2019 PACIFIC UPDATE

PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY 3 JULY - FRIDAY 5 JULY
UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC
LAUCALA CAMPUS, SUVA, FIJI

#PACIFICUPDATE
ASIA & THE PACIFIC POLICY STUDIES

Looking for a place to publish your conference paper? Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies is the flagship journal of the Crawford School of Public Policy at The Australian National University. It is a peer-reviewed journal that targets research policy studies in Australia, Asia and the Pacific, across a discipline focus that includes economics, political science, governance, development and the environment.

The Editors particularly encourage submissions with a focus on the Pacific.

To learn more, visit tinyurl.com/appsjournal

Front cover: Landscape, Tuvalu, 2011. Photo: DFAT
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Opening plenary  
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# Wednesday 3 July

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## Friday 5 July – Pacific Labour Mobility Research Workshop

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<td>Jane Bastin-Sikimeti, Director, Pacific Labour Mobility &amp; Skills Program Section</td>
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Wednesday 3 July 2019

8.30am  Registration

9.00am  **Opening plenary**  
Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Auditorium  
Chair: Neelesh Gounder, Senior Lecturer, School of Economics,  
The University of the South Pacific (USP)  

*Welcome remarks:*  
Professor Pal Ahluwalia, Vice-Chancellor and President, USP

*Opening remarks:*  
His Excellency Mr John Feakes, Australian High Commissioner to Fiji

*The Caribbean on the Edge: Regionalism and insights on the integration of the Pacific islands*  
Winston Dookeran, Professor of Practice at the University of the West Indies, and former Governor of the Central Bank and Minister of Finance and Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago

10.30am  Morning tea

11.00am  **Panel 1A:**  
The future of Pacific media in times of digital disruption, fake news and geopolitical tension  
Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Auditorium  
Chair: Samisoni Pareti, Managing Director, Front Page Limited, and Editor-in-Chief, Islands Business Magazine

*Pacific media are under challenge as never before, from forces ranging from a burgeoning array of foreign competitors, threats to media freedom and social media, among others. This panel of leading media practitioners will look at the state of media in the region, ask how Pacific media can better address the challenges facing Pacific communities, as well as consider how the media is responding to growing geopolitical competition.*

Dorothy Wickham, Founder & Editor, Melanesian News Network  
Makereta Komai, Editor-in-Chief, PACNEWS and Pacific Island News Association  
Jemima Garrett, Freelance journalist and journalism trainer  
Belinda Kora, Journalist and Secretary of the PNG Media Council
11.00am  **Panel 1B:**

**Aid, China and debt**

Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Video Conference Room 1

Chair: Sandra Tarte, Head of School and Director, Politics and International Affairs, USP

*Analysing Pacific debt: how significant is China?*

Rohan Fox, Research Officer, Development Policy Centre, Australian National University (ANU), and Matthew Dornan, Senior Social Protection and Jobs Specialist, World Bank

*Public policy processes: power, agency and translations in the Pacific*

Suzanne O’Neill, PhD Candidate, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

*Improving aid by enhancing transparency – the Lowy Institute Pacific Aid Map*

Jonathan Pryke, Director, and Alexandre Dayant, Research Fellow, Pacific Islands Program, Lowy Institute

11.00am  **Panel 1C:**

**Ambitions beyond growth – investing in the 2030 development agenda**

Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Video Conference Room 2

Chair: Tess Newton Cain, Associate of the Development Policy Centre, ANU and Principal of TNC Pacific Consulting

Halia Haddad, Deputy High Commissioner, New Zealand High Commission, Fiji

Iosefa Maiava, Head of United Nations ESCAP Pacific Office

Neelesh Gounder, Senior Lecturer, School of Economics, USP

12.30pm  Lunch
1.30pm  **Panel 2A:**

**Development challenges in outer islands**

Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Auditorium

Chair: Robert Utz, Lead Economist, World Bank

_This panel will present preliminary findings of World Bank research on challenges that arise from the geographic dispersion of most Pacific island countries (PICs) and discuss how PIC governments deal with these challenges._

