

2017 Pacific Update Conference

Tuesday 20 June and Wednesday 21 June 2017

Japan-Pacific ICT Centre
The University of the South Pacific
Laucala Campus, Suva, Fiji

Organized and Sponsored by:

Pacific Department
Asian Development Bank
Manila, Philippines

Development Policy Centre
Crawford School of Public Policy
Australian National University
Canberra, Australia

School of Economics
Faculty of Business and Economics
The University of the South Pacific
Suva, Fiji



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2017 Pacific Update Conference

Main themes: The Pacific Update Conference (the Conference) is the premier forum for discussing critical policy challenges in the Pacific. The Conference gathers policymakers, academics and researchers, business people, and development practitioners, to discuss economic and social challenges in the region. This year's conference focuses on the themes: (1) **Promoting Blue-Green economy;** (2) **Enhancing connectivity;** and (3) **Creating accessible jobs.**

The themes of the Conference are in line with Fiji's Presidency of the 23rd Conference of the Parties (COP 23) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and co-hosting this year's UN Ocean's Conference. The relations of the major themes is well described in the [2014 Global Environment Outlook](#), which states that a blue-green economy (BGE) in small-island developing states (SIDS) "can build new sustainable directions for their economies based on a comparative advantage that emphasizes sustainable tourism in harmony with island capacity and resources, increased energy efficiency and investment in renewable energy, integration with the world economy through information technologies, production and export of sustainably produced products, and the development of dynamic careers for islanders both on and off island (page 18)."

Objectives: Aside from providing a venue to discuss the latest economic and social developments in the region, the Conference aims to set future research agenda and provide policy options for policymakers. To achieve this, each session is composed of a mix of academics, government officials, and staff of regional institutions and development organisations, to provide a variety of viewpoints and to maximize their information sharing.

Theme 1: Promoting Blue-Green economy. The environment is crucial for the livelihoods of Pacific Islanders. In this theme, we will explore the concept of the blue-green economy in the Pacific context and examine how to strengthen climate change resilience, enhance disaster risk management, and scale-up adoption of renewable energy. The role of various mechanisms such as regional cooperation, infrastructure upgrading, development financing, and establishment of legal protection, will also be discussed.

Theme 2: Enhancing connectivity. To address the challenges of isolation and remoteness, Pacific SIDS must enhance their links to the world, including through fast, efficient and affordable internet access. Sessions will discuss developments in information and communications technology (ICT) and its implications on expanding opportunities for trade and e-commerce. Collective action through regional cooperation is also important to achieve a blue-green economy. A session will look at the impact of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism on public policy engagement.

Theme 3: Creating accessible jobs. Expanding employment opportunities is vital in a region facing a youth bulge and high levels of unemployment. Sessions will focus on the critical importance of job creation for Pacific SIDS and explore how to make jobs accessible to local workforce through skills formation and technical and vocational education and training (TVET). A session will also discuss the impacts and prospects of migration and labour mobility programs.

Target Audience: Policymakers, government officials, members of the academia and students, researchers and scientists, development partners and practitioners, businesspeople, non-government organisations, members of the diplomatic community, and private individuals.



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2017 Pacific Update Conference

DAY ONE - TUESDAY 20 JUNE 2017

8:30 am *Registration*

9:00 am **Plenary Session 1: Welcoming Addresses and Opening Ceremony**

Japan-Pacific

ICT

Auditorium

Chair: **Arvind Patel**, Acting Dean, Faculty of Business and Economics,
University of the South Pacific (USP)

Welcome Remarks

Derrick Armstrong, Acting Vice Chancellor, USP

Opening Remarks

Dame Meg Taylor, Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)

Keynote Address and Official Opening by Chief Guest

Hon. Mahendra Reddy, Minister for Education, Heritage, Culture and Arts, Fiji

10:30 am *Morning Coffee, Tea, and Refreshments*

11:00 am **Parallel Session 1a: Achieving a Blue-Green Economy**

Japan-Pacific

ICT

Auditorium

Chair: **Gordon Burns**, Counsellor - Regional Development Cooperation,
Australian High Commission in Fiji

Blue-Green Growth in a Pacific Island Context– with Wesley Morgan,
Matthew Dornan, and Sandra Tarte

Tess Newton Cain, Visiting Fellow, Development Policy Center (DevPolicy),
Australian National University (ANU)

**Reporting on the UN Oceans Conference— “Our Oceans, Our Future:
Partnering for the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14”**
Jeremy Hills, Director, Institute of Marine Resources, USP

**Building Local Ownership and Action on Green Growth: Lessons from the
Ha’apai Development Model and Green Growth Dialogue in Tonga**
Emeline Siale Ilolohia, Executive Director, Civil Society Forum of Tonga

**The Development-Diplomacy Nexus: Lessons from the Green Growth
Leaders’ Coalition** – with David Hudson and Dawn Gibson

