network model'. Their behaviour in the regime are not only shaped by the formal UNFCCC and the global south coalitions they align themselves with; but more increasingly important are the informal negotiation processes of other multilateral (regional) high-level meetings in the regional Pacific Islands Forum, Pacific Islands Development Forum, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program; and sub-regional Polynesian Leaders Group, Melanesia Spearhead Group, Micronesian Presidents' Summit. Utilising process tracing and global political ethnography, this paper presents findings in mapping diplomatic practices of Pacific Island leaders, diplomats and climate change negotiators, and the links of regional consensus decision-making into formalising coalitional behaviour and global consensus at the international UNFCCC level. From such a strenuous process of formal and informal meetings, year-long unique forms of coalition formation, leadership, strategies and consensus decision-making occur. The findings are based on a project analysing Pacific Islands' negotiators in various UNFCCC and regional meetings from Apia-Bonn-Suva-Port-Moresby-New York-Paris; the climate change road to the Conference of the Parties (COP21) Paris in 2015.

Household net worth and its relation with household responses to climate change: a Solomon Islands case study

Michael Otoara Ha'apio, Ricardo Gonzalez, and Morgan Wairiu

PhD Candidate, University of the South Pacific; Assistant Professor, Universidad de la Frontera; Deputy Director, Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development, University of the South Pacific

In this study we analyse how the level of household net worth is related to households' responses to climate change and hazardous environmental events in the Solomon Islands. Under the scenario of increasing extreme environmental events (EEEs), the government has been developing adaptation policies and strategies to climate change with the aim of achieving better levels of population resilience to risks from climate change and EEEs. We have undertaken a thematic analysis approach on two natural EEEs which occurred in the Solomon Islands over the last ten years, to disentangle the factors that are related to household responses to EEEs. These EEEs were the flash flood of April 2014 and the tsunami of April 2007. The flash flood occurred after a heavy rain storm and flooded an urban informal development along the Mataniko river side, in the peri-urban Honiara. On the other hand, the tsunami affected rural villages surrounding Ranogha Island in the Western Province. Drawing from their experiences, we learned that higher net worth was directly correlated to more effective households' response to such catastrophic events. Also, we found that local social capital was an effective engine to build such response, both as palliative to the catastrophic events and preventive to face future

extreme events. We conclude that household net worth and social capital conjointly assure a better level of wellbeing in spite of the tragic circumstances and are critical to long term adaptation. The many factors linked to poverty, such as lack of access to credit, remoteness and settlements in flood-prone and coastal lowlands showed to undermine the households' ability to respond to EEEs and climate change risks.

Assessing climate finance readiness in the Asia-Pacific region

Jale Samuwai and Jeremy Maxwell Hills

PhD Candidate, University of the South Pacific; Adjunct Professor, Institute of Marine Resources, University of the South Pacific

Readiness is the current mantra in the climate finance discourse and is a key determinant for accessing climate finance. This study develops and applies an analytical 3-dimensional framework to appraise climate finance readiness in selected Asia Pacific countries. Three dimensions of readiness are identified: 1) policies and institutions, 2) knowledge management and learning, and 3) fiscal policy environment. Using the Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review as the basis for such framework, the study uncovers a massive readiness gap between countries in the Asian sub-region and those in the Pacific sub-region. The study also found that readiness has a predictable, yet small, impact on the magnitude of climate finance accessed. This suggests that improving readiness alone is not sufficient to unlock climate finance, as access to climate finance is to a larger extent determined by other factors; this is critical to shape readiness endeavours for the Pacific small island developing states (PSIDS) as well as donors. This study argues for a re-think in the PSIDS current readiness approach, reducing emphasis on multilateral and private flows and diversifying through practical and uncomplicated bilateral and remittance sources. These two sources of finances have a good track record of consistently mobilising external finance to PSIDS despite their climate finance readiness status. Broadening readiness efforts towards these two alternative funding sources extends the feasibility of the current readiness approach. The present direction of climate finance readiness offers a continuing access dilemma to many of the PSIDS, especially the poorest and most vulnerable.

Welcome cocktail & kava reception

5:30pm, Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Marquee

Launch of UNESCAP Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 2018

Friday 6 July 2018

Plenary on the Fiji economy

9.00-10.30am, Japan-Pacific ICT Auditorium

Chair: Matthew Dornan
Deputy Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Update on the Fiji economy: government perspective

Petaia Tuimanu
Chief Manager of Economics, Reserve Bank of Fiji

Update on the Fiji economy: academic perspective

Rup Singh
Senior Lecturer, University of the South Pacific

Cost of doing business in Fiji

Himen Chandra, *Immediate Past President, Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation*

Rescuing Fiji's sugar industry: an update on sugar industry reforms, performance and challenges

Janesh Sami
Assistant Lecturer, University of the South Pacific

Whilst the sugar industry has been the mainstay of the Fijian economy since the 1950s, with the recent expiry of the preferential agreement with the European Union (EU), the long-term viability of the industry has come under spotlight. Furthermore, even though in recent years the industry's contribution towards GDP has fallen to less than three percent, the performance of the industry still affects the livelihood of more than 200,000 Fijians. Against this background, this paper undertakes a critical analysis of the sugar industry, drawing upon recent data on the production, field and financial performance of the Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) to assess progress made over the last ten years. The paper also reviews some key industry reforms undertaken by the government over the past ten years, and identifies some long-term challenges. The analysis indicates that the industry has barely made any significant progress over the last ten years, and the industry reforms are yet to show its effects. There is evidence of increased domestic and external borrowing by the FSC, backed by the government, yet declining sugarcane production levels and number of growers. There is little evidence of any major sustained improvement in the financial performance of the FSC despite the government's very active involvement in the affairs of the industry and corporation. The paper stresses the importance of a collaborative approach to industry reforms, review of current incentives and production methods, and measures to improve the resilience of the industry in light of natural disasters.