*Spatial analysis of socio-economic development in the PICs*

Darian Naidoo, Economist, World Bank

*Political economy of spatial development in the PICs*

David Craig, Consultant, World Bank

*Livelihoods on outer islands of the PICs*

Kim Edwards, Senior Economist, World Bank

*Urbanisation in the PICs*

Artessa Saldivar-Sali, Senior Municipal Engineer, World Bank

*Internal migration in the PICs*

Matthew Dornan, Senior Social Protection & Jobs Specialist, World Bank

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1.30pm  **Panel 2B:**

**Insuring yourself against climate risk**

Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Video Conference Room 1

Chair: Krishnan Narasimhan, Deputy Programme Manager and Insurance Specialist, UNCDF Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme

_The Pacific is subject to the negative impacts of a range of weather-related events that can cause considerable losses, both financial and non-financial. The insurance gap and unmet needs for more protection that is inclusive, scalable and innovative, needs to be addressed. This panel will discuss the use of parametric or index-based insurance in the Pacific._

Vilimaina Dakai, Chief Manager, Reserve Bank of Fiji

Vineil Narayan, Climate Finance Specialist, Climate Change and International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Economy, Government of Fiji

Caitlin Smith, Advisor, World Resources Institute, Fiji

Sarah-Jane Wild, GM/Head of Pacific Operations, Tower Insurance, Fiji

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3.00pm  **Afternoon tea**
3.30pm  **Panel 3A:**

*Health*

Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Auditorium

Chair: Donald Wilson, Associate Dean – Research, College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Science, Fiji National University

*Policy options for specialised clinical services in Pacific island countries: the case of overseas medical referral*

Andrea Boudville, Senior Technical Advisor, Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne; Wayne Irava, Technical Officer – Health Financing, Division of Pacific Technical Support, World Health Organization; and Berlin Kafoa, Public Health Division, Pacific Community

*Is a sugar-sweetened beverages tax (SSB) an effective regulatory measure to address the childhood obesity crisis? A case study of Fiji, Nauru and Tonga*

Daiana Buresova, Regional Coordinator – Pacific, McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer

*Non-communicable disease mortality in small Pacific island countries – estimating the loss of human capital resource*

Shamal Chand, Graduate Assistant, and Baljeet Singh, Senior Lecturer, USP

*Access to medicine in the South Pacific: endogenous factors impeding the benefits of the WTO TRIPS agreement*

Salvin Nand, Deputy Dean, School of Law, University of Fiji
3.30pm  **Panel 3B:**

**Disasters, risk and financing**
Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Video Conference Room 1

Chair: Raymond Prasad, Economic Adviser, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

*Transforming private sector engagement during disasters*
Glen Craig, Chairperson, Vanuatu Business Resilience Council

*Pacific experiences in accessing climate change finance*
Exsley Taloiburi, Climate Finance Adviser, Scott Hook, Economic Infrastructure Adviser, Aholotu Palu, Climate Finance & Public Management Adviser, Ledua Vakaloloma, Climate Finance Officer, and Susan Sulu, Climate Change Finance and Planning Officer, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

*Cash transfers in the Pacific: adding to the evidence base*
Kalua Salerua, Cash Transfer Programme Coordinator, Oxfam in Vanuatu

3.30pm  **Panel 3C:**

**Gender**
Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Video Conference Room 2

Chair: Jennifer Butukoro, Research Officer, Pacific Women Support Unit

*Using short films to stimulate conversation on gender issues in Samoa*
Safua Akeli Amaama, Director, Centre for Samoan Studies, and Ramona Boodoosingh, Senior Lecturer, National University of Samoa

*Divergent or Insurgent? Lessons learnt from five years supporting gender mainstreaming*
Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago-Elisara, Director, Social Development Programme (Gender, Culture & Youth), Pacific Community

*Dynamic, imperfect but astute? Informed policy and programming through Pacific Women’s research agenda*
Milika Sobey, Consultant, member of Women in Fisheries Network – Fiji and Pacific Women Research Advisory Group

