



Best of the blog 2021

By Karen Downing and Stephen Howes

We close the blog for the year on Wednesday 22 December, and resume on Monday 10 January 2022. Thank you to everyone who has written for, read, commented on, edited, promoted and supported the Devpolicy Blog in 2021. We wish you a restful holiday.

Here's a chance to recap the year with a listing of some of our favourite and most popular blogs, and some suggestions for summer reading at the end.

Aid and development

[Australia hits \(almost\) rock bottom in new global aid rankings](#) by Stephen Howes

[Insights on China's 2021 white paper on international development cooperation](#)
by Anthea Mulakala and Hongbo Ji

[Useful outsiders](#) by Anna Gilbert

[What good did we do in Afghanistan?](#) by Mary Venner

COVID-19

[Ethnic migrants in Hanoi: hit hard by lockdowns](#) by Tran Chung Chau and Nicola Nixon

[COVID-19 in PNG: the silent dead](#) by Win Nicholas

[Navigating uncertainty: Cambodian tourism businesses and the pandemic](#) by Men Pechet and Marly Augustine

[Social media "bullshit" threatens control of COVID-19 outbreak in PNG](#) by Sue Ahearn

[The vaccine donation model is broken - a new approach is needed](#) by Joel Negin

The Pacific and Timor-Leste

[Nauru: riches to rags to riches](#) by Stephen Howes and Sherman Surandiran

[Solomon Islands' slippery slide to self implosion](#) by Transform Aqorau

[Timor-Leste will soon be running on fumes](#) by Charles Scheiner

[Tuvalu's Future Now Project: preparing for climate change in the worst-case scenario](#) by Simon Kofe

Pacific politics and elections

[All change in Tonga](#) by Henry Ivarature and Ema Finau Ivarature

[Patriarchy and corrupt political practices are hindering female participation in PNG politics](#) by Loretta Dilu

[Samoa's historic election result](#) by Mata'afa Keni Lesa

[What political crises in Vanuatu and Samoa tell us about their past and future](#) by Terence Wood

[Women's political leadership in Vanuatu](#) by Jennifer Kalpokas Doan

Fiji

[No poverty reduction in Fiji over the last six years](#) by Neelesh Gounder

[Why has Mauritius left Fiji so far behind?](#) by Stephen Howes and Sherman Surandiran

PNG

[A response to 'failed state' narratives of PNG](#) by Kylie McKenna, Senala Morona and Cooniebhert Samgay

[Booming business, absent government in the Sepik](#) by Desmond Narongou

[Foreign exchange rationing in PNG: six years on](#) by Rohan Fox

[PNG: the hungry country](#) by Manoj K. Pandey and Stephen Howes

[Tommy Baker: PNG's Ned Kelly?](#) by Sinclair Dinnen and Grant Walton

Pacific regionalism

[Another Pacific plan, really?](#) by Stephen Howes and Sadhana Sen

[Dual crises at USP and Pacific Islands Forum: the chance for a different future](#) by Collin Tukuitonga

[Pacific regionalism forever changed](#) by Transform Aqorau

[The future of the University of the South Pacific](#) by Biman Chand Prasad

Labour mobility

[Australia needs more Pacific mid-skill migration: here's how to facilitate it](#) by Satish Chand, Michael Clemens and Helen Dempster

[Flaws in the Australian Agricultural visa](#) by Richard Curtain

[I-Kiribati female seasonal workers in New Zealand: lived experiences](#) by Charlotte Bedford, Richard Bedford and Rena Tekanene

[Pacific Labour Scheme: expanding while borders are closed](#) by Holly Lawton

Personal stories

[A kiap in Bougainville: lessons for today](#) by Anthony Regan

[One day in the life of a fruit picker](#) by Michael Rose

[Unwanted sexual behaviour in the workplace: an aid worker's story](#) by Anonymous

[USP remembering expulsions past](#) by Robbie Robertson and Akosita Tamanisau

Farewells

[Farewell Maev O'Collins](#) by Michelle Nayahamui Rooney

[Mekere](#) by Ross Garnaut; [Vale Sir Mekere Morauta](#) by Rabbie Namaliu; and [Morauta's masterclass in economic reform](#) by Matthew Morris.

[Obituary: Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare](#) by Ronald J. May

Summer reads

[An important book at a difficult time](#) by Michael Rose

[Doing better without aid: the case of Somaliland](#) by Gordon Peake

[Is education really a waste of time and money?](#) by Matthew Woolf

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