



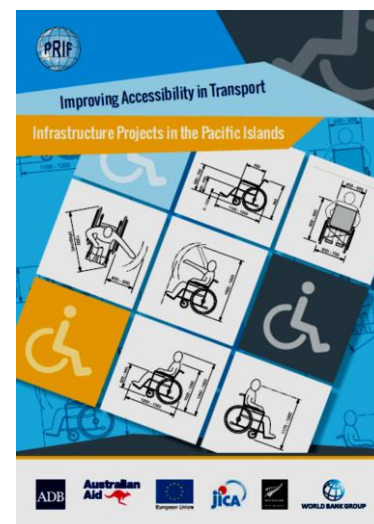
# **2016 Pacific Update Conference**

## **PARALLEL SESSION 3B: ROADS AND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE**

**"A PARTNERSHIP OF PACIFIC ORGANIZATIONS OF AND FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES"**



# IMPROVING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ACCESSIBILITY IN TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS



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# Introduction

- Developed as part of a research study to assist the project partners – Pacific Disability Forum, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) – in their efforts to enhance accessibility in the transport sector and built environment in Pacific countries.
- Initiated by the World Bank through the PRIF Transport Sector Working Group.
- Target two main audiences in the PRIF agencies;
  - i. policy and decision-makers to be better informed about the general issues in improving accessibility,
  - ii. project managers, planners, engineers and contractors to understand technical issues related to design and construction of accessible infrastructure.

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# Research Study

The research study included:

- background research on legal and policy frameworks in the Pacific and among the PRIF agencies
- audit of accessibility features in 11 projects developed through funding by PRIF agencies (in Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Tuvalu)
- consultation with a range of stakeholders including the project partners, Pacific governments and organisations of persons with disabilities,
- preparation of this report and other associated papers and presentations.

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# Key Lesson

Addressing deficits in road, aviation and maritime transport requires a combination of three elements: *Engineering, Education, and Enforcement* (the three 'E's).

*Engineering* deals with developing and regularly updating accessibility standards and guidelines to ensure they remain current and are incorporated into design work for infrastructure projects.



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*Education* concerns the training required for Pacific authorities, disabled persons' organisations and among development partners to understand the *how* and *why* of standards and guidelines on accessibility.

*Enforcement* requires commitment by governments to ensure the appropriate legislation and regulations are in place, that it is clear who has responsibility for enforcement of the standards, and that assessments and audits are conducted.



# Key recommendations

- All Pacific Island Countries (PICs) sign or ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a first step towards recognising the need to promote inclusion of people with disabilities
- Pacific island governments develop and implement basic Accessibility Codes and work towards Barrier Free Accessibility (BFA) across transport networks and in the built environment, including seamless connectivity



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- Disabled Persons' Organisations (DPOs) should take a lead in fighting stigma by organising awareness campaigns to support better integration of people with disabilities into society, working with the authorities to promote understanding and application of the Accessibility Codes, coordinating with various authorities to plan and implement an accessible built environment and transport network, and organising activities for people with disabilities that enable them to be more engaged in the community.

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- PRIF agencies ensure that all new infrastructure is designed and built to be accessible and in accordance with national legislation and policies, and
- PDF and PIFS consider establishing a task force in each country that includes relevant authorities and stakeholders to look into the planning, implementation and maintenance of accessible infrastructure to accelerate the provision of a barrier free environment and associated capacity building requirements.



# Conclusion

The report comprises:

an assessment of the current situation in the region; technical guidelines and screening tools for assessing or auditing accessibility features in transport infrastructure, recommendations and other supporting material.

It is designed for policy-makers, project managers, planners, engineers and contractors who need to understand technical issues related to design, construction and integration of accessible infrastructure.



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