Realizing Pacific job needs in the 21st Century
Objectives

1. Raise awareness of nature of jobs challenge
2. Enquire into structure and behavior of labor markets
3. Propose some preliminary strategic policy options for further analysis
The Pacific jobs challenge

- Population growth, esp in Melanesia 2-3%p.a.; low in North Pacific
- Drives even bigger ↑ in working age population +50%; >3% in PNG, SOL, TIM
- Low labor force participation rates – 41-73%, esp low for women
- Limited formal sector employment – av 58%
- Significant public sector employment – av 30% vs. Australia (17%)
Labor market structure and behavior

- Private sector
- Competitiveness
- Public sector – employer of last resort
- Formal vs. informal
- Unemployment vs. underemployment
- Regulatory environment – min wage; business friendly
- Migration and remittances
Strategies for generating employment

1. Expanding private sector opportunities
   - Infrastructure investment
   - Strategic investments
   - Access to finance
   - Regulatory environment

2. Reform public sector
   - SOE reform, community-service obligations
   - Social safety nets

3. Improve education and training
   - Basic education
   - TVET

4. Regional cooperation and integration
   - Temporary worker schemes
   - Trade agreements