

2021 PACIFIC UPDATE

22-24 SEPTEMBER | ONLINE

#PacificUpdate



PACIFIC RESEARCH PROGRAM
AN INITIATIVE OF THE AUSTRALIAN AID PROGRAM

Wednesday 22 September

9.15 AM-9.25AM CANBERRA

11.15 AM-11.25AM FIJI

WELCOME

Pal Ahluwalia Vice-Chancellor, The University of the South Pacific

9.30AM-10.30AM CANBERRA

11.30AM-12.30PM FIJI

POLITICS AND REGIONALISM

2022 PNG elections: Expectations, predictions, and concerns from participants • Michael Kabuni, Russel Kitau Jr, and Minetta Daniella Kakarere, The University of Papua New Guinea

Fault lines for unrest in the Pacific: Youth, livelihoods and land rights in driving and mitigating conflict • Aidan Craney, La Trobe University

Declaration on preserving maritime zones in the face of climate change-related sea-level rise • Henry Puna, Secretary General and Filimon Manoni, Deputy Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

10.30AM-10.45AM CANBERRA

12.30PM-12.45PM FIJI

PACIFIC ARTS PRESENTATION

Cultural industries: Contemporary art in small island nations – followed by a virtual exhibition • Lingikoni Vaka'uta, Oceania Centre of Arts and Culture, The University of the South Pacific

10.45AM-12.30PM CANBERRA

12.45PM-2.30PM FIJI

BREAK

12.30PM-1.30PM CANBERRA

2.30PM-3.30PM FIJI

FOOD SECURITY AND SUPPLY CHAINS

Understanding changing land use patterns in response to disaster on the peri-urban fringe of Port Vila • Andrew MacKenzie, The University of the South Pacific – Vanuatu Campus

Factors affecting food choice and food environment during COVID-19 – A cross sectional study in Samoa • Ramona Boodoosingh, National University of Samoa, Sarah Burkhart and Dana Craven, Australian Centre for Pacific Islands Research at University of the Sunshine Coast, Leslie Panapa, National University of Samoa

COVID-19, domestic agricultural supply chain and food security: The case of Fiji • Saleshe Kumar, Fiji National University, and Neelesh Gounder, The University of the South Pacific

Thursday 23 September

9.00AM-9.25AM CANBERRA

11.00AM-11.25AM FIJI

WELCOME AND KEYNOTE

Stephen Howes Director, Development Policy Centre

Fiona Hukula Gender Specialist, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

9.30AM-10.30AM CANBERRA

11.30AM-12.30PM FIJI

GENDER

Voters' perceptions of women as leaders in leadership in Tonga • 'Ungatea Kata, Tupou Tertiary Institute, Vanessa Lolohea, Tonga National Youth Congress, and Mereani Rokotuibau, Balance of Power

Leadership Matters: Benchmarking women's business leadership in the Pacific • Sarah Boxall, Asian Development Bank, Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative

Factors that instigate intimate partner violence in the National Capital District, PNG • Minetta Daniella Kakarere, The University of Papua New Guinea

10.30AM-10.45AM CANBERRA

12.30PM-12.45PM FIJI

PACIFIC ARTS PRESENTATION

Representations of artists from the islands versus Pacific artists in the diaspora – followed by a virtual exhibition • Lingikoni Vaka'uta, Oceania Centre of Arts and Culture, The University of the South Pacific

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ECONOMICS

The private sector in a pandemic – a Vanuatu case study • Liz Pechan, International Finance Corporation

Reducing poverty through cash transfers in the Pacific • Christopher Hoy, World Bank

Fiji economy: Challenges and path to recovery • Janesh Sami, The University of the South Pacific

Friday 24 September

9.00AM-9.25AM CANBERRA

11.00AM-11.25AM FIJI

WELCOME AND KEYNOTE

Charlotte Blundell, Acting First Assistant Secretary, Pacific Economic and Development Division, Office of the Pacific, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Meru Sheel Senior Research Fellow, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University

9.30AM-10.30AM CANBERRA

11.30AM-12.30PM FIJI

AGRICULTURE

Agri-food systems knowledge and skills exchange between Australia and the Pacific through circular migration: Experiences from Seasonal Worker Programme participants • Federico Davila, Institute for Sustainable Futures at University of Technology Sydney, Olivia Dun, The University of Melbourne, Carol Farbotko, CSIRO, Brent Jacobs, Institute for Sustainable Futures at University of Technology Sydney, and Natascha Klocker, University of Wollongong

Impact of COVID-19 on production and trade direction of high value 'niche' crop products in small island countries: A case study of Fiji • Nandakumar M. Desai, Abdul Kader, Sonny Lameta, The University of the South Pacific – Samoa Campus, Vinod Naik, Central University of Himachal Pradesh, India, Leslie T. Ubaub and Irene R. Chand, The University of the South Pacific – Samoa Campus

Local coalitions for economic recovery and food security – experiences from Vanuatu • Ellis Silas and Jilda Shem, Vanuatu Skills Partnership

10.30AM-10.45AM CANBERRA

12.30PM-12.45PM FIJI

PACIFIC ARTS PRESENTATION

What is the inspiration of creativity in the islands and the notion of quality – followed by a virtual exhibition • Lingikoni Vaka'uta, Oceania Centre of Arts and Culture, The University of the South Pacific

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BREAK

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HEALTH SYSTEMS

Strengthening fragile health systems: The case of Fiji • Neil Sharma, Medical Practitioner, Suva

COVID-19 in PNG • Shane Stockil and Natalie Gray, International SOS

Reversing the NCD trend in the Pacific: Promising results from a three-year pilot, testing behaviour science applications and 'edutainment' to address Pacific's most intractable problem • Simona Achitei, DT Global, and Aya Vang, Busara Centre for Behaviour Economics