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2019 PACIFIC UPDATE

ABSTRACTS BOOK

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

**PACIFIC
RESEARCH
PROGRAM**

AN INITIATIVE OF THE AUSTRALIAN AID PROGRAM

#PACIFICUPDATE



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Wednesday 3 July 2019

Welcome remarks and opening plenary

9.00-10.30am, Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Auditorium

Chair: Professor Pal Ahluwalia
Vice-Chancellor, 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

Keynote Speaker: 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

Panel 1A: The future of Pacific media in times of digital disruption, fake news and geopolitical tension

11.00-12.30pm, 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 and 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

Panel 1B: Aid, China and debt

11.00-12.30pm, 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);
Matthew Dornan, Senior Social Protection and Jobs Specialist, World Bank

In 2018, many nations began to take greater notice of Chinese government activities in Pacific island countries, with many analysts portraying the rise of Chinese engagement in the Pacific as a threat to security and to Western influence in the region. Key to these portrayals of Chinese engagement is the provision of state loans to the region for the purpose of 'debt trap diplomacy'. Chinese loans are provided by state entities. They tend to come with fewer reporting requirements and restrictions than multilateral loans and Western aid which make them popular with Pacific island leaders. Though still concessional, they are also more expensive, with higher interest rates than loans from multilateral development agencies. Chinese lending has been characterised as predatory in the West, with commentators pointing to the provision of Chinese loans for projects of dubious quality, and to lending to countries that are not well placed to repay debts. In the Pacific, discussions about Chinese lending have focused on debt levels, which in some Pacific island states are of concern. This paper examines borrowing by Pacific island governments in order to gauge whether the 'debt trap diplomacy' argument has merit. We find that some Pacific island states are grappling with a debt problem. However, while the increase in Chinese loans has contributed to some of the problems, other lenders and significant factors are relevant, and need to be part of the wider discussion.

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

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

My paper draws from my doctoral research which problematises the development paradigm underpinning global aid effectiveness agreements of the last two or more decades by exploring what the idea of 'Country Ownership' meant for development actors in the Pacific and how this influenced implementation of the Forum Compact for Development Cooperation across the Pacific. Drawing on interpretive policy analysis approaches, I conducted fieldwork across five case studies, drawn from: Pacific countries; multilateral agencies and donors; regional organisations. My paper argues that country context is far more significant than global and regional aid effectiveness fora acknowledged. Despite Pacific leaders' agreement and the dominance of donors' offers of aid and expertise, local norms were not readily set aside when it came to policy implementation. Rather, national actors were guided by their understanding of policy intent, 'the what' of policy. They interpreted 'Country Ownership' respectively, as the aspiration for equality, self-reliance or political autonomy. In contrast, donor-actors understood 'Country Ownership' as almost an unintended consequence of donor harmonisation – and emphasised 'the how' of policy implementation. They focused on the mechanics of managing the money to reduce administrative burdens and align with donor-allies, thereby demonstrating accountability to their domestic taxpayers and legitimating their aid giving efforts. This mismatch between the 'what' and the 'how' framed policy implementation in each country. And so, in practice, the Forum Compact was variously accepted, tolerated, or rejected by national actors. My paper seeks to extend the proposition that different types of translation are necessary to adapt policy instruments to meet local context, adjusting for political and cultural institutions and state capacity (Hadjisky et al, 2017), by arguing that, for all actors, a more nuanced negotiation of underpinning values and beliefs, challenging long-dominant power dynamics, is key to successful policy implementation.

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

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

Last year, the Lowy Institute launched the Pacific Aid Map. This tool collects data on almost 13,000 projects in 14 countries from 62 donors from 2011 onwards. The raw data has been made freely available on an interactive multifaceted platform, allowing users to examine and manipulate the information in a variety of ways. The interactive tool is a world first in terms of comprehensively drawing in data from all donors in a particular region. We hope that this analytical tool will enhance aid effectiveness in the Pacific by improving coordination, alignment and accountability of foreign aid. You can view the Pacific Aid Map here: <https://pacificaidmap.lowyinstitute.org/>. Since its launch, the authors of the Pacific Aid Map have been extracting insights from the data, and would like to discuss some key findings, ranging from sectorial specialisation to debt sustainability. Further discussion will explain how the Map can contribute to aid effectiveness through enhancing the transparency of aid flows in the Pacific.

