

2023 Pacific Update **Draft program**

13-15 June, The University of the South Pacific, Laucala Campus, Suva, Fiji

Tuesday 13 June

8.30am Registration

9.00am **Welcome and opening plenary**
Auditorium

Chair: Dr Neelesh Gounder, University of the South Pacific

Welcome remarks:

Professor Pal Ahluwalia, Vice Chancellor, 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, Deputy Prime Minister, Government of Fiji

10.30am Morning tea

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

Chair: tbc

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

Seminar room

Chair: tbc

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

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

The case for tourism satellite account for the South Pacific islands

Semisi Taumoepeau, Auckland Institute of Studies, and Kirstie Petrou, Griffith University

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: tbc

Pacific Islands Aid Efficiency Index

Alexandre Dayant, Lowy Institute, 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, Development Intelligence Lab

Panel 2b: Gender transformative practice

Seminar room

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

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
Seminar room

Chair: tbc

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

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

5.00pm Close

5.30pm tbc

Wednesday 14 June

8.30am Registration

9.00am **Keynote address**

Auditorium

Chair: tbc

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 4a: Politics and governance**

Auditorium

Chair: tbc

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

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

Seminar room

Chair: tbc

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

Women's economic empowerment in the Pacific region

Ingrid Fitzgerald, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

12.30pm Lunch

1.30pm **Panel 5a: Fiji care economy**

Auditorium

Care economy: A case study for Fiji

Chair: Sandra Kraushaar, The Asia Foundation

Laisa Bulatale, Fiji Women's Rights Movement

Laisa Vereti, Pacific Disability Forum

Millie Low, Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF)

Panel 5b: Economic resilience

Seminar room

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: tbc

Fiji's economy post-2022 general elections

Janesh Sami, University of the South Pacific

Panel 6b: Indigenous community empowerment

Seminar room

Chair: tbc

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

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

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

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

Inez Fainga'a-Manu Sione, Griffith University, and Deborah Perelini, Village Connect

5.00pm Close

6.30pm tbc

Thursday 15 June – Pacific Migration Research Workshop

8.30am Registration

9.00am **Keynote address**

Leasiolagi Professor Malama Meleisea, National University of Samoa

9.40am **Panel 7**

Chair: tbc

The Pacific Labour Mobility Survey: key findings from the first wave

Ryan Edwards, Australian National University, and Matt Dornan, 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

11am Morning tea

11:20am **Panel 8**

Chair: tbc

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, and Kirstie Petrou, Griffith University

1:20pm Lunch

2:10pm **Panel 9: Labour mobility in the Pacific**

Chair: Alisi Holani, PACER Plus Implementation Unit

Ashmita Singh, International Organization for Migration

Angelica Neville, International Labour Organization and Sabira Coelho, International Organization for Migration

Noah Kouback, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

3.30pm Afternoon tea

4pm **Panel 10: Australia's Pacific Engagement Visa: Can it be strengthened to meet the Blue Pacific needs?**

Chair: Michael Kabuni, Australian National University

Akka Rimon, Australian National University

Natasha Turia-Moka, Australian National University

Jope Tarai, Australian National University

5.30pm Conference close