



ABSTRACTS

2019

AUSTRALASIAN  
AID CONFERENCE

# CONTENTS

page

## Tuesday 18 February

Opening address	1	
2019 Mitchell Oration – <i>Africa and the global landscape: emerging trends and the way forward</i>	1	
Panel 1A	The long and winding road: from research to policy	1
Panel 1B	Climate finance	3
Panel 1C	The Rohingya crisis response	5
Panel 1D	Topics in aid and development	6
Panel 1E	Pacific labour mobility: opportunities to build our futures together	7
Panel 1F	Sustainable food systems and rural economies	8
Panel 1G	Learning from South Korea: North Korea; concessional lending	9
Panel 1H	Scaling up	10
Panel 1I	Indigenous languages in development	12
Panel 2A	Using a gender lens to influence impact finance in our region	12
Panel 2B	Aid as a soft power asset	13
Panel 2C	Can Australia champion disaster risk reduction? Sendai, the Asia Pacific and 2020	13
Panel 2D	Pathways to peace in Southeast Asia	14
Panel 2E	Collaborative partnerships in health security surveillance and response	14
Panel 2F	Impact evaluations in PNG and Pacific	16
Panel 2G	Local development	17
Panel 2H	Aid case studies I	18
Keynote panels:		
<i>China's development cooperation in focus: opportunities and challenges</i>		19
<i>Making evaluation influential: evaluation knowledge for development effectiveness</i>		20
<i>Neglected in health and development: mental health and psychosocial disability</i>		21

## Wednesday 20 February

Panel 3A	Advocating for Australian aid	22
Panel 3B	Using a theological approach to address inequality and conflict	22
Panel 3C	Tracking progress on World Humanitarian Summit commitments in the Pacific	23
Panel 3D	Strengthening local-level women's leadership for policy change: evidence from Indonesia	23
Panel 3E	Impact of technology on developing Asia	23
Panel 3F	Water, food, energy and climate – the importance of integrated policy and programming approaches	24
Panel 3G	NGOs & volunteers	24
Panel 3H	Aid case studies II	25
Keynote address – <i>Contemporary challenges in development finance: are we heading for another debt crisis, and other questions</i>		27
Panel 4A	Informing policy to end poverty	27
Panel 4B	Evaluation	28
Panel 4C	Blockchain technology field pilots	29
Panel 4D	Training the global anaesthesia and surgical workforce	29
Panel 4E	Issues in Australian aid	30
Panel 4F	Issues in humanitarian aid	31

Panel 4G	Aid, reform and development in the energy sector	33
Panel 4H	Aid and the private sector	34
Panel 5A	Community-driven development: a reality check	36
Panel 5B	Partnerships in transdisciplinary research for food and nutrition security	36
Panel 5C	Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in the aid sector	37
Panel 5D	Catalysing change through women's movements: evidence from the Pacific	37
Panel 5E	Migration	38
Panel 5F	Chinese development cooperation	39
Panel 5G	Collaborative development	40
Panel 5H	Public-private partnerships	41
Plenary session – <i>Debating Australian aid</i>		42

Tuesday 19 February 2018

## CONFERENCE INTRODUCTION

8.30am, Molonglo Theatre

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

**David Arnold**, President and CEO, The Asia Foundation

## OPENING ADDRESS

8.50am, Molonglo Theatre

**Frances Adamson**

**Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

*Frances Adamson has led the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as Secretary since 2016. Prior to this, she was International Adviser to the Prime Minister. She has also acted as Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Chief of Staff to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence, and twice served in the Australian High Commission in London. Ms Adamson is President of the Institute of Public Administration Australia ACT Division, a member of the Efic Board, the Advisory Board of the ANU National Security College and the Asia Society Australia Advisory Council, as well as a Special Adviser to the Male Champions of Change and a member of Chief Executive Women.*

## 2019 MITCHELL ORATION

9.40am, Molonglo Theatre

**Dr Donald Kaberuka**

**Former President, African Development Bank and Former Minister of Finance, Rwanda**

**Africa and the global landscape: emerging trends and the way forward**

*Donald Kaberuka served two five-year terms as President of the African Development Bank, from 2005 to 2015. During his tenure, the Bank's capital tripled and its portfolio doubled. He also served as Rwanda's Minister of Finance and Economic Planning from 1997 to 2005, and oversaw Rwanda's economic reconstruction after the end of the civil war. He is a currently Senior Adviser at The Boston Consulting Group. He holds a PhD in Economics from Glasgow University.*

---

## PANEL 1A – The long and winding road: from research to policy

11.00am – 12.30pm, Molonglo Theatre

*This panel will provide insights into the processes by which research is, or is not, effectively translated into policy and practice. It will suggest practical ways in which these processes can be better understood and improved.*

Chair: Sakuntala Akmeemana

*Principal Specialist – Governance, Development Policy Division, DFAT*

## **The direct, indirect and unintended routes to change: confessions of a research program**

Chris Adams, Claire McLoughlin and David Hudson

*Senior Learning and Outreach Advisor, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University; Lecturer, University of Birmingham; Professor, University of Birmingham*

Based on a document review of ten case studies and 22 key informant interviews this paper summarises the findings of an impact review of the Developmental Leadership Program, an international research initiative funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). In particular, the paper explores how the program has successfully influenced a number of program designs and the mechanisms and pathways by which this happened. It identifies a number of important enabling factors, including the importance of effective working relationships between researchers, policy makers and practitioners; a permissive authorising environment and an appetite for risk; the quality, relevance and accessibility of research products; and the effectiveness of outreach processes. Apart from the direct route to policy change and the indirect route through changing the ideas upon which policy is based, the paper also notes that other even less direct pathways have been important notably through a contribution to creating more space for practitioners to promote or defend their own practice.

## **Challenges and opportunities in brokering research and knowledge for impact in international development**

Andrea Babon, Lisa Denney and Paul Kelly

*Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University; Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University; Research Fellow, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University*

Many development programs are now designed with a strong emphasis on learning and the use of evidence to improve their impact. This can include the use of learning, knowledge or research partners that operate alongside implementers to support and monitor programming, including by facilitating the uptake of research into programming. The Institute for Human Security and Social Change at La Trobe University is working as a learning partner and knowledge 'broker' alongside several Australia aid programs, including in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. The knowledge brokering role involves supporting interaction and engagement between researchers and practitioners, with the goal of encouraging knowledge exchange, supporting research use, and strengthening research impact. Yet the role of knowledge broker is not without its challenges. This paper discusses the practical realities of the Institute's experience of promoting research and evidence uptake within Australian development programs. This includes an examination of the multiple roles and skills (including 'soft' skills) needed to work as an effective knowledge broker; the time needed to build trusting relationships and develop networks; the challenges of mediating between diverse forms of expertise and knowledge; the challenge of maintaining research standards and meeting practitioner requirements; and navigating the power dynamics that mediate the diffusion of research and knowledge. The paper thus illuminates some of the challenges and opportunities that emerge when knowledge brokers bring together different expertise and forms of knowledge to support the use of research by development practitioners and policymakers.

## **A snapshot of practice in the development sector: research communications and uptake**

Melissa Kamp and Jenny Vaccari

*Principal – Research Monitoring and Evaluation, Coffey International Development; Network Communications Coordinator, Research for Development Impact Network*

Quality research and evaluation offer an essential foundation of knowledge, insights and learning, which have significant potential to magnify impact across development programming and policy. In reality, evidence from research is just one of a multitude of factors that influence the formation of development practice and policy. Strategies to enable quality evidence to cut through the noise of practice inertia and opaque political processes can be a constant struggle for researchers who seek to affect real-world change. Similarly, finding relevant and applicable research and understanding how to translate and apply the evidence can be challenging for both policymakers and program implementers. The barriers and constraints to research uptake are many and varied, and manifest at organisational and individual levels. The Research for Development Impact (RDI) Network and Coffey International Development have undertaken to establish a snapshot of the current state of the development sector in terms of awareness, value, skills and capacity in the practice of research communication and uptake. This paper describes the findings of this snapshot and offers a series of practical learnings for research producers, knowledge brokers and users of evidence in policy and practice. The paper offers insights into the ways in which research communication and uptake occur in the development sector, and how the constraints to effective uptake of research evidence might be addressed. There is no single formula which can be applied to guarantee that research will be used, and yet there are models of uptake that can be recognised and built upon, as well as overarching lessons that can improve the environment for

effective research communication and uptake across the sector. The paper presents models of research communication and uptake generated through consultation with partners across the development sector, and illustrative examples of how these have worked. It will make a case for institutional and individual behaviour change to ultimately build a stronger, sector-wide culture that supports and fosters the role of research in informing better development practice.

### **The politics and practice of stakeholder engagement in research processes**

Chris Roche and Sandy Oliver

*Director, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University; Professor, University College London*

This paper is based on work the authors have undertaken for the Centre for Excellence for Development, Impact and Learning which seeks to develop and test innovative methods for evaluation and evidence synthesis and which is funded by the UK Government's Department for International Development. In particular, it focuses on the politics of research and evaluation generation, and use. The review of literature notes that a number of synthesis reviews in different sectors underline the importance of politics, and the political and institutional context, in contributing to the likelihood of research and evaluation uptake. This includes, for example, health policy, nutrition policy, transport policy, and low carbon technology policy. There are also some substantive explorations of this issue in relation to evidence and results in international development and in evaluation. Amongst other things, these studies note that despite the recognition that politics is important, it is often under-explored in research or evaluation design and outreach. This paper describes how politics effects research generation and use and why it needs to be better factored into research processes. It then concludes by demonstrating how research and evaluative process can better take this political reality into account, for example through more effective assessment of the power relations of different actors involved; the development of a politically informed evaluation theory of change and outreach strategy; more attention being given to engaging stakeholders and stimulating debate between them as part of the process; permitting adaption to changing circumstances and learning during the course of the evaluation or review; framing findings in ways that are politically savvy or salient but without traducing them; and thinking much more seriously about the governance of evidence and evidence processes.

---

## **PANEL 1B – Climate finance**

*11.00am – 12.30pm, Weston Theatre*

Chair: Frank Jotzo

*Director, Centre for Climate Economics and Policy, ANU*

### **COP24: where to from here for the future of our global response to climate change?**

Patrick Suckling

*Australian Ambassador for the Environment, DFAT*

Adoption of the Paris Agreement 'Rulebook' was a pivotal event at the December 2018 UNFCCC's (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) COP24. The Rulebook will guide implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement provisions, including a transparency framework, targets on 'climate finance', the global stocktake of the effectiveness of climate action in 2023, and assessment of progress on the development and transfer of technology. Australia remains an active member of the UNFCCC. Our climate finance assists vulnerable countries across the Indo-Pacific undertake climate action. Such work is vital. A 2017 OECD study found that combined climate action and pro-growth economic policies could improve economic outcomes over the medium and long term. Such climate finance is being undertaken to avert crises, such as the World Bank prediction that climate change might push 100 million people back below the poverty line by 2030.

### **Bilateral climate aid and the complex governance in Indonesia**

Gracia Paramitha

*PhD Candidate, University of York*

Indonesia has become the sixth largest carbon emitter in the world, of which 70% come from deforestation and other forest degradation. In response to this situation, since 1997 many countries have become strategic partners and donors in order to tackle climate change. However, some bilateral climate partnerships have not worked well due to inappropriate funding distribution, lack of leadership in Indonesia's local government, the dynamic of power politics, and the absence of civil society engagement. The question that emerges is to what extent are bilateral climate partnerships effective in Indonesia, and why does bilateral climate aid remain complex in Indonesia? In light of this background, this paper analyses and measures factors and challenges

that the Indonesian government and donors face in bilateral climate cooperation, along with the complexity of Indonesian governance. The research uses a qualitative methodology, made up of in-depth interviews with representatives from local government, the private sector, and local and global civil society groups, and a case study approach. The fieldwork in Central Kalimantan and Jakarta shows that three main factors affect bilateral climate partnerships: donor-recipient power relations, the absence of intermediary agencies, and civil society engagements. These findings reflect that the Indonesian government should establish an integrated funding institution for all stakeholders. Furthermore, the dynamics of intermediary agencies may have resulted in a conflict of interest among Indonesian government/non-government bodies internally and between Indonesian and foreign donors externally. This will be a new chapter for Indonesian climate governance, and the paper proposes a bilateral climate aid model and makes some policy recommendations for better governance in Indonesia.

### **Climate finance conditions in developing countries' nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement: foothold for equity or Achilles heel?**

Pieter Pauw, Paula Castro, [Jonathan Pickering](#) and Shikha Bhasin  
*Researcher, German Development Institute; Senior Researcher, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich; Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance, University of Canberra; Programme Lead, Council on Energy, Environment and Water, India*

The Paris Agreement's success in responding to climate change depends on the implementation of its underlying nationally determined contributions (NDCs). In these national climate action plans, most developing countries make their contributions partly or wholly conditional upon receiving international support (finance, technology transfer and/or capacity building). Provision of such support could enhance equity in the Paris Agreement. However, the conditional nature of many NDCs also increases uncertainty about their implementation. This paper demonstrates that the costs of these conditions, as mentioned in the NDCs, are too high to be addressed by the annual US \$100 billion of climate finance pledged by developed countries. To analyse the likelihood that the requested support will be provided, we analyse the conditions in 166 NDCs on the basis of five motivations for the provision and demand of support (solidarity, responsibility, public good provision, securing negotiation outcomes, and commercial/diplomatic interests), drawing on related literature on motivations for providing aid. Across all four types of support, we see that least developed countries, small island developing states, countries with a high share of biomass energy, and highly agriculture-oriented economies are more likely to put forward conditions. These countries are more likely to receive the requested support based on solidarity and responsibility motivations. High-income countries put forward conditions less frequently and would receive support only if it helps provider countries act upon public goods, negotiations or self-interested motivations. Provision of support to the large number of lower and upper middle-income countries in between would likely be driven by a mix of equity-based and strategic considerations.

### **ODA diversion to climate mitigation a global public good – solutions**

Fiona Ryan  
*Researcher, Climate Action Network – Cairns*

Climate mitigation is a global public good (GPG), benefiting both developed and developing countries globally. The Paris Agreement promises US \$100 billion a year by 2020 for climate finance for both mitigation and adaptation in developing countries. Other commitments, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development target of 0.7% GNI for official development assistance (ODA), can also be met with climate mitigation finance. This paper discusses evidence that developed countries are “double counting” climate mitigation finance as ODA, meeting two obligations with the same funding. Given the OECD projection of US \$45 billion climate mitigation finance by 2020, this will likely radically change the composition of ODA, with climate mitigation equivalent to 30.8% of total 2017 ODA, the last published OECD estimate. Aid diversion is particularly concerning for least developed countries as they are especially dependent on ODA for financial flows. The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) has long excluded other categories of assistance, such as most in-donor refugee assistance, from the definition of ODA. It is often argued that global public goods should likewise be excluded from calculations of ODA volumes. This aligns with the original UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which states that financial flows are to be “new and additional” and developed countries should meet the “agreed full incremental cost” of climate action in developing countries. Reporting rules for global public goods (GPGs) associated with the Rio Conventions have been developed by the OECD DAC. These Rio markers provide a very coarse basis for the measurement of finance for GPGs. However, they also provide a definitional argument for excluding GPGs from ODA. Other solutions are examined and found not to be as effective for preventing GPGs significantly transforming the focus of ODA.

## **PANEL 1C – The Rohingya crisis response**

*11.00am – 12.30pm, Barton Theatre*

*The Rohingya crisis is now into its second year as the world's current largest refugee displacement, with close to one million people living in camps and temporary settlements in Bangladesh. Hear from specialists deployed through the Australia Assists program to the UN to get the inside story of the Rohingya crisis response.*

Chair: Kylie Harrington

*Manager – Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning, RedR Australia*

### **Integrated WASH systems into water security frameworks**

Camilla Bachet

*Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Officer, UNHCR*

Sewer network pilot projects in two of the Rohingya camps are being tested to transfer the wastewater to a treatment system to reduce ongoing operations and maintenance of the sanitation network. The sewer network will be made up of sewer pipes connected to the existing (one per five households) latrines and bathing cubicles. Where possible, the sewer will be connected to the tube well aprons and existing drains which also discharge contaminated water into the environment. Research surveys have been undertaken to assist with determining the flow expected in the sewer system, so the network can be designed as efficiently as possible. The households were surveyed specifically in the pilot camps and camps with existing water distribution networks to determine their water use patterns, frequency of use and volume used per person per day. The results showed that the camps that currently have a water distribution network use over double the amount of water per person per day than the camps which rely only on tube wells. Since the plan is to construct a chlorinated water distribution network in each camp, the results from the camps with existing networks have been adopted for the sewer design. Currently the wastewater quality is being tested in a new laboratory in Cox's Bazar to assist with the treatment design. There is a water shortage in Teknaf and no groundwater in this area, so the refugees and host community rely on surface water. The research concludes that to minimise and hopefully eliminate water trucking during the five-month dry season, canals must be located outside the camps that can be dammed to store water. UNHCR is then planning to utilise these WASH engineering interventions to pump the water treatment plants within the camps and distribute throughout the camps to provide year-round water security.