Panel 1C: Ambitions beyond growth – investing in the 2030 development agenda

11.00-12.30pm, 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, Faculty of Business and Economics, USP

Panel 2A: Development challenges in outer islands

1.30-3.00pm, 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

Artesa Saldivar-Sali, Senior Municipal Engineer, World Bank

Internal migration in the PICs

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

Panel 2B: Insuring yourself against climate risk

1.30-3.00pm, 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
Veilawa Rereiwasilawa, General Manager, Tower Insurance, Fiji

With the increasing emphasis on disaster prevention, there is a growing interest on insurance as a potential risk mitigation strategy that can assist low- and middle-income people, including women and youth, micro-, small- and medium-enterprises, and governments, to protect their assets from risks and disasters. Insurance is identified as one of the ex-ante financial instruments that can assist in mitigating risks by providing indemnification against losses from disaster or climate change impacts. That is, people affected by a disaster benefit from the contributions of others, in terms of risk pooling and premium payments. The Pacific islands are the most exposed to and affected by natural hazards and in most cases, low income earners and vulnerable populations, including women and youth, have limited or no access to insurance or financial services and have to manage these climate risks and impacts by their own means. Fiji is in the top five most vulnerable countries in the world. Climate related events, like cyclones and droughts, are increasing in frequency and intensity. Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016 provided evidence of the huge economic impact that events of that magnitude can cause to people, institutions and government. Insurance is important as it is the primary contributor to achieving six Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG13 on Climate Action, which can have direct impact on the lives of the vulnerable group including women, youth and people with special needs. There are innovative insurance services relating to disasters such as climate insurance or catastrophe insurance. In the Pacific, there are developments in micro-insurance targeting the most vulnerable with individual or bundled products on life and funeral, accident and fire/property. One of the recent developments that aims to address disaster and climate

change impacts is the Green Bond, and Fiji has been the first in the Pacific and among the early adopters in the world. The UN Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP), in collaboration with the Bonn based Munich Climate Insurance Initiative, is developing a regional climate risk adaptation and insurance – a macro to micro level parametric insurance solution aimed at delivering immediate post-disaster pay out to households and communities. There are other climate risk insurance and disaster risk financing instruments under development by development partners like Asian Development Bank, World Bank and International Finance Corporation.

Panel 3A: Health

3.30-5.00pm, 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; Berlin Kafoa, Public Health Division, Pacific Community

Pacific island countries (PICs) face rising demand for health care and specialised clinical services (SCS). There are three options for provision of SCS: i) domestic capacity; ii) through visiting specialist medical teams (VSMTs); iii) Overseas Medical Referral (OMR). Most Pacific island governments support access to SCS through a mix of all three options. Health systems in PICs are largely government-funded and resource constrained. Primary health care and hospital services are predominantly provided free of charge to small, widely dispersed populations. The disproportionate burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), together with severe resource constraints means that the task of prioritising needs, providing SCS, and allocating funds for these services is complex. The use of OMR is at the centre of these challenges. In PICs economies of scale for tertiary services are not available, and providing the services domestically is often not efficient or possible. There is growing concern that the growing reliance on OMR and increasing costs of offshore treatment are placing an unsustainable burden on PIC health budgets. There is little information available on decision-making processes, financing, access, and the policy parameters regarding OMR in PICs. This paper presents findings of a collaborative study between the Nossal Institute for Global Health, World Health Organisation (WHO) and Pacific Community (SPC). It is based on analysis of OMR policies, consultations and surveys across PICs, focused on efficiency, effectiveness and equity. The research is guided by the principles embedded within the Healthy Islands Vision and joint statement on Universal Health Coverage. Key policy questions include: i) choosing which treatments to fund; ii) who can access the OMR scheme where to refer patients; iii) how much to fund; iv) who is involved in decisions about OMR schemes. In 2018 WHO, SPC and Nossal Institute worked in collaboration to explore these policy questions in fifteen PICs.