Aidan Craney, Research Coordinator, Pacific Leadership Program

11:00 am **Parallel Session 1b: Sustainable Eco-Tourism**

Japan-Pacific

ICT Center

Video

Conference

Room 1

Chair: **Maria Carina Tinio**, Associate Economics and Statistics Analyst,
Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Overcoming High Costs: Niche Products and Services

Norio Usui, Senior Public Management Economist, ADB

Regional Tourism Update

Christopher Cocker, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), South Pacific Tourism
Organization

**Sustainable Eco-tourism: The Opportunity Amongst Challenges in
Solomon Islands**

Andrew Nihopara, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Culture & Tourism,
Solomon Islands

Sustainable Eco-Tourism in the Cook Islands

Halatoa Fua, CEO, Cook Islands Tourism Corporation



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11:00 am <i>Japan-Pacific ICT Center Video Conference Room 2</i>	Parallel Session 1c: Labour Markets and Skills Upgrading Chair: Sanjesh Naidu, Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP Suva How The Way You Define Employment Makes a Difference in Determining Labour Mobility, Job Creation, and Labour Markets – with Michael Levin Meli Nadakuca, Assistant Statistician Demography, Fiji Bureau of Statistics and Epeli Waqavonovono, Government Statistician, Fiji Bureau of Statistics Skills Development System Reform in Vanuatu- Supporting Entrepreneurship, Job Creation, and Labour Mobility – with Anna Gibert Fremden Yanhambath, Program Director, Vanuatu Skills Partnership Program Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Timor-Leste: Public Policy on School Transition Period toward Labour Market Apolinario Magno, Lecturer, Faculty of Economy and Management, Timor-Leste National University (UNTL) Job Creation through Economic Reform in Timor-Leste (via videocon) Sam Porter and Cecilia Requena, Economic Advisors, MECAE, Timor-Leste
12:30 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
2:00 pm <i>Japan-Pacific ICT Auditorium</i>	Parallel Session 2a: Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Chair: Teea Tira, Secretariat Coordinator, Strategic Program for Climate Resilience Proceedings from the 2017 High-level Dialogue and Workshop on Building Resilience to Natural Disasters and Climate Change Tubagus Feridhanusetyawan, Resident Representative for Pacific Islands, IMF Building Resilience through Affordable Coastal Protection (on behalf of the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility) David Fay, Project Administration Unit Head, ADB Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific Scott Hook, Economic Infrastructure Adviser, PIFS Retaining Pacific Sovereignty, Statehood and Exclusive Economic Zones in Changing Climate and Rising Sea Levels: Examining the Law Kya Raina Lal, Solicitor and Barrister, Lal Patel Bale Lawyers
2:00 pm <i>Japan-Pacific ICT Center Video Conference Room 1</i>	Parallel Session 2b: Framework for Pacific Regionalism and Its Impact on Public Policy Engagement Chair: Dame Meg Taylor, Secretary General, PIFS Teresa Manarangi-Trott, Cook Islands Chamber of Commerce Representative of Specialist sub-committee for Regionalism (SSCR) Matthew Vaea, Samoa Association of Sports & National Olympic Committee Representative of regional Non-State Actors (NSA) Albion Ishoda, Embassy of the Republic of the Marshall Islands in Fiji Representative of a PIF member country United Nations (TBC) Representative of a development partner



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2:00 pm <i>Japan-Pacific ICT Center Video Conference Room 2</i>	<p>Parallel Session 2c: Improving Labour Market Outcomes in the Pacific – An ADB and International Labour Organization (ILO) Report Chair: Donglin Li, Director, Fiji Country Office, ILO</p> <p>The Pacific Paradox: Missing Links between Growth and Development Norio Usui, Senior Public Management Economist, ADB</p> <p>Improving Labour Market Outcomes in the Pacific: Main Findings and Implications for Policy Sameer Khatiwada, Employment Specialist, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, ILO</p> <p>Promoting Skills Formation through Public Investment Projects: Case Studies from ADB-financed Infrastructure Projects in Papua New Guinea (PNG) Richard Curtain, Visiting Fellow, Devpolicy, ANU</p>
3:30 pm	<i>Afternoon Coffee, Tea, and Refreshments</i>
4:00 pm <i>Japan-Pacific ICT Auditorium</i>	<p>Parallel Session 3a: Disaster Response and Risk Reduction Chair: Emma Veve, Director, ADB</p> <p>Does Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Make a Difference in the Face of Category 5 Cyclone? A Comparative Impact Study in the Wake of Tropical Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu – with Julie Webb and Charlie Damon Megan Chisholm, Country Director, CARE International Vanuatu</p> <p>Does Manna from Heaven Help? The Role of Cash Transfers in Disaster Recovery: Lessons from Tropical Cyclone Winston – with Oleksiy Ivaschenko, Jaekyun Kim, and Jonathan Sibley Jesse Doyle, Social Protection Economist, World Bank</p> <p>Achieving a more Appropriate and Fit Purpose Humanitarian Disaster Response Ecosystem in the Pacific– with Louise McCosker Linda Kenni, Independent Researcher and Former Project Manager, Pacific Institute for Public Policy, Railala Nakabea, Assistant Professor, Fiji National University, and Susan Slattery, Australian Red Cross</p>
4:00 pm <i>Japan-Pacific ICT Center Video Conference Room 1</i>	<p>Parallel Session 3b: Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Chair: Maria Melei, Senior Country Coordination Officer, ADB</p> <p>An Update on ICT in the Pacific Ian Thomson, Senior Fellow (e-Learning), Faculty of Arts, Law, and Education, USP</p> <p>The Present State of Mobile Broadband in the Pacific: Troublesome but Promising Marc Lipton, Director, Pacific ICT Regulatory Resource Center</p> <p>The Role of the Private Sector in Enhancing Connectivity in the Pacific Pepe Fia'ailotoa Christian Fruean, Chairperson, Samoa Submarine Cable Company and Director, Digicel Pacific</p>