PANEL 4A – Data for development

11.00am-12.30pm, Japan-Pacific ICT Auditorium

Chair: Simil Johnson

Government Statistician, Vanuatu National Statistics Office

Statistics for development in Pacific Island countries: state-of-the-art, challenges and opportunities

Alessio Cangiano

Independent Researcher and UN Consultant

The critical development challenges facing Pacific Island countries (PICs) are compounded by recurring demographic dynamics and characteristics: high population growth and density associated with rapid and concentrated urbanisation; the lack or delay of demographic dividends caused by persistently high fertility; poor reproductive health outcomes; high mortality rates for non-communicable diseases; and youthful populations with some of the highest emigration rates worldwide, especially highly skilled. Yet, analysis of the development implications of demographic trends has been undermined by PICs' limited statistical capacity and specific challenges of data collection, including some of the highest per capita costs of census data-gathering worldwide, underdeveloped administrative data systems and the reliance on foreign donors' funding and technical assistance. The lack of an appropriate evidence base also poses critical challenges for the implementation of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), whose mandate to "leave no one behind" will require significant expansion in the availability of disaggregated demographic data for tracking progress across the areas of poverty, gender, health, education, employment, resource distribution, inequality and social justice. This paper reviews the state-of-the-art of population and development data in the Pacific, along with the situational challenges experienced by PICs in the production and dissemination of population-based statistics. It relies on a combination of data and information sources. A systematic mapping of statistical capacity in PICs is provided based on the World Bank Statistical Capacity Indicators; the main regional web platforms for data dissemination; the Open Data Inventory; and the completeness of vital registrations. This is supplemented by a review of technical documents and statistical reports and by first-hand information gathered through participation in regional coordination platforms for statistical capacity building in the South Pacific region. The results help identify good practices and priority actions that could be pursued to enhance the development of PICs statistical systems.

Baseline SDG data in the Pacific: what's the story?

Alison Culpin

Demographer and Social Statistician, Pacific Community

This paper will discuss some of the preliminary findings from the preparation of the first quadrennial Regional Sustainable Development Report in 2018. The report will present the baseline position among Pacific countries and territories, as a basis from which to monitor progress against the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as existing regional frameworks. Good statistics are critical to telling the Pacific story. The SDGs are presenting statistical challenges to Pacific countries and territories due to the breadth of development themes, and the demand for greater disaggregation (by sex, age, location, and disability status, for example). Nevertheless, there is sufficient baseline data across the region to comment on the situation in the key areas of health and wellbeing, water and sanitation, energy, gender equality, and partnerships for the goals.

Mapping foreign aid in the Pacific – improving effectiveness through enhanced transparency

Jonathan Pryke and Alexandre Dayant

Director, Pacific Islands Program; Research Fellow, Lowy Institute

The Pacific Islands region is receiving support from an increasing number of development partners. According to latest available figures, in 2016 over US\$2 billion was delivered to the region from more than 30 OECD-recognised donors. There is also a growing array of new, non-traditional donors operating in the region. Yet little beyond the aggregate is publicly known about where these flows go. Existing tools which track financing activities have little focus on the Pacific. Publicly available information at the project level is rare, mostly not comprehensive or timely, and not accessible for a broad audience. This absence of clarity can generate problems of harmonisation and coordination of the aid sector. It is difficult to assess who is funding what, where and to what effect. It also makes aid

in the region far less accountable than it should be. Enhancing the visibility of aid programs in the Pacific Islands region will allow governments, agencies and donors to maximise the impacts of their investments in the region. The Lowy Institute, with the support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, has been working to correct this over the past year and a half through our Pacific Aid Map project. This presentation will give the audience a sneak peak of a digital map and dashboard that we have developed capturing all aid data, to the project level, in the Pacific from 2011 to (at a minimum) 2016, ahead of its official launch later in the year. It will tease out some of the more interesting findings from our analysis and illustrate how this tool can help to improve aid effectiveness in the Pacific.

PANEL 4B – Tourism

11.00am-12.30pm, Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Video Conference Room 1

Chair: Rukmani Gounder
Professor, Massey University

Building an inclusive tourism sector in the Pacific – lessons from Vanuatu

Warren Gama and Adela Issachar Aru
National ‘Skills for Tourism’ Manager, Vanuatu Skills Partnership; CEO, Vanuatu Tourism Office