### **Disaster risk reduction: building capacity towards landslide risks within a displaced population**

Marina Drazba

*Shelter Officer, UNHCR*

Starting in August 2017, over 700,000 people crossed the border between Myanmar and Bangladesh to flee persecution settling on new land. The conditions of the land were not ideal to receive a large influx of people in a short period. The area in which the refugee camps are located is a delta plain that has the potential to flood during the monsoon and cyclone season when the rivers and streams swell, as they receive 80% of the countries' rainfall during the season. Compounding the emergency is the landslide risk within the region, which are triggered by rainfall events. The capacity of the refugees against the landslide risk to their build resilience needed to be increased. Most of the refugees had not lived in an environment that contained landslides and were unaware of the phenomena. The challenge was within a few months to distill engineering and geology to its simplest terms and train trainers to help the community understand and prepare for a landslide. It was found that the most effective means of communication was a landslide book that could be read to kids and adults. The Rohingya use of an oral tradition and the camp context was taken into consideration and the landslide book was generated specifically for this displaced population and its interactions with the land. There is critical messaging within the book that addresses how a landslide occurs, why it occurs and how human interactions can both hinder and help. To address the large population, trainers were taught how to read the book to a broader audience, and they went into the communities and became the technical experts for their area. This enabled a large volume of people to be educated on landslide risks quickly – while it was not possible to reduce their exposure to the risk, their capacity to handle it was increased.

### **Quality of life and drone today, map tomorrow**

Regan Potangaroa

*Shelter Specialist, UNHCR*

Quality of life study: The need to move Shelter interventions from being output-driven to instead being more outcome orientated has been elusive. This paper outlines one approach using quality of life measurements using a modified DASS42 survey instrument. This emergency shelter response instrument is associated with

the UNHCR shelter response as part of the Rohingya Emergency Response in Kutupalong Camp, Bangladesh. An innovative/unique approach to spatially surveying was used that resulted in 1,624 people being initially surveyed, with 164 followed up with in-depth interviews. The study established that the role of shelter as delivered addressed identity, sanctuary, homelessness, pain/discomfort and the elements (rain+cold). The value add from the perspective of the refugees were safety and protection; having more room; having the family together in a stronger building/haven built of better materials; and solving financial issues for them.

Drone today, map tomorrow study: The issues of urban humanitarian responses, which are increasing globally, especially across Asia, are expected to require different approaches and tools in the future than are currently in the mainstream. One of these new tools is expected to be drone-based. This paper looks at how an approach to Drone Today, Map Tomorrow, which was developed to include an all-weather disaster assessment drone in the shelter/settlement, work with UNHCR for the Rohingya Response in Kutupalong Camp/city in Bangladesh. It concludes that the present organisational structure will need to be reviewed and that these tools could (and it suggests, should) be part of the usual shelter toolbox rather than a specialist add-on.

---

## **PANEL 1D – Topics in aid and development**

*11.00am – 12.30pm, Acton Theatre*

Chair: Joanna Spratt  
*Advocacy and Campaigns Director, Oxfam New Zealand*

### **The second green revolution, a new approach or more of the same: implications for agricultural research**

Patrick Kilby  
*Senior Lecturer, ANU*

Since the second green revolution from the mid-2000s, the main focus has been to address the sectors the first green revolution was not successful in. These sectors have been (among others) semi-arid crop systems, small scale farming, and dryland African production systems. One emerging issue that has arisen in the second green revolution is the inclusion of women farmers in research programs, as women are increasingly the users of research outcomes in marginal areas that have high rates of men's migration. Another is the issue of the sustainability of new technologies and practices that avoid elite capture, which bedevilled the first green revolution. Finally, there is the issue of local design, ownership, and control of these technologies in the context of competing ideologies as to what economic development more broadly, and agricultural development in particular, should look like. Western neo-liberalism and China's state-led infrastructure development for rapid industrial growth are driving competing research agendas. The question this paper addresses is: where do poor marginal farmers sit in these scenarios? This paper emerges from the research the author undertook with the Feed the Future labs at Kansas State University as part of a Fulbright fellowship in early 2018 for a book published by Routledge in 2019: *The green revolution: narratives of politics, technology and gender*.

### **An empirical analysis of the foreign aid and real exchange rate nexus**

Kongchheng Poch  
*PhD Candidate, Lincoln University*

The impacts of foreign aid on the real exchange rate continue to be a debatable and concerning issue for academics and policymakers in developing countries. Whilst some studies contend that foreign aid causes real exchange rate appreciation in aid-recipient developing countries, some other studies find different results. To contribute to policy discussion and narrowing the literature gap, this study empirically investigates the impacts of foreign aid on the real exchange rate for a sample of 115 developing countries from 1990-2015 by using the system generalised method of moment technique to estimate dynamic panel data models. This study documents important findings as follows. First, it confirms that the real exchange rate in developing countries is characteristically dynamic and strongly persistent. Second, foreign aid causes real exchange rate depreciation. Third, the results remain unchanged when the role of exchange rate regime is taken into the analysis. Fourth, the financial sector, however, plays a crucial role in changing the impacts of the foreign aid on real exchange rate. When the financial sector (measured as the credit issued to the private sector by banks as a percentage of gross domestic products) is above a certain threshold, foreign aid generates real exchange rate appreciation effects. This result may be because foreign aid stimulates the increase in domestic lending, resulting in domestic demand expansion, which could drive a wedge between the prices of non-tradable and tradable goods. In conclusion, this study suggests that foreign aid is beneficial for the recipient countries because it causes real exchange rate depreciation, which can enhance the competitiveness of export

industries. However, it is fundamentally important that the aid-recipient countries monitor aid flows and the financial sector closely in order to ensure that aid flows do not cause domestic credit overshooting, which would result in real exchange rate appreciation.

### **Political budget cycles and dependence on foreign aid**

Mathias Pronin

*PhD Candidate, Stockholm University*

This paper poses the question of whether countries with a higher share of foreign aid per GDP exhibit larger political budget cycles. Using data on a large sample of countries, it finds a significant negative effect of aid dependency on the budget surplus in election years. The effect is quantitatively important and implies that, on average, a one per cent increase in foreign aid per GDP is associated with a 0.2 per cent larger deficit in election years. The results are robust to the model specification, inclusion of control variables and other political budget cycles' determining factors described in the recent literature.

### **Aid, violence and women's voices**

Helen Ware

*Professor, University of New England*

It would appear to be self-evident that aid should aim to deliver what the recipients want. In the case of women, this might seem to require talking to ordinary women about their needs and desires. Yet, all too often, the NGOs which aid donors choose at their interlocutors, represent a select group of the elite, possibly a few rural women leaders with charisma or powerful male relatives and their immediate followers. This paper addresses the question of ordinary women's views and experience of violence and politics from two sources of data which are essentially removed from the select NGO view, being based upon sizeable random nation-wide samples of the general population. This makes it possible to avoid the 'victim' or 'heroine' dichotomy of many aid perspectives. For West Africa, the Afrobarometer data covers interviews in over sixty languages across sixteen countries and five time periods. It includes responses on women and men's views on issues from governmental performance in protecting household security to women's rights. Even more significantly, it includes data divided by gender on actual practices, including who votes, who asks traditional leaders to mediate in judicial disputes, and who fears the police. The Demographic Health Survey data, again for sixteen countries, covers one to four annual rounds. Most information is about health issues but it also includes a broad range of data revealing the levels of experience of both domestic and public violence and women's views on issues from female circumcision to divorce. Taken together these two data sources make it possible to examine ordinary women's actual lives away from the NGO bias and to see, for example, that urban/rural differences are often more significant than differences between the genders. The paper concludes with a discussion of the two-way interactions between violent conflict at the national and household levels.

---

## **PANEL 1E – Pacific labour mobility: opportunities to build our futures together**

*11.00am – 12.30pm, Brindabella Theatre*

*With the recent establishment of the Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS), Australia Pacific Training Coalition (APTC) and Pacific Labour Facility, this panel provides the opportunity for a conversation about the complexities and opportunities that labour mobility provides for the Pacific region.*

Chair: Kaye Schofield

*Board Chair, Australia Pacific Training Coalition*

### **Responding to the PLS from a sending-country perspective**

Richard Curtain

*Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU*

### **Realising a net skills gain for the Pacific**

Andie Fong Toy

*Labour Mobility Adviser, Australia Pacific Training Coalition*

### **Possibilities for Pacific labour mobility**

Alisi Holani

*Deputy CEO, Tonga Ministry of Commerce*

## **Understanding the Australian labour market – Pacific Labour Facility**

Nick Volk

*Team Leader, Pacific Labour Facility*

---

## **PANEL 1F – Sustainable food systems and rural economies: key policy challenges for livestock and aquaculture production**

*11.00am – 12.30pm, Lennox Room*

*This panel will discuss the policy issues constraining efficient, ethical and safe production of animal-source foods (ASF) and aquaculture and their contribution to sustainable nutrition security in resource-poor settings. It will look at what needs to be done to enhance appropriate ASF and aquaculture production and its ready availability to vulnerable groups in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).*

Chair: Robyn Alders

*Senior Scientific Advisor, Centre for Global Health Security*

### **Controlling aquatic animal disease is vital to global nutrition security**

Ingo Ernst

*President, OIE Aquatic Animal Health Commission and Director, Aquatic Pest and Health Policy, Animal Division, Department of Agriculture*

Global aquatic animal production and trade is forecast to continue the rapid growth of the past decades that has been transformational to the world's food supply. Aquatic animal products provide a growing proportion of human protein supply and their international trade is more valuable than terrestrial animal products. Increases in production are attributable to aquaculture, with capture fisheries production remaining stable or declining. Regular panzootics have severely impacted the growth of aquatic animal production. The consequences have been severe: on livelihoods, the poor, on contributions to human nutrition, lost opportunities to develop industries, lost biodiversity, and lost wild aquatic animal resources. Aquatic animal products from fisheries and aquaculture are a major international commodity, with more than one third of the world's production traded internationally. Increasing demand for seafood is likely to drive growth in trade of aquatic animals and their products and expand an already significant pathway for spread of aquatic animal diseases. The characteristics of aquaculture (e.g. rapid growth, species diversity, rapid domestication of species, production in new areas, new production technologies, high trade volumes) are known to be drivers of disease emergence. Diseases have emerged regularly in recent decades, resulting in severe consequences. It is inevitable that aquatic animal production will continue to be challenged by new and emerging diseases. The impacts of these diseases must be understood so that appropriate and proportionate investments in preventative, preparedness and response measures can be justified. Given the growing importance of aquatic animal production to human nutrition, the global performance in preventing spread of aquatic animal diseases must be improved. OIE standards provide a globally agreed approach for preventing the spread of transboundary diseases while facilitating trade. These standards must continue to be revised to ensure they remain appropriate and effective. But the standards themselves cannot prevent the spread of disease; they must be implemented.

### **Anticipating the future to design effective livestock policies**

Wantanee Kapravidh

*ECTAD Project Regional Manager, Food and Agriculture Organization*

The livestock sector is a mainstay for food security and rural livelihoods and the international community must work together to make sure it achieves its potential contribution to sustainable development. While animal products make large contributions to nutrition and the fight against poverty, raising livestock entails outsized impacts on the environment and has shown to be increasingly critical for human health due to the threat posed by zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). In order to make the world safer from zoonotic diseases and AMR, without compromising the livelihoods of poor livestock farmers, we need to 'get ahead of the game' and start solving tomorrow's problems today. Futures thinking can be used to better understand and appreciate a wide range of emerging issues and its drivers, to better anticipate how the world is changing and what might happen, and alert us on how to respond adequately and in a timely manner. Drivers of disease emergence and spread identified in Asia include massive infrastructure development (China's Belt and Road initiative), economic growth (purchasing power) and urbanisation influencing the supply and demand dynamics, climate change and the intensification of the livestock sector. FAO is supporting countries to articulate long-term livestock scenarios to identify emerging livestock-driven public health challenges using futures thinking. Such scenarios are used to improve the country livestock policy frameworks to increase the

capacity to deal with emerging challenges, focusing on actionable policy recommendations and in consideration of the private sector's vision. These recommendations will contribute to the development of a sustainable livestock sector, which is required to meet the protein needs of a growing population and ensure food security.

### **The quest for policy and public expenditure opportunities to support implementation of sustainable livestock and aquaculture interventions**

Robyn Alders

*Senior Scientific Advisor, Centre for Global Health Security*

The Centre on Global Health Security at Chatham House is implementing a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation-funded (BMGF) project to develop a decision tool that will help BMGF identify and prioritise policies that support and facilitate the development of financially, environmentally and socially sustainable animal (ruminant and poultry) and aquaculture (fresh and salt water) systems that are nutrition- and gender-sensitive and financially sustainable. The tool will evolve from an initial policy mapping, collation and analysis of policies being used by the public and private sectors at the global and regional levels across the agricultural, environment, health, trade and transport sectors. Detailed case studies are being conducted for two countries (one in Sub-Saharan Africa, one in South Asia) to identify micro-level policies that are exemplars, or that create bottlenecks and constraints to sustainable animal and aquaculture that provides for nutrition needs and is gender-sensitive. Roundtable discussions with senior representatives will be conducted in each case study country. The resulting tool will help guide the Foundation in its future agriculture investments, intended to enable countries to better meet their Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets; and to enhance the social license to operate smallholder animal enterprises. This panel session provides an opportunity for participants to contribute to this policy discussion.

### **Better understanding the role of policy in raising the profile of smallholder livestock systems in human health and nutrition in low- and middle-income countries**

Anna Okello

*Research Program Manager – Livestock Systems, ACIAR*

Whilst the contribution of smallholder livestock producers to human health and nutrition are diverse, they can often be 'invisible' in terms of national policy settings and sectoral support. Many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) default to policy settings that support commercial and semi-commercial production systems, often in formal market chains, whilst the circulation of food sources, income and other important socio-cultural outputs of smallholder livestock systems are often underestimated. This can be particularly true in rural and remote communities, which further excludes them from formal policy processes and hinders opportunities for improved trade and food safety mechanisms. Whilst there is a large – and growing – recognition of the role of smallholder livestock producers to society, this has often been slow to be reflected in terms of both political and financial support to the sector in many LMICs. In order to better promote and support smallholder livestock sectors, we must also question our understanding of the processes by which enabling policy frameworks are developed; in particular, what constitutes 'evidence' for policy in this context. Whilst research to generate evidence around the role and contribution of smallholders in food security and safety is important, it needs to be framed within the prevailing political economy of the country in question, which in turn is often influenced by dominant international narratives around animal disease control and trade. The policy issues constraining efficient, ethical and safe production of animal-source foods are often varied according to the species, context and type of production system. However, understanding the relevant policy processes – and in particular the mechanisms by which potential policy solutions should be applied and communicated – is an important first step in promoting the contribution of smallholder livestock systems to food safety and security in a number of low- and middle-income countries worldwide.

---

## **PANEL 1G – Learning from South Korea: North Korea; concessional lending**

*11.00am – 12.30pm, Griffin Room*

*The Korean Association of International Development and Cooperation (KAIDEC) is Korea's national association for international development and practitioners. Through a partnership with Devpolicy, funded by the Australia-Korea Foundation, leading Korean academics will provide unique insights into critical and emerging issues in international development. What are the implications for development cooperation of different trajectories for the future of North Korea? And what can Australia, which is planning to introduce loans into its aid program, learn from Korea's longstanding program of concessional lending?*

Chair: Heejin Lee  
*Director, Centre for Australian Studies, Yonsei University*

### **North Korea from the perspective of development cooperation: opportunities and challenges**

Tae Yong Jung and Sung Gyu Kim

*Yonsei University; Director, International Development Research Center, Seoul National University Asia Center*

North Korea has been closed to the global economic system for a long time. The recent development of peace talks between USA and North Korea may open opportunities for the economic development and reforms for North Korea, though there are many challenges to overcome. Practical lessons for North Korea can be drawn from the experiences of Eastern European countries and some countries in East Asia that have made the economic transition to the market system, such as Vietnam. For a successful economic transition, internal factors such as initial conditions, speed of policy implementation, policy priorities, and human capital capacity building programs, are critical for success. At the same time, external factors are also important. Nearby countries, multilateral development banks, bilateral ODA agencies, and multinationals can all contribute to the smooth economic transition and reform of North Korea.

