

Newsletter: Four weeks to aid conference | Tsunami reflections | Aid cuts and PNG risks

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Happy new year to all!

Aid conference just around the corner

Our 2015 Australasian Aid Conference is now just weeks away. Make sure you [register soon](#)—last year we had to close registration a couple of weeks out, and space constraints mean we may well have to do the same again this year.

The full program is [now available](#) [pdf]. The conference features the Shadow Foreign Minister Tanya Pliibersek and three keynote speakers, 15 international speakers, and some 63 papers in 20 parallel sessions. From why China is setting up the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank to a new survey of developing country officials on aid, and from why aid has a future to the future beyond aid, the conference has something for everyone. Topics include: aid to the Pacific; aid from Asia; aid policy; aid and health/governance/justice/security/public opinion/the private sector; disasters and climate change; migration; and more.

If you're still not convinced, read this blog: [10 reasons not to miss this year's aid conference](#).

Ten years on from the Boxing Day tsunami

With the 10-year anniversary of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami just passed, Robin Davies looks back at how the world and Australia responded to the disaster in Aceh. Robin was head of AusAID in Jakarta at the time of the tsunami and, in a two-part post, he reflects on the legacy of the “tropical revolving storm of international aid” that flooded into Aceh and the island of Nias in the neighbouring province of North Sumatra. He paints a moving picture of a competitive and chaotic aid environment in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, and of the best and worst of aid, at the worst of times.

Read his reflections [here](#) and [here](#).

Aid cuts and PNG risks

Last year ended with bad news. For aid, there were the biggest cuts to Australian aid ever, analysed by a series of articles [collected here](#). And for PNG there was the oil price collapse, which is likely to greatly

diminish the revenue and foreign exchange PNG was expecting from the LNG project. An end-of-year policy brief by Paul Flanagan analysed the problem and set out possible solutions. Read the blog [here](#), the policy brief [here](#), and the extensive media coverage [here](#).

PNG Update call for papers

Our annual [PNG Update](#) in conjunction with UPNG School of Business Administration will be held in Port Moresby on 18-19 June.

The Update, which recommenced at UPNG last year after a gap of some years, is the premier forum for the discussion of research and analysis relating to contemporary economic and public policy issues in PNG.

The conference is multi-disciplinary in nature, and we are currently calling for papers under the general theme of “Development Challenges in the LNG Era.” More details on how to submit an abstract are [available here](#).

Upcoming events

2015 Australasian Aid Conference

12-13 February 2015. Registrations are open. For details, [visit the website](#).

2015 PNG Update

18-19 June, University of Papua New Guinea. [Details here](#).

Blog highlights

What will 2015 [hold for the Pacific](#)?

Insight on [Germany's approach](#) to private sector engagement

An [overlooked report](#) on corruption in PNG

Sir Richard Feachem on [malaria eradication](#)

On the blog

[Ten reasons not to miss this year's aid conference](#) by Stephen Howes, Anthea Mulakala, Joel Negin and Jonathan Pryke

[Invisible children, bad pop and making people care](#) by Terence Wood

[Aceh's tsunami remembered, part 1: 'just get them in'](#) by Robin Davies

[Aceh's tsunami remembered, part 2: 'three months are enough'](#) by Robin Davies

[Engaging with the private sector – perspectives from the German development program](#) by Jonas Naguib, Kim Nguyen Van and Jonathan Pryke

[On the rate of development progress](#) by Scott Wisor

[Should development be kinky? A response to Pritchett and Kenny](#) by Scott Wisor

[Pacific predictions: 2015](#) by Tess Newton Cain

[Research, policy and the private sector: Sir Richard Feachem on malaria](#) by Richard Feachem and Gabriele Bammer

[Is the Pacific really falling behind in the ease of doing business?](#) By Paul Holden

[Best of the blog 2014](#) by Jonathan Pryke and Stephen Howes

[Papua New Guinea's vanishing LNG export boom](#) by Paul Flanagan

[The perilous state of Taskforce Sweep: an interview with Sam Koim](#) by Sam Koim, Grant Walton and Ashlee Betteridge

[Never dive alone: Australia's aid cut in a global context](#) by Robin Davies and Adeline Clarke

[Beyond the pale? Australia's aid cuts in international comparison](#) by Terence Wood

[Slashing aid spending also cuts Bishop's credibility](#) by Benjamin Day

[Global health at the Brisbane G20](#) by Sam Byfield

[A G20 for the people? Not yet](#) by Susan Harris Rimmer

[Biggest aid cuts ever produce our least generous aid budget ever](#) by Stephen Howes and Jonathan Pryke

[A view to Antalya: can the G20's development agenda be salvaged?](#) By Robin Davies

In brief

[Australia set to take a tumble in international aid rankings](#)

[No dream job: Steven Ciobo appointed as Julie Bishop's parliamentary secretary](#)

[Christmas development goodies](#)

[A forgotten report: Taskforce Sweep's recommendations for reducing corruption in PNG](#)

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