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4:00 pm

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Room 2

Parallel Session 3c: Labour Mobility

Chair: Yvonne Underhill-Sem, Associate Professor, University of Auckland

Learning from Seasonal Worker Programs in Australia and New Zealand -
with Matthew Dornan, Richard Curtain, and Henry Sherrell
Stephen Howes, Director, DevPolicy, ANU

Migrant Remittances and Non-farm Employment of Agricultural
Households in Fiji – with Zhongwei Xing
Rukmani Gounder, Professor of Economics, Massey University

Intra-regional Mobility and Migrant-centered Development in the Pacific
Alessio Cangiano, Senior Lecturer, School of Economics and Andreea Torre,
Lecturer, School of Government, Development and International Affairs
(SGDIA), USP

The Development Benefits of Expanding Pacific Access to Australia's
Labour Market- with Leon Berkelmans
Jonathan Pryke, Research Fellow, Melanesia Program, Lowy Institute

5:30 pm

End of Day One

Welcoming Cocktail & Kava Reception (by invitation only) - hosted by the
State, Society and Governance in Melanesia (SSGM) Program, ANU

Book Launch "[Kastom, Property and Ideology: Land Transformations in
Melanesia](#)" by Siobhan McDonnell, Matthew Allen, and Colin Filer (eds.), ANU
Press



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DAY TWO - WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE 2017

8:30 am	<i>Registration</i>
9:00 am	Plenary Session 2: Fiji Economy
Japan-Pacific	Chair: Matthew Dornan , Deputy Director, DevPolicy, ANU
ICT	Fiji Economy Update
Auditorium	Sunil Kumar , Senior Lecturer, School of Economics, USP
	Urbanization and Sustainable Development in Fiji
	Rup Singh , Senior Lecturer, School of Economics, USP
	Marketing and Exporting Cocoa Beans from Fiji
	Arif Khan , Founder/Managing Director, Cacao Fiji
10:30 am	<i>Morning Coffee, Tea, and Refreshments</i>
11:00 am	Parallel Session 4a: Renewable Energy
Japan-Pacific	Chair: Ajal Kumar , Lecturer, School of Engineering and Physics, USP
ICT	Upscaling the Green Energy Transition to Achieve Renewable Energy
Auditorium	Targets- with Jeremy Hills and Victor Kouloumpis
	Evanthie Michalena , Adjunct Associate Professor, Sustainability Research Centre, University of Sunshine Coast
	Energy Policy, Aid, and the Development of Renewable Energy Resources in Small Island Developing States – with Kalim U. Shah
	Matthew Dornan , Deputy Director, DevPolicy, ANU
	ADB Pacific Renewable Energy Initiatives – with Woo Yul Lee (working title)
	Taniela Faletau , Safeguards Officer, ADB
11:00 am	Parallel Session 4b: Regional Cooperation and Development Financing
Japan-Pacific	Chair: Vijay Naidu , Professor, SGDIA, USP
ICT Center	More than the Money: In Pursuit of Deeper Pacific Regionalism
Video	Anna Naupa , Regional and International Issues Adviser, PIFS and Devika Raj ,
Conference	Research Officer, PIFS
Room 1	Financing Pacific Governments for Pacific Development
	Kim Edwards , Country Economist for Timor-Leste, PNG, and Pacific Islands, World Bank
	Making Aid to Pacific Island Countries More Effective– with David Abbott & Tony Hughes
	Steve Pollard , Independent Consultant and Former Principal Economist, ADB, and Garry Wiseman , Independent Consultant and Former Manager, UNDP Pacific Centre
	European Union Pacific Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Adaptation (EU PACTVET):
	Enhancing Regional Cooperation in Education – with T. Martin , H. Jacot Des Combes , L.A. Buliruarua , N. Kua , and T. Marawa
	Sarah Hemstock , Team Leader, EU PacTVET Project