Is an SSB tax 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

A regulatory measure is a type of evidence based policy intervention aimed at addressing crises, such as childhood obesity. This paper will look at the effectiveness of the Sugar Sweetened Beverage (SSB) tax – a regulatory measure in Fiji, Nauru and Tonga. The paper provides an examination of childhood obesity in the Pacific region, including gender disaggregated data, and an examination of regulatory frameworks for childhood overweight and obesity, including the WHO Ending Childhood Obesity (ECHO) report and the Pacific ECHO Network agenda. The paper also offers an examination of one regulatory measure (i.e. fiscal policy or SSB taxes) around the world, to look at: support for them as a tool to combat obesity under regulatory frameworks (e.g. NCD GAP Appendix 3 reference to SSB tax as cost-effective intervention); examples from both around the world (Mexico) and the Pacific region; the evidence emerging (from Mexico) about its effectiveness. The paper focuses on SSB policies in Fiji, Nauru and Tonga and asks: i) whether such a fiscal policy has reduced or increased consumption rates of SSBs amongst children and adolescents; ii) if aggressive marketing by the SSB industry played a significant role in the consumption patterns; iii) has the negative health outcomes been significant and what measures are in place to curb them?; iv) what lessons these countries can take away from innovative evidence based policy interventions that have addressed this specific unhealthy diet.

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

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) have become a health, social, and economic crisis in small Pacific island countries, responsible for a high rate of morbidity and deaths in the working age population. The objective of this study is to estimate the indirect cost of NCD related premature mortality in eight small PICs using the human capital approach. In this study we find that Fiji has the highest indirect cost of NCD related deaths compared to the other small PICs; while Kiribati has the least. Cardiovascular disease related deaths are the main contributor towards total indirect cost in most Pacific islands countries, except for cancer in Tonga. We find that in 2017, NCD related deaths in the working age population of Fiji created an indirect cost of US\$67.77m. Additionally, we estimate the indirect cost of NCD related deaths as US\$6.77m in Micronesia, US\$2.60m in Kiribati, US\$3.58m in Marshall Islands, US\$6.28m in Samoa, US\$17.99m in Solomon Islands, US\$5.62m in Tonga, and US\$15.74m in Vanuatu. The results are concerning as NCD related deaths in the 35 to 49 year age group represent the major share of indirect cost and lost years of productive life. Since the majority in the 35 to 49 year age group are skilled from years of experience, high NCD related deaths and cost in this age group represents a significant burden to the Pacific economies. The study recommends further strengthening of interventions and NCD strategic plans to minimize the high rate of NCD related premature mortality and the associated indirect cost in the small Pacific island states.

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

Access to essential medicines, nested in the right to the highest attainable standard of health, is well founded in international and domestic laws. If not all, most Pacific island countries' (PICs) constitutions recognise access to essential medicines as a human right. Despite these comforting laws, PICs are net importers of medicines yet struggle to maintain a sustainable supply of medicines. As a result, many Pacific islanders are unnecessarily dying and leaving the future of Pacific countries at risk of reclaim. PICs, like other developing countries party to multilateral agreements, often complain that these agreements are a double-edged sword. For example, international trade agreements, particularly trade related intellectual property rights (TRIPS), provide for strict intellectual property laws and at the same time provide for compulsory licensing of patented drugs. Despite the associated benefits of TRIPS (Paragraph 6 system), one major problem is that not all PICs are members of the WTO and those that are members do not have sufficient domestic legislation, systems and processes relating to the procurement and distribution of medicines to realise the full benefits of the WTO-TRIPS Agreement. There is enough academic and policy debate on 'patent law' versus 'patients human rights' but this research analyses PICs perspectives and explores what endogenous factors affect the implementation of Paragraph 6 System, with a particular focus on Fiji. The paper further questions whether PICs would be better-off with a regional procurement division and whether TRIPs could facilitate a regional compulsory licensing application.