The Vanuatu Skills Partnership is a co-investment between the governments of Vanuatu and Australia to develop the national skills system to support inclusive and sustainable economic growth. The Partnership has been particularly successful in the development of the outer island tourism sector, transforming what was previously an expatriate-driven industry, exclusive to the capital city, to one in which a significant percentage of tourism businesses are locally owned and managed, across the entire archipelago. The Partnership has also been successful in shifting mind-sets and practices to embrace environmentally sustainable operations, and also in promoting the development of an accessible sector that is disability inclusive, both in terms of visitors and tourism operators. The Partnership has adopted an innovative locally-led approach that prioritises local leadership, authentic partnerships, mutual accountability, and builds internal reform momentum through non-conventional and experimental forms of aid support. An explicit focus of this approach has been to ‘think and work politically’ to navigate the diverse - and often conflicting - agendas and interests inherent within developmental change and within traditional ‘donor/recipient country’ dynamics in the Pacific. The Partnership is also facilitating new ways to deliver skills training for economic growth outcomes; these blend formal training delivery with industry coaching and mentoring and promote a holistic, ‘whole-of-value-chain’ methodology and incentivise multi-partner investment. This presentation will detail the success of the expansion of the local tourism industry in Vanuatu, and provide insight into key factors and lessons learned that will be of use to both Pacific Islander stakeholders within the local tourism sector across the region, and donor agencies seeking to support its development.

Tourism-growth nexus in Pacific Island countries: a study on financial inclusion and ICT as contingent factors

Keshmeer Makun and T K Jayaraman
Lecturer; Professor, Fiji National University

Similar to remittances, tourism contributes real resources to Pacific Island countries (PICs) in terms of foreign exchange. In addition to alleviating poverty by raising consumption levels, it creates jobs in the informal sector for meeting tourist needs, ranging from ethnic food and handicrafts to guided tours to areas of ecotourism interest. Spread of information and communication technology (ICT), aside from facilitating faster international travel and hotel bookings, is now enabling penetration of tourist travel into interior, as booking for ecotourism and home stays at affordable costs to the young and adventuresome backpack tourists, is now made easier. Thus, ICT is helping PICs to overcome the hurdles of density, distance and division, imposed by three dimensions of economic geography, as noted by the World Economic Report (2009). Furthermore, ICT has also enabled greater penetration of banking habits, beyond towns and capital cities. Mobile banking and other innovations are reducing transaction costs of commercial banks and spread of brick-and-mortar-less branches have ushered in an era of financial inclusion of people in the bypassed regions and far flung remote islands. With a panel co-integration analysis of five small PICs, this paper finds that ICT and financial sector development (FSD) are playing significant roles as contingent factors in the tourism and growth nexus. The findings

show that mobile cellular subscription, broad money and tourist arrivals, representing respectively ICT, FSD, and tourism, are positively associated with GDP; and the term representing interaction between ICT and FSD is not only positive but also significant, confirming they are complements to each other. The policy conclusions are clear: PICs should step up investments in ICT infrastructure by promoting public-private sector partnership. They deserve to be supported by both bilateral and multilateral financial and technical assistance.

Social capital in the Pacific: a focus on a village, two tribes and a resort in Fiji

Api Salome Movono

Assistant Lecturer, University of the South Pacific

This paper seeks to improve understanding about the complex and adaptive nature of indigenous Fijian communities involved in tourism. The paper examines how tourism-related development has set the people of one Fijian village along two separate development pathways. The current study explores how preferential access to tourism benefits has created disparities within the community, leading to diminished community solidarity. Community members who were less privileged in accessing tourism realigned their efforts, focusing on harnessing social capital in smaller social units, strengthening bonds and exploiting opportunities in the process. Complex adaptive systems theory (CAS) and social capital theory are used to conceptualise how over 40 years of tourism involvement has influenced development within an indigenous Fijian community. The findings argue that indigenous Fijian communities are non-homogeneous entities which are constantly in transition, responding and integratively adapting to both internal and external changes over time. Indeed, disparities created through different levels of tourism participation have driven a socio-economic wedge between the two tribes. The findings show that the emergence of new behaviours and ways of life has led to the collapse of the pre-existing social systems of social capital. As a response, community members retreated and regrouped, strengthening internal bonds and social capital in their smaller social units, leading to both dependency and opportunity-seeking behaviours among respondents. Ultimately, the paper asserts that money alone does not lead to development, but rather tourism and access to a variety of capital do.

Tourism and the role of crafts/souvenirs in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands

Alexander Trupp

Senior Lecturer, University of the South Pacific

The production of handicrafts and souvenirs for tourism purposes always involves processes of cultural commodification. This can be evaluated in a positive way as tourism may bring economic benefits, human and cultural capital, but also a sense of pride and identity. Other scholars argue that commodification incorporates indigenous peoples or ethnic minorities into the new economy, but criticise that they simultaneously keep them at the margins of society both socially and culturally. This research examines economic and socio-cultural impacts of souvenir and handicraft businesses in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. The two country case studies Vanuatu and Solomon Islands are selected as they feature different stages of tourism development, different tourist characteristics and lack in-depth research in relation to tourism impacts. Even though souvenirs and crafts constitute an important part of the tourism experience, academic sources on such topics in the South Pacific are rare. It is argued that the role of indigenous peoples in the souvenir sector and the value chain of tourism need to be aligned with principle notions of sustainable development where crafts are mainly made and sold locally and represent local cultures and identities. Based on an inventory of souvenir businesses and interviews with souvenir producers and vendors, this research analyses the current tourist-oriented craft and souvenir sector by examining the roles of locality (local versus imported production), cultural representation, and economic benefits.