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11:00 am <i>Japan-Pacific ICT Center Video Conference Room 2</i>	<p>Parallel Session 4c: Graduate Student Session 1 Chair: Lekshmi N. Pillai, Executive Dean, School of Business & Public Policy, UPNG</p> <p>Developing a Contingency Model for Collaborative Management: A Case Study of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission David Mapuru, PhD Candidate, School of Management and Public Administration, USP</p> <p>Perceived Impacts of Climate Change on Non-Communicable Diseases Peni Hausia Havea, PhD Candidate, Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development, USP</p> <p>Sustainable Financing for Climate and Disaster Resilience in Tuvalu and Kiribati Tausi Taupo, PhD Candidate-Economics, Victoria University of Wellington</p>
12:30 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
2:00 pm <i>Japan-Pacific ICT Auditorium</i>	<p>Parallel Session 5a: Roundtable Discussion on Promoting Trade through Enhanced Connectivity in the Pacific- Role of Maritime Transport and Digital Connectivity Facilitator: Arjun Goswami, Technical Advisor (Regional Cooperation and Integration), Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, ADB</p> <p>Deborah Elms, Executive Director, Asian Trade Centre</p> <p>Eranda Kotelawala, Chief Executive Officer, Solomon Islands Ports Authority</p> <p>Maria Melei, Senior Country Coordination Officer, Extended Mission to Samoa, ADB</p> <p>Michelle Curran, Communications Manager, Grow Pacific E-commerce Training Program, Pacific Cooperation Foundation</p>
2:00 pm <i>Japan-Pacific ICT Center Video Conference Room 1</i>	<p>Parallel Session 5b: Papua New Guinea (PNG) Labour and Economic Updates Chair: Neelesh Gounder, Senior Lecturer, USP</p> <p>Survey of the PNG Economy Marcel Schroder, Lecturer, University of PNG and DevPolicy, ANU</p> <p>Measurement of Entrepreneurial Traits of University Students of UPNG – with John Raymond, Manoj Pandey, P. Manohar, and Benedicta Mellam Lekshmi N. Pillai, Executive Dean, School of Business & Public Policy, UPNG</p> <p>Demographic Changes and Labour Market Developments in PNG: Challenges and Prospects Manoj Pandey, Lecturer, UPNG and DevPolicy, ANU</p> <p>Curbing Corruption in PNG Sam Koim, Visiting Fellow, DevPolicy, ANU and Former Chairman, Taskforce Sweep</p>



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Japan-Pacific ICT Center Video Conference Room 2	Parallel Session 5c: Graduate Student Session 2 Chair: Rommel Rabanal , Senior Economics Officer, ADB Postharvest Research and Development Challenges for Fiji Salesh Kumar , PhD Candidate, School of Economics, USP Wantok System as an Alternative Development Strategy in Solomon Islands Derek Mane , PhD Candidate, SGDIA, USP Mapping Intra and Extra-Regional Labour Movements - A Comparative Analysis of Pacific Island Countries and the Caribbean Countries Khushbu Rai , Economics Masters Student, School of Economics, USP
3:30 pm	<i>Afternoon Coffee, Tea, and Refreshments</i>
4:00 pm Japan-Pacific ICT Auditorium	Closing Plenary Chair: Stephen Howes , Director, DevPolicy, ANU 2017 Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific Findings-Improving Governance and Fiscal Management Sanjesh Naidu , Economic Affairs Officer, Subregional Office for the Pacific, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) Pacific Possible: Main Report and Findings Robert Utz , Lead Economist and Program Leader, Equitable Growth, Finance, and Institutions, East Asia and Pacific, World Bank ADB Regional Priorities: Responding to the Changing Needs of the Pacific Emma Veve , Director, Urban, Social Development, and Public Management Division, Pacific Department., ADB
6:30 pm	Closing Dinner (by invitation) Keynote Dinner Address Margaret Twomey , Australian High Commissioner to Fiji
	Master of Ceremonies: Neelesh Gounder , Senior Lecturer and Deputy Head (Research), School of Economics, USP
	Session Coordinators
	Auditorium: Prince Cruz , Advisor, ADB
	Videocon Room 1: Cara Tinio , Associate Economics and Statistics Analyst, ADB
	Videocon Room 2: Rommel Rabanal , Senior Economics Officer, ADB



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Watch live: www.usp.ac.fj/live

Conference websites:

ANU: <https://devpolicy.crawford.anu.edu.au/png-and-pacific-updates/pacific-update>

USP: <http://www.usp.ac.fj/index.php?id=20662>

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