

# Best of the Blog 2020

by Arichika Okazaki and Stephen Howes

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The 2020 Australasian AID Conference...before social distancing

2020 has been a year of lockdown and closed borders. We couldn't travel so we wrote, publishing 364 blogs. Thank you to our authors and readers for supporting us throughout our tenth year of blogging.

In case you missed a few, or want to revisit your favourites, here are some of our most popular blogs for the year. Of course, COVID-19 dominated, but it wasn't the only topic. Scroll down towards the end for summer reading suggestions.

This is our last blog for 2020. Have a relaxing holiday and see you in the new year. We start again on Monday 11 January 2021.

## International development

[COVID-19, localisation and locally led development: a critical juncture](#) by Chris Roche and Fiona Tarpey

[International \(development\) cooperation in a post-COVID-19 world: a new way of interaction or super-accelerator?](#) by Artemy Izmetiev and Stephan Klingebiel

[Time to end the hustle culture in international development](#) by Kate Wilson

[The problem with Doing Development Differently](#) by Terence Wood

[COVID-19: three ways to support women, girls and vulnerable groups in humanitarian settings](#) by Leisa Gibson and Leda Tyrell

## Australian aid

[Australian aid in five years' time](#) by Graham Teskey

[Defence and aid: unprecedented divergence](#) by Stephen Howes

[COVID-19, and Australian and New Zealand aid to the Pacific](#) by Terence Wood

[The aid budget and COVID-19 strategy](#) by Stephen Howes

[Oxfam Australia's woes: a sign of the times?](#) by Stephen Howes and Sherman Surandiran

## Asia

[Pivoting to respond to COVID-19: early thoughts from the Philippines](#) by Nicola Nixon, Sam Chittick and Jaime Faustino

[Vietnam: a COVID-19 success story](#) by Tran Chung Chau, Michael D. Gregorio and Nicola Nixon

[Peace and the pandemic: the impact of COVID-19 on conflict in Asia](#) by Adam Burke

[Stop widening gender inequalities: Asia's COVID-19 responses must leave no one behind](#) by Chamaiporn Siangyen

[Vietnam's low-cost COVID-19 battle shows the world what can be done](#) by Misha Coleman and Margaret Sheehan

[South Korea's COVID-19 response: hard lessons on saving lives](#) by Kwang Kim, Kyung-sook Lee and Jaemyung Lee

[Taiwan's experience with COVID-19, and aid to the Pacific](#) by Yun-Ching Tseng, Yan-Tzong Cheng and Chun-Hsuan Sung

[Gender equality in China's labour market: some worrying signs](#) by Jeni Klugman, Limin Wang and Meiyang Wang

## PNG

[How PNG lost US\\$120 million and the future of deep-sea mining](#) by Colin Filer, Jennifer Gabriel and Matthew G. Allen

[Against amending the Constitution to make PNG a Christian country](#) by Robin Oge

[What it takes to change a prime minister in PNG](#) by Michael Kabuni

[Not all men are violent – but PNG is not safe for women](#) by Geejay P. Milli

[Climate change: a sign of the 'End Times'](#) by Lorelle Tekopiri Yakam and Kylie McKenna

[PNG's job crisis and COVID-19](#) by Stephen Howes and Jotam Sinopane

[PNG budget: pluses and minuses](#) by Maholopa Laveil and Dek Joe Sum

[Debt financing without development in PNG](#) by Joe Taia Kapa

## **Pacific and Timor-Leste**

[Fiji's economic freefall, and the government's response](#) by Neelesh Gounder

[COVID-19 and Solomon Islands: the first casualties and possible ramifications](#) by Transform Aqorau

[Bigger than aid: Vanuatu's citizenship schemes](#) by Sherman Surandiran and Stephen Howes

[Adventures in the East Timorese bureaucracy](#) by Joao Almeida and Gordon Peake

[Young in rural Timor-Leste: poor, hungry and bored](#) by Akito Ximenes and Michael Rose

[COVID-19: economic damage and Pacific strengths](#) by Stephen Howes and Sherman Surandiran

[Tonga's double whammy: COVID-19 and tropical cyclones](#) by Ofakilevuka ('Ofa) Guttenbeil-Likiliki

[How is Tuvalu securing against COVID-19?](#) by Carol Farbotko and Taukiei Kitara

[Do Papuan lives matter?](#) by Arichika Okazaki and Grant Walton

[Time for a Pacific Community](#) by Biman Chand Prasad

## **Pacific labour mobility**

[For Tonga, Australian labour mobility more important than aid and trade combined](#) by Stephen Howes and Beth Orton

[The Pacific remittances boom: it's for real](#) by Stephen Howes and Sherman Surandiran

[Licensed agents: the key to Vanuatu's SWP success](#) by Joanne Wade

[Throwing it all away? Vanuatu's abolition of licensed SWP and RSE agents](#) by Richard Curtain and Stephen Howes

[Pacific Islander communities and employment in Australia](#) by Beth Orton and Ryan Edwards

The PLS: beefing up Australia's meet industry by Holly Lawton

COVID-19: RSE and SWP by Rochelle Bailey and Charlotte Bedford

## Aid to the Pacific

Australian aid to PNG – Part 1 and Part 2 by John Ma'o Kali CMG OBE

Aid to the Pacific is the least value for money by Carolyn Hunt

Australia leaves Fiji to flounder by Stephen Howes

What ails Australian aid to the Pacific? Two Pacific expert views by Sadhana Sen

Comparing China's and Taiwan's aid to the Pacific by Denghua Zhang

## Summer reading suggestions: 2020 book reviews and more

Aid's implementariat: national and invisible by Gordon Peake

Behrouz Boochani's No Friend but the Mountains: an Oceanian lens by Michelle Nayahamui Rooney

Fishing for success: lessons in Pacific regionalism by Bob Warner

PNG on the border: too close to ignore, but what to do? by Stephen Howes

The Watermill: compelling stories of injustice by Gordon Peake

Providing by leaving: a gripping tale by Michael Rose

## Personal stories

Growing up in Papua New Guinea: a six-part series by UPNG undergraduates.

Poverty in China: a personal encounter – part one and two by Huiyuan Liu

COVID-19 stories from PNG, Fiji and China

## Farewell. We sadly said goodbye in 2020 to some very fine people

Obituary for Simon Tosali by Paul Flanagan

Vale Dr James Scambary by Gordon Peake

Vale Nahau Rooney by Sadhana Sen and Gynnie Kero

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Link: <https://devpolicy.org/best-of-the-blog-2020-20201218/>