

Devpolicy news: Aid and migration: APTC lessons | PNG and Pacific Update: a Pacific model of growth | NZ aid

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Aid and migration lessons from the APTC

The [Australia Pacific Technical College](#) was set up by the Howard Government in 2007 to develop regional skills and promote international labour mobility. Seven years on, tracking data indicate the APTC has failed to achieve this latter objective. Why? What went wrong with this innovative “aid-for-migration” or “global skills partnership” program? A new [discussion paper](#) by Michael Clemens of the Centre for Global Development and Stephen Howes and Colum Graham of the Development Policy Centre addresses this question. The authors find that plenty of APTC graduates want to migrate, but that, despite graduating with an Australian qualification, they lack opportunities to do so. There is no easy way for them to get their skills and experience certified, and there are no mechanisms for them to connect with potential Australian employers. In turn, the authors find that these adverse design features have persisted because of a lack of political commitment to the original labour mobility goal of the APTC, both in Australia and in the Pacific.

Searching for a Pacific model of growth: PNG and Pacific Update programs

Programs are now available for our flagship Pacific and PNG Updates. The PNG Update will be hosted by the UPNG School of Business in Port Moresby on 12-13 June at the University of Papua New Guinea. The Pacific Update will be held at the Australian National University on 16-17 June.

We have a total of 60 speakers across the two Updates. The opening keynote for the Pacific Update (Monday, 9am) will be Dr Yongzheng Yang of the IMF. Dr Yang has been the IMF’s resident representative for Pacific island countries for the last four years, and will be speaking on “In search of a Pacific model of growth.” We’re delighted to announce that the other keynote speaker (Tuesday, 1pm) will be Professor Ron Duncan of the Australian National University. Professor Duncan is the author of numerous Pacific reports and publications, and was awarded the Order of Australia earlier this year for his work on PNG and the Pacific.

Keynote speakers for the PNG Update include Professor John Gibson of Waikato University, the leading expert on poverty in PNG. Other keynote speakers will be announced shortly.

You can view the PNG Update program [here](#) and for registration contact Professor Lekshmi N. Pillai at UPNG (lnpillai@upng.ac.pg) or Macarena Rojas at Devpolicy (macarena.rojas@anu.edu.au). You can view the Pacific Update program [here](#) and register [here](#). The Pacific Update is also back to back with [SSGM's State of the Pacific conference](#).

NZ aid series

Yesterday we [launched](#) a new blog series bringing New Zealand aid and development policy under the microscope. Running once a week for approximately ten weeks, the series will address the key aid and development questions for this small, advanced nation. For more information, or to submit a contribution, contact the co-ordinator of the series [here](#). And click [here](#) for an update on the latest NZ aid budget.

Blog highlights

More problems with the [ODE volunteer evaluation](#)

Is Radio Australia on the [chopping block](#)?

[PNG drugs](#) fail the test

Why don't people read [World Bank reports](#)?

Post-flood flames in [Honiara](#)

Blog summary

You can find a list of all posts since our last newsletter on 16 May in the list below.

[Introducing a blog series on NZ aid and development](#) by NZADDs.

[Product Development Partnerships: an innovative approach to tackling neglected diseases](#) by David Reddy and Mel Spigelman.

[Below the Glass Floor](#) by Alan Cairns.

[Economic growth – can inclusive policies overcome exclusive practices?](#) By Steve Pollard.

[Why is it that so few of us appear to read reports? Because life is squelched out of them](#) by Gordon Peake.

[Great expectations and the volunteer program](#) by Ashlee Betteridge.

[Alternative indicators of well-being for Melanesia: changing the way progress is measured in the South Pacific](#) by Jamie Tanguay.

[Demonstrating additionality in private sector development initiatives – a new exploration of good practice for cost-sharing mechanisms](#) by Melina Heinrich.

[Cultural economics: Elise Huffer discusses opportunities for the Pacific](#) by Tess Newton Cain and Elise Huffer.

In brief

[Opinion poll shows 64% of voters support budget cut to aid](#)

[New study shows substandard medicines throughout PNG health system](#)

[Shockwaves from Australia Network cuts threaten Radio Australia](#)

[From floods to flames in Honiara](#)

[Recycling money in New Zealand's aid budget](#)