PANEL 4C – Education

11.00am-12.30pm, Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Video Conference Room 2

Chair: Simon Flores

Director, Pacific Aid Coordination and Effectiveness, Pacific Division, DFAT

The quality of physical education policy and curbing NCDs: the links

Margaret Eastgate

QPE National Expert Coordinator Fiji, UNESCO

Non-communicable diseases (NCD) are a major challenge in Fiji. Health statistics reveal that NCDs affect one in every four Fijians. The development of national policies such as the Policy on Quality Physical Education in Schools could be the answer to saving children and young people from falling victim to this modifiable lifestyle disease - at least from a physical activity perspective. Such a policy will fortify the fundamental role of physical education as a mandatory subject in every school's formal timetable for students from early childhood education to the secondary school level. And, as physical literacy levels are advanced through regulated age, ability and developmentally appropriate physical education provision in schools, these students will subsequently grow positive lifelong physical activity behaviours - decreasing future NCD-related prevalence rates in this small island developing state.

From baseline study to policy: technology-enabled learning policy at the National University of Samoa

Ioana Tuugalei Vaai-Chan Mow, Edna Temese-Ualesi, Vaisualua Okesene, Mose N. Mose, Tara Patu-Fritz, Elisapeta Mauai, Ioana Sinclair, Joseph Namulauulu, Fiafaitupe Lafele, Misioka Tanielu, Foilagi Maua-Faamau, Vensall Chan, Tusipepa Malaga and Motiana Sua

Professor; Senior Lecturer; Head of Computing Department; Computing Lecturers, National University of Samoa

This presentation describes the processes and activities which led to the development of a technology-enabled learning (TEL) policy at the National University of Samoa (NUS). Funded by the Commonwealth, the COLTEL initiative was a systematic approach to institutionalising technology-enabled learning (TEL) through research, consultation, capacity building, and monitoring and evaluation. An integral part of this activity was the development of a TEL policy to guide technology-enabled learning initiatives at NUS. To inform policy development and future TEL initiatives, three baseline studies were conducted: i) a survey of lecturing staff , ii) a survey of students and iii) an infrastructure audit. From the baseline emerged the following recommendations for action: improvement of the infrastructure at NUS through provision of LMS and facilities to create digital recourse for teaching and learning; development of a policy on TEL to guide the development of TEL at NUS; training for both staff and students in the use of technology (continuous capacity building of teachers is important for effective integration of TEL in courses); creation of online courses made available with open licenses (this would help the university be more visible in specialised areas of the university); and the university administration to focus on development and implementation of policy for TEL and allocate adequate resources to make it operational. Based on these recommendations, a TEL policy and TEL implementation plan was formulated for NUS.

Effectiveness of matific mathematics learning resources in selected primary schools in Fiji

Ravinesh Prasad

Lecturer, Fiji National University

Poor numeracy results are a worry at a national level. Poor numeracy has a damaging effect on many people's lives and, potentially, on the wider Fijian economy. Any approach to improve numeracy must influence students' attitudes and behaviour, as well as their skills. This means it needs to be practical, engaging and interesting. The purpose of this research evaluation is to investigate whether and how the use of matific resources, implemented within a range of selected Fijian primary school classrooms in Lautoka District, can improve student engagement with mathematics and assist students in learning and understanding challenging mathematical concepts. This research will utilise case study methodology. A total of twelve primary schools in the Lautoka district from a range of socio-economic areas were selected, invited, and agreed to participate in the project. None of the schools had used matific prior to their participation in this project. This research is targeting Year 5 students and teachers in the twelve selected schools situated in the Lautoka division. Altogether, 12 teachers teaching Year 5

and 360 Year 5 students will be participating in this research. Improving numeracy skills is best done at a young age — all children should get excellent classroom teaching, and those who are struggling should receive targeted support as soon as possible. Although there are arguments that suggest the use of digital technologies has potential to transform education (Levin & Wadmany, 2008), to date there has been little research exploring the effectiveness of digital technologies in enhancing student learning and their engagement with mathematics, particularly in the primary classroom (Shin et al., 2012). Hence, we need to supplement our primary mathematics curriculum with program such as matific (Attard, C. 2016).

Please can we talk about language and literacy?

Fiona Willans

Senior Lecturer, University of the South Pacific

This paper presents three reasons why we all need to talk about language and literacy if we want to think seriously about economic and social development in the Pacific. The first is that the provision of quality education - SDG 4 - is a goal that cannot be tackled without thinking about the language in which learning takes place, the effective teaching of literacy, or the proficiency with which children learn languages. The second is that weaknesses within any of these aspects have a direct impact on the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of national education systems, which should concern any sector with an interest in policy and planning. And the third is that public debates about language-in-education policies are frequently informed by broad ideas about the market value of different languages, without sufficient attention paid to the pedagogical issues that must guide the way languages are used in schools. More informed debate of an interdisciplinary nature would ensure that societal goals (including those linked to economic development) feed into, but don't override, sound educational decision-making. With reference to some specific language-in-education policies of this region, this presentation examines some of the research relating to literacy and language acquisition that might help start this conversation.