### **Korea's concessional ODA loans: trends and implications**

Donghun Kim

*Director, Center for International Studies, Yonsei University*

---

## **PANEL 1H – Scaling up**

*11.00am – 12.30pm, Miller Theatre*

Chair: Robin Davies

*Head, Indo-Pacific Centre for Regional Health Security, DFAT*

### **From pilots to scale: a story of Australian aid in Indonesia**

Byron Pakula, Fleur Davies and Angelos Blackwood

*Team Leader – Aid Effectiveness, Clear Horizon; Assistant Secretary, DFAT; Senior Consultant, Clear Horizon*

Indonesia's development as a middle-income country has necessitated a change in thinking about Australia's development program. Increasingly, Australia is supporting the piloting of new approaches that target constraints to Indonesia's growth and poverty reduction, while aiming to leverage resources from the government of Indonesia, the private sector, and other actors. Due to the enormous size and diversity of Indonesia – geographically, socially and economically – scaling proven models into policy (scale up), new regions (scale out), new sectors (scale deep) supports the mainstreaming of innovations while catalysing impacts from the Australian development program. However, an initial review of pilot programs in Australia's development program highlights that there are opportunities to improve the rigour of approaches to pilots and scaling. It can be difficult and resource-intensive to ensure a clear approach to developing, implementing and learning from all pilot initiatives that programs undertake. Moreover, initial findings emphasise the challenges of using findings from sub-national pilots to successfully influence national policies. Lessons demonstrate that the hypothesis of the pilot interventions be clearly articulated, and for the monitoring and evaluation framework to be able to answer the question 'how do we know if this is working, and will it work on a larger scale in new contexts'. Moreover, the plan for scaling up, out or deep ought to be part of the design, including an understanding of the political economy. Piloting should be driven by the program team and core stakeholders in Bappenas or the line ministry, while scaling should be led by a broader range of actors that includes special interest groups. Finally, there is a balance that needs to be struck between fail fast / fail cheap / fail safe and strategic patience to optimally assess the future potential. This paper highlights the theory and lessons drawn from case studies in Australia's development program in Indonesia.

### **Influencing and accountable governance to build resilience at scale**

Elsa Carnaby, Jayne Pilkinton, Charlotte Sterrett, Liz Hogan, Julie Webb and Edward Boydell

*Disaster Risk Reduction Adviser, Performance Analysis Lead, Climate Change Program Adviser, and Program Learning Adviser, Oxfam Australia; Independent Consultant; Independent Consultant*

Building resilience at scale requires systems-based approaches – technical interventions alone will not bring about lasting change. A growing number of Oxfam's resilient development projects work with civil society and communities to influence structural change to facilitate shifts in power and strengthen accountable governance. Traditionally these resilient development initiatives have focused on community-based adaptation and disaster

risk reduction. However, increasingly there is recognition that to address the inequality of risk and vulnerability, a purposeful and shared influencing strategy is required to enable systems-level change. Oxfam conducted research to better understand how programs use influencing to build accountable governance and resilience at scale. The research analysed documentation across multiple country programs, supplemented by interviews with program staff, to uncover emerging themes and patterns in influencing approaches and to identify what shaped emerging accountable governance outcomes. A literature review identified gaps in learning and evidence about the intersection between resilient development approaches and influencing. Informed by the literature review, the research developed analytical frameworks to build an overall picture of Oxfam's resilient development work in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Bangladesh and Pakistan. Oxfam will present findings and share reflections and thinking about the practice implications for a more intentional focus on resilient development strategies that contribute to change at scale in accountable governance. This also requires consideration of the conditions, resources and capabilities that enable these approaches. This session presents an opportunity for discussing the use of systems thinking to contribute to resilient development approaches and practice at different levels; the use of analytical frameworks to explore levels of governance, domains of change, and influencing tactics; and what the findings could mean for resilient development approaches and practice.

### **Expanding community-based services for non-communicable diseases: the abundant health model in Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam**

Xuan Thuy Nguyen, Rebecca Dirks and Megan Averill

*Senior Program Manager – Abundant Health, Deputy Director – Program Sciences & Technical Support, and Senior Technical Adviser, FHI360*

Vietnam is facing a rapid rise in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) that dramatically impact morbidity and tax the health system. Through the Abundant Health Project, funded by the Pfizer Foundation, FHI 360 works with local government stakeholders to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of commune health stations (CHSs) to screen for and manage hypertension (HTN) and diabetes mellitus (DM). Consistent with the country's NCD control strategy for 2015-2025, these efforts bring NCD services from hospitals to the community and primary healthcare level, increasing access and service uptake. Since 2016, the Abundant Health program has worked with CHSs in Ho Chi Minh City to implement a community-centred NCD service model. Its three key elements are promoting awareness of NCD risk factors through community outreach and community collaborators, strengthening provider capacity to deliver NCD screening and management services at community level using an interdisciplinary team-based approach, and strengthening the health system's capacity to use collaborative learning models for improvement. In addition, the project has worked closely with stakeholders to increase the use of social health insurance for community NCD services. Results indicate a significant increase in HTN and DM screening and management at the community level. For example, in the project's first intervention area – Tan Phu district – the number of community members screened annually for HTN more than quadrupled, from 3,472 (January-December 2015) to 15,101 (July 2017-May 2018). The number of individuals managed for HTN increased nearly eight-fold during the same time, from 66 to 510. Moreover, the number of CHS visits for which social health insurance provided coverage increased 23-fold, from 225 in 2015 to 5,195 in 2017. To achieve impact at scale, in mid-2018 FHI 360 began assisting the city's health authorities to scale-up the Abundant Health model across all 319 of the city's CHSs.

### **From innovation to scale and impact: factors influencing adoption of health interventions initiated by FHI360 in the Asia-Pacific region**

Amy Weissman and Lauren Bader

*Technical Director – Health and Nutrition, Asia Pacific, and Regional Program Manager, Asia Pacific, FHI360*

Public health efforts aim to ensure more people benefit from an effective health intervention and that the benefits are sustained—we do so by taking deliberate action to scale up. But why are some interventions adopted at scale and able to reach national impact, while others fizzle out? This question continues to plague international organisations, donors, and governments that seek to improve health and well-being outcomes. Thus, there is a vital need to understand the intersecting factors facilitating an effective response at scale. To answer this question, FHI 360 identified four innovative projects implemented at scale in the Asia Pacific region. Innovation was defined as an activity that is “different from standard practice and has the potential for radical social, environmental, or economic impact.” At scale was defined as implementation that employed a “deliberate effort to increase the impact of successfully tested health innovations in pilot or experimental projects to benefit more people and to foster policy and program development on a lasting basis.” The projects selected were methadone maintenance therapy in Vietnam, early infant diagnosis of HIV using dried blood spot testing in Nepal, patient-centred care model for treating multi-drug resistant tuberculosis in China, and online-to-offline reservations for HIV testing in Thailand. For each project, researchers reviewed documents, conducted in-depth interviews with purposefully sampled project staff, donors, government officials, implementing partners who supported, funded, and/or were involved in the innovation, and conducted site

visits of currently active projects to observe intervention implementation. Results are still being analysed, but preliminary findings suggest that these four projects' pathways to scale are aligned with the scaling-up literature that highlights the importance of stakeholder recognition of the problem and the intervention as the solution, a champion who shepherds the process, and strong technical and operational teams to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate the scale-up process.

---

## **PANEL 1I – Indigenous languages in development**

*11.00am – 12.30pm, Seminar Room 7*

*UNESCO has designated 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages, acknowledging that language is “pivotal in the areas of human rights protection, good governance, peace building, reconciliation, and sustainable development.” This panel will discuss the importance of Indigenous languages for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, illustrated through projects from Australian and international contexts.*

Chair: Hilary Smith  
*Honorary Affiliate, College of Arts and Social Sciences, ANU*

### **Indigenous languages and wellbeing**

Hilary Smith, Carmel O’Shannessy, Inge Kral, Denise Angelo and Jane Simpson  
*Honorary Affiliate, College of Arts and Social Sciences, ANU; Lecturer, School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics, ANU; Researcher and Lecturer, ANU; PhD Candidate, ANU; and Chair of Indigenous Linguistics and Deputy Director, ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language, ANU*

Indigenous communities globally stress the central importance of their languages for all aspects of their wellbeing. This paper reports on findings of a review of international literature as part of the background for the National Indigenous Languages Report (NILR) carried out by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). We show how the use of Indigenous languages has been shown to contribute to wellbeing in a range of international post-colonial settings, with examples of projects meeting a range of the dimensions of wellbeing.

### **Digital cultural practice: engaging indigenous young people in Malaysia**

Inge Kral  
*Researcher and Lecturer, ANU*

This paper describes a project with the Orang Asli Indigenous community, marginalised from the mainstream in Malaysia. Young people who had previously been disengaged from formal learning were involved in a community-based digital media project using their Indigenous Semai language. Through participation in the making of films with the village head man, they gained control of their own literacy and learning practices.

### **The importance of language revival from a learner’s perspective**

Sarah Loynes  
*Student, ANU*

This presentation will speak to the importance of encouraging language revitalisation from the perspective of a Gamilaraay and Yuwaalaraay woman studying the Gamilaraay language.

---

## **PANEL 2A – Using a gender lens to influence impact finance in our region**

*1.30 – 3.00pm, Molonglo Theatre*

*This panel will review and reflect on the on-the-ground experience of using a gender lens in the impact investment ecosystem in Asia and the Pacific.*

Chair: Amy Haddad  
*Assistant Secretary and Principal Gender Specialist, Gender Equality Branch, DFAT*

Discussants:

Joy Anderson  
*President and Founder, Criterion Institute*

Amanda Jupp  
*Facility Manager, Pacific RISE*

Sally Moyle  
*CEO, CARE Australia*

Will Scott-Kemmis  
*Design Lead, SecondMuse (Frontier Innovators and Incubators)*

James Soukamneuth  
*Impact Investing Partnership Director, Investing in Women*

---

## **PANEL 2B – Aid as a soft power asset**

*1.30 – 3.00pm, Weston Theatre*

*Against the backdrop of the Australian Government’s soft power review, this panel will discuss the strategic benefits of aid. It will explore the relationship between aid and diplomatic relations, trade, security, influence and reputation, and debate the merits of framing the benefits of aid in security and strategic language.*

Chair: Dane Moores  
*Senior Economic Development Policy Adviser, World Vision Australia*

Discussants:

Andrew Byrne  
*First Assistant Secretary, Soft Power, Communications and Scholarships Division, DFAT*

Andrew Campbell  
*CEO, ACIAR*

Byron Pakula  
*Team Leader – Aid Effectiveness, Clear Horizon*

Bridi Rice  
*Director of Policy and Advocacy, ACFID*

---

## **PANEL 2C – Can Australia champion disaster risk reduction? Sendai, the Asia Pacific and 2020**

*1.30 – 3.00pm, Barton Theatre*

*This panel will examine progress towards the implementation of the Sendai Framework’s goal of reducing disaster risk and losses in lives and livelihoods, particularly in the Asia Pacific region. It will examine Australia’s leadership of the Ministerial Platform and the opportunities for meaningful change that the 2020 platform might afford.*

Chair: Elsa Carnaby  
*Disaster Risk Reduction Adviser, Oxfam Australia*

Discussants:

Jamie Isbister  
*First Assistant Secretary, Humanitarian, NGOs & Partnerships Division, DFAT*

Robert Glasser  
*Honorary Associate Professor, ANU*

Meimei Leung  
*Humanitarian Emergency Affairs Director, World Vision East Asia*

## **PANEL 2D – Pathways to peace in Southeast Asia**

*1.30 – 3.00pm, Acton Theatre*

*How can emerging international policy consensus and commitments to support locally-led conflict prevention be put into effect on the ground in Southeast Asia? In this session, panellists will frame their perspectives against recent reports: the World Bank-UN's [Pathways for peace: inclusive approaches to preventing violent conflict](#) and The Asia Foundation's [The state of conflict and violence in Asia](#).*

Chair: Thomas Parks  
*Thailand Country Representative, The Asia Foundation*

Discussants:

Sakuntala Akmeemana  
*Principal Specialist – Governance, Development Policy Division, DFAT*

Sam Chittick  
*Country Representative – Philippines, The Asia Foundation*

Suzanne Damman  
*Senior Program Manager, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue*

John Langmore  
*Professorial Fellow, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne*

---

## **PANEL 2E – Collaborative partnerships in health security surveillance and response**

*1.30 – 3.00pm, Brindabella Theatre*

*This panel will deliver findings on an assessment of system resilience to respond to emerging infectious disease threats, particularly in Solomon Islands. It will also provide results of decision support systems and a large sero-survey for vector-borne diseases conducted in Solomon Islands, and discuss projects on tuberculosis in Fiji and zoonoses in PNG.*

Chair: Emma McBryde  
*Professor, James Cook University*

### **Overview of the outcomes of the project: tropical partners in health security**

Emma McBryde  
*Professor, James Cook University*

There is a need for Australia to display leadership for the Asia-Pacific region by providing assistance with core capacity strengthening, encouraging regional assessment and addressing recognised gaps, as well as providing the necessary expertise to strengthen the health security workforce for the region. The Tropical Partners project involved a consortium of institutes in Australia and the Pacific region using innovative tools for policy evaluation and decision support, research mentorship, workforce development and mutual learning within the region. It collectively developed stronger health system capacity to support timely, effective responses to emerging infectious disease threats. This presentation reflects on the findings and the achievements of the project and the threats and lessons learned operationally and scientifically. Three themes underlie the activity in the project. Theme 1 – capacity strengthening through implementation research in surveillance and response activities – involved three cohorts of professional health/surveillance/response workers employed predominantly by government agencies across five countries in the Asia-Pacific (Solomon Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Timor L este and Indonesia). Modification of the SORT-IT model of implementation research training allowed the focus of research to be on surveillance and response, and outputs to include policy briefs in addition to traditional publications. Theme 2a was a mapping of health system resilience against indicators that extended beyond the constraints of the International Health Regulations (IHR2005) to include numerous factors that are essential for health system resilience, such as community trust

and governance. This mapping was conducted in the Solomon Islands at national and sub-national levels. Theme 2b was a quantitative mapping exercise, developing a visual tool for policy makers to investigate the risk of infectious diseases international spread from source countries throughout the globe, using global travel and disease transmission models. Theme 3 involved four separate projects in the field that serve as examples of collaborative research between Australian investigators and regional teams, in particular focussing on capacity building in-country to allow for ongoing research, surveillance and response. This paper provides an overview of outcomes of the project.

### **Investigating the distribution and prevalence of important zoonotic diseases in PNG**

Willie Pomat

*Director, PNG Institute of Medical Research*

Over 60% of the pathogens known to infect humans have a zoonotic origin, and the recent emergence of Ebola, avian influenza viruses and coronaviruses underscore the potential impacts of these diseases. Recent outbreaks of Japanese encephalitis (JEV) and dengue in Australia have highlighted the threat that these pathogens present. Unfortunately the distribution and epidemiology of these pathogens is largely unknown due to the poor surveillance capacities of human and animal health authorities in the region. Samples from PNG IMR National Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Authority and the Wildlife Conservation Society were used to investigate the prevalence and distribution of important zoonotic pathogens in domestic and wildlife animals. Samples from bats and rodents were tested for antibodies to regionally important pathogens such as JEV, Murray Valley encephalitis virus (MVEV) and kunjin virus (KUNV) and leptospirosis. This project will provide greater understanding of these pathogens in the region and will better define the risk of incursion of exotic viruses and bacterial pathogens. The development of new surveillance capabilities in the region will provide faster, more comprehensive disease outbreak responses and more targeted surveillance activities in countries where this capacity has been limited. This will provide direct benefits for risk reduction of zoonotic disease outbreaks and mitigation of risk for endemic diseases and create mechanisms for on-going partnership between the human and animal health sectors establishing a One-Health platform. This presentation will reflect on the outcomes of the program, the capacity gaps at PNGIMR, and the ways forward.

### **Health research capacity-building models in the Asia-Pacific region**

Maxine Whittaker and Humpress Harrington

*Dean, College of Public Health, Medical and Veterinary Sciences, and Adjunct Senior Lecturer, James Cook University*

A fit-for-purpose health workforce, appropriately distributed geographically, networked, and with required skillsets is an essential part of detecting and responding to emerging infectious diseases. This project adopted the successful elements of the Structured Operational Research and Training Initiative (SORT-IT) model but customised it to support advocacy, policy and practice translation. The research focused on local policy-relevant implementation projects, identified by and developed with local partners (ministries of health, research institutes and community organisations). Existing curricula was modified and short courses delivered for research capacity required to best inform public health policy. Content of the SORT-IT curriculum was modified according to specific group needs assessments. Targeted calls for public health workers wanting to upskill were made in collaboration with the departments of health, biosecurity and agriculture in our partnering countries. We were able to attract 10-20 research fellows each from Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Eastern Indonesia (where the workshops were held) and additional fellows from Timor L este and PNG, to undertake the training and an implementation research project in an area of high priority identified by their country teams. These countries were chosen as they share borders, and form an important collaborative cross border network presently missing in the regional health architecture and that complements other networks in the Asia Pacific. Links with within-country research and training institutions have enabled co-supervision arrangements with regional institutional capacity strengthening, including in-country mentors selected from departments of health and national universities. Participants were required to meet with policymakers to assist their choice of project and develop cross-institutional linkages. Using this approach, we were able to develop local capacity-strengthening models that built networks, were scalable, and formed a template for efforts throughout the Pacific and region as a whole. This presentation will describe the outcomes and reflect on the impact, the lessons learned and the core principles of success, to enable scale-up and diffusion of the training. It will also describe the research conducted during the training process on the training process itself: a multiple case study approach to investigate the value of health research capacity building models in the Solomon Islands.

