



Australian  
National  
University



# 2015 Pacific Update Conference

## Pacific Development in a Changing Global Economy

The **Pacific Update Conference** is an annual forum for discussing research and analysis relating to contemporary economic and public policy issues in the Pacific. It gathers policymakers, academics, and development partners to discuss the latest economic and social developments in the region.

Wednesday, 15 July and Thursday, July 16, 8:00 am–5:30 pm  
Japan–Pacific ICT Centre, USP–Laucala Campus, Suva

Jointly Organized and Sponsored by:

Pacific Department

**Asian Development Bank**

with support from the Pacific Economic Management Technical Assistance project

**Asian Development Bank Institute**

Development Policy Centre

Crawford School of Public Policy

**Australian National University**

School of Economics

Faculty of Business and Economics

**The University of the South Pacific**

## DAY ONE—WEDNESDAY 15 JULY 2015

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8:00 am Registration

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9:00 am **Opening Ceremony and Welcoming Addresses**

*Japan-Pacific*

*ICT Auditorium*

**Introduction of Speakers**

Satya Paul, Head, School of Economics, The University of the South Pacific (USP)

**Welcome Address**

Rajesh Chandra, Vice Chancellor and President, USP

**Opening Address**

Mahendra Reddy, Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts of Fiji

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9:30 am

**Official Launch**

**Pacific Opportunities: Leveraging Asia's Growth**

An ADB-ADBI joint publication

Naoyuki Yoshino, Dean, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)

Emma Veve, Director, Pacific Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

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10:00 am

Morning Coffee, Tea, and Refreshments

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10:30 am

**Opening Plenary Session**

*Japan-Pacific*

*ICT Auditorium*

**Regional Economic Outlook**

Report based on July 2015 issue of the Pacific Economic Monitor

Christopher Edmonds, Senior Economist, Pacific Department, ADB

**Keynote Presentation: Developments on Pacific Labor Mobility**

Stephen Howes, Director, Development Policy Centre, Australian National University (ANU)

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12:00 pm

Lunch

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1:00 pm

**Parallel Session 1a: Macroeconomic policy**

*Japan-Pacific*

*ICT Auditorium*

Chair: Satya Paul, Head, School of Economics, USP

**Hard Pegs versus Intermediate Currency Arrangements in the Pacific**

—with Matthias Helble and Ahmad Prasetyo

Naoyuki Yoshino, Dean, ADBI

**The Role of Central Bank in Supporting Fiji's Economic Growth**

Ariff Ali, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of Fiji

**Policy Challenges and Responses in the Pacific: A PFTAC Perspective**

Scott Roger, Project Coordinator, Pacific Financial and Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC), International Monetary Fund (IMF)

**Key Issues in Banking and Finance in the Pacific**

Peter Dirou, Senior Financial Sector Expert, Private Sector Development Initiative, ADB

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## DAY ONE CONTINUED

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1:00 pm  
AusAID  
Lecture  
Theater  
Room  
092-001

### **Parallel Session 1b: Agriculture and fisheries**

Chair: Christopher Edmonds, Senior Economist, ADB

#### **What Do you Want to Know about Pacific Fisheries? Lessons Learnt**

Transform Aqorau, CEO, Parties to the Nauru Agreement

#### **The State of the Tropics—What Does it Mean for the Pacific?**

—with Sandra Harding, Dennis Trewin, and Mark Ziembicki

Ann Penny, Project Manager, State of the Tropics Project, James Cook University

#### **Catalyzing Opportunities in Pacific Smallholder Agriculture**

Wesley Morgan, Pacific Policy Advisor, Oxfam Australia

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1:00 pm  
AusAID  
Lecture  
Theater  
Room  
092-003

### **Parallel Session 1c: Gender inequality and development**

Chair: Asenati Chan Tung, Lecturer, USP

#### **Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration: A Political Tool for Addressing Gender Inequalities in the Pacific?**

Seema Naidu, Gender Issues Officer, Pacific Island Forum Secretariat

#### **Votes for Women—Increasing Women’s Political Representation in Melanesia**

Kerryn Baker, Postdoctoral Fellow, State, Society & Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU

#### **Gender Based Violence and Its Big Bite on Small Island States- Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu**

—with Michael Sivendra

Charlotte Taylor, Assitant Lecturer, USP

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2:30 pm

Afternoon Coffee, Tea, and Refreshments

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3:00 pm  
Japan-Pacific  
ICT Auditorium

### **Parallel Session 2a: Development partnerships and assistance**

Chair: Sandra Tarte, Head, School of Government, Development and International Affairs, USP