PANEL 5A – Developments in PNG

1.30-3.00pm, Japan-Pacific ICT Auditorium

Chair: Neelesh Gounder
Senior Lecturer, University of the South Pacific

ANU-UPNG PNG economic survey 2017-18

Bao Nguyen, Nelson Nema, Rohan Fox and Stephen Howes

Lecturer, Development Policy Centre, ANU and University of PNG School of Business and Public Policy; Lecturer, University of PNG; Research Officer; Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Based on latest figures from the National Statistical Office, it is now estimated that the PNG non-resource economy contracts in 2015 by 5.9% after inflation. Whether the economy has started to grow again since 2015 is unclear. While imports and tax data show growth in 2017, credit to the private sector contracted in the same year. Formal sector employment has contracted four years in a row since 2013, with a cumulative decline of 7.0% extending through to the end of 2017. Underestimation of the severity of the economy's contraction has contributed to an absence of an appropriate policy response to what can only be described as an urgent economic crisis. The government's emphasis is on fiscal correction and now tariff protection. A limitation of this strategy is that it fails to provide any stimulus to exporters and is inadequate to tackle the primary problem facing the PNG economy, namely the shortage of foreign exchange, which is worsening. Two separate surveys of business show that foreign exchange shortages are the most important problem they face, that they have increased in severity and have displaced other longer-standing concerns around corruption, law and order and visas. There is no way around the need for a substantial devaluation of the currency. While a devaluation would reduce the demand for foreign exchange and provide a boost to the economy, for it to have a lasting impact it will need to be accompanied by a range of structural and governance reforms to reduce the cost of doing business and promote economic recovery in PNG.

Does political stability make government less accountable? PNG case study 2012-17

Michael Kabuni

Lecturer, University of PNG

Proponents of political stability argue that stability is necessary for the government to devise and implement policy programs to bring development (Regan, 2016), increase investment and economic development (Alesina et al., 1993). Changing governments or ruling coalitions disrupt policy programs and do not give the government sufficient time to fully implement their policy programs. On the other hand, some argue that political stability gives security to the ruling faction, resulting in reckless behaviour. Regan (2006) argues that political instability in Melanesia is a result of MPs who consider access to elected office as a main avenue for power and wealth. Those in the executive controlling the resources are then forced to use bribery, coercion, and all kinds of malpractice to remain in power. Given these state affairs, political stability would consolidate a reckless government to continue the malpractice instead of ensuring political stability for implementation of policies that drive growth. Papua New Guinea has had two complete parliamentary terms (stable governments) in its 42 years of independence. This research investigates the decisions of the government during the second period of stability between 2012 and 2017. It asks whether the government was less accountable with stability in the government. This study is useful in that it helps us rethink the myth that political stability is a precondition for development. Political stability is necessary, but not a sufficient condition for development.

Closing the gender gap in PNG's Parliament

Geejay Milli and Maxine Newlands

Lecturer, University of PNG; Lecturer, James Cook University

165 female candidates stood in the 2017 Papua New Guinea general election. Historically, women candidates have faced inequality and accusations because of their gender. A combination of big man syndrome and a parliamentary system wedded to colonial history has seen just seven women sitting as members of the PNG parliament in 42 years. Greater gender balance will reduce inequality and create better leadership to help secure PNG's future as one of the largest countries in the Pacific region. Women in rural provinces are less inclined to participate in political processes, whilst women from coastal regions are more highly educated and tend to be more vocal on political issues. Focusing on development in coastal provinces could see great gender balance, but may see wider divisions between rural and coastal provinces. In a patriarchal post-colonial PNG, this paper asks what can men and women do to find a more balanced gender representation in Parliament. We draw on archival, parliamentary, and current literature, original interview data, and news reporting on female candidates in the 2017 election to establish if the solution could be found in expanding the middle classes.

Development challenges in PNG: insight through statistics

Manoj Pandey

Lecturer, Development Policy Centre, ANU and University of PNG School of Business and Public Policy

This study provides an insight on development challenges in Papua New Guinea through availability, issues, and challenges associated with availability and quality of statistics. Several surveys, administrative and other databases are analysed to evaluate progress and challenges in measuring and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Papua New Guinea.

PANEL 5B – Energy

1.30-3.00pm, Japan-Pacific ICT Auditorium

Chair: Nathaniel Clayville

Economist, Department of Commerce, American Samoa Government

When international ‘best practice’ is not: power sector reform in small island states

Matthew Dornan

Deputy Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Reform of the electricity sector has been widespread since the 1980s, with mixed success around the world. The introduction of competition and private sector involvement in what was traditionally a sector

dominated by the stat, was once advocated on efficiency and performance grounds, and in light of the poor performance and reach of state-owned utilities. A second more recent wave of reform has instead focused on regulatory oversight. This paper reviews the reform experience of small island states, arguing that the absence of economies of scale in the power sectors of these countries makes many of the reforms advocated internationally ill-suited to small island states. The paper discusses the strengths and weaknesses of different reform models in small island states, and highlights the size of the electricity market as an important determinant of what is appropriate. It concludes by arguing that no single model is suited to all small island states.

How do renewable energy ambitions affect donor-funded rural electrification efforts in Pacific Island countries?

