

Best of the Blog 2024

by Amita Monterola

20 December 2024



This is our final blog for the year. We'll start up again from 6 January 2025.

The editorial team of Robin Davies, Amita Monterola, Jackie Hanafie and Sadhana Sen would like to thank everyone who has written for, read, commented on, promoted and supported the Devpolicy Blog in 2024.

We would also like to thank those who listened to and shared episodes of our relaunched Devpolicy Talks podcast, which appeared fortnightly through the year. We are grateful to Finn Clarke for joining our team as a production assistant during 2024. The podcast will continue in 2025 and we are happy to take suggestions for podcast guests and topics. Please email devpolicy@anu.edu.au with your suggestions or comment below.

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

Summer reads and listens

Dan Honig's book *Mission Driven Bureaucrats* caused a buzz this year. Honig argues in the book and related podcast interviews that better government lies in empowerment and trust, rather than stricter controls and oversight.

The Rise and Fall of the Department for International Development by former DFID head Mark Lowcock and economist Ranil Dissanayake figured in many conversations at the 2024 Australasian AID Conference. It's available as an [open access](#) document on the Center for Global Development's website.

If you are looking for some fiction, *Praying for Sunlight, Waiting for Rain: a New Guinea Story* by former AusAID officer Kieran Donaghue is worth a read. Blog author Irene Wettenhall [recommends the book](#) as a compelling story about a young Lutheran missionary couple in the central highlands from 1933 to 1943.

You can find further book, film and exhibition recommendations at [Devpolicy reviews](#).

DEVPOLICYBLOG

If you prefer an audio option, you could listen to some of our most popular podcasts of 2024: interviews with [Helen Clark](#) about pandemic preparedness, with [Sania Nishtar](#) about the work of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and with [Masood Ahmed](#) about, well, many things. (You can subscribe to the series in any major podcast app: just search for “Devpolicy Talks”.)

You might also listen to the Good Will Hunters 2024 podcast series [SDG3 – Good health and wellbeing](#), which just added a bonus episode featuring Australasian AID Conference keynote speaker Lady Roslyn Morauta.

Australian aid

[2024 Australian aid spending and effectiveness update](#) by Stephen Howes

[Australia’s multilateral aid: crunch time?](#) by Cameron Hill

[Opposition is rising but most Australians still don’t want aid cut](#) by Terence Wood

[Trump vs Biden: the aid dimension](#) by Cameron Hill

[Australian aid: no looking back?](#) by Cameron Hill

2024 Australasian AID Conference [blog series](#) and [YouTube playlist](#)

Global development

[Impacts of the Taliban’s ban on women’s work and education](#) by Matiullah Qazizada

[Mangroves, migration, and family reunions: a story of resilience](#) [photo essay] by Ahmad Jayadi, Manu Dresta and Edd Wright

[Chinese infrastructure development in Uganda: triumphs and trials](#) by Joel Odota

[After the downfall of Bangladesh’s Iron Lady: it’s time for dialogue](#) by Subrata Banarjee

[Myanmar requires a radically new aid paradigm](#) by Morten B. Pedersen

[Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders Australia series](#)

Pacific affairs

[Science says Tuvalu will drown within decades; the reality is worse](#) [photo essay] by

Niuone Eliuta

[Crisis in New Caledonia](#) by Nic Maclellan

[Facebook use in the Pacific: all over the place](#) by Estelle Stambolie

[The Panguna lawsuit: a search for justice or for cash?](#) by Aubrey Belford

[Responding to Vanuatu's emerging economic emergency](#) by Peter Judge

[Solomon Islands elections: who won on the night and why?](#) by Terence Wood

Papua New Guinea

[January riots in PNG: underlying causes, implications and the future](#) by Andrew Anton Mako

[Polygamy is spreading in PNG](#) by Kingtau Mambon and Stephen Howes

[PNG's progress since independence: 3 out of 10](#) by James Marape

[PNG's latest revenue projections: defying gravity?](#) by Alyssa Leng

[Child abuse in PNG: time to step up](#) by Stephen Howes and Estelle Stambolie

[Working with patronage in Papua New Guinea](#) by Mark Moran

[History repeats itself in Western Province](#) by Colin Filer and Michael Wood

[Ten years of Femili PNG](#) by Elly Toimbo

Pacific migration and labour mobility

[Remittances from Tongan Migrant Workers series](#) by Hiroshi Maeda, Ryan Edwards and Daniel Suryadarma

[PEV quotas: winners and losers](#) by Stephen Howes

[Fiji's emigration boom: will it last?](#) by Stephen Howes and Sharon Liu

[Time for a PNG engagement visa](#) by Natasha Turia and Stephen Howes

[Why Kiribati should say yes to the Pacific Engagement Visa](#) by Akka Rimon

[Pacific Australia Labour Mobility scheme asylum seekers series](#) by Stephen Howes

Personal stories

[Life is challenging but also rewarding](#) by Marcia Wak

[A journey worth reflecting on – growing up in PNG](#) by Aquila Warai

Farewells

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

[Father of geology in Papua New Guinea dies at 89](#) by Anonymous

[Tribute to PNG's John Waiko: scholar and politician](#) by Keith Jackson

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Link: <https://devpolicy.org/best-of-the-blog-2024/>