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2023 PACIFIC UPDATE

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TUESDAY 13 TO THURSDAY 15 JUNE
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC
LAUCALA CAMPUS, SUVA, FIJI

#PacificUpdate

SUPPORTED BY

**PACIFIC
RESEARCH
PROGRAM**

AN INITIATIVE OF THE AUSTRALIAN AID PROGRAM



The Asia Foundation



REGIONAL PROGRAMME
AUSTRALIA AND THE PACIFIC

2023 PACIFIC UPDATE – ORGANISING COMMITTEE

DEVELOPMENT POLICY CENTRE, ANU

Ryan Edwards, Deputy Director
Charlotte Bedford, Research Fellow
Huiyuan (Sharon) Liu, Research Officer
Evie Sharman, Research Officer
Arichika Okazaki, Senior Program Officer

The Development Policy Centre's research on Pacific economic development and migration is part of the Pacific Research Program, a consortium led by the ANU Department of Pacific Affairs, with the Development Policy Centre and the Lowy Institute. The Program is co-funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the consortium partners' parent bodies.

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING, FINANCE AND ECONOMICS, USP

Neelesh Gounder, Senior Lecturer
Josephine Singh, Secretary
Ronald Chand, Teaching Assistant, University of the South Pacific



Supporting Pacific solutions to Pacific challenges.

Building on decades of on-the-ground experience in the region, we are working together with leaders and changemakers across the Pacific Islands to amplify voice and accountability in decision making; advance women's leadership on climate action and disaster management; enhance digital economic opportunities and cybersecurity; and counter trafficking in persons.

 **The Asia Foundation**
Improving Lives, Expanding Opportunities

   

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2023 PACIFIC UPDATE – TUESDAY PROGRAM

TUESDAY 13 JUNE

8.30am **Registration**

9.00am **Welcome and opening plenary**

Auditorium

Chair: Neelesh Gounder, University of the South Pacific

Welcome remarks

Professor Pal Ahluwalia, Vice Chancellor and President, University of the South Pacific

Opening remarks

Hon Pat Conroy MP, Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Australian Government

Keynote address

Hon Biman Prasad, Minister for Finance and Deputy Prime Minister, Government of Fiji

Keynote address

Andie Fong Toy, Head Subregional Office for the Pacific, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

10.30am **Morning tea**

11.00am **Panel 1a: Gender and family violence**

Auditorium

Chair: Grant Walton, Australian National University

Pacific Aid Map: Examining trends in gender equality financing

Jessica Collins, Lowy Institute

Family size and domestic violence in a high-fertility society

Dyah Pritadrajati, Australian National University

How can digital services empower and build the resilience of women and the socially excluded against climate disasters?

Akata Taito, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

Panel 1b: Tourism and human development

Video Conference Room 1 (VCR1)

Chair: Madeleine Flint, Development Intelligence Lab

Note: Bold text indicates the presenter/s where there is more than one paper author. If no names are in bold text all authors intend to present.

2023 PACIFIC UPDATE – TUESDAY PROGRAM

Does happiness come naturally to tourists? An assessment of tourist satisfaction in Fiji

Stephen Pratt, University of Central Florida, **Amare Wonidrad** and Gurmeet Singh, University of the South Pacific

The case for tourism satellite account for the South Pacific islands

Semisi Taumoepeau, Auckland Institute of Studies, **Kirstie Petrou**, Griffith University, and Enitilina Fetu'u, Tonga Statistics Department

Can we persuade policy makers to focus on the life satisfaction of the people? Learnings from recent findings on Fiji

Kushneel Prakash, University of Melbourne

Locally led youth development: Utilising 'Talanoa' to enable community change

Patricia Zani Samuel, Ola Fou Solomon Islands, and Raymond Talasivo, Ola Fou Solomon Islands

12.30pm

Lunch

1.30pm

Panel 2a: Foreign aid

Auditorium

Chair: Thomas Wangi, Australian National University

Pacific Islands Aid Efficiency Index

Alexandre Dayant and Riley Duke, Lowy Institute

Australia as an infrastructure partner with the Pacific

Melissa Conley Tyler, Asia-Pacific Development, Diplomacy & Defence Dialogue (AP4D)

Shared perspectives: Critical issues facing Indo-Pacific international development strategy in a shifting environment

Madeleine Flint, Isabelle Coleman, Bridi Rice and Richard Moore, Development Intelligence Lab; and Luke Levett Minihan, Independent Consultant