Ryohei Ikarii

Masters Candidate, ANU

Climate change problems are critical for Pacific Island countries (PICs), leading them to have national targets to shift energy sources from fossil fuels to renewable energy. At the same time, PICs have another problem of economic development. Especially, the development in rural areas is an elusive issue. One of the major obstacles to raising people's living standards, such as health care and education in rural areas, could be unreliable electricity supply. While PICs need to tackle both issues, renewable energy targets and urban development are often given higher priorities, and the problems of rural electrification and rural development may be left behind. Therefore, this research will explore whether and how the renewable energy ambitions affect rural electrification efforts by reviewing the prior literature and by analysing foreign aid for recent energy projects with a database. The analysis leads to the results that the renewable energy ambitions have positive impacts on rural electrification efforts since rural electrification projects have been expanding with renewable energy and the projects did not include any non-renewable energy ones between 2013 and 2015. Of course, these results have been led not only by the climate and energy policies of PICs as aid recipients, but also by the intentions of donor countries like New Zealand and Japan, which contribute the most to rural electrification in this region. However, PICs have clearly identified the importance of accelerating rural electrification with renewable energy. The people have realised the existence of renewable energy resources and technologies, and the government and experts have tried to obtain needed knowledge and capacities to penetrate them nationwide. Still, financing problems remain. Foreign aid for energy projects will keep meaningful to underpin both climate and energy policies to achieve the environment-friendly economic development further in PICs.

Toward a sustainable energy future for Fiji

Ravita Prasad and Atul Raturi

Lecturer, Fiji National University; Associate Professor, University of the South Pacific

This paper begins with an overview of Fiji's energy situation and then presents some scenarios based on current trends and possible sustainable energy-based interventions. The total energy (primary and secondary) requirement in Fiji at present is estimated to be around 20.4 TJ/year, out of which 74% is for transport sector while the remaining is for electricity generation. The associated Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) are approximately 1300 Gg of CO_{2e}/year. The transport sector is fully dependent on imported fossil fuels while electricity generation requires almost 50% of fossil fuels. With the vast amounts of renewable energy resources available and stringer applications of energy efficient measures, Fiji can reduce its dependency on imported fossil fuels significantly. We quantity the impacts of clean energy strategies such as solar PV, wind, biomass and hydro for electricity generation and biofuels such as biodiesel B5 and ethanol E10 in transport sector on Fiji's fossil fuel dependency and hence carbon emissions. Introduction of electric or hybrid vehicles and energy efficiency measures for maritime vessels have the potential to further reduce demand for fossil fuels. The paper also discusses some of the challenges/barriers for these strategies to work, and suggests a way forward.

PANEL 5C – Student panel

1.30-3.00pm, Japan-Pacific ICT Auditorium

Chair: Sunil Kumar
Senior Lecturer, University of the South Pacific

Price and competition regulation for Fijian economy

Nilesh Chand
Manager, Monitoring & Enforcement, Fijian Competition & Consumer Commission

Over the last decade there has been a considerable interest in developing countries for adopting competition laws. One of the common elements of competition is price, which is the most critical part and lifeline of trade. Competition law has a strong inclination to supervise pricing of commodities and conduct of market players influence price of goods. Competition law does this by making the market as competitive as possible in order to prevent any firm from dictating prices. If these laws are unable to supervise the behaviour, then the government is forced to intervene through other laws and policies in order to protect the market from possible abuse. This study will look at Fiji's price legislation in the market through friendly price control legislation that gives them powers to artificially set prices of commodities which is exorbitant, and the types of methods used for declaring prices. The legal instruments of price control legislation will be discussed in relation to prices of goods and services under control. Price control legislation will give rise to other anticompetitive conducts, for example there will be some dominant players driving competitors or killing competition in the market, thus, restrictive trade practice provisions in relation to competition law will be addressed. The Fijian price control legislation is supplemented with other legislative framework to cater for areas where the government feels that the market is not competitive enough and competition laws are not effective. These laws protect competition in the market and provide a safety net to consumers from exploitative activities and regulating anti-competitive business conduct. The study will be supported via the arguments based on critical institutions for market economies, that competition law is either missing or has faced challenges in these small island economies, creating a barrier for sustained economic growth.

Determinants of Fiji's exports

Ronal Chand and Rup Singh
Research Officer, Centre for Economic Policy and Modelling; Senior Lecturer, University of the South Pacific

Trade is the heart of economic growth and domestic exports are the pulse. This paper explores the determinants of selected exports of Fiji - tourism, sugar and gold. The findings have critical implications for export promotion and trade based growth policies for Fiji.

CEDAW in Tonga: an analysis of the complex interplay of actors, ideas and interests in the policy-making process to achieve gender equality

Mele Fakatouato Mangisi
Masters Candidate, ANU

The transfer of knowledge, ideas and institutions is becoming increasingly common with policy makers and that such transfers move beyond the boundaries of the state. Tonga's unique socio-political system in a globalised world influences the policy making process that can inhibit or encourage effective development policies. International and socio-economic pressures are common drivers in transferring ideas from the global stage that are contentious within the Tonga context which led to the anti-CEDAW demonstrations in 2015. Over time socio-cultural values change, so there has been tension between 'new' ideas that might be seen to conflict with culture and beliefs and 'old' ideas that may equally be seen to conflict with current values and practices. Firstly, the essay analyses the interaction of international and local actors at various stages of transferring knowledge and ideas around Tonga's position in ratifying the Convention of Eliminating All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Secondly, the essay proposes the significance of understanding the socio-political context of Tonga which determines the effectiveness of local actors, the relevance of global partners (WB, IMF, ADB and major donor partners), the degree of importance of gender equality as a national priority and Tonga's commitment to the SDGs. Lastly, the essay suggests the importance of using policy strategies, valuing the strength of epistemic communities and recognising the authority of the state, church and culture in shaping policies to achieving gender equality in Tonga.