Panel 3B: Disasters, risk and financing

3.30-5.00pm, 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

The Vanuatu Business Resilience Council (VBRC) is a standalone executive formed by the Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce and Industry to assist business to engage better with the community and government before, during, and after a humanitarian event or disaster. Vanuatu is ranked number one on the UN World Risk Index which makes it critical that we develop a coordinated framework between government and the private sector to develop resilient communities and business. Using seed funding from the Connecting Business Initiative, the VBRC is implementing programs that include: providing a clear entry point for the private sector to engage in disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response and recovery; mobilising and connecting partners; supporting the creation and strengthening of private sector-led networks for disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response and recovery; connecting private sector networks at the sub-national, national and regional levels, and among industry and thematic groups, to each other and other actors; integrating the private sector in resilience programs and national disaster management structures; matching private sector capacities and resources to humanitarian needs through local networks; producing tools and delivering programs to build the resilience of businesses and their

communities; developing and disseminating good practice on private sector engagement; facilitating policy engagement. Vanuatu is one of only two countries in the region, alongside Fiji, to have a standalone council to focus on disaster risk and recovery through a coordinated stakeholder approach. This paper will look at the Vanuatu experience of establishing a mechanism of this type and share some of the lessons learned about the opportunities and challenges it presents, which may be of benefit to policy makers and practitioners in other countries of the region.

Pacific experiences in accessing climate change finance

Exsley Taloiburi, Climate Finance Adviser, [Scott Hook](#), Economic Infrastructure Adviser, Aholotu Palu, Climate Finance and Public Management Adviser, Ledua Vakaloloma, Climate Finance Officer, and Susan Sulu, Climate Change Finance and Planning Officer, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

The Pacific has had a wide range of experience and insights on accessing and managing climate change and disaster risk finance in the Pacific Region. This paper explores the experiences of Pacific island countries (PICs) in implementing various climate change and disaster risk finance options to provide useful and practical lessons for other countries to learn from, replicate or scale-up to match their national circumstances. The analysis draws on the assessments of climate change finance undertaken using the Pacific Climate Change Finance Assessment Framework (PCCFAF), which has been applied in ten PICs to date. The PCCFAF has been developed and tailored to the Pacific island context and provides guidance for the assessment of the climate finance landscape across seven interrelated pillars which are: funding sources; policies and plans; institutions; public financial management and expenditure; human capacity; development effectiveness; gender and social inclusion. The paper will document Tuvalu's Climate Change and Disaster Survival Fund and the Fiji Green Bonds as examples of innovative approaches to generate financing for climate change and disaster risk reduction. The experience of the Micronesia Conservation Trust attaining Regional Implementing Entity (RIE) status to the Green Climate Fund and National Implementing Entity (NIE) status to the Adaptation Fund, and Vanuatu's National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction are highlighted as examples exemplifying institutional strengthening and coordination for climate change and disaster risk reduction. One key outcome from the analysis is the value of public financial management (PFM) as an integral part of accessing and managing climate change finance and ensuring robust and credible PFM systems, and that supporting continuous improvement is important. The paper also discusses PFM reforms in Kiribati and Samoa and internal audit strengthening in Tuvalu, and shares these experiences to enable increased and direct access to climate change finance.

Cash transfers in the Pacific: adding to the evidence base

Kalua Salerua, Cash Transfer Programme Coordinator, Oxfam in Vanuatu

Panel 3C: Gender

3.30-5.00pm, 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

The issue of gender inequality is complex; existing as a myriad of overlapping social norms, practices and beliefs which disadvantage a group based on gender. The list includes gender based violence, inequitable access to opportunity, salary gaps, restrictive laws, and ability to hold political office. As development moves forward across the globe, approaches to address gender inequality have continued to expand and become more innovative. The Short Film Challenge emerged from a wider project which was led by St. Andrews University, in collaboration with independent film makers and researchers at the National University of Samoa (NUS) and the Papua New Guinea National Research Institute. The research explored the use of film as a means to stimulate dialogue on gender inequality in communities across six Pacific island countries: Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Tonga, and Samoa. Accompanying this endeavour, the Centre for Samoan Studies, along with collaborating researchers in other academic units at NUS, spearheaded a short film competition on gender issues in Samoa. Sponsored by the Pacific Media Assistance Scheme, Australian Aid and the Samoan Government's Ministry of Women Community and Social Development, the film challenge produced films on several gender issues in Samoa. These included the experiences of Nofotane, gender and occupational paths, and the vulnerability of survivors of deceased spouses who resided on customary land.