Panel 2b: Gender transformative practice

Video Conference Room 1 (VCR1)

Pacific girl and Toksave: The success of gender transformative programs in the Pacific

Chair: Lanita Waleanisia, Pacific Women Lead, Pacific Community (SPC)

Tara Chetty, Pacific Women Lead, Pacific Community

Margaret Mishra, University of the South Pacific

Ana Malia Falemaka, Tongan Youth Mentor and Ambassador, Pacific Women Lead Governance Board member, former Pacific Girl participant

3.00pm

Afternoon tea

2023 PACIFIC UPDATE – TUESDAY PROGRAM

- 3.30pm** **Panel 3a: Educational exchange**
Auditorium
Spotlighting international scholarships, the elephant in the Australian aid budget: Examining the effectiveness of educational exchange for sustainable development and public diplomacy in the Pacific region
Chair: Noa Seru, Australian Awards Alumni and Technical Consultant
Hazel Lang, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Daniel Edwards, Australian Council for Educational Research
Lorissa Hazelman, Alinea International (Fiji)
- Panel 3b: Climate change and environment**
Video Conference Room 1 (VCR1)
Chair: Akata Taito, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
Resilient and sustainable economic transition in Pacific small island developing states: Blue economy and deep sea mining. The case of Fiji.
Viliame Kasanawaqa, University of Malta
Assessing the health of aquatic ecosystems in the Cook Islands: A study of lagoon and stream water quality
Alvin Chand, University of the South Pacific , and Alvin Lal, University of Newcastle
An assessment on mangrove conservation in Papua New Guinea: A case study on mangrove sustainability policy from 2012-2016
Melin Wamas, University of Papua New Guinea
Assessing the wantok system of the Solomon Islands as an adaptation strategy
Michael Ha’apio, Idea Connection Pacific , Ricardo Gonzalez, University of Chile, and Morgan Wairiu, Windrock International Solomon Islands
- 5.00pm** **Close**
- 5.30pm** **Cocktail reception, hosted by The Asia Foundation**
Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Marquee

2023 PACIFIC UPDATE – WEDNESDAY PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE

8.30am **Registration**

9.00am **Keynote plenary**

Auditorium

Chair: Stephen Howes, Director, Development Policy Centre, Australian National University

Keynote address

Denton Rarawa, Senior Advisor in Economics, Pacific Islands Forum (PIFS)

Keynote address

Ingrid Fitzgerald, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

10.30am **Morning tea**

11.00am **Panel 4a: Politics and governance**

Auditorium

Chair: Gordon Nanau, University of the South Pacific

How effective are the anti-money laundering regimes in PNG and Fiji?

Michael Kabuni, Australian National University

Bridging the humanitarian and development nexus in justice sector reform in the Pacific: Vanuatu

Alice McGrath, Vanuatu Australia Policing and Justice Program, and Jocelyn Loughman, Ministry of Justice and Community Services, Government of Vanuatu

Perceptions of corruption in seven small Pacific Island countries: Findings from the Global Corruption Barometer

Grant Walton, Australian National University

Panel 4b: Private sector and economic development

Video Conference Room 1 (VCR1)

Chair: Jessica Collins, Lowy Institute

Small firms

Ryan Edwards, Australian National University, and Michelle Kempis, New York University

Upscaling local and innovative private sector solutions to social and environmental issues is crucial to the region's resilience

Sandra Mendez, Business Link Pacific

Capital inflows and effectiveness of sterilization policy in PNG

Thomas Wangi, Australian National University

2023 PACIFIC UPDATE – WEDNESDAY PROGRAM

12.30pm Lunch

1.30pm **Panel 5a: Fiji care economy – A case study for Fiji**

Auditorium

Chair: Sandra Kraushaar, The Asia Foundation

Hon Sashi Kiran, Assistant Minister for Women, Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation, Government of Fiji

Laisa Bulatale, Fiji Women's Rights Movement

Sainimili Tawake, Pacific Disability Forum

Panel 5b: Economic resilience

Video Conference Room 1 (VCR1)

Increasing economic resilience in the handicraft and agribusiness sectors in Vanuatu