Trade heterogeneity and intra-regional exportability: a study of small island economies in the Caribbean and the South Pacific

Khushbu Rai and Dibyendu Maiti

Teaching Assistant and Masters Candidate, University of the South Pacific; Associate Professor, Delhi University

This study compares the extent of trade costs between selected island countries from within the Pacific and the Caribbean regions and examines whether the integration helps to enhance product heterogeneity within the regions. It utilises the gravity model to decompose trade costs to estimate how much trade growth is contributed by bilateral trade cost reduction, multilateral trade cost reduction and income growth within each country. This decomposition highlights two steady contributors proliferating regional trade flows for the two regions; (i) the role of GDP growth and (ii) the support of bilateral trade cost reduction. While the influence of GDP growth in enhancing trade flows is significant, the contribution is slim due to limited growth within small island economies itself. The second factor resembles regional trade agreements (RTAs) as the pillar of bilateral trade flows. Contrary to Novy (2008), the paper argues that economic interactions through RTAs have equally worked for distant countries and that smaller island nations have the equivalent potential for diversification. Moreover, whilst understanding that the geographical location of the Caribbean already lets its states thrive through lower trading costs as compared to the Pacific, analysis in the study proves that regional export share, level of openness, inter-industry trade as well as regional distribution of export markets have an impact on trade diversification. As evident, the estimates do demonstrate that the levels of diversification positively impact both the regions' bilateral export; however interestingly, the influence on Pacific countries is twice as much as on the Caribbean countries.

PANEL 6A – Service delivery in PNG

3.30-5.00pm, Japan-Pacific ICT Auditorium

Chair: Gregoire Nimbik

Acting Director General, Ministry of the Prime Minister, Republic of Vanuatu

Solutions to poor service delivery in PNG

Ron Duncan and Banga Chris

Emeritus Professor, ANU; Research Project Officer, PNG National Research Institute

The paper discusses the problems that have plagued service delivery in Papua New Guinea, both over the long term and with the roll-out of the District Development Authority (DDA) Act of 2014. Various principal/agent and moral hazard problems are identified; as well as the persistent poor delivery of national government funds to the local level; the difficulty of recruiting civil service skills into positions in local-level government; and confirmation that the power to make decisions at the district level remains much the same as before with the composition and influence of the District Development Authority Boards little changed from the former arrangements. Looking at service delivery from a supply-demand perspective, ways are suggested in which improvements may be realised. It appears more likely that improvements will come from an emphasis on increasing the demand for better governance of service delivery rather than from continuing to seek improvements in the supply side of service delivery.

'Together for education' in PNG

Kym Simoncini and Hilary Smith

Assistant Professor; Education Consultant, University of Canberra

In this presentation we will discuss some early findings from 'Together for Education', a three-year education project in Papua New Guinea based in Central, Morobe and Madang provinces. The project has the overall objective of enhancing access to quality elementary education for girls and boys. A consortium led by World Vision comprising ChildFund, Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council (CIMC), Library for All Australia, and the University of Canberra is carrying out the project. The Australian Government, in partnership with the Government of Papua New Guinea through the PNG Partnership Fund, supports the project. Project activities are aligned with the National Education Plan

(NEP) 2015-2019, and include community and family engagement, teacher education and support, learning environment and materials, and knowledge sharing. We will report on the early stages of the project, in which we have been establishing baselines and analysing school and community needs for new pedagogies to meet the challenges and expectations of their 21st century lives. We will present literacy and numeracy rates of Year 2 students, learning from teacher training and school visits and Child Friendly School indicators. This data will provide us with a comprehensive picture of children and their schools in the three provinces in Papua New Guinea.

Impact of facility readiness on service utilisation in PNG

Nicolas Rosemberg, Sudip Bhandari and Aneesa Arur
Health Economist; Consultant; Senior Economist, World Bank

Utilisation of outpatient health care services in PNG is low and it is decreasing. This study aims to understand the impact of health facility readiness – supply side factor – on the level of patient satisfaction at health facilities in PNG. A nationwide primary survey was conducted at all secondary (level 5-6) and tertiary-level health facilities (level 7), and a random selection of functional upper primary-level health facility (levels 3-4) in 2015. In total, 73 facility survey assessments, 72 health facility costing and output instruments, and 514 outpatient exit interviews were completed. Facility-level data will be organised on three domains – service availability, service readiness, and specific service readiness. Service availability domain includes three areas of tracer indicators: health infrastructure, health workforce, and service utilisation (as an indicator of access). Service readiness domain includes five areas of tracer indicators: basic amenities, equipment & supplies, diagnostics, and essential medicines and commodities. Specific service readiness areas domain also includes five tracer indicators: family planning; antenatal care; obstetric care; neonatal care and child health (curative, immunization); HIV, PMTCT, TB; and malarial and chronic diseases. We aim to analyse the relationship between each of these domains and the level of patient satisfaction, controlling for confounding factors like regional variation and population density. Our preliminary results demonstrate no significant differences in services delivery readiness between provinces and patient satisfaction, in turn, was not strongly associated to service delivery readiness.