Divergent or insurgent? Lessons learnt from five years supporting gender mainstreaming.

Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago-Elisara, Director, Social Development Programme (Gender, Culture and 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

Thursday 4 July 2019

Keynote address

9.00-10.30am, 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 and Youth), Pacific Community

Panel 4A: Locally-owned businesses on customary land in the South Pacific – key success factors

11.00-12.30pm, 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.

Land, and specifically the approximately 80% of land in the South Pacific that remains under customary forms of tenure, has been a source of considerable ideological and policy debate for decades. In this paper, we seek to contribute to this debate 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 – particularly individualised title – simply could not. By detailing cases where individuals and communities have leveraged locally meaningful forms of development off their customary land, we seek to demonstrate the developmental benefits of a plurality of tenure forms rather than promoting individual tenure as the most important type. In particular, we focus upon locally determined success factors, showing how businesses can be successfully structured to serve society. Rather than customary land being a constraint to economic development and an impediment to innovation and entrepreneurship, examples will illustrate businesses that have been able to innovate precisely because the customary land on which they are located has facilitated diverse forms of ‘risk taking’ as well as providing a solid basis of human and social capital for their development. The concept of social embeddedness is significant in terms of rethinking the capacity of people to take ownership of their own development, to unite in solving their own problems, and to ensure that they retain benefits of development locally.

Reshaping understanding of economies in the South Pacific: beyond customary land as a barrier to economic development

Regina Scheyvens, Institute of Development Studies, Massey University

Customary land is commonly perceived as a barrier to economic development and indigenous entrepreneurship in South Pacific countries. We turn this proposition on its head, arguing that customary land provides a solid foundation for indigenous entrepreneurs who wish to achieve social, cultural or environmental wellbeing, as well as economic goals, for their businesses. In seven South Pacific states over 80% of the land is owned under customary tenure, something which many economists and development bankers see as a barrier to development. While cultural governance arrangements for this land do limit opportunities for overseas investment, this leaves room for locally-driven and inclusively-oriented development initiatives to come to the fore. Pacific peoples are utilising their customary land in a range of creative and dynamic ways so that it can contribute to sociocultural and economic development. Most of their businesses are developed to improve family and community wellbeing, rather than explicitly to make a profit, with economic wellbeing regarded as a means to fulfilling broader spiritual, cultural, social and environmental notions of wellbeing. Rather than 'fitting' Pacific views to modern economies then, an exploration of how customary land is successfully used helps to reshape understandings of economies in South Pacific states.

Case studies of sustainable business development on customary land in Samoa

Litea Meo-Sewabu, School of Social Sciences, USP

This presentation will showcase examples of locally owned business ventures operating on customary land in Samoa which achieve economic development whilst retaining control over the land for the people and upholding community processes and values. Fieldwork in 2017, with two tourism and two agricultural enterprises, showed how Samoan people were using their businesses to advance the wellbeing of both their families and broader communities. Factors that helped them to achieve this success included support from matai (chiefs), good relationships with people in their communities, ensuring there were communal benefits from the business, support from intermediary organisations, and pursuing diverse livelihood options.

Case studies of sustainable business development on customary land in Fiji

Suliasi Vunibola, Institute of Development Studies, Massey University

Land is central to the livelihoods, identity, social structures and wellbeing of Pacific people. Many foreign interests in the Pacific are narrowly focused on the economic potential of the land, overlooking the broader value that is embedded in this land. This presentation will showcase examples of locally owned business ventures operating on customary land in Fiji which achieve economic development whilst retaining control over the land for the people and upholding community processes and values. During fieldwork in 2018, data was collected using culturally inclusive frameworks and is herein summarised to present how the business owners successfully build relationships and negotiate challenges to achieve economic, socio-cultural, and environmental sustainability.