#### **Development Assistance to the Pacific: Trends and Developments—**with Matthew Dornan

Jonathan Pryke, Research Officer, Development Policy Centre, ANU

#### **Mapping Chinese Aid in the Pacific**

Philippa Brant, Research Associate, Lowy Institute

#### **Relative Effectiveness of External Aid and Foreign Direct Investment in the Economic Growth of Pacific Island Countries: A Case Study of Vanuatu—**with T.K. Jayaraman and Hong Chen

Markand Bhatt, Assistant Lecturer, USP

#### **Reflections on Aid to the Pacific**

Siosuia (Josh) ‘Utoikamanu, Consultant and

Former Governor, National Reserve Bank of Tonga and Minister of Finance, Tonga

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## DAY ONE CONTINUED

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3:00 pm  
AusAID  
Lecture  
Theater  
Room  
092-001

### **Parallel Session 2b: Human capital development**

Chair: Matthias Helble, Research Fellow, ADBI

#### **Labor Migration and Human Capital Development in Timor-Leste**

David Freedman, Country Economist, ADB Timor-Leste Resident Mission

#### **Financing of Technical Education and Training (TVET) in the Pacific**

Frank Thompson, First Secretary, Aid Program, Australian High Commission

#### **APTC- Supporting TVET in the Pacific**

Denise O'Brien, CEO, Australia-Pacific Technical College (APTC)

#### **Education and Workforce Skills in the Federated States of Micronesia**

Paul Vandenberg, Senior Economist, ADBI

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3:00 pm  
AusAID  
Lecture  
Theater  
Room  
092-003

Parallel Session 2c: Export niche supply chains

Chair: Caroline Currie, Senior Economist, Pacific Subregional Office, ADB

#### **Pacific DMCs' Export Linkages**

Patricia Sourdin, Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins University

#### **The Efficacy of Export-led Growth among Six Pacific Island Countries**—with Baljeet Singh

Sunil Kumar, Senior Lecturer, USP

#### **Lessons From a Successful Niche Product Exporter: Pure Fiji**

Austin Mafi, Sales & Marketing Assistant and Dewani Lal, Sales Executive, Pure Fiji

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4:30 pm  
Japan-  
Pacific  
ICT  
Auditorium

### **Closing Plenary**

5:30 pm

### **End of Day One**

Welcoming Cocktail & Kava Reception (by invitation)

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## DAY TWO—THURSDAY 16 JULY 2015

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8:00 am Registration

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8:30 am **Plenary— Roundtable Discussion on Private Sector Development**

*Japan-Pacific*  
*ICT*  
*Auditorium*

Chair and panelist: Tess Newton Cain, Principal, Devpacific

Kaleb Udui, Jr., Co-Chairperson, Economic Advisory Group, Republic of Palau and Palau Chamber of Commerce

Peter Dirou, Senior Financial Sector Expert, Private Sector Development Initiative, ADB

Guy Redding, Team Leader, Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access

Anita Jowitt, Adviser, Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce & Industries

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10:00 am Morning Coffee, Tea, and Refreshments

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10:30 am **Parallel Session 3a: Tourism Markets**

*Japan-Pacific*  
*ICT*  
*Auditorium*

Chair: Marcus L. Stephenson, Head, School of Tourism and Hospitality Management, USP

**Tourism Markets in the Pacific**

Ilisoni Vuidreketi, CEO, South Pacific Tourism Organization

**Achievements and Challenges in Palau's Tourism Development**

Kaleb Udui, Jr., Co-Chairperson, Economic Advisory Group, Republic of Palau and Palau Chamber of Commerce

**Observations on Tourism Developments in Micronesia: Lessons for the Greater Pacific Region?**

Jerry Finin, Resident Co-director, Pacific Islands Development Program, East-West Center

**Major Trends and Priorities in Pacific Tourism Development**

Christopher Edmonds, Senior Economist, ADB

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10:30 am **Parallel Session 3b: Extractive industries and energy markets**

*AusAID*  
*Lecture*  
*Theater*  
*Room*  
*092-001*

Chair: Jito Vanualilali, Director Research, USP

**Falling Oil Prices Trigger Initial Economic Gains for Pacific**

Dibyendu Maiti, Associate Professor, USP

**Pacific Islands Fuel Pricing Manual**—with Pritanshu Singh

Alan Bartmanovich, Petroleum Adviser, Economics Development Division, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

**The Pacific Appliance Labelling and Standards (PALS) Programme:**

**Importing Efficiency Instead of Fuel**—with Emily McQualter and George Wilkenfeld  
Makereta Lomaloma, Energy Efficiency Advisor, SPC