Integrating formal and informal institutions: the Bougainville Healthy Communities Program

Lhawang Ugyel
Development Policy Centre, ANU and University of PNG School of Business and Public Policy

This paper will examine the interface between formal and informal institutions using the experience of the Bougainville Healthy Communities Program (BHCP) in the delivery of public health services in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. The paper will describe the process of implementing the BHCP activities between the Department of Health of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (as an example of a formal institution) and the communities in Bougainville (as an example of an informal institution). It will highlight the roles of various actors who operate within both the formal and informal spaces of the BHCP. Using a 2x2 matrix to illustrate the relationship between formal and informal institutions on one hand, and, on the other hand, governmental and non-governmental systems, the experience of the BHCP shows that the actors do not operate in rigid quadrants. The fluid relationships demonstrate the type of integration that has led to the successful implementation of the BHCP. In addition to demonstrating an example where good integration takes place between formal and informal institutions, the paper will also recommend variations of such integrations to suit different contexts that will be helpful for PNG, as well as other developing countries.

PANEL 6B – Environment

3.30-5.00pm, Japan-Pacific ICT Auditorium

Chair: Ray Bojczuk
DFAT

Pacific world heritage: under-representation, opportunity and challenges

Luke Kiddie
Independent Development Practitioner

Small island developing states in the Pacific are home to only eight of the globe's 1073 UNESCO World Heritage sites. Two of these sites – East Rennell in Solomon Islands and the Nan Madol Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia – are on UNESCO's global list of 54 World Heritage sites in danger. East Rennell is in danger mainly from threats from logging and mining and Nan Madol from waterway siltation. The Pacific World Heritage Action Plan 2016-2020 provides strategic guidance on priority regional and national actions. The Pacific Heritage Hub was also established in 2013 at the University of the South Pacific as a regional facility for world heritage knowledge management, capacity building, and partnership, but faces sustainable financing challenges. The Pacific World Heritage Action Plan recognises that the region offers a unique contribution to global heritage from the Pacific's enormous wealth of cultural, island, and marine biodiversity. Beyond heritage, significant dividends are also available from World Heritage sites – particularly for tourism. The paper will explore Pacific world heritage – discussing opportunities and threats and challenges, with the latter combining to make the Pacific the most under-represented region on UNESCO's list of World Heritage. East Rennell will be used as an example to further highlight the threats and challenges confronting world heritage in the region.

Implementing the system of environmental-economic accounting for sustainable resource use and development in the Pacific

Sanjesh Naidu
Economist, UNESCAP

As the Pacific region embarks on its journey towards attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, practical and scalable tools for collecting, analysing and tracking data are necessary to support decision-making. Significant dependence on imports (e.g. energy – some of the most intensive users of fossil fuels in the world are in the region) and being resource challenged (e.g. water - with sources of freshwater in atoll countries largely limited to scarce rainwater and groundwater, imported water or desalination) further supports the need for more evidence to sustainable resource use and management. Pacific ecosystems are extremely fragile, and made more so each year by the increasing threat of climate change. The system of environmental-economic accounting (SEEA), an international statistical standard, has significant potential to improve more sustainable policy-making, resource use and environmental outcomes. To date, significant work has been done in five countries – Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Palau, Samoa and Vanuatu. Notably, Fiji has completed three accounts (energy, water and solid waste), FSM completed an energy account, Palau produced both energy and water accounts, while Samoa has published a second iteration of water accounts. Other countries have also been involved, via, for example, regional training courses. So far, most work has been on production of accounts but the accounts produced have had clear uses in mind. Application to sectoral issues, for instance, measuring and shaping policy for sustainable tourism has potential and is relevant to Pacific Island countries. This paper highlights the lessons from implementation of SEEA in the Pacific. It aims to share the experiences, achievements and lessons, and signpost future work in the Pacific region.

Compensation valuation approaches of ecosystem services and biodiversity of the customary land resources & iqoliqoli native customary fishing rights in Fiji

Paula Raqeukai
Assistant Lecturer, University of the South Pacific

Recent interest in the economics of biodiversity and wider ecosystem services in the tropical isles of the South Pacific region has been given experiential expression through a focus upon economic valuation, particularly in the Melanesian countries of the region like Papua New Guinea, Fiji and the Solomon Islands, where mining of minerals are inevitable due to high prospective economic demand.

This emphasis has been prompted by a growing recognition that the benefit and opportunity costs associated with such services are frequently given superficial consideration in policy analyses or even completely ignored. The people of the Pacific Islands - Polynesians, Micronesians and the Melanesians - have limited & vulnerable land/marine resources and their social-cultural context of ecosystem and biodiversity compensation valuations are totally different from the Western context. For the indigenous people of the Pacific Islands, the term "economic value" of land/marine resources does not refer only to the market transaction of these resources but also the associated values that are naturally part of the land/marine resources which are both tangible and intangible. For the indigenous people of the Pacific Isles, their cultural existence and livelihood very much depends on their surrounding ecosystem and biodiversity. Their traditional knowledge and traditional land/marine care systems in place over generations are what they care most about and not merely the economic values. Thus for them the compensation valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in their context is increasingly seen as a crucial element of robust decision making and this has been reflected in a growing body of related research. I will provide a critical review of some of this case study research in my home country, Fiji, considering the valuation methods & approaches applied to date and focusing upon their limitations in respect to certain categories of ecosystem services (particularly cultural services).

Closing dinner (by invitation only)
6.30pm, Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Marquee