Understanding strategies for success

All presenters along with Dr Gordon Nanau, School of Government, Development and International Affairs, USP

We bring this session to a close by recognising the capacity of people to take ownership of their own development on their customary land. The different economic approaches adopted by the businesses described above have required novel strategies and models to both sustain the business and enhance the social-cultural wellbeing of the communities from which they derive. Such strategies include:

- diversification of business activities
- doing business at a pace and scale that works for them, while resisting external pressures to change
- gaining support from customary leaders
- remaining connected to the landowning community through involvement in and contributions to customary affairs
- managing a degree of separation (social and/or geographic) for the business from the social and cultural obligations and demands made on it and the owner(s)
- managing finances by having a specified aspect of the business through which contributions to the church, community and school are made
- ensuring local people can enjoy what the business has to offer e.g. Tifajek mud pools
- building informal networks with other indigenous-owned businesses to share knowledge, advice and labour.

Such strategies help to both create and maintain healthy relationships, and contribute to the sustainability of the businesses.

Panel 4B: Governance

11.00-12.30pm, 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

This paper examines the structure and operation of central government agencies in Papua New Guinea. The term 'central government agencies' refers to those authorities in any country's system of government responsible for setting the policy agenda and for providing the necessary human and material resources to oversee that agenda's implementation and evaluation. These departments must not only meet their respective responsibilities, but establish effective coordination processes covering the numerous line departments and other agencies at the national and subnational levels. Papua New Guinea has such a system for central government agencies and coordination, but it is widely viewed as weak and ineffective. The purpose of this paper is to examine the strengths and weaknesses of the country's system for coordination of central government agencies as it currently operates, with a view to identifying ways in which the system might be improved.

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

Jerry Siota, Graduate Assistant and PhD Candidate, USP

As a paradigm of public service reform, New Public Management (NPM) has risen in popularity over the past three decades. While academic and policy literature on NPM has also flourished, there are relatively few studies on the impact of NPM on the public service and service delivery in Solomon Islands. The key objectives of NPM reforms include: i) de-bureaucratizing government services by reducing the size and cost of government; ii) stimulating local-market competition to provide quality and affordable services; iii) adopting performance measurement for greater accountability and transparency. With its apparent success in countries such as the United Kingdom and United States of America, NPM has been promoted in developing countries such as Solomon Islands. Drawing on quantitative and qualitative research recently conducted in Solomon Islands, this paper will argue that the adoption of NPM reforms in Solomon Islands has resulted in services becoming worse-off and more expensive. Moreover, the reforms have also contributed to an environment ripe for corruption. The paper suggests that these outcomes have occurred because the host environment is inconducive. Whilst the reforms can be seen as a ‘technical fix’ – primarily instigated and funded by external donors – the ‘problems’ that they have sought to address can be interpreted as more political, behavioural, and cultural in nature. There is a mismatch between the reforms and ‘real’ problems. Ultimately, the research focuses on the manner of NPM’s ‘transfer’ to Solomon Islands. The study concludes that NPM inspired reforms have resulted in unintended and perverse outcomes. Aid donors are concerned with what the reforms should look like, without actually diagnosing the host environment for ‘real’ problems. This results in paper-based reforms – reforms are implemented but the host lacks the institutional and resource capacity to sustain them. Despite extensive NPM reforms, service delivery in Solomon Islands has actually worsened.

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

The paper evaluates how citizens in countries with weak governance systems respond to existing public service performance, and assesses how the well-educated and potential leaders respond to opportunities to provide support for public service reform or undertake leadership roles to generate broad support for such reforms. Specifically, through experiments, we assess how educated Papua New Guineans, and potential future leaders of the country interact with or respond to existing public service performance; further, we analyse their responses to different scenarios for peacefully and meaningfully engaging in policy debate around public service reform in PNG. Three results from the experiments are interesting. First, the results show that a statistically significant proportion of participants prefer to pay more to receive better service in a low-monitoring environment compared to a high-monitoring environment. This is consistent with the recent findings that even honest players are affected by, rather than

influence, their environment, so that reliance on the principled-principal in the principal-agent approach may not yield results. Second, a large majority would engage in activities to debate and discuss such reform. This signifies broad support for improving public service performance. Third, a statistically significant proportion of participants prefer to play leadership roles over supportive roles in advocating for such reforms. This may signify the role of tertiary education in preparing the next generation of leaders. In conjunction, the results inform policy makers and stakeholders on how social norms can reinforce weak governance systems and understanding of how different forms of leadership can help facilitate broad support for peaceful and constructive engagement on reform issues.