**Solomon Islands: State-Owned Enterprise Financial Management Issues**

Emmanuel Joseph Iyabora, Lecturer, University of Fiji

## DAY TWO CONTINUED

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10:30 am **Parallel Session 3c: Disaster risk management and climate change**  
*AusAID* Chair: Taniela Faletau, Safeguards Officer, Pacific Subregional Office, ADB  
*Lecture*  
*Theater* **Vanuatu and Cyclone Pam: An Update on Fiscal, Economic, and Development Impacts**  
*Room* Matthew Dornan, Research Fellow and Tess Newton Cain, Visiting Fellow  
*092-003* Development Policy Centre, ANU

**Towards A Behavioral Toolkit: Assessment and Disaster Risk Reduction Through Strategic Partnerships in the South Pacific**  
Linda Brennan, Professor and Judy Lawry, Senior Lecturer, RMIT University

**The Climate Change-Foreign Aid Nexus: Case Study of Pacific Island Countries**  
Gyaneshwar Rao, Lecturer and Baljeet Singh, Lecturer, USP

**Assessing Poverty and the Vulnerability of Households in Tuvalu to Disasters**  
Tauisi Taupo, PhD Candidate, Victoria University of Wellington

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12:00 pm Lunch

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1:00 pm **Parallel Session 4a: Budget support (Roundtable)**  
*Japan-Pacific* Chair: Stephen Howes, Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU  
*ICT*  
*Auditorium* Matthew Dornan, Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Mckinnie Dentana, Under Secretary-Economics, Ministry of Finance and Treasury, Solomon Islands

Lily-Anne Homasi, Senior Program Manager-Tuvalu, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia

Laisiasa Tora, Country Economist, Pacific Subregional Office, ADB

Jerome Pons, Human Rights Focal Point, Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific

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1:00 pm **Parallel Session 4b: Health sector**  
*AusAID* Chair: Paul Vandenberg, Senior Economist, ADBI  
*Lecture*  
*Theater* **Republic of Palau Health Care Financing**  
*Room* Gregory Ngirmang, Minister of Health, Palau  
*092-001*

**Assessment of the Overseas Patient Referral Systems in Four Pacific Islands Countries**  
—with Wayne Irava and Shyamajanaka Mahakalanda  
Ronesh Prasad, Economist, Fiji National University

**Practical Policy Solutions for Ending Preventable Child Deaths in the Pacific Timor-Leste Region**  
—with Raul Schneider  
Nancy Waites, Policy and Advocacy Manager, World Vision

**The Economic Costs of Non-Communicable Diseases in the Pacific: Causes, Crisis, and Consequences**  
Ian Anderson, Director, Ian Anderson Economics

## DAY TWO CONTINUED

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2:30 pm	Afternoon Coffee, Tea, and Refreshments
3:00 pm <i>Japan-Pacific ICT Auditorium</i>	<b>Parallel Session 5a: Long term fiscal planning and modeling (Roundtable)</b> Chair: Siosiuia (Josh) 'Utoikamanu, Consultant and Former Governor, National Reserve Bank of Tonga and Minister of Finance, Tonga  Shiu Raj Singh, Country Economist and Rommel Rabanal, Senior Economics Officer Pacific Department, ADB  Iris Klaus, Macroeconomic Advisor, PFTAC-IMF  Rup Singh, Senior Lecturer, USP  Brian Wabaiat, Senior Fiscal Policy Officer, Department of Finance and Treasury, Vanuatu  Primula Kingmele, Chief Policy Analyst, Economic Reform Unit, Ministry of Finance and Treasury, Solomon Islands
3:00 pm <i>AusAID Lecture Theater Room 092-001</i>	<b>Parallel Session 5b: Regionalism and trade facilitation</b> Chair: Rob Jauncey, Regional Director, Pacific Subregional Office, ADB  <b>WTO and Regional Institutions: Complementary Institutions for Trade Facilitation</b> Richard Pomfret, Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins University and Professor of Economics, University of Adelaide  <b>The Pacific's Connectivity and Its Trade Implications</b> Matthias Helble, Research Fellow, ADBI  <b>Growth Impact of Foreign Direct Investment in Pacific Island Countries: A Revisit</b> Hong Chen, Senior Lecturer and Baljeet Singh, Lecturer, USP  <b>Making PACER Plus Work for Pacific Exporters- The Importance of Rules of Origin</b> Uwe Kaufmann, Trade and Economic Analyst-Lecturer, University of Adelaide
4:30 pm <i>Japan-Pacific ICT Auditorium</i>	<b>Closing Plenary Session</b> <b>Drivers of Growth Spurts in Pacific Island Economies</b> Ronald Duncan, Emeritus Professor, ANU  <b>Panel: Review and Highlights from the Conference</b>  <b>Closing Ceremony</b>
5:30 pm	<b>Closing Dinner at the Oceania Centre for Arts, Culture and Pacific Studies</b> (by invitation)