---

## **PANEL 2F – Impact evaluations in PNG and the Pacific**

*1.30 – 3.00pm, Lennox Room*

*This panel will discuss the results of some of the most recent impact evaluations in the region, including the first two randomised control trials that have taken place. Panellists will provide an overview of the impact of development programs they evaluate, which focus on community-driven development, financial inclusion, employment creation and post-disaster cash transfers. The panel will also discuss the prospects for further impact evaluations to be conducted in the region.*

Chair: Michelle Shepherdson

*Assistant Director, Poverty and Social Transfers Section, Development Policy Division, DFA*

### **Can vouchers reduce elite capture of local development projects? Experimental evidence from Solomon Islands**

Pauline Grosjean

*Professor, University of New South Wales*

External financing of local public goods can potentially create 'political resource curses' by reducing citizen oversight, exacerbating elite capture, and producing policy outcomes that are sub-optimal for the general population. This paper experimentally tests a novel mechanism that seeks to mitigate elite capture of local development projects. Control communities are provided with block grants to fund local public goods, while households in treatment communities are provided with vouchers that they may either contribute to a public good or redeem at a discount for a private capital good. We find that the use of vouchers as a mechanism for aid delivery increases community participation in local public decision-making, changes the nature of allocation outcomes, and improves community satisfaction with allocation outcomes.

### **An ex-post evaluation of the effectiveness of the horticulture project in the Marshall Islands (2011-2014)**

Yan-Tzong Cheng and Yun-Ching Tseng

*Junior Specialist, Research, Development and Evaluation Office, Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund*

This research explores the Taiwanese government's development aid and aid effectiveness of a horticulture project's intervention and uses an evidence-based approach to prove the effects of the Taiwanese aid project. To respond to current trends, Taiwan's professional development aid agency, the International Cooperation and Development Fund (TaiwanICDF) focuses on projects that have been completed to conduct ex-post evaluations. This is a cross-sectional study with a quasi-experimental design and mixed methods. In order to comply with the framework of quasi-experimental design, participants of the projects were assigned to the experimental group, and non-participants assigned to the control group. Data was collected through a structured questionnaire, and one interviewer conducted household surveys in the field for 40 days. A team was also dispatched on an ex-post evaluation mission to the Marshall Islands to interview stakeholders of the projects. A total of 99 valid questionnaires were collected from 38 project participants and 61 non-participants. The average household consumption of vegetables and fruits is 6.18 units (SD=7.84). Comparing project participants with non-participants, consumption of vegetables and fruits is 3.64 units higher for project participants than non-participants ( $P=0.051$ ). Results from regression analysis indicate that participation in the project significantly affects consumption of vegetables and fruits ( $p<.05$ ). The major three components of the project (provision of resources, capacity building and vegetable and fruit promotion) improved the consumption of vegetables and fruits. Additionally, the project assisted participants in increasing their income, because they could sell their produce at the market. The design of the projects meets the needs of the partner countries, and the contents of the projects are in line with the theory of change.

### **Taking financial access to remote and insecure areas: impacts of a comprehensive financial inclusion intervention in Papua New Guinea**

Christopher Hoy

*Research Associate, ANU*

We study the impacts of a comprehensive financial inclusion program in a uniquely remote, insecure, low-trust setting, lacking bridging institutions to facilitate sustained interventions. The program involves two-day financial literacy training, timely offers of no-fee bank accounts with reduced administrative hurdles, and savings 'nudges'. Previous evaluations of financial inclusion programs have typically considered such interventions in isolation, but in more accessible settings, with mixed results. This comprehensive program is evaluated in

Wewak district of the East Sepik province of Papua New Guinea, by randomly assigning treatment to half of 80 wards. Quasi-experimental variation allows for partial decomposition of the effects of the main elements of the treatment bundle. The program has been implemented in line with baseline power calculations, with 25% of adults in treatment wards attending training, and bank accounts being offered to trainees in every treatment ward immediately after training. Impacts will be estimated by analysing primary surveys and administrative data.

### **Can public works programs reduce youth crime? Evidence from Papua New Guinea's Urban Youth Employment Project**

Darian Naidoo

*Consultant, World Bank*

Crime rates in Papua New Guinea's capital city of Port Moresby are among the highest in the world. Few youth work, and good jobs are scarce. In 2013, the National Capital District Commission partnered with the World Bank to implement the Urban Youth Employment Project. The project offers out-of-school and out of work youth two months of public works employment or, for academically qualified candidates, six months of classroom and on-the-job training. This paper presents difference-in-differences estimates of project impacts on participants' social and criminal behaviour 12 to 18 months after completion. The control group consists of observably similar youth living in areas not served by the program. Project participants became less likely to hang out with friends at night, have a best friend involved in crime, and have friends involved in fights or robberies. The program also increased subsequent employment rates and significantly reduced aggressive behaviour and gratuitous property damage. However, there is little robust evidence that the program reduced participants' engagement in or exposure to crime. The study concludes that the program had strong and healthy effects on participants' peer group and behaviour, but more limited effects on the socio-economic causes of crime.

---

## **PANEL 2G – Local development in developing and developed countries**

*1.30 – 3.00pm, Griffin Room*

*This panel evaluates local development efforts, such as pursuing development plans and wrestling with the middle-income trap, for countries in Northeast Asia including North and South Korea, China, and Japan. It will shed light on promises and challenges of such efforts for developing and developed countries.*

Chair: Fiona Yap

*Associate Professor, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU*

### **A comparative study on the impact of housing factors on voting behaviours: evidence from the regional electoral politics of three Northeast Asian countries**

Jaekwon Cha and Hoyoung Chung

*Head, Research Institute for Regional Decentralisation and Development, and Graduate Student, Pukyong National University*

### **A GIS-based analysis of official development assistance of Korean local governments**

Jung-Yoon Lee and Jaeseong Anh

*Dean, Division of International Commerce, College of Business Administration, Pukyong National University; Associate Professor, Kyungil University*

### **Foreign direct investment in local areas and its impact on regional development: some lessons from Northeast Asian countries**

Seonyoung Seo and Beomjong Park

*Research Fellow, Research Institute for Regional Decentralisation and Development, and Research Fellow, Pukyong National University*

### **Local government institutions and sustainable economic development: exploring different political and administrative motivations**

Geiguen Shin and Byongkuen Jhee

*Postdoctoral Research Associate, State University of New Jersey; Associate Professor, Chosun University*

### **Decentralisation and public trust in governments: a comparative study of Japan and South Korea**

Jaekwon Suh and Jaehyun Lee

*Associate Professor, Pusan National University; Research Fellow, Chungnam National University*

## PANEL 2H – Aid case studies I

1.30 – 3.00pm, Miller Theatre

Chair: Cate Rogers

*Assistant Secretary, Development Policy and Education Branch, DFAT*

### **Save the date: an evaluation of a child marriage program in Nepal**

Maria Amigo

*Academic Director, Professional and Community Engagement Team, Macquarie University*

10% of girls in Nepal get married before they turn 15, and 37% before they turn 18, meaning that Nepal has the third highest incidence of child marriage of countries in South Asia. Consequences of early marriage for girls are well known and can be summarised by stating that it disrupts their educational aspirations and thus their chances of becoming economically self-sufficient, diminishes their autonomy to make decisions about their own body and reproductive health, and increases their vulnerability to gender and domestic violence. Together, all these fuel the cycle of poverty and perpetuate gender discrimination, violence and the power imbalance between genders. The Save the Date project is a joint initiative between national and international NGOs to address child marriage through a multi-pronged intervention, between 2015 and 2017. Save the Date entailed three components: an educational program on sexual and reproductive health and life skills for grade 5-9 students and their communities, the broadcast of a radio drama portraying stories of child marriage and its consequences, and a helpline number for young people to report cases of child marriage or get support if involved in one. This joint intervention reached close to 90,000 beneficiaries through the education program, and many more through the radio drama, which was broadcasted by 57 radio stations covering 85% of the Nepalese territory. This presentation will communicate the results of the final evaluation for the project, which entailed a mixed methods approach with a baseline and endline survey, and a phase of qualitative data collection with beneficiaries and program stakeholders. The presentation will highlight the project's achievements, but also indicate the contextual factors that conditioned it.

### **Thinking and working politically in the Vanuatu skills sector: supporting local leadership and building a political constituency for change**

Julien Barbara

*Senior Policy Fellow, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU*

Interest in thinking and working politically has emphasised the importance of local leadership to the development and implementation of more effective aid interventions and the mobilisation of effective reform campaigns. However, supporting local leadership can be challenging for donors in sectors where interests are disorganised, making the adoption of politically-aware development approaches difficult. This paper considers the issue of local leadership in the skills sector by drawing on the example of the DFAT-funded Vanuatu Skills Partnership (VSP). One of VSP's biggest contributions has been helping reform Vanuatu's traditional technical and vocational educational training system into a decentralised and demand-driven skills system better able to support its inclusive development objectives. Key to VSP's program success has been its cultivation of a common consciousness concerning the aims and opportunities of the sector amongst a broad range of stakeholders, which has provided a better foundation for more effective local leadership and collective action. VSP's experience provides an interesting perspective on what it means for donors to work politically, with the program acting in creative ways to build a political constituency for long-term reform. This paper will consider the ways in which VSP helped support local leadership as a basis for working politically in an emerging sector.

### **Scholarships and their long-term outcomes on development**

Daniel Edwards, Jo Doyle and Amanda Taylor

*Facility Manager and Research Director, Deputy Facility Manager and Research Fellow, and Facility Research Officer and Research Fellow, Australian Council for Educational Research*

The Australia Awards Global Tracer Facility is an initiative developed to enable the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to assess the development contributions and public and economic diplomacy outcomes of the Australia Awards and predecessor scholarships. The Australia Awards are a key element of the Australian aid program. For over 60 years, Australia has invested in generations of global leaders by providing opportunities for study, research and professional development in Australia and the region. Since the Colombo Plan of the 1950's, over 80,000 Australia Awards have been offered to high achievers from the Indo-Pacific region and beyond. These scholarships and fellowships have provided high-quality educational experiences, fostered people-to-people links, and contributed to improved living standards and economic growth. Significant challenges exist in monitoring and evaluating the contribution of Australia Awards and predecessor programs. The Facility has been generating consistent and comparable information on alumni, and does so through an

annual global survey and numerous in-depth case studies, building an evidence base focusing on the four long-term outcomes identified in the Australia Awards Global Strategy. This presentation outlines the methodology developed by the Facility to examine the long-term outcomes of the Australia Awards. Using results from the Facility's research, including a tracer survey of over 2,000 alumni and nine case studies, we will illustrate how alumni are able to contribute to their country's development and public and economic diplomacy outcomes over the course of their careers. These findings are useful for researchers, practitioners and policymakers in international development in gaining insight into the methodology and outcomes of a long-term evaluation of scholarships and more broadly, further examine the role of scholarships in this sector.

### **Evaluating the Pacific Open Learning Health Net**

Michele Rumsey, Jodie Thiessen and Amanda Neill

*Director, Research and Development Manager, and Program Manager, WHO Collaborating Centre, University of Technology Sydney*

Since 2003, the Pacific Open Learning Health Net (POLHN) has provided an important learning and professional development resource for Pacific health workers. But since inception there have been many changes in the POLHN environment, such as the increase in availability of short courses through global e-learning pathways, increase in the Pacific region's capacity to study online, and changes in funding for POLHN. Therefore, the WHO Collaborating Centre (WHO CC) at the University of Technology Sydney, funded by the World Health Organization (WHO), undertook an in-depth evaluation using a mixed-methods approach incorporating quantitative and qualitative data such as online metrics, document reviews, online surveys and interviews and/or focus groups with relevant stakeholders. The team visited seven Pacific countries (Solomon Islands, Samoa, Nauru, Kiribati, Fiji, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu) and interviewed over 150 stakeholders. Despite challenges, the WHO CC team found that POLHN has managed to successfully bridge several gaps in provision of education for the health workforce in the Pacific. This includes 318 working computers managed by Ministries of Health who support 52 country focal points to coordinate POLHN across 15 countries and 54 POLHN Learning Centres, and the thousands of short courses available through Lippincott Nursing Centre, Medscape, and Global Health eLearning Centre. In addition, 362 students have graduated from post-graduate courses through Fiji National University via POLHN since 2008, 91 medical laboratory assistants have graduated from the Pacific Paramedical Training Centre, and 22 dental hygienists have graduated through Penn Foster. 75% of students surveyed remained in their own countries during and following POLHN study, and 87% of POLHN post-graduate students said involvement in POLHN courses has been very/extremely useful for their health sector position. In an environment where funding is tight, an established system providing further education for isolated Pacific island health workers is still a welcome method of education and continuing professional development.

---

### **Keynote panel – China's development cooperation in focus: opportunities and challenges**

*3.30pm, Molonglo Theatre*

*Chinese development cooperation in Asia and the Pacific is growing rapidly. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China's massive connectivity and infrastructure program, is complemented by expanding partnerships with civil society, increased multilateral efforts through the United Nations and international financial institutions (such as AIIB), and the establishment of a dedicated development cooperation agency in 2018. In this keynote panel, Chinese experts will share their insights on the rationale, aspirations and challenges of Chinese development cooperation, particularly in relation to the BRI, responsible investment, the new development cooperation agency, and China's engagement in the Pacific.*

Chair: Anthea Mulakala

*Director – International Development Cooperation, The Asia Foundation*

Discussants:

Hongbo Ji

*Country Representative – China, The Asia Foundation*

Yujia Shen  
*Research Fellow, National Centre for Oceania Studies, Sun Yat-sen University*

Jinghang Jia  
*Research Fellow, International Economics and Finance Institute, Ministry of Finance, China*

Xiuli Xu  
*Vice Dean, China Institute for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture*

---

**Keynote panel – Making evaluation influential: evaluation knowledge for development effectiveness**

*3.30pm, Weston Theatre*

*Panellists representing leading global and regional evaluation efforts will share their insights on the use of evaluation as a key tool in improving the quality and effectiveness of development support. Evaluation feedback for effective accountability and learning will be discussed and debated, and insights and experiences from multilateral development banks will be highlighted.*

Chair: Véronique N. Salze-Lozac'h

*Deputy Director General, Independent Evaluation Department, Asian Development Bank*

Discussants:

Robert Christie

*Assistant Secretary, Office of Development Effectiveness, DFAT*

Emmanuel Jimenez

*Executive Director, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation*

Syurkani Ishak Kasim

*Chair – Development Effectiveness Committee, Asian Development Bank*

Jyotsna Puri

*Head, Independent Evaluation Unit, Green Climate Fund*

**Keynote panel – Neglected in health and development: mental health and psychosocial disability**

*3.30pm, Barton Theatre*

*This keynote panel will highlight the need for an increased focus on mental health and psychosocial disability within the disability-inclusive development agenda, and provide some best-practice examples and learnings for development practitioners.*

Chair: Teresa Hall

*Research Fellow, University of Melbourne*

Discussants:

Becca Allchin

*FaPMI Coordinator, Monash University*

Aleisha Carroll

*Disability Inclusion Advisor, CBM Australia*

Bhargavi Davar

*Asia Pacific Representative, Transforming Communities for Inclusion*

Helen Fernandes

*Principal Investigator – Effectiveness Team, TEAR Australia*

---

**CONFERENCE DINNER**

*6.30pm, Great Hall, University House*

Celebration of [2018 Aid Profiles](#)

Presentation of the 2019 Mitchell Humanitarian Award

**Wednesday 20 February 2018**

**PANEL 3A – Advocating for Australian aid**

*8.00 – 9.30am, Molonglo Theatre*

*Since 2013, the Australian government's commitment to aid spending has declined, with the aid budget reaching record lows as a percentage of gross national income. This decline has occurred despite the ongoing efforts of aid advocates, raising questions about the efficacy of current advocacy approaches. There is renewed interest in understanding, for example, the role advocacy campaigns can play in driving aid policy change, how (and at whom) to most effectively target aid advocacy efforts, and the role public attitudes play in shaping aid spending decisions. This panel brings together researchers who have recently published articles addressing these questions.*