Chair: Fremden Yanhambath, Vanuatu Skills Partnership

Erinah Malres, Vanuatu Skills Partnership

Margaret Alilee, Vanuatu Department of Industry

Mark Vurobaravu, Vanuatu Department of Agriculture

Claud Vusilai, Ambaebulu School

3.00pm **Afternoon tea**

3.30pm **Panel 6a: Fiji economy**

Auditorium

Chair: Ryan Edwards, Australian National University

Fiji's economy post-2022 general elections

Janesh Sami, University of the South Pacific

Agri value chain financing: Solution for scale limitations in Fiji

Lagi Fisher, Financial Management Counsellors Association of Fiji (FMCAF)

Post COVID tourism recovery in Fiji

Fantasha Lockington, Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association (FHTA)

Panel 6b: Indigenous community empowerment

Video Conference Room 1 (VCR1)

Chair: Vani Catanasiga, Fiji Council of Social Services

Indigenous innovations: Indigenous Agricultural Knowledge (IAK), resilience to the climate crisis

Suliasi Vunibola, University of Canterbury, and **Ilisoni Leweniqila**, Fiji

National University, and Kolaia Raisele, La Trobe University

2023 PACIFIC UPDATE – WEDNESDAY PROGRAM

Exploring the Tokatoka (Sub-Clan or Vuvale) Land-Trust Model to sustain the socio-economic livelihood of the Indigenous Fijian community

Paula Raqekai, University of the South Pacific, and Kathryn Bicknell, Lincoln University

Community empowerment from the ground up: Using Samoan indigenous methodologies to obtain equity, diversity and inclusion.

Inez Fainga’a-Manu Sione, Vaoiva Ponton and, Andrew Harvey, Griffith University; Naomi Pelitte, Ruta Aloalii, Manuia Aloalii and **Deborah Perelini**, Village Connect; and Matt Statham, Brisbane South PHN

5.00pm

Close

5.45pm

Conference dinner, hosted by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Marquee

2023 PACIFIC UPDATE – THURSDAY PROGRAM

THURSDAY 15 JUNE – PACIFIC MIGRATION RESEARCH WORKSHOP

- 8.30am** **Registration**
Auditorium
- 9.00am** **Keynote address**
Michael Clemens, Centre for Global Development
- 9.35am** **Keynote address**
Leasiolagi Malama Meleisea, National University of Samoa
- 10.10am** **Morning tea**
- 10.30am** **Panel 7: Economic impacts at home and abroad**
Chair: Neelesh Gounder, University of the South Pacific
The Pacific Labour Mobility Survey: Key findings from the first wave
Ryan Edwards, Australian National University, and and Dung Doan, World Bank
The labour market impacts of low-skilled temporary migration: Evidence from the Seasonal Worker Program
Toan Nguyen, Australian National University, and Ryan Edwards, Australian National University
Temporary migration and household spending in the Pacific
Hiroshi Maeda, Australian National University and Ryan Edwards, Australian National University
- 12.00pm** **Lunch**
- 1.00pm** **Panel 8: Reflections on the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility scheme**
Reflections and insights from the Pacific Labour Facility: 2018-2023
Lewis Brimblecombe, Pacific Labour Facility, and Gavin Murray, Pacific Labour Facility
Is Australia doing enough to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Pacific workers in Australia?
Lindy Kanan, University of the Sunshine Coast, and Judy Putt, Australian National University
From the front lines of the PALM scheme: Perspective of a labour union organiser
Lieta Sauluma-Duggan, Australian Workers' Union
Migrant-Diaspora Connections and Pacific Food Worker Wellbeing in Australia
Victoria Stead, Deakin University, **Kirstie Petrou**, Griffith University, and Makiko Nishitani, La Trobe University

2023 PACIFIC UPDATE – THURSDAY PROGRAM

- 2.30pm** **Afternoon tea**
- 2.45pm** **Panel 9: Australia’s Pacific Engagement Visa – can it be strengthened to meet the Blue Pacific needs?**
Chair: Stephen Howes, Australian National University
Akka Rimon, Australian National University
Natasha Turia-Moka, Australian National University
Michael Kabuni, Australian National University
Jope Tarai, Australian National University
- 3.30pm** **Panel 10: Regional perspectives on labour mobility in the Pacific**
Chair: Alisi Holani, PACER Plus Implementation Unit
Emmanuel Murwisi, International Organization for Migration
Angelica Neville, International Labour Organization and Sabira Coelho, International Organization for Migration
Noah Kouback, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
- 5.00pm** **Workshop close**
- 5.00pm** **Red Wave Retrospective Exhibition (optional), Oceania Centre for the Arts**

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Did you enjoy the conference?

We'd love to hear your feedback.

**Please fill in our quick survey at
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PacificUpdate>**