Panel 4C: Trade and resources

11.00-12.30pm, 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, The University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG)

The two decade long tariff reduction program (TRP) represents PNG's push toward a more open trade regime, which began in 1999. Tariffs within this period, and the more recent 2018 spate of tariffs, have stalled this process. By reviewing the experiences of previous trade policies and relevant trade literature, it is possible to make informed predictions of the impact, efficacy, and equitability of the recent tariffs. This study draws on the experiences of two companies that enjoyed trade protection in the 1980s and 1990s – PNG Halla Cement Limited and Ramu Sugar Limited. Although these companies enjoyed substantial trade protection and government equity, underperformance, a lack of competitiveness, high cost structures, and regressive prices to consumers, resulted.

Solomon Islands forestry – challenges and future directions

Andrew Piper, Consultant, NRE People, and [Luke Kiddle](#), Lecturer, Victoria University of Wellington

Log exports have been the largest source of government revenue in Solomon Islands since independence. However it is a sector that is beset with challenges. Current harvest rates are unsustainable, with recent rates of harvesting reaching levels more than ten times the recommended sustainable harvest rates. Other concerns include continued illegal logging, close linkages between politicians and logging interests which facilitate corruption, benefits being largely captured by elites, outdated legislation, limited enforcement, and social problems in communities associated with logging. Despite the national economic reliance on the sector, the impact of logging on communities in the Solomon Islands has been overwhelmingly negative. Solomon Islanders are aware of these issues and there is wide recognition of the need for a sector shake-up and a shift to more sustainable forms of forest resource development. This paper provides an analysis of forest management in Solomon Islands focusing on potential future directions and more sustainable approaches. It reviews prospects for the value added sawn timber industry, community-level plantations, current efforts to update government

forest policy foundations, and initiatives such as carbon offsetting. Ultimately, a shift in Solomon Islands forest management will require strong political leadership and will, driven by changes in community expectations.

Oceania trade regionalism: estimations from gravity equations

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

The development of Oceania trade has been one of the main issues in the process of Oceania region building, and one of the major objectives of the Pacific Plan. Several trade agreements are in force among subsets of Oceanian island countries, others are being negotiated. Do these agreements reflect good intention or do they materialize in increased trade flows ex post? In order to shed some light on this issue, we adopt an empirical strategy, which consists in estimating gravity equations for Oceanian countries' bilateral trade (regionally and with the rest of the world) based on an original panel dataset covering Oceania bilateral trade from the 1980s. We then compare the trade effects associated with each trade agreement in force among Oceanian countries, especially regional agreements (between PICs only) versus international agreements (which consist in granting PICs a 'preferential' access to the markets of 'developed' foreign countries). One of the main results is that international trade agreements are statistically associated with low trade creation impacts but high trade diversion impacts. This confirms that the move towards multilateral trade liberalisation has been associated with the erosion of the so-called preferential access granted to Oceanian exports. Another interesting result is that entering a regional trade agreement is statistically associated with increased trade, both with other members of the regional agreement and with non members of the regional agreement. This contradicts previous simulations that were computed before the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA) entered into force. One of the reasons behind this unexpected result may be that the enforcement of trade agreements at the regional level is associated with high learning by doing effects, not only among partners of regional trade agreements, but also beyond.