Chair: Marion Stanton  
*Head of Government Relations, Save the Children Australia*

Discussants:

Benjamin Day  
*Associate Lecturer, Department of International Relations, ANU*

Christopher Hoy  
*Research Associate, ANU*

Joanna Spratt  
*Advocacy and Campaigns Director, Oxfam New Zealand*

Tamas Wells  
*Research Fellow, Policy Hub, University of Melbourne*

Terence Wood  
*Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU*

---

**PANEL 3B – Using a theological approach to address inequality and conflict**

*8.00 – 9.30am, Weston Theatre*

*Working with and through Christian churches can be key to effectively challenging underlying belief systems and enabling transformative change. This panel will review a range of experiences which speak to the need to include theological approaches that establish all people as equal in relevant development contexts.*

Chair: Jane Kennedy  
*Associate Director – Asia and Africa, UnitingWorld*

**Cultivating peace, resilience and equality in a conflict-prone multi-faith context**

Jeny Elna Mahupale  
*Chairperson and Project Manager, Sagu Salempeng Foundation, Gereja Protestan Maluku*

**Engaging Biblical theology for social justice and human rights in Indonesia**

Henrietta Lebang  
*President, Communion of Churches Indonesia*

**Working with and through churches to support empowerment of marginalised groups as a minority faith in a multi-faith context**

Debora Murthy  
*South-East Asia Regional Coordinator (Bali), UnitingWorld*

---

## **PANEL 3C – Tracking progress on World Humanitarian Summit commitments in the Pacific**

**8.00 – 9.30am, Barton Theatre**

*This panel will explore current approaches, including from a Pacific perspective, to measuring progress and creating an evidence base to track progress on localisation and other commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit. Discussion will include a focus on sharing learning, as well as exploring progress on the commitments, findings from the localisation demonstrator missions from the Australian Red Cross and DFAT, and regional measurement processes from PIANGO and the Humanitarian Advisory Group.*

Chair: Emele Duituturaga  
*Executive Director, Pacific Islands Association of Non-Government Organisations*

Discussants:

Linda Kenni  
*Humanitarian Advisory Group*

Josaia Jirauni  
*Policy and Research Officer, Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO)*

Fiona Tarpey  
*Australian Red Cross*

Grace Asten  
*Program Manager, Anglican Overseas Aid*

---

## **PANEL 3D – Strengthening local-level women’s leadership for policy change: evidence from Indonesia**

**8.00 – 9.30am, Acton Theatre**

*MAMPU is the Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality. This panel will feature key partners of MAMPU – Indonesian civil society organisations that champion women’s issues – and discuss their strategies and approaches and the role of aid.*

Chair: Amy Haddad  
*Assistant Secretary and Principal Gender Specialist, Gender Equality Branch, DFAT*

Discussants:

Dina Lumbantobing  
*Consortium Coordinator, PERMAMPU (Women’s NGO Consortium, Sumatra)*

Kate Shanahan  
*Team Leader, MAMPU*

Nani Zulminarni  
*Executive Director, Program Kepala Keluarga (Pekka) (Female-headed Households Program)*

---

## **PANEL 3E – Impact of technology on developing Asia**

**8.00 – 9.30am, Brindabella Theatre**

*Rapid advances in technology, including mobile communication, artificial intelligence, robotics, big data, psychographics, and biotech, are fundamentally changing economic, political, social, and security conditions in the Indo Pacific region. This panel will discuss the impact all this is having on developing countries, and adjustments needed in development policy and practice.*

Chair: Sakuntala Akmeemana  
*Principal Specialist – Governance, Development Policy Division, DFAT*

### **Tech-driven disruption and the challenge for developing Asia**

William Cole

*Senior Advisor – Program Strategy, The Asia Foundation*

### **Effects of automation on workers**

Yixiao Zhou

*Research Fellow, ANU*

### **Entrepreneurship and the new digital economy**

John Karr

*Senior Director – Technology Programs, The Asia Foundation*

### **Cyber threats and cyber security**

Klee Aiken

*Senior Advisor – Strategic Engagement and Capacity Building, Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre*

---

## **Panel 3F – Water, food, energy and climate – the importance of integration**

*8.00 – 9.30am, Lennox Room*

*Food, water and energy security, influenced by climate change, is a major challenge. Development programming and policy remains siloed, affecting development interventions. This panel provides examples of how the water, food, energy, climate nexus has been used in policy and programming, and suggests steps to incorporate nexus thinking and practice.*

Chair: Bob McMullan

*Chair, Australian Water Partnership Advisory Committee*

Discussants:

Jody Swirepik

*Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, Department of Environment*

Clare Walsh

*Deputy Secretary – Global Cooperation, Development and Partnerships Group, DFAT*

Mario Herrero

*Chief Research Scientist, CSIRO Agriculture and Food*

Alice Chapple

*Head of Development Impact, Private Infrastructure Development Group*

---

## **Panel 3G – NGOs and volunteers**

*8.00 – 9.30am, Griffin Room*

Chair: Paul Bird

*CEO, AVI*

### **Saviour mentality or victor mentality – what are we doing here?**

Adam Everill and Jacqui Joseph

*Co-founder and Chief Strategy Officer, and Co-founder and CEO, Equal Playing Field*

Equal Playing Field (EPF) explores a dominant paradigm of international aid – the ‘saviour mentality’ – juxtaposed with new order thinking – ‘victor mentality’. The aid/development industry is finding it difficult to recruit high quality talent because of a small talent pool and the absorption of existing talent into the upper layers of the aid apparatus. The Autonomous Region of Bougainville prioritises youth in its strategic plan, but failures in the aid response highlight lessons also apparent in large-scale multilateral programs. These two issues are analogous. The old power delivers to the new; service delivery not empowerment. There are certainly positives to the current aid apparatus. Program management companies and INGO’s bring a wealth of expertise needed for the development of local organisations, but while making ground in some areas we

are retracting in others. Cases of fraud inspire new complex layers of administration that remove talent and funds from the frontlines. Many institutions are led too much by program cycles and political whims rather than the big picture. But progress is best built from purpose, and purpose does not have a program cycle. It forms from individuals, their connection to their community and that community's connection to their country. It's forged in the battles against adversity, when building something together – on the sports field, in the home and on our land. EPF offer possible solutions for collaborative action, focusing on the 'victor mentality'. This is highlighted by an emerging Bougainville strategy entitled 'Generation Found', a direct upending of the 'Lost Generation' moniker that describes the generation dispossessed by conflict. Generation Found attempts to be truly Bougainvillean, utilising tradition, culture, sport, and lessons on personal and civic responsibility to support literacy, livelihood, and nation-building.

### **The view from below: is it good when NGOs come to your village?**

Emily Graham

*PhD Candidate, Swinburne University of Technology*

This paper considers the ideas of Sri Lankan villagers who have experienced aid and development projects as recipients. My research is informed by seven months of ethnographic fieldwork in a small Tamil-Vedda fishing village in eastern Sri Lanka. The community has experienced multiple significant hardships including ongoing poverty; natural disasters, including cyclones, yearly flooding and the 2004 tsunami; and human-made disaster, with 30 years of civil war and ongoing racial discrimination. The village has also experienced significant post-tsunami disaster relief, and continues to experience many development projects. When asked if it is a good thing for NGOs to come to the village, answers were varied. Some villagers praised all NGOs, others had more nuanced attitudes, and some told me about feeling obliged to be polite and grateful. Some separated the value to themselves as individuals and to the village as a whole, while others strongly criticised NGOs, or told me how their lives could have been different if NGOs had acted differently. This paper explores the extent to which participants think that overall, NGOs are valuable in their lives.

### **Empowerment and injury: experiences of women volunteers in community development in Indonesia**

Tanya Jakimow

*Senior Lecturer, University of New South Wales*

Community development often depends on volunteers to undertake important tasks of design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Women in particular are targeted for involvement, due to their knowledge of local needs, their (presumed) greater time availability, and in order to achieve gender-based targets. When it comes to evaluating project outcomes, however, the ways their involvement has affected their lives are rarely given the same importance as other impacts. This paper aims to overcome this gap by examining women's positive and negative consequences of volunteering in a community development program in Medan, Indonesia. It draws upon ten months of ethnographic research with women volunteers in the National Program for Community Empowerment, Urban (PNPM) conducted between 2013 to 2015. It characterises a broad range of consequences as empowerment and injury. On the positive side, volunteering in the PNPM has enabled new possibilities for women's gendered selves. Community-driven development has provided opportunities for women to hold and enact socially recognisable subject positions, empowering individual women (but without challenging hierarchical gender relations). At the same time, women's everyday experiences reveal the impossibility of achieving the normative expectations of community development, resulting in feelings of failure, government sanction, and accusations from their community. It argues that women volunteers are particularly susceptible to be emotionally and socially injured through these negative encounters. These mixed consequences of empowerment and injury point to the need to identify and lessen the possible dangers and harms faced by volunteers, while understanding how potential benefits can be maximised. This paper aims to start a discussion about how these consequences can, and should, be built into project aims, identifying risks and measuring outcomes.

---

## **Panel 3H – Aid case studies II**

**8.00 – 9.30am, Miller Theatre**

Chair: Danielle Heinecke

*Acting First Assistant Secretary, Aid Management and Contracting Division, DFAT*

### **How did this happen? Disaster risk reduction and disability in Gaibandha, Bangladesh**

Presenter: Janice Lucas; Authors: David Brown, Manuel Rothe and Oliver Neuschafer

*Senior Program Advisor – Program Development, and Senior Program Advisor – Program Development, CBM Australia; Senior Humanitarian Specialist, CBM Switzerland; and Emergency Coordinator, CBM Germany*

This field study in northern Bangladesh took place in villages within the flood plain of the Jamuna River. The study aimed to identify good practices in a longstanding and comprehensive disaster risk reduction program implemented by CBM and two local organisations in Gaibandha District in northern Bangladesh. Three NGO program managers from CBM member associations (Germany, Switzerland and Australia) interviewed 30 people (17 men/boys, 13 women/girls), and ran four focus groups (women, self-help groups) to establish what had been the drivers in establishing a disaster risk reduction project which had received a series of positive independent evaluations. The interviews were sorted on the basis of key organising themes using an appreciative enquiry approach. After identifying these themes, local informants with experience in disaster risk reduction within Bangladesh were invited to contribute their perspectives on the themes. Findings of the study suggest that successful disability inclusion work in the area of disaster risk reduction is foundational on the capacity strengthening of self-help groups and disabled people's organisations. The study found that as self-help groups develop skills, knowledge and confidence, they demonstrate agency, protagonism and leadership within the whole community. This reverts stigma and entrenched attitudes of discrimination and leads to new relationships with government and neighbours. The interviews mention the building of credibility and status as important components of attitudinal change. The study also suggests that four other identified and interdependent sets of activities also rest upon the basis of strong and developed self-help groups: accessibility of local disaster risk reduction infrastructure; promotion and support for sustainable and resilient livelihoods; advocacy to government for disability inclusion in humanitarian preparedness and response; and the strengthening of household level disaster risk awareness in collaboration with schools.

### **Applying contribution analysis theory to answer an important question: was the ten-year primary health care strengthening program in Western Province, Papua New Guinea effective?**

Fiona Mactaggart, Jane Seok, Dominica Abo and Geoffrey Miller

*Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Officer, Consultant, and Technical Director, Abt Associates*

A primary health care (PHC) strengthening program was implemented in Western Province, Papua New Guinea from 2009-2018. The program design reflected the theory that improvements in the National Health Plan key result areas (impact) rely on an intermediary outcome: strengthened PHC services in Western Province (goal). The program aimed to achieve the goal by strengthening partnerships and coordination, supporting enablers of health care, and providing community-based interventions. A mixed-method endline evaluation was conducted in 2018 and included interviews with health workers, partners and village health volunteers; health facility assessments; focus group discussions; and a cross-sectional survey. Data analysis was underpinned by contribution analysis (CA) theory. CA considers the role of the program's interventions and how they contribute to observed results through determining why the observed results have (or have not) occurred, and what other factors might be influencing the results. Testing the causal linkages in the theory of change is an essential part of the CA process. The program strengthened health facility infrastructure and availability of education and training, which was associated with improved perceptions of PHC quality. Health workers stated that changes had occurred in their health facility in the last five years and suggested this had improved PHC access and utilisation by the community. The program supported community-based initiatives and there was evidence of improved community ownership over health. Challenges persist however, relating to distance to referral facilities, poor transport availability, and inadequate supervision of staff. Program partners believed that the program was effective in improving PHC despite the difficulties of operating in a challenging physical environment and within national and provincial health systems that were constrained by inadequate staffing and funding. CA is applicable in complex settings where there are multiple external factors at play that can influence the desired outcomes of a program.

### **Increasing aid effectiveness through youth-led evaluation: a Cambodian case study**

Rebecca Stark, Edith Fahey and Benjamin Sullivan

*Cambodia Program Director, Cambodia Partnership Manager and Education Program Officer, Oaktree*

Oaktree's facilitation of a youth-led evaluation of an education program in Cambodia demonstrates the increased aid effectiveness that is possible when traditional power dynamics are inverted through the prioritisation of youth participation within program evaluation. This paper documents Oaktree's youth-led evaluation process, conducted alongside Oaktree's own evaluation of the same program, and discusses the key benefits and challenges of youth-led evaluation. In line with Michael Patton's framework of utilisation-focused evaluation, the value of this evaluation to the program's effectiveness came not only from the findings, but from the evaluation process itself. Through leading this evaluation, young beneficiaries were empowered to take ownership of the development program and increase its effectiveness. The evaluation resulted in a range of personal and professional benefits for the young people who conducted it, including increased confidence, team-building, problem-solving, and leadership skills. In addition, this use of participatory rural appraisal resulted in different findings to the Oaktree-led evaluation, and subsequently, different recommendations for program improvement. These recommendations - derived from the youth-led

evaluation - resulted in stronger program improvements than the traditional evaluation, and thus more effective development practices overall. Facilitating youth-leadership of program evaluation provided benefits for both the evaluation findings and participants, demonstrating the value of mainstreaming youth participation within development project cycles. Providing opportunities for youth to lead these processes within the Asia Pacific region is especially pertinent at a time when the global South has such a high youth population.

---

## **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

*9.40am, Molonglo Theatre*

Chair: Chris Tinning

*First Assistant Secretary and Chief Economist (Development), Multilateral Development and Finance Division, DFAT*

**Masood Ahmed**

***President, Center for Global Development***

### **Contemporary challenges in development finance: are we heading for a new debt crisis, and other questions**

*Masood Ahmed is President of the Center for Global Development. Prior to this, he worked at the IMF as Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department, overseeing the Fund's operations in 32 countries and managing relationships with key national and regional policymakers and stakeholders. He has also served as IMF's Director of External Relations and Deputy Director of the Policy Development and Review Department, Director General of Policy and International Development at the UK Department for International Development, and in various managerial and economist positions, including Vice President of Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, at the World Bank.*

This keynote address will discuss growing debt in low-income countries, and ask whether we are heading for another debt crisis. Is it different from the debt crisis 20 years ago? What is driving debt growing in low-income countries? Is it China? What can be done to reduce the risk of a crisis? What policy could limit the possibility of a prolonged crisis?

---

## **PANEL 4A – Informing policy to end poverty**

*11.00am – 12.30pm, Molonglo Theatre*

*This panel will explore the role of research, cross-sector collaboration and communication in efforts to eradicate poverty. Beginning with the Individual Deprivation Measure Program's contribution to new ways of thinking about poverty measurement, audience experiences will enable wider discussion on successes, challenges and learning towards the goal of ending poverty.*

Chair: Amy Haddad

*Assistant Secretary and Principal Gender Specialist, Gender Equality Branch, DFAT*

### **Research as a foundation for innovation and change in poverty measurement and action**

Sharon Bessell

*Co-Director, ANU-IDM Program, ANU*

This presentation will discuss the essential role of research in informing policies and interventions to end poverty, focusing on the need to combine robust methodology and analysis with substantive stakeholder engagement throughout the research process. This requires creating a vision for policy makers of the promise and value of research, while managing expectations and ensuring that promises do not over-reach what can realistically be achieved.

## **From critique to change: the role of civil society organisations in new approaches to measuring poverty**

Jo Crawford

*Knowledge Translation, Policy Advocacy and Strategic Engagement, IDM Team, International Women's Development Agency*

The limitations of existing approaches to poverty measurement are widely recognised and there are clear calls for change. Moving from critique to change requires demonstrating that a different approach is feasible and needed, and communicating, advocating and engaging to build demand for a new approach. By linking purpose, ambition for change, a focus on action and accountability, and a willingness to engage in joint advocacy on common interests, civil society organisations can support an enabling environment for other actors to move further or faster.