5.00pm  **Close**

5.30pm  **Cocktail & kava reception – Launch of Pacific Economic Bulletin database**
Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Marquee
Thursday 4 July 2019

8.30am  Registration

9.00am  **Keynote address**
Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Auditorium
Chair: Sandra Tarte, Head of School and Director, Politics and International Affairs, USP

*Democracy in the Pacific*
Nicole Haley, Senior Fellow, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

*Gender in the Pacific*
Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago-Elisara, Director, Social Development Programme (Gender, Culture & Youth), Pacific Community

10.30am  Morning tea

11.00am  **Panel 4A: Locally-owned businesses on customary land in the South Pacific – key success factors**
Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Auditorium
Chair: Apisalome Movono, Lecturer, School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, USP

This panel contributes to this debate around customary forms of tenure by providing evidence of how customary land can provide the opportunity for a variety of different forms of economic activity that provide social, economic and cultural returns to communities in ways that other forms of tenure simply could not do.

*Case studies of sustainable business development on customary land in Samoa*
Litea Meo-Sewabu, School of Social Sciences, USP

*Reshaping understanding of economies in the South Pacific: Beyond customary land as a barrier to economic development*
Regina Scheyvens, Professor, Institute of Development Studies, Massey University

*Case studies of sustainable business development on customary land in Fiji*
Suliasi Vunibola, Institute of Development Studies, Massey University

*Understanding strategies for success*
All presenters along with Dr Gordon Nanau, School of Government, Development & International Affairs, USP
11.00am  **Panel 4B:**

**Governance**

Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Video Conference Room 1

Chair: Tarcisius Kabutaulaka, Associate Professor and Director, Center for Pacific Islands Studies, University of Hawai‘i

*Central agencies coordination in PNG*

Robyn Ranu Tom-Ata, Acting Director, Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council, Papua New Guinea

*Rethinking new public management: an inquiry into public service reforms and service delivery in Solomon Islands*

Jerry Siota, Graduate Assistant and PhD Candidate, USP

*Economic management in microstates: the impact of the fisheries boom*

James Webb, Senior Policy Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU

*Leadership and support for public sector reform in Papua New Guinea: evidence from experiments*

Fiona Yap, Associate Professor, ANU and Anthony Swan, GAVI

11.00am  **Panel 4C:**

**Trade and resources**

Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Video Conference Room 2

Chair: Matthew Allen, Professor of Development Studies, USP

*Predicting policy impact by looking at the past: a history of trade protection in PNG*

Maholopa Laveil, Lecturer, University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG)

*Solomon Islands forestry – challenges and future directions*

Andrew Piper, Consultant, NRE People, and Luke Kiddle, Lecturer, Victoria University of Wellington

*Oceania trade regionalism: estimations from gravity equations*

Laisa Ro‘i, Associate Professor, University of New Caledonia

12.30pm  Lunch
1.30pm  **Panel 5A:**

**Issues in the Fijian economy**

Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Auditorium

Chair: Professor Nigel Healey, Vice Chancellor, Fijian National University

*Informal sector and economic development: inclusiveness and gender equality throughout the tourism sector in the case of Fiji*

Rukmani Gounder, Professor, Massey University

*Does Fiji’s growth story contradict with reality on the ground? A business perspective*

Sunil Kumar, Senior Lecturer, USP

*Public debt, economic growth and fiscal sustainability in Fiji: status, challenges and the way forward*

Janesh Sami, Assistant Lecturer, USP

*Alternative farming methods using technology to mitigate climate change*

Adish Naidu, Farmer, Sigatoka

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1.30pm  **Panel 5B:**

**PNG development issues**

Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Video Conference Room 1

Chair: Emeritus Professor Ronald Duncan AO, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific

*2019 PNG economic survey*

Rohan Fox, Research Officer, and Stephen Howes, Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU; Maholopa Laveil, Lecturer, UPNG; Bao Nguyen, Lecturer, and Dek Sum, Associate Lecturer and Project Coordinator, Development Policy Centre, ANU and UPNG

