



## Newsletter: Meritocracy in IFIs | Pacific Update program | PNG drought event

By Development Policy Centre  
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### **Meritocratic leadership ballots in IFIs - a rare case study**

Despite appeals to reform the selection process for leadership appointments, international financial institutions (IFIs) have been slow to change their ways. However, in 2012 and under a unique set of circumstances, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) bucked this trend with the meritocratic selection of a new leader, Sir Suma Chakrabati. Bob McMullan, former MP, Devpolicy Visiting Fellow and an Executive Director of the EBRD, recounts the experience, and reflects on how the selection processes in IFIs could be improved. Read the policy brief [here](#) [PDF] and a blog [here](#).

### **Pacific Update conference program now available**

This year's Pacific Update conference will take place at the University of the South Pacific Laucala Campus on 20-21 June 2017. A draft program is [now available](#) [PDF]. Dame Meg Taylor, the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, will provide opening remarks. Other hot topics up for discussion include the blue-green economy; labour mobility, markets and job creation; and enhancing connectivity in the Pacific. Join us for the region's premier public policy form. More details [here](#).

### **PNG drought and frost**

On Wednesday 7 June at 3.15pm, Devpolicy will host a public forum entitled *Drought and famine relief in Papua New Guinea, 2015-2016*. In 2015, PNG was affected by a series of severe El Niño induced drought and frosts. The effect on rural communities was devastating, with food and water shortages, adverse health effects and school and service closures. The forum will discuss the impact of the drought and the aid response. More detail [here](#), and register your interest [here](#).

## **RDI development conference and student award**

On 13 - 14 June, the Research for Development Impact (RDI) Network and the University of Sydney will host the 6<sup>th</sup> annual [RDI Conference](#) on the theme of *Partnering for Impact on Sustainable Development: collaboration, coordination and solidarity* - Devpolicy will be there, so do come and say hello.

Connected to the conference is a great opportunity for students with a development-related research idea. The [Students Partnering for Impact Award](#) [PDF] has been made possible by our [Mitchell Humanitarian Award winner](#) Robyn Alders, and offers funding of up to \$10,000 for collaboration on original, student-led ideas. Read more about the award [here](#).

## **People news**

This month we bid a sad farewell to two of our staff members. Researcher Anthony Swan, a valuable member of the Devpolicy team since 2013, who has also taught hundreds of Crawford School economics students, leaves us for Geneva, while Henry Sherrell will join the Parliamentary Library as a Research Officer. We wish them both the best of luck.

Ashlee Betteridge has also moved into a new role with us as Program Manager (Research Communications and Outreach) after being a Research Officer with our Centre since 2013.

We are currently seeking a replacement for Henry. If you have labour mobility expertise and are interested in joining Devpolicy as a Research Officer on a casual basis, we encourage you to apply. Details [here](#).

## **Upcoming events**

*Drought and famine relief in Papua New Guinea, 2015-2016*

3.15 - 5.15pm, Wednesday 7 June at Lecture Theatre 1, Hedley Bull Centre, Building 130, Garran Road, ANU. Details [here](#).

*2017 Pacific Update*

20 - 21 June, The University of the South Pacific (USP), Suva, Fiji. Program now [available](#). Details [here](#).

## *2017 PNG Update*

10 - 11 August, The University of Papua New Guinea, Waigani Campus, Port Moresby.  
Details [here](#).

### **Blog highlights**

[Profit or philanthropy? Investing for development impact](#)

[Africa's democratic failure](#)

[Partnering for menstrual health in PNG and Timor](#)

### **On the blog**

[Fortnightly links: voluntourism, WHO and WB, cash transfers, UK aid, and more](#) by Camilla Burkot and Terence Wood

[Merit-based selection of an IFI president: a rare case study](#) by Bob McMullan

[Transitional livelihoods: Timorese migrant workers in the UK](#) by Ann Wigglesworth

[A new paradigm for understanding Africa's crisis](#) by Andebrhan Welde Giorgis

[2017 Pacific Update conference program now available](#) by Matthew Dornan

[Corporate philanthropy in Papua New Guinea - in conversation with the Digicel Foundation](#) by Amanda H A Watson and Beatrice Mahuru

[The 'rise' and fall of New Zealand aid \(budget 2017 edition\)](#) by Terence Wood

[Focusing on the 'impact' in impact investing](#) by Priyanka Sunder

[Prioritising periods and preventing unwanted pregnancy: addressing menstrual and reproductive health in Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea](#) by Batya Atlas and Chelsea Huggett

[Renewing the humanitarian enterprise](#) by Paul Ronalds

[Africa's democratic failure](#) by Andebrhan Welde Giorgis

[Partnering agreements: Effective relationship management in complex development programs](#) by Nicola Nixon, Julie Mundy

[Devpolicy seeks casual Research Officer on labour mobility](#) by Ashlee Betteridge

[Messaging apps: the way forward for humanitarian communication?](#) By Andrea Lunt

[SDG 17: It's not about transactional partnerships](#) by Philippa Smales

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## **About the author/s**

### **Development Policy Centre**

Link: <https://devpolicy.org/newsletter-meritocracy-ifis-pacific-update-program-png-drought-event/>

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