Panel 5A: Issues in the Fijian economy

1.30-3.00pm, Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Auditorium

Chair: 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

Multisector tourism engagement in many developing countries is regarded as a reach towards addressing sustainable development goal (SDG) 8 to meet sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and SDG 10 to reduce inequalities. The Pacific island nations have been a major tourist destination and tourism's main comparative advantage over other sectors is that visitor expenditures have a catalytic influence across the economy through production and job creation. Its support for economic, social and cultural activities is crucial to challenge a growth-led approach for

sustainable development. Addressing this deficiency for a small island nation, an evaluation on the dynamic nexus between tourism growth and economic growth in the case of Fiji is examined using a recently developed spillover approach, and a vector autoregressive framework. The time variant inter-relationship results in tourism-led economic growth and economic-driven tourism growth indicate the level of influence of political-economic events and natural disasters. The spillover results identify sharply distinct outcomes for tourism or economic growth as the net transmitter or recipient of shocks and the effects of these crises over time. The findings establish the extent to which tourism contributions can meet decent work and economic growth goals, growth of micro-, small- and medium-enterprises, self-employed, casual and informal workers, and address gender inequality issues. The focus on SDGs 8 and 10, and the level of tourism development, requires strategies based on socio-economic challenges of wage and employment growth, inclusive employment, structural transformation, and supportive policies over time. An approach that focuses on stability and growth-led development for sustainable development is discussed to connect policies for sustainability of tourism industries to develop resilience within other spheres of SDGs.

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

Sunil Kumar, Senior Lecturer, USP

Numerous economic studies have shown that new business formations contribute to economic growth and employment. It is perceptible therefore that new business formations can only occur when the business environment in the country is conducive. It is also quite logical that in small Pacific island economies like Fiji, small and medium enterprises could become successful and competitive and thus create employment and growth. It is observed from the World Bank data that for the last few years the 'Ease of Doing Business' index for Fiji has been worsening to the extent that it has fallen way below Solomon Islands and Tonga. Despite this deteriorating business environment, Fiji has seen sustained economic growth of around 2.5-3.5% since 2010, which has surpassed all its previous performance records. This paper analyses sectoral growth rates and government policies to determine whether the current growth trend is sustainable in the long-run and grounded in reality (growth of the real sectors of the economy). It may well be, as described by Ayyagari et al. (2007) and many others that such growth phenomena may not be describable using simple statistical data analysis. Thus, a more anecdotal approach may be useful to analyse and prescribe better growth and employment policies. This analysis is likely to point out logical contradictions that may exist in the data projections of the government to ascertain the economic outcomes of its current policies. A short is conducted in this research to determine the perception of businesses in a major urban centre in Fiji to ascertain the WB analysis and to determine how policies could be improved and/or fine-tuned for better outcomes.

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

Janesh Sami, Assistant Lecturer, USP

Over the past decade, the Fijian government has undertaken a number of important expenditure and revenue reforms. More recently, with the expansionary fiscal policy stance, and the rapid rise in public debt relative to much of Fiji's economic history, has raised significant concerns regarding the implications for economic growth and fiscal sustainability in the political

arena. This paper examines the evolution of public debt in Fiji during the period 1970-2018, discusses stylized facts regarding rise in public debt and various challenges for fiscal policy. The paper provides new empirical insights on fiscal sustainability and implications of rising public debt on economic growth in Fiji. The analysis reveals that, while the fiscal policy has been on a sustainable path, rising public debt does dampen economic growth in Fiji. Finally, the paper identifies and discusses some policy measures that are necessary for strengthening Fiji's public finance. Fiscal reforms are necessary to achieve prudential management of public debt and to enable the Fijian government to maintain economic growth and ensure macroeconomic stability in face of future adverse external and climatic shocks.

Alternative farming methods using technology to mitigate climate change

Adish Naidu, Farmer, Sigatoka

Panel 5B: PNG development issues

1.30-3.00pm, 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 is a society desperately trying to keep up with a world that is moving incredibly fast. Technology, science, politics, and the arts and culture of the twenty first century has set a pace that has left Papua New Guinea trudging behind. As with many developing countries, Papua New Guinea has its own set of problems. In recent times the country has seen an increase in 'witch hunts' or 'sorcery accusation related violence' (SARV), as the media has branded these incidents. Although there have been countless unreported cases, the February 2013 murder of a 20 year old woman and mother, Kepari Leniata, sparked a surge of calls both domestically and internationally for the Papua New Guinea Government to address this human rights issue. In Port Moresby, the capital, there has been a spike in the incidents of sorcery accusation related violence particularly in the many illegal squatter settlements – too many of these cases go