## **Government as partner and enabler: an overview of DFAT's role in anti-poverty policy and interventions**

Cate Rogers

*Assistant Secretary, Development Policy and Education Branch, DFAT*

This presentation will provide an overview of DFAT's strategic efforts to inform anti-poverty policy and interventions. This includes efforts to address global data gaps as essential to providing evidence for decision-making.

---

## **PANEL 4B – Monitoring and evaluation**

*11.00am – 12.30pm, Weston Theatre*

Chair: Robert Christie

*Assistant Secretary, Office of Development Effectiveness, DFAT*

## **Knowledge brokering as a mechanism for influencing policy: a realist synthesis of DFAT evaluations**

Jo Hall

*PhD Candidate, ANU*

DFAT's Office of Development Effectiveness periodically reviews the quality of evaluations across the aid program and synthesises the main findings from them. 37 evaluation reports were completed and published by DFAT in 2017. The quality review was undertaken in-house by ODE and a synthesis undertaken by the author of this paper. A systematic and realist approach was taken for the synthesis, where explanatory text around the areas of policy influence, promoting gender equality and DFAT's aid capability was analysed. The analysis attempted to identify 'what works for whom in what circumstances and why'. In particular, the research looked for aspects of the context and aspects of implementation that affected the degree to which outcomes were achieved. Information was also obtained from interviews with project evaluators and DFAT staff, to supplement the information available in the evaluation reports. This paper presents the findings of the synthesis in terms of learnings about policy influence – and in particular knowledge brokering as a mechanism for influencing policy – and comments on the strengths and weaknesses of the methodology.

## **M&E in an insurgency – remote monitoring of the aid program in Afghanistan**

Ulla Keech-Marx and Sarah Ransom

*Performance and Gender Specialist, Pakistan and Afghanistan, and Assistant Director, Afghanistan Development, DFAT*

How do you monitor and evaluate a large aid program in an active conflict zone? How do you effectively verify data from development projects and monitor for unintended consequences when the security situation presents significant risks to those on the ground? The Afghanistan 'M&E Lab' was set up in late 2017 with funding from DFAT's InnovationXchange. Its purpose is to explore creative ways to monitor and manage the Australian aid program to Afghanistan from afar. The findings have great potential for application in other remote or conflict-affected settings. The Lab encompasses a number of sub-projects, each one testing – through research, analysis and practical application – different potential remote monitoring options. This includes working with international partners to investigate whether big data on mobile phone usage patterns can be used as proxy indicators for verification purposes. Can top up patterns be used as proxies for increased disposable incomes? And can changes in women's use of mobile phones tell us anything about changes in their mobility or status? This session will share the findings to date and demonstrate how management of the Australian aid program is adapting to the new reality in Afghanistan, and welcomes ideas on potential collaborations or other promising avenues to pursue to assist in meeting this M&E challenge.

## **“No plan survives contact with the enemy” – monitoring, learning and evaluation in complex and adaptive programming**

Damien Sweeney and Byron Pakula

*Principal Consultant, and Team Leader – Aid Effectiveness, Clear Horizon*

Systems change, whether in governance or social norms, is increasingly the focus of Australian aid funding. Working across complexity means that change is not linear, nor does it always follow set plans: “No plan survives contact with the enemy” (Helmuth von Moltke). Systems change pits forces for and against and requires program staff to think and work politically, and be able to sense and respond to both success and failure as part of adaptive programming. This puts monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) at the core of programming. More importantly, it makes MEL a skill required by all implementation staff. Taking ideas from the military, which we can all agree is much better funded than the international development and aid sector, ‘specialist’ personnel operating in complex environments are trained to operate remotely within ‘command and control’ systems. A key skill is developing the situational awareness so that individuals and teams shift their focus from ‘what’ they want to achieve, into a mind constantly engaged in updating ‘how’ to achieve it, given the evolving operational situation. Situational awareness is akin to the skills required for MEL. Translating these ideas into the aid sector means that basic knowledge and skills in MEL are required by all program implementation staff, not just the monitoring and evaluation team. After all, who is best placed to sense and respond than those staff at the front line of systems change. In this scenario, monitoring and evaluation staff take on responsibility to build MEL capacity and facilitate learning and knowledge management, working symbiotically with program implementation staff.

---

## **PANEL 4C – Blockchain technology field pilots**

*11.00am – 12.30pm, Barton Theatre*

*This panel will discuss the results of blockchain technology field pilots, which seek to assist individuals globally who lack access to a legal identity, financial inclusion and operational efficiency. It will share insights including the process of collaboration with the civil sector and technology partners and the role of aid and development organisations.*

Chair: Nick Byrne  
*Co-founder, Type Human*

Discussants:

Elsa Carnaby  
*Disaster Risk Reduction Adviser, Oxfam Australia*

Fabiano Franz  
*Country Director, World Vision Timor-Leste*

Amanda Robinson  
*Head of Social Innovation, Australian Red Cross*

Nick Williams  
*Co-founder, Sempo*

---

## **PANEL 4D – Health systems strengthening training the global anaesthesia and surgical workforce**

*11.00am – 12.30pm, Acton Theatre*

*This panel will examine the challenges and threats of strengthening the anaesthesia and surgical workforce in our region, including costs, standards, certification, career pathways and task sharing.*

Chair: Kirstie MacGill  
*Fellow, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons*

Discussants:

Glenn Guest  
*Fellow, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons*

Suzi Nou  
*Vice-President, Australian Society of Anaesthetists*

David Pescod  
*Council Member, World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists*

---

## **PANEL 4E – Issues in Australian aid**

*11.00am – 12.30pm, Brindabella Theatre*

Chair: James Gilling  
*First Assistant Secretary, Pacific Bilateral Division, DFAT*

### **Managing three aid facilities: lessons from the field**

Lavinia Tyrrel and Tara Davda  
*Senior Policy Adviser, and Policy Adviser – Governance, Abt Associates*

Abt Associates manages the implementation of three highly visible, high value, multi-sector Australian government facilities: the Australia-Timor Leste Partnership for Human Development (ATLPHD, known as PHD) in Timor Leste, KOMPAK in Indonesia, and the PNG Governance Facility (formerly the PGF) in Papua New Guinea. Together, they have a combined value of over A\$500m over four years, which represents approximately 20% of Australia's total bilateral aid to these countries; as well as a significant share of partner government spend (e.g. eight per cent of sector spend in Timor Leste). The experience of managing these investments has afforded Abt Associates a unique perspective on the limitations of current Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) theory and practice. Based on data generated by a qualitative study of select investments in the portfolio, this presentation explores the contractor's experience of developing MEL approaches for large multisector facilities. The paper identifies eight areas where deviation from more conventionally designed and implemented MEL frameworks has been required. The critical lesson is that traditional forms of MEL do not lend themselves well to the facility model. This stems from one simple fact: traditional forms of MEL are based on a planned and largely linear project model, one which works effectively in simple change contexts, where there is a clear line of sight between activities, inputs, outputs and outcomes, but not complex projects (managing a range of different investments and pathways to change) working in complex political contexts (where institutional change is the underlying goal). Using a case study approach, this paper explores how implementing teams have used a unique mix of conventional and experimental approaches to MEL to try and overcome these challenges, the methods they have developed (including mixed methods approaches to data collection), the lessons learned, and the implications for donors, practitioners and policy makers alike.

### **A case study of kaizen: the Australian NGO Cooperation Program**

Heather Fitt  
*Assistant Director, NGO Programs, Performance and Quality, DFAT*

An independent evaluation of the Australian aid program's longest running and largest NGO program has been successfully used to drive program reform. The Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) is a significant Australian aid program with a 2018-19 budget estimate of \$132.5 million. In 2018, 57 Australian NGOs were accredited by DFAT, with almost 2,000 local implementing partners delivering around 450 projects in over 50 countries. The 2015 Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE) evaluation was originally met with nervousness by the Australian NGO sector, particularly around possible funding cuts to the Program. The final report, welcomed by both the sector and DFAT program managers, found that the ANCP was a successful and highly valued program. Working systematically with DFAT colleagues and the ANCP NGOs, the team has addressed the areas for improvement identified in the evaluation, including: articulating program-level outcomes, clarifying accreditation levels and funding, detailing posts' responsibilities within the program, and improving approaches to sharing and learning. DFAT used a consultative process to actively implement the recommendations, ensuring the integrity and strengths of the program were maintained, while updating it and driving program reform over the last three years. There is still an ongoing challenge for the ANCP to balance demonstrating effectiveness of the program's modality versus effectiveness of development results.

## **Architect of decline: the institutional architecture of OECD donors and its relevance to the Australian context**

Andrew Johnson  
*Independent Consultant*

The decline in Australia's aid program over the past six years has not only been a tale of the lack of public and political support for the Australian aid program but also the lack of institutional architecture to support an effective and generous aid program. This includes areas like legislation, ministerial and parliamentary oversight, the role of the Cabinet (or equivalent) in the budget allocation process, departmental and implementing agency structure and the role of central finance agencies, amongst others. Whether these requirements are necessary pre-conditions for a more generous aid program or demanded by the political dynamics of an already generous program is difficult to determine. However, many comparable donors within the OECD, particularly across Europe, that have larger and more generous aid programs also have more robust institutional architecture. Reforms to these areas have at times been aligned to commitments to grow a country's aid budget. This paper will seek to identify the key elements of institutional architecture for other OECD donors and how this could translate into the Australian context. It will also seek to identify what elements have are most relevant and achievable in the Australian context. It will argue that as the aid sector continues to advocate for a more generous aid budget, particularly with an upcoming general election, it needs to couple this advocacy with a compelling and achievable call for a more robust institutional architecture. While this may not be a highly engaging policy priority for campaigning with the general public, there is evidence from around the world and in other areas of domestic policy which demonstrate the value of advocating for such changes and the extent to which they can build long-term confidence and engagement, particularly with political leaders and within government.

---

## **PANEL 4F – Issues in humanitarian aid**

*11.00am – 12.30pm, Lennox Room*

Chair: Jamie Isbister  
*First Assistant Secretary, Humanitarian, NGOs & Partnerships Division, DFAT*

### **The responsibility to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence in disasters and crisis**

Priyanka Bhalla, Veronica Bell and Leda Tyrrel

*GBV Adviser, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; Head of International Technical Services, and Technical Lead – Protection, Gender and Inclusion, Australian Red Cross*

Considering that gender-based violence (GBV) is the leading cause of death among women aged 18-44 (in some countries), that at least one-third of women experience some type of GBV in their lifetime (WHO, 2016) and that the Asia Pacific is the most disaster-prone region in the world (UNNC, 2016), it is crucial to assist both female and male GBV survivors with stronger support mechanisms during disasters and other emergencies. GBV is often life threatening and impacts a survivor's daily life, dignity, rights, livelihood and health. GBV during and after disaster situations and other emergencies is under-researched and largely ignored in policy circles. Consequently, the primary research question for this paper is: How can humanitarian actors prevent and respond to gender-based violence during disaster and other crisis? This research project applies mixed methods, including data analysis and results from quantitative household surveys with disaster affected men and women; qualitative focus groups discussions with disaster affected men, women, adolescent girls and adolescent boys; and key informant interviews with frontline disaster responders in the health, psycho-social support, legal and security sectors. A gendered version of the disaster crunch model, which states that socio-economic and political processes have to be addressed in order to reduce both disaster risk and vulnerability, is applied as a theoretical lens. Disaster law, as a tool, is explored for better coordination and collaboration among disaster responders. The research scope is limited to select data collection sites in three country contexts: Philippines, Indonesia and Lao PDR. Results illustrate that primary prevention interventions, long-term community-based programs addressing behaviour change towards gender inequality and a more coordinated response by humanitarian actors, would aid in decreasing the risk to gender-based violence during disasters.

### **Drawing on our diversity: humanitarian leadership**

Kate Sutton, Seeta Giri and Fanny Berg

*Director, and Regional Adviser, Humanitarian Advisory Group; Independent Consultant*

The humanitarian landscape is rapidly changing, with greater humanitarian needs than ever before, funding shortfalls and the increasing complexity of crises. In 2017 over 68 million people were displaced as a result of

war, violence and persecution. The demands on humanitarian leadership are mounting, and it is imperative that organisations respond more ethically, quickly and effectively. In 2011, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee principals adopted the “Transformative Agenda” to give new momentum to the 2005 Humanitarian Reform and strengthen leadership, coordination and accountability in humanitarian action. Whilst significant steps have been taken to achieve predictable humanitarian leadership, the current state and potential dividends of diverse and inclusive leadership in the humanitarian sector remains largely unexplored. Questions regarding the diversity of leadership have also emerged in the context of the shift to more locally-led humanitarian action. Recognising and supporting diversity is considered core to humanitarian values and principles. However, in contrast to the private sector, the humanitarian sector has done little to track and understand the impact of diverse leadership. The Humanitarian Advisory Group’s recent research found that humanitarian leadership does not draw on its diversity potential to the detriment of humanitarian effectiveness. At a time when the sector is facing some of its greatest challenges, from lack of resources to reach people in need to an erosion of trust and confidence in humanitarian actors, it may be timely to better understand how diversity and inclusion may contribute to improved leadership and decision making. This presentation will provide an opportunity to discuss the research and identify, define, and measure the lessons learnt from the private sector and how these can improve leadership practice in the humanitarian sector.

### **Role of stakeholders in response to the Rohingya influx in Bangladesh**

Raisa Rasheeka and Jessica Tartila Suma

*Lecturer, and Lecturer, Independent University of Bangladesh*

Emergency response is a complex phenomenon which requires joint efforts to address and ensure continued financial support, international commitments and collaboration between humanitarian actors and authorities to deliver support to the refugees and host communities. The timely response of donors, international communities, NGOs, the Government of Bangladesh, the host community and all other humanitarian actors, have helped save the lives of countless refugees since the Rohingya influx in Bangladesh. The Rohingyas are one of the most marginalised refugee communities in South and Southeast Asia, and since 1978 have been continuously denied their citizenship by the Myanmar government. The Rohingyas have repeatedly been the targets of human rights violations in many forms, and as a result many have fled to neighbouring Bangladesh. As of 22 May 2018, the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission reports biometric registration of 1,117,322 Rohingyas in the Cox’s Bazar area in Bangladesh. This influx is one of the biggest refugee crises in the world and the first of its kind in Bangladesh. Bangladesh, a developing and already densely populated country struggling to feed its own population, has opened the door to the Rohingyas. However, the amount of resource mobilisation required in response to the Rohingya influx calls for massive coordination among all relevant stakeholders, from the coordination groups to the relevant development actors at the local level. Through the lens of social network analysis this research aims to comprehend, map, and measure the relationships and flows among the key stakeholders engaged in responding to the Rohingya humanitarian crisis, and their plans for future endeavours, given the uncertainty of the situation.

### **Moving beyond business-as-usual funding for recurrent issues: emerging lessons from Somalia**

Megan Williams and Christine Lindell

*Senior Humanitarian Policy Adviser, and Grant Acquisition and Design Specialist, World Vision Australia*

In 2016 almost three-quarters of international humanitarian assistance went to crises that had been receiving humanitarian assistance for eight years or more. By its very nature, humanitarian assistance is designed to be short-term and provide life-saving interventions to affected populations. While this assistance is essential for keeping crises-affected communities alive, the increasingly protracted nature of many crises is demanding a rethink of the way that assistance can help build longer-term resilience to recurrent crises. Attempting to take a different approach to supporting crisis-affected populations in Somalia, in the wake of the 2011 famine seven international NGOs came together to form the Somalia Resilience Program (SomReP). SomReP sought to enhance the capacities of vulnerable populations to both respond to immediate droughts, and enhance long-term community resilience in some of the hardest hit regions. But has this type of programming made a difference for the communities it seeks to assist, particularly in the face of another drought? Drawing on recent research and emerging lessons from the SomReP program, this paper examines the initial lessons of SomRep activities on community resilience in the 2017 drought. This paper will also consider how the approach taken by SomRep might be applicable to other contexts of protracted crises, and the implications for donor support in complex crises.

## **PANEL 4G – Aid, reform and development in the energy sector**

*11.00am – 12.30pm, Griffin Room*

*This panel explores a range of topics of relevance to the energy sector in developing countries, including cross-country comparisons of the impact of foreign aid on energy consumption; renewable energy development in India and Indonesia; and improved cookstove adoption in Kenya and Bangladesh.*

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

### **Overcoming barriers to solar and wind energy adoption in India and Indonesia**

Paul Burke, Jinnie Widnyana, Zeba Anjum, Emma Aisbett, Budy Resosudarmo and Kenneth Baldwin  
*Associate Professor, Grand Challenge Fellow, Grand Challenge Fellow, Senior Research Fellow, Professor and Professor, ANU*

Solar and wind electricity generation technologies have become increasingly cost competitive and account for a growing share of global investment in new electricity generation capacity. Both India and Indonesia have ambitious targets for adoption of these technologies, and India has taken impressive early steps. Substantial obstacles exist, however, including the entrenched positions of coal and other fossil fuels; regulatory barriers to market access; and weak abilities of electricity utilities to manage intermittent renewables. This paper discusses potential strategies for facilitating the adoption of solar and wind in these two Asian giants. It focuses on the use of reverse auction processes able to deliver low-price solar and wind contracts, as are being employed in India; on tax and subsidy reform options; on regulatory and incentive-design strategies; on approaches to bolster grid management capacities; and on the importance of minimising protectionist barriers. This analysis covers both small-scale and large-scale systems.