*Do beliefs change? Sorcery accusation-related violence in migrant Simbu communities in Port Moresby: a case study of the 6 mile and 9 mile settlements*

Geejay Milli, Lecturer, UPNG

*Papua New Guinea: Riding or Sinking from the Resource Boom? Evidence from Sectoral and Geographical Employment*

Bao Nguyen, Lecturer, and Dek Sum, Associate Lecturer and Project Coordinator, Development Policy Centre, ANU and UPNG
1.30pm  **Panel 5C: Infrastructure**
Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Video Conference Room 2
Chair: Professor Satish Chand, University of New South Wales

*Increasing access to electricity in Solomon Islands – experience and lessons from an ongoing project*

*On the road: lessons from Kiribati*
Pierre Graftieaux, Program Leader for Infrastructure, Environment, Disaster Risk Management, Agriculture, Rural, Urban and Social Development, PNG & Pacific Islands, World Bank

*ICTs as enablers for transformational development in the Pacific region – what’s required to make this happen?*
Bart Hogeveen, Head of Cyber Capacity Building, International Cyber Policy Centre, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

*Spread of information and communication technology and the economic growth of Pacific island countries: a panel study*
Keshmeer Makun, Assistant Lecturer, USP, and TK Jayaraman, Research Professor, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman

3.00pm  **Afternoon tea**
3.30pm  **Panel 6A:**

**Fiji humanitarian responses**
Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Auditorium
Chair: Eberhard Weber, Associate Professor, USP

*Remote Fijian communities building back safer: an interrogation and promotion of local resources, technologies and supply chains for construction*
Temily Baker, Research Coordinator, Mereoni Matalomani, Researcher, Losevati Naidike, Researcher, Salote Valentine, Researcher and Arieta Tupou, Researcher, Habitat for Humanity Fiji

*Bridging the divide between the humanitarian-development nexus: lessons of governance from TC Winston in Fiji*
Anna Gero, Research Principal and Keren Winterford, Research Director, University of Technology Sydney

*A Fiji shelter handbook to localise disaster response*
Doreen Narayan, Shelter Project Manager, Habitat for Humanity Fiji

3.30pm  **Panel 6B: Youth and development**
Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Video Conference Room 1
Chair: Maree Tait, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU

*The Pacific Early Age Readiness and Learning Program (PEARL) – learnings from an initiative to improve Pacific literacy*
Sally Brinkman, Professor, Telethon Kids Institute, University of Western Australia; Bihn Thanh Vu, Senior Education Specialist, Kris McDonall, Consultant, and Kevin Macdonald, Consultant, World Bank; Wendy Jarvie, Adjunct Professor, School of Business, UNSW Canberra; Souhila Messaoud-Galusi, Consultant, World Bank; Myrna Machuca-Sierra, Consultant, World Bank; and Siosiana Tapueluelu, PEARL Project Coordinator – Tonga, World Bank.

*The political economy of youth in Fiji and Solomon Islands: to be seen but not heard*
Aidan Craney, Lecturer, La Trobe University

*Empirical analysis of fertility: a cross-country study of the Pacific islands*
Sumeet Lal, Graduate Assistant, and Rup Singh, Senior Lecturer and Head of School of Economics, USP

*Finding our voice: supporting adolescent girls in the Pacific region*
Monica Waqanisau, Gender Coordinator, Pacific Women Support Unit
3.30pm **Panel 6C: Private sector issues**
Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Video Conference Room 2

Chair: Rukmani Gounder, Professor, Massey University

*Putting local leadership and culture at the centre of private sector growth in the tourism industry in Vanuatu*
Adela Issachar Aru, CEO, Vanuatu Tourism Office

*Nutrition enhancement: increasing fibre intake in Tarawa, Kiribati*
Hsiang-Chi Chen, Nutrition Specialist, Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund

*Facing food security risks: the rise and rise of the sweet potato in the Pacific islands*
Viliamu Iese, Research Fellow, Elisabeth Holland, Director, and Morgan Wairiu, Deputy Director of PaCE-SD, USP; Robin Havea, Senior Lecturer, USP; Soane Patolo, National Programme Coordinator, Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovation, Tonga Trust; Minoru Nishi, Managing Director, Nishi Trading, Tonga; Taniela Hoponoa, Programme Manager, Live and Learn Education and Environment, MORDI, Tonga Trust; Michael Bourke, Adjunct Senior Fellow, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific; Annika Dean, Senior Researcher, The Climate Council; and Logotonu Wagainabete, Curator, Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees, Pacific Community

*Mired in MIRAB*
Stephen Pollard, Consultant Economist, and David Abbott, Manager – Data Analysis and Dissemination, Statistics for Development Division, Pacific Community

5.00pm Close

6.30pm **Conference dinner (by invitation only)**
Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Marquee
Friday 5 July 2019 – Pacific Labour Mobility Research Workshop

This year a third day has been added to the Pacific Update to discuss recent labour mobility research and brainstorm emerging issues and research priorities. This third day is open to the public, including all Pacific Update participants.

8.30am  Registration

9.00am  **Opening plenary**

Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Auditorium

Welcome and Chair: Rup Singh, Senior Lecturer, School of Economics, USP

Opening remarks:
Professor Stephen Howes, Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Opening address:
Jane Bastin-Sikimeti, Director, Pacific Labour Mobility & Skills Program Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia

Pacific labour mobility – impacts and futures
*John Connell, Professor, The University of Sydney, and Kirstie Petrou, Research Associate, The University of Adelaide*

10.45am  Morning tea

11.15am  **Plenary: Sending-country governance**

Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Auditorium

Chair: Mai Malaulau, Labour Mobility Consultant

*Sending country governance of labour mobility*
Stephen Howes, Director, and Richard Curtain, Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Discusants:
Matthew Gibbs, Labour Mobility Advisor, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Murielle Metsan Meltenoven, Vanuatu Labour Commissioner

12.30pm  Lunch
1.30pm  **Panel 7A: Skills**  
Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Auditorium  
Chair: Soli Middleby, CEO, Australia Pacific Training Coalition (APTC)  

*Identifying opportunities for APTC graduates from recent Australian immigration data*  
Richard Curtain, Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU  

*APTC and achieving a net skills gain for Pacific economies*  
Andie Fong Toy, Labour Mobility Adviser, APTC  

*Can Fiji’s skill shortage be addressed through a more receptive labour immigration policy?*  
Sunil Kumar, Senior Lecturer, USP, and Sothea Oum, Asian Development Bank  

*Brain drain and/or brain gain: what have we learnt thus far?*  
Satish Chand, Professor, University of New South Wales  

1.30pm  **Panel 7B: Social impacts and dimensions**  
Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Video Conference Room 1  
Chair: Akka Ramon, World Bank Office, Kiribati  

*Longitudinal study of ni-Vanuatu seasonal workers participating in New Zealand’s RSE scheme*  
Rochelle Bailey, Research Fellow, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU  

*A comparative analysis of media coverage on labour mobility in the Pacific and Australia*  
Prashanth Pillay, Research Analyst and Vipul Khosla, Design and Evaluation Lead, ABC International Development  

*‘There will also be bad sides’: Community Perspectives on Labour Mobility*  
Rachel Smith, Research Associate, Max Planck – Cambridge Centre for Ethics, Economy and Social Change  

3.00pm  Afternoon tea
3.30pm  **Plenary: Research agenda brainstorming**  
Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Auditorium  
Chair: Jane Bastin-Sikimeti, Director, Pacific Labour Mobility & Skills Program Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia  
Matthew Dornan, Senior Social Protection and Jobs Specialist, World Bank  
Rochelle Ball, Senior Research Manager, Pacific Labour Facility  
Vilimone Baledrokadroka, Deputy Secretary Technical, Fijian Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations  
Meleoni Uera, Director, Matala Limited and former Head of Tonga Labour Sending Unit  

5.00pm  Conference close
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We’d love to hear your feedback.

Please fill in our quick survey via the link below or QR code, or in person in the last session of the conference.
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019PUfeedback