

Best of the Blog 2023

by Amita Monterola

22 December 2023



This is our last blog for the year.

The editorial team of Robin Davies, Amita Monterola, Anne Moorhead and Sadhana Sen would like to thank you everyone who has written for, read, commented on, promoted and supported the Devpolicy Blog in 2023.

We hope you are able to enjoy some rest over the holiday period until we resume on Monday 15 January 2024.

Here are suggestions for your summer reading and a recap of the year with some of our favourite and most popular blogs.

Summer reads

Gordon Peake's book *Unsung Land, Aspiring Nation* (free to download) is based on the four years he spent in Bougainville as an Australian aid-funded adviser. Stephen Howes [recommends](#) reading it for enjoyment, for understanding, and for better aid policy.

Donating to NGOs that deliver development assistance might be morally desirable if it helps, but what if it doesn't actually help – what if it causes harm? These are the questions that Terence Wood reflects on in a [two-part review](#) of Larry Temkin's latest book, *Being Good in a World of Need*.

Prema Clarke launched her new book *Education Reform and the Learning Crisis in Developing Countries* at the 2023 Australasian AID Conference. Robert Cannon [praises her frank, personal account](#) of growing up in India which offers rich insights into the challenges faced in educational development.

And if you have time, there's plenty more good reading among the [Devpolicy reviews](#).

Australian aid

Devpolicy series on [Australia's new International Development Policy](#)

Local leadership in donor-funded programs

A shot at the title: why DFAT should change its name

Questions about Australian aid to fund the Pacific Games

Why are two in five Australian aid investments rated unsatisfactory on completion?

Is Australian public support for aid on the wane?

Doubling down on governance?

Global development

Global aid 2022: Australia risks becoming a minnow on development

If Malpass had to go, will Banga offer a brighter future for the World Bank?

Malaria: fight half done

Climate finance from the World Bank: pluses and minuses

The flickering light: Australia's governance credentials damaged

Aid localisation amidst revolution in Myanmar

Trump 2.0? Potential implications for global aid

Pacific politics and geopolitics

To the (Micronesian) victors go the spoils

Small is (sometimes) beautiful: perceptions of corruption in seven small Pacific Island countries

Basic but essential: Vanuatu's proposed political integrity legislation

The Australia-Tuvalu Falepili Union: Tuvaluan values or Australian interests?

Using aid to shift power paradigms in the Pacific

Sea of Western flags in Oceania?

China's shifting Pacific engagement – loud and brash to “small but beautiful”

Papua New Guinea

[PNG as resource dependent as Saudi Arabia](#)

[Doubling of PNG MP funds a bad move](#)

[Timber barons v carbon brokers: the Kamula Doso forest area in PNG](#)

[Ministries, parties and PNG politics](#)

[Reversing rural decline in PNG: the 11th Henry Kila Memorial Address](#)

[The local “resource curse”: missed opportunities in Porgera](#)

[How to address escalating violence in PNG](#)

[Australia should listen to PNG not the IMF](#)

Pacific migration and labour mobility

[Devpolicy series on the Pacific Labour Mobility Survey](#)

[Australia’s NZ migration reforms: Pacific implications](#)

[Three-part series: We want the forest but fear the spirits: labour mobility predicaments in Samoa](#)

[Pacific labour mobility over the last year: continued growth](#)

[Why the Catholic Archbishop of Fiji is wrong to condemn seasonal work](#)

[Pacific paternalism keeping families apart](#)

[Pacific Engagement Visa legislation finally through](#)

[Can PNG really supply 8,000 people to work overseas?](#)

[Australia in the Blue Pacific: a political and development shift for the century](#)

Personal stories

[Trepidations of a female student in Port Moresby](#)

[My education journey from Jiwaka to UPNG](#)

Farewells

[Vale Sir Leonard Wilson Kamit, CBE](#)

Tributes to Sir Rabbie Namaliu by [Bart Philemon](#) and [Charles Lepani](#)

[Vale Colin Barlow](#)

[Jim Ingram: a great Australian internationalist](#)

[Meraia Taufa Vakatale: anti-nuclear activist and feminist trailblazer](#)

[Aid as a two-way street: Bill Hayden on aid, development and PNG](#)

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Link: <https://devpolicy.org/best-of-the-blog-2023/>