### **Preferences for improved cooking stoves in the south-west region of Bangladesh**

Debasish Das and Md. Mehedi Hasan  
*Postgraduate Student, University of Queensland; Masters Candidate, Khulna University*

Nearly 76 percent of the people of Bangladesh live in the pastoral areas, where 1.46 million families scattered around 87,000 villages have an average size of 4.9 person per family (BBS, 2015). The rural people are predominantly using traditional mud made stoves for cooking, as forest wood, agro-based residuals and cow dung are the prime sources of fuel. Researchers found that a huge amount of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and carbon monoxide (CO) is produced by the traditional stoves. According to the WHO (2014), many women and children die every year due to this so-called kitchen killer (carbon) in Bangladesh. To reduce this death threat, in 2004 the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) invented the Improved Cooking Stove (ICS) and distributed it among the rural people with a subsidised price, through an NGO – the Bondhu Foundation. However, while the ICS has many good features, including fuel efficiency and environmental benefits, its adaptation rate is negligible. To understand why people are not interested in the ICS, an experiment was conducted on 259 households from three districts in southern Bangladesh, where about 80 per cent of people use traditional mud stoves. Using a choice experiment technique, this research attempts to find their preferences and measure their willingness to pay (WTP) for the ICS. The results show that installation costs, maintenance, and lack of knowledge are the primary reasons for not adapting ICS. The experiment also found that if the attributes of ICS are well-disseminated among the rural people their marginal WTP will increase. Therefore, extensive promotion, lowering installation costs and increasing social awareness about diseases and environmental degradation could be the solution to installing this environmentally friendly stove and leading to a more healthy and hazard-less life for the rural people in Bangladesh.

### **Money's too tight (not) to mention – barriers to the adoption of modern cookstoves**

Edwina Fingleton-Smith  
*PhD Candidate, ANU*

In the face of continued difficulties to get people to adopt improved cookstoves, this study conducted in-depth interviews with urban and rural people in Kenya to better understand the complex decision making processes behind stove and fuel choice. The study discovered that people in the poorer, rural group were very optimistic about the process of moving to modern stoves and fuels but completely unable to afford them. The better off urban respondents all engaged a cookstove stacking approach, but this was less about an unwillingness to give up a traditional stove than it was a result of only being able to afford to use modern fuels for a percentage of their cooking needs. They would then ration out the use of a modern stove to the meals when the perceived benefits of the stove were most in need, such as speed during busy periods. These findings indicate that price, rather than preference, is the dominant barrier to the purchase and continued use of improved cookstoves

among the sample group. The paper frames these results as part of a broader discussion around the need to re-engage with subsidising improved cookstoves for the extreme poor to facilitate increased adoption rates.

### **Foreign aid and household energy consumption and access in developing countries: evidence from cross-section analysis**

Sabit Otor, Paul Burke and Matthew Dornan

*Research Associate, and Associate Professor, ANU; and Deputy Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU*

Modern energy is fundamental for economic development and human welfare. Important initiatives have been adopted at international and national levels to promote household energy availability. For decades, foreign aid disbursements have targeted infrastructure, energy infrastructure and productive capacity. This study utilises a dataset of 144 developing countries over the period of 2002-2015 to construct a cross-sectional dataset and applies econometric techniques to assess the long-run impact of foreign assistance targeted energy infrastructure and productive capacity on multiple aspects of energy availability over the period of 13 years. We find that the aid targeted towards infrastructure, energy infrastructure and productive capacity are significantly associated with increases in both the rate of household electricity access and electricity consumption. However, we find no indication that such aid is associated with changes in household natural gas or fuelwood consumption. Our findings are consistent with the “energy ladder” model: higher incomes are significantly associated with increases in modern energy availability. They are also consistent with the “fuel stacking” model, in that the results suggest that higher incomes are not significantly associated with reductions in use of fuelwood energy. Additionally, there is evidence of convergence of household energy availability across the developing countries in the long run. The results of this study highlight the multifaceted impacts of foreign aid, while also emphasising the importance of transmission mechanisms via which foreign aid can help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

---

## **PANEL 4H – Aid and the private sector**

*11.00am – 12.30pm, Miller Theatre*

Chair: Jonathan Pryke

*Director, Pacific Islands Program, Lowy Institute*

### **Social enterprises in development policy: trendy or transformative?**

Babita Bhatt

*Lecturer, ANU*

Poverty and social exclusion are complex societal challenges, and addressing them requires deep structural changes. There has been a growing consensus among development agencies that the traditional top-down, charity-based approaches have achieved limited success in providing sustainable solutions to poverty. In this context, social enterprises, i.e. organisations leveraging market-based activities to alleviate societal challenges, are gaining prominence in development policy. It is argued that these models offer an alternative means of redressing the failures of the current economic system by placing social and human concerns at the centre of economics. However, the role of social enterprises in providing an alternative model is widely contested. Such contestations are deeply rooted in the definition and the scope of social enterprises. Critics link the rising prominence of social enterprises to the discursive changes that have been taking place since the 1980s. As social policy is shifting away from ‘big state’ to ‘big society’, there is an increasing emphasis on individual responsibility, enterprise, and economic achievement. Within this narrative, social enterprises are seen as a promoter of market logic, a new way of identifying cost-effectiveness and/or greater productivity. This approach is labelled the ‘reformist’ approach to social enterprises, and this paper argues that the ‘reformist’ model of social enterprises is unable to challenge power relations in the communities. Building on a qualitative field-based approach, the paper proposes a transformative model of social enterprise that is rooted in the principles of community economics. A social enterprise that builds an inclusive governance structure through democratic decision making and discursive spaces and prioritises social efficiency and social needs has the potential to bring social change.

### **Market smart social protection – combining the best of market systems and social protection approaches in thought and deed**

Alwyn Chilver and Lewis Brimblecombe

*Director, Economic Growth, and Manager, Economic Growth, Palladium*

Social protection and market systems development (MSD) programming represent two distinct approaches to poverty reduction prominent in modern international development academic discourse and practice. Whilst

there are significant overlaps in their objectives, they have largely been developed and implemented in isolation of each other. Market smart social protection (MSSP) is a concept generated by Palladium that seeks to combine the best aspects of market systems development with the best of social protection approaches. The ultimate aim is to identify practicable, improved approaches to the sustainable graduation of very poor people from poverty. MSD programs that are driven by considerations of scale, sustainability and 'value for money' sometimes find themselves challenged to reach the very poor, and in large numbers. Working indirectly, trying to influence the existing system actors so as to ensure sustainability, makes this particularly hard. Social protection programs are devoted to identifying and then targeting support to the poorest through direct delivery approaches. Identifying the right kind of support to provide, and a sustainable mechanism through which to provide it now and in the future, are just some of the challenges faced. Until now, conversations between these two schools of thought/ paradigms can be characterised as generally superficial and dismissive. Having both schools within Palladium has permitted a richer, more informed and respectful dialogue. This presentation will share some of the key elements and principles of a potentially richer, combined effort that have emerged from this dialogue. To date, progress in combining the best of both worlds has been limited in practice, with the occasional 'bolt-on' of an MSD program to a social protection program. DFAT Nepal recently presented an opportunity to co-design a program combining the 'best of both', putting these principles to the test in practice. This presentation will share early practical insights from this process.

### **Gender and private sector engagement in challenging environments**

Linda Jones and Jennifer King

*Vice-President – Partnerships and Innovation, and Senior Program Manager, MEDA*

MEDA has been working globally for over 60 years, bringing innovative business solutions to poverty. Starting out as an investment club with the goal of integrating low-income and vulnerable populations into mainstream market systems, MEDA began work post-WWII with refugees and indigenous groups in Latin America. Since that time, MEDA has also developed significant experience in gender inclusion and women's economic empowerment across a range of economic sectors in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America/Caribbean. This presentation discusses how MEDA's expertise in leveraging private sector mechanisms for inclusion of marginalised populations is applied in women's empowerment programming in agricultural sectors in Myanmar (Shan and Kayin states). MEDA utilises a push/pull model, working with local partners to ready rural women for market integration (push), and incentivising private sector partners (input suppliers, buyers, financial institutions) to be proactive in gender inclusion that is compatible with business growth (pull). It is critical in this model that development impact is combined with business growth objectives so that the two are mutually supportive and not perceived to be 'social programs' that inhibit business success. At the community level, through local partners with deep knowledge of communities and socio-cultural norms, MEDA aims to raise awareness, increase skills, improve production (e.g. Global GAP), form producer groups headed by women, orient women smallholder farmers to markets, and build market-responsiveness. At the business level, the organisation offers a range of incentives, for example linking private sector actors (traders, distributors, processors) to market-ready producers; challenge grants that support inclusive business growth, such as better distribution models, so that agricultural inputs and technologies reach new market segments (including women smallholder farmers); and finance for agri-processor upgrading to improve product quality and variety. MEDA is implementing both a \$17m Canada-funded program and a DFAT Business Partnerships Platform in Myanmar.

### **Trade vs health in the Pacific? Elevating the voice of health in intersectoral policymaking in Fiji and Vanuatu**

Dori Patay, Sharon Friel, Susan Sell, Ashley Schram and Jeff Collin

*PhD Candidate, Director, Professor, and Research Officer, School of Regulation and Global Governance, ANU; Professor, Social Policy School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh*

There has been a rapid rise in the premature deaths caused by non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Pacific island countries (PICs). Through the manufacture, sale and promotion of tobacco, alcohol, and ultra-processed food and drink (unhealthy commodities), transnational corporations are major drivers of NCDs. The trends of trade and investment liberalisation pose further challenges to developing countries, where government fragmentation hinders the control of the commercial determinants of NCDs. While the literature on intersectoral coordination and policy coherence suggests approaches to strengthen governance for health, it remains unclear what makes the governance of commercial determinants of NCDs successful in the specific context of PICs. Fiji and Vanuatu were selected as case studies to understand how their Ministries of Health, civil society, and development partners elevated the voice of health in intersectoral policymaking to control the commercial determinants of NCDs, with a special focus on the governance of tobacco. The applied methods involved a literature review, in-depth interviews and document analysis. In Fiji and Vanuatu, four approaches have proven to be the most useful strategies to persuade non-health sectors to control the commercial determinants of NCDs in national level governance. Firstly, the demonstration of the socio-economic costs of NCDs. Secondly,

the application of political pressure from two directions: top-down through international engagement, and bottom-up through engaging the public, the media and civil society organisations. Thirdly, constituency building to magnify the influencing power of the health lobby through coordinated action. Finally, mapping out the access points to influence policy-planning, decision making and legislative processes.

---

## **PANEL 5A – Community-driven development: a reality check**

*1.30pm – 3.00pm, Molonglo Theatre*

*This panel will reflect upon the community-driven development (CDD) model, its uses, limitations and recent critical publications, focusing on the key question of whether it is the best way to put aid funds, whether grants or loans, to use.*

Chair: Carli Shillito  
*Counsellor – Human Development, Australian Embassy Timor-Leste*

Discussants:

Bobby Anderson  
*International CDD Specialist, Myanmar National CDD Project*

Maria Benilda E. Redaja  
*Former Director, Philippines Department of Social Welfare and Development*

Lisa Hannigan  
*Director, Poverty and Social Transfers, DFAT*

Emmanuel Jimenez  
*Executive Director, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation*

---

## **PANEL 5B – Partnerships in transdisciplinary research for food and nutrition security**

*1.30pm – 3.00pm, Weston Theatre*

*This panel will discuss the experiences, challenges and opportunities associated with partnership models and transdisciplinary research for food and nutrition security. It will situate current experiences in light of broader global human and environmental challenges, and identify the opportunities that food investment presents for achieving global development goals.*

Chair: Federico Davila  
*Research Principal – Food Systems, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney*

### **Agricultural aid effectiveness for smallholder farmers in Lao PDR**

Kim Alexander, Garry Greenhalgh, Silva Larson, Magnus Moglia, Phomma Thammavong, Manithaythip Thephavanh, Silinthone Sacklokhkam, Phonevilay Sinavong and Peter Case  
*Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, Adjunct Senior Research Fellow and Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, James Cook University; Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO; Senior Lecturer, National University of Laos; PhD Candidate, Adelaide University; Director and Senior Manager, SEAMEO Regional Centre for Community Education Development; Professor, James Cook University*

### **Transdisciplinary research for food and nutrition security: experiences from work in Africa and Southeast Asia**

Federico Davila  
*Research Principal – Food Systems, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney*

### **Informing agricultural adaptation through mapping knowledge networks: a PNG case study**

Tom Sloan  
*Executive Manager – Research, Sustineo*

## **Adapting food systems to phosphorus and climate vulnerability in Sri Lanka**

Elsa Dominish

Senior Research Consultant, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney

---

## **PANEL 5C – Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in the aid sector**

*1.30pm – 3.00pm, Barton Theatre*

*This panel brings together key players in the Australian aid sector to discuss best practice to approach the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in the sector, as well as safeguarding issues. It will also provide a platform for organisations to learn from and share their approaches and experiences.*

Chair: Kate Sutton  
*Director, Humanitarian Advisory Group*

Discussants:

Juliette Brassington  
*A/g Assistant Secretary, Aid Risk Management and Fraud Control Branch, DFAT*

Sarah Burrows  
*Director – Development Effectiveness, ACFID*

Rosie Wheen  
*CEO, WaterAid*

Thida Seng  
*WaterAid Australia*

Maaike Moller  
*Forensic Physician, Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine*

---

## **PANEL 5D – Catalysing change through women’s movements: evidence from the Pacific**

*1.30pm – 3.00pm, Acton Theatre*

*There is growing evidence that supporting women’s groups, organisations, networks and movements is the most effective way to bring about gender equality. Women’s funds are seen as flexible, responsive and accessible mechanisms for supporting women’s groups and networks to advance gender equality. Global women’s movements have recommended over time that channelling funding to women’s rights organisations and women’s funds is the most sustainable way of ensuring gender equality. Bringing together three diverse women’s rights funders, this panel will focus on the role of aid in supporting vibrant and dynamic women’s movements in the Pacific in order to catalyse transformative change for gender equality.*

Chair: Yoshiko Yamaguchi  
*Member, Pacific Women Advisory Board*

Discussants:

Virisila Buadromo  
*Co-lead, Urgent Action Fund for Women’s Human Rights Asia and Pacific*

Michelle Reddy  
*Fund Manager, Fiji Women’s Fund*

Bronwyn Tilbury  
*Senior Program Manager, International Women’s Development Agency*

---

## PANEL 5E – Migration

1.30pm – 3.00pm, *Brindabella Theatre*

Chair: Henry Sherrell  
*Senior Researcher, Parliamentary Library*

### **Too close to ignore: the asymmetrical effects of a hardening PNG-Australian border**

Mark Moran, Jodie Curth-Bibb, Kevin Murphy, Jennifer Corrin and Geoff Miller  
*Program Director, Teaching and Research Fellow, and Research Associate, Institute for Social Science Research; Law School, University of Queensland; Independent Health Consultant*

This presentation explores the institutional layering (formal and informal) that occurs on the periphery of the PNG state - along the shared PNG-Australian border. Drawing on the borderlands theory of Brunet-Jailly (2005), it considers how the push and pull of the border at once brings borderlanders together, and pulls them apart. It discusses how the border constructs costly barriers to economic activity and the distribution of public finances in a manner that deliberately creates categories of people with starkly different prospects, and explains how this difference in treatment and opportunity is at odds with the local ethos of reciprocity and creates expectations and mounting frustrations. The growing asymmetric effects of the border are producing distortions that undermine trade, health and welfare and environmental outcomes. In line with the literature of 'areas of limited statehood' this research identifies possibilities for thinking in terms of 'spatial grammar' and considering the benefits of a place-based approach that ameliorates the poverty of South Fly residents. There are interesting precedents for cross-border support directly from the Australian state, in particular the Building Resilience in Treaty Villages program – an Australian Aid-funded ranger program. This presentation discusses this case study and identifies how the Australian State struggles to coordinate its domestic politics with international relations, even though the Treaty border management and Australian Aid's PNG program sits within the one Commonwealth Department – DFAT. It concludes by arguing that it is in Australia's interest to improve social and economic development of the South Fly – reducing the pressure on the border and ultimately providing greater security than border enforcement alone.

### **The calculus of risk and the calculus of vulnerability: the complex algebra of migrants, their intermediaries and migration policies**

Bina Fernandez  
*Senior Lecturer, University of Melbourne*

Since the loosening of Ethiopian emigration controls in the mid 1990s, large numbers of Ethiopians have undertaken international migration, facilitated by a diverse range of migration intermediaries, including networks of family, friends and neighbours, unregistered brokers, private employment agencies (PEAs), transport providers, employers, and government agencies. Notwithstanding the Ethiopian government's ban on migration between 2013-2017, Ethiopians continued to migrate, though their journeys became more expensive and/or dangerous. Media reports and research established the appalling conditions under which irregular migrants' journeys are often undertaken: many of them are subjected to hardships such as lack of food, water or shelter; physical and verbal abuse; exploitation and extortion; theft; kidnapping for ransom; abandonment; and even murder. Yet, contrary to popular belief, recent survey research indicates that a strikingly large 80% percent of Ethiopian irregular migrants are informed about the potential dangers of irregular channels of migration, as well as the risks of detention and deportation at destinations. This paper argues that the persistent decision to migrate despite these conditions occurs at the intersection of two types of considerations: the first is the 'calculus of risk' undertaken by migrants. Migrants' calculus of risk in their migration decision is a composite outcome of their own experiences and the information they glean from intermediaries such as agents and brokers, family and friends, former migrants, co-ethnic and co-national members of the diaspora, social media networks, governments, and non-government agencies. The second, 'calculus of vulnerability' is undertaken by the intermediaries, in which the degree of the intermediaries' personal connection to the migrant shapes the cost, but importantly also, the care and caution invested in the migrants' journey. This paper argues that the success of migration governance policies would necessarily be contingent on a deeper understanding of the interaction between the calculus of risk and vulnerability.

### **The internal brain drain: foreign aid, hiring practices and international migration**

Nicolas Lemay-Hébert, Louis HERNS Marcelin, Stephane Pallage, and Toni Cela  
*Senior Lecturer, ANU; Chancellor, Interuniversity Institute for Research and Development; Dean, Business School, University of Quebec; Country Coordinator, Interuniversity Institute for Research and Development*

Dynamics behind the internal brain drain – the poaching of local skilled workers by international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) or international organisations (IOs) – are less explored than other general issues related to external brain drain dynamics and international migration. The fact that the phenomenon lies

at the junction of two fields – migration studies on the one hand and foreign aid and international development on the other – might explain the paucity of data on this phenomenon. Building on empirical material gathered in Haiti on the interconnections between migration studies and international development, this article advances a new and innovative understanding of the phenomenon by conceptualising the internal brain drain as an equilibrium. This equilibrium is composed of two sets of tensions: 1) the tensions between the salary conditions in the public sector and the salary conditions offered to locally-hired staff by IOs and INGOs; and 2) the tensions inherent to the dual salary scale used by IOs and INGOs for locally- and internationally-hired staff. Locally-hired staff conditions lie at the centre of the equilibrium. The two sets of tensions contribute in their specific ways to international migration – as such the internal brain drain contributes to external brain drain dynamics. Moreover, every set of policies impacting one side of the equilibrium is bound to impact the second equilibrium. Finally, this paper argues that one possible avenue to mitigate these tensions lies with the reconsideration of the salary conditions and other benefits provided to internationally-hired staff.

---

## **PANEL 5F – Chinese development cooperation**

*1.30pm – 3.00pm, Lennox Room*

Chair: Jane Golley

*Acting Director, Australian Centre on China in the World, ANU*

### **Analysing Pacific debt: how significant is China?**

Matthew Dornan and Rohan Fox

*Deputy Director and Research Officer, Development Policy Centre, ANU*

In 2018, Australia and other Western nations began to take greater notice of Chinese government activities in Pacific island countries, with many analysts portraying the rise of Chinese engagement in the Pacific as a threat to security and to Western influence in the region. Key to these portrayals of Chinese engagement is the provision of state loans to the region for the purpose of ‘debt-trap diplomacy’. Chinese loans are provided by state entities. They tend to come with fewer reporting requirements and restrictions than multilateral loans and Western aid, which makes them popular with Pacific islands leaders. Though still concessional, they are also more expensive, with higher interest rates than loans from multilateral development agencies. Chinese lending has been characterised as predatory in the West, with commentators pointing to the provision of Chinese loans for projects of dubious quality, and to lending to countries that are not well placed to repay debts. In the Pacific, discussions about Chinese lending have focused on debt levels, which in some Pacific island states are of concern. This paper examines borrowing by Pacific island governments in order to gauge whether the ‘debt-trap diplomacy’ argument has merit. We find that some Pacific island states are grappling with a debt problem, but that in most countries this is the result of borrowing from multilateral agencies or from other bilateral donors, rather than from China.

### **Borrowing from Beijing: aid and development implications for PNG and the Pacific**

Sarah O’Dowd

*Honours Candidate, ANU*

China’s growing presence in the Pacific has sparked a variety of political and economic concerns that broadly relate to the quality of Chinese aid and investment, the sustainability of Chinese lending, and the belief that Beijing may exploit its foreign investments as political leverage. This presentation will explore the overall pattern of Chinese investment and aid in the region, and the associated risks and opportunities for Pacific nations. The fears held by international and local commentators regarding China’s interest in the region will be measured against the ability of Chinese assistance to fulfil the Pacific’s significant infrastructure and development needs. The experience of Papua New Guinea will be analysed in specific detail, as Papua New Guinea is one of the few Pacific nations to have joined China’s ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) infrastructure program and is China’s largest investment destination in the region.

### **Demystifying China’s international development cooperation agency**

Denghua Zhang

*Research Fellow, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU*

China, as the largest emerging donor, has attracted growing international attention and triggered mixed reactions to its impact on the international aid regime. China has substantially expanded its foreign aid program in the past decade and launched ambitious initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. The China International Development Cooperation Agency is a new effort to reform China’s foreign aid system. Due to its recent establishment (in April 2018) and a lack of transparency

from the Chinese side, the nature of this new aid agency and its potential impact on China's foreign aid are poorly understood. Based on the author's expertise on China's foreign policy and aid, and recent research on China's new aid agency, this project proposes to analyse the goals and structure of this new agency and its impact on China's foreign aid delivery. It argues that the establishment of this aid agency reflects a power shift among China's main aid management ministries: China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs will play a more important role in deciding on Chinese aid spending; strategic considerations will have more weight in this process; to improve aid planning and monitoring and support the BRI will be the focus of this new agency; and inter-ministerial competition arising from vested interest will continue to compromise Chinese aid effectiveness.

---

## **PANEL 5G – Collaborative development**

*1.30pm – 3.00pm, Griffin Room*

Chair: Joel Negin

*Head of School of Public Health, University of Sydney*

### **ICT contexts and situated practice: the fundamental contributions of ICT to CSO accountability**

Caitlin Bentley

*Research Fellow, 3A Institute, ANU*

Academic studies focused on how civil society organisations (CSO) can increase downwards accountability usually advocate responsiveness, transparency, and including marginalised populations in decision-making processes. However, greater complexity emerges when factoring information and communications technology (ICT) into such discussions. ICTs have the potential to change the context of beneficiary engagement by enabling radically different governance possibilities. ICTs may also introduce additional sources of exclusion and inequality. This paper focuses on the underlying contributions of ICTs to downwards accountability at a Southern African regional civil society organisation (CSO), Gender Links, by exploring the production of power by different actors by and through situated ICT practice. Central to the analytical framework is that power is produced in different forms, which vary across contexts and actors, and that poor and marginalised groups may be consistently disadvantaged. Actors can be empowered in one context, and disempowered in another – depending on interactions between actors and institutional structures. This paper applies these notions to explore how organisational ICT environments shape situated accountability. It unpacks how staff, organisational ICT and beneficiaries are entangled in everyday ICT practice, and suggests that researching ICT environments establishes a perspective that contests the usual arguments that ICTs contribute positively to accountability and are empowering to poor and marginalised people. This focus ameliorates the academic tendency to focus either on ICT access and empowerment for poor and marginalised people, or on instrumental uses of ICT by donors and CSOs.

### **How to collaborate with Pacific churches for development research**

Rebekah Cochrane and Philippa Smales

*Consultant, and Network and Partnership Manager, Research for Development Impact Network*

Unlike most development actors in the Pacific, Churches are an embedded part of many developing countries and their local communities, especially in the Pacific islands where Christian adherence is over 90% (with the exception of Fiji). Churches hold 'dense' networks, have extensive local knowledge, and hold the trust of citizens (Marshall 2013: 38-39). As a result, there is growing recognition and acknowledgement of the importance of the Church as an effective partner in development. Working in partnership for development has become increasingly common, with emphasis on participation and localisation. This emphasis is also important for development research, and because of their significant role in the culture and development of Pacific island nations, the RDI Network commissioned research to provide guidance on working with Churches for development research and evaluation. 22 interviews with individuals representing Pacific Churches and those involved in Pacific Church research collaborations in both Australia and in the Pacific were conducted, along with desk research, and support from a steering group from academic and NGO staff. This paper will talk through the research methodology, as well as the guidance itself. It also highlights and explains the importance of principles for collaborative research practice, and Pacific research methods are explained within the framework of Pacific values. Case studies are included to demonstrate how researchers have demonstrated good practice in collaborative practice with Pacific Churches. These case studies also highlight application of Pacific research methodologies.

## **A faith-based approach to reducing family violence in Vanuatu: counselling skills and men's behaviour change program**

Fiama Rakau, Amelia Greaves and Amanda Tavo

*Faith and Engagement Mentor, Senior Program Manager (REACH) and Safeguarding Focal Point, and Men's Behaviour Change Facilitator, World Vision Vanuatu*

Domestic violence is a major issue in Vanuatu, where 83% of the population identifies as Christian, and over half of men and women in rural areas are likely to turn to customary or religious leaders for domestic conflict resolution. In response to both need and context, World Vision developed a counselling skills course in 2016 which works with Christian faith and community leaders and their spouses to increase understanding of family violence, and improve their ability to help both survivors and perpetrators in congregations and communities. An independent evaluation of the counselling skills approach, conducted in June 2018, found that 79% of course participants stopped using violence within their own families as a direct result of the course. All participants demonstrated an increased understanding of types, pattern and effects of violence, as well as the use of tools to diffuse faith-based anti-violence messages. 58% of participants demonstrated an increased acceptance of gender equality and actively made support referrals for survivors of violence. Half of participants indicated they were working with perpetrators of violence, providing counselling on the law and strategies to prevent violence. This resulted in a measurable reduction of violence in one-third of target communities in under two years. However, despite evidenced changes in behaviour, traditional attitudes around gender and justification for violence persisted in both women and men's groups in target communities. In order to address this directly, World Vision has developed and piloted a men's behavioural change program run by male and female faith leaders, which has a strong focus on working with men who use violence to take responsibility for their actions, and provide practical strategies to change their behaviour. Initial pilot results are impressive, with all course participants' intimate partners reporting not only cessation of violence but also an improved distribution of work within the home.

---

## **PANEL 5H – Public-private partnerships**

*1.30pm – 3.00pm, Miller Theatre*

Chair: Sarah Pearson

*Chief Innovation Officer and Chief Scientist, innovationXchange, DFAT*

### **Encouraging the private sector's role in achieving universal health coverage through development partners' funding**

Syed Zulfiqar Ali

*National Team Leader, Oxford Policy Management*

The German government, through Kreditanstalt Für Wiederaufbau (KfW, the German Development Bank), has provided 25 million euros to the government of Pakistan for funding initiatives with demonstrable outputs and outcomes through a demand-side approach in health sector. One of these initiatives has been the launch of a social health protection scheme in the Gilgit Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa regions. In December 2015, the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa launched a 44 million euro social health protection scheme called "Sehat Sahulat Programme". Initially, the poorest 51% of the province's population were covered (~14.4 million people), and this was later extended (in December 2017) to 69% of the population. The scheme empowers patients, enabling them to seek better quality health care from both public and private providers. It seeks to stimulate the insurance industry as well as private hospitals in remote areas to provide low cost products. More broadly, it aims to involve the private sector in delivering universal health coverage in the country, while also considering their commercial interests. In the areas where the insurance scheme has been launched, private hospitals are being established and improved. Government hospitals have changed their rules to attract patients covered under the insurance scheme and to enhance revenue generation. There are two insurance companies providing health insurance in the program: Jubilee Life Insurance and the State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan. Insurance companies in Pakistan have realised the opportunity to cover 25 million households across the country, collecting 35,000 million rupees (250 million euros) a year. Most insurance companies have now launched health insurance products. This presentation will outline the successes and challenges of the scheme to date, then engage the audience in a structured discussion on the potential of such an unusual modality for development partners to support a country's journey towards universal health coverage to be adapted and replicated elsewhere.

## **Shared value – a new and better way to enable private sector partnerships for development**

Paul Bird  
CEO, AVI

For the last 50 years, corporate social responsibility (CSR) has been the mechanism used by corporates to engagement in social development. Over this time, CSR has been relegated to a marketing or human resources function outside the core business, severely limiting its effectiveness and sustainability to a promotion or staff engagement opportunity. In 2011, the Harvard Business Review published an article by Michael Porter and Mark Kramer on creating shared value. Like many methodologies, it was not new, but shared value neatly encapsulated the way core business can also achieve social outcomes. This new narrative means that corporates do not need to change their business, or have a separate program. This presentation outlines how the development sector needs to embrace shared value as a new way to engage and develop private sector partnerships for effective and scalable social and economic development outcomes. The presentation will draw on Australian and overseas case studies, as well as look into future opportunities.

## **Donor approaches to private sector engagement**

Jeremy Stringer  
Assistant Director, Private Sector Development, DFAT

The 2030 agenda recognises that achieving the SDGs will require significant partnership with the private sector. Donors continue to investigate opportunities to partner with private sector actors, to test different approaches, and to undertake institutional reforms to better position public organisations to engage in public-private partnerships as opposed to service provider relationships. This presentation analyses these various efforts with reference to several major bilateral donors, drawing out lessons learned and implications for efforts that continue to pursue this agenda.

## **Public-private partnerships – working at the coal face with African governments to truly break the cycle of poverty**

Cassandra Treadwell  
CEO and Founder, So They Can

The last 12 years of working to empower some of the poorest children in East Africa has cemented the author's belief that working and collaborating with local communities and their local and national governments is crucial to break the poverty cycle and make systemic and sustainable change. Programs by So they Can have resulted in public-private partnerships with the governments in Kenya and Tanzania, establishing the first and only Tanzanian teachers' training college public private partnership with the national government. 12 years ago the author found herself sitting on a cold corridor Kenyan government floor, determined to follow her legal instinct that a memorandum of understanding was needed at the national government level to empower children in Africa through education. So They Can formed a public-private partnership in education with the Kenyan government in 2010, followed by the first public-private partnership in teachers training education with the Tanzanian government in 2012. This has seen the creation of the Mamire Teachers' Training College in Tanzania that placed first out of 79 private and public colleges last year. In 2017 the first graduating class of Aberdare Ranges Public Primary School in Kenya saw 100% of students gain the necessary marks to transition to secondary school, while on average only 42% of Kenyan public primary school students transition to secondary school. This model is working, and the major point of difference is So They Can's relationship with the governments, at all levels, in country. The need to work with in-country governments, while standing firm on non-negotiables such as class sizes, the board of governance and international education support; from local ward up to national presidential offices; is essential to change the face of education nationally. With tangible empirical stories of frustration, heartbreak and success from projects in Kenya and Tanzania that are supporting over 24,000 children and their communities, this presentation will illustrate the importance and realities of working at the coalface with in-country governments to break the poverty cycle.

---

### **PLENARY SESSION**

*3.30pm, Molonglo Theatre*

### **Debating Australian aid**

Chair: Anthea Mulakala

*Director – International Development Cooperation, The Asia Foundation*

## **2018 Stakeholder Survey**

*Terence Wood, Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU*

The aid stakeholder survey is a tool designed to obtain feedback on the effectiveness of the Australian aid program and provide suggestions for its improvement. The survey targets NGOs and development contractors that are familiar with and involved in the delivery of Australian aid, as well as being made available online for other interested aid stakeholders to complete. In this session, the 2018 Stakeholder Survey report will be launched and trends from the 2013, 2015 and 2018 surveys analysed.

## **From grants to loans**

*Stephen Howes, Director, and Matthew Dornan, Deputy Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU*

The Australian Government has recently announced the creation of an Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP). This session will launch a new policy brief from the Development Policy Centre on the issues and options that this announcement raises.

Discussants:

Joanne Choe  
*Regional Manager – Pacific, Cardno*

Marc Purcell  
*CEO, ACFID*

Clare Walsh  
*Deputy Secretary – Global Cooperation, Development and Partnerships Group, DFAT*



Australian  
National  
University

**DEVELOPMENT**  
POLICY CENTRE



**The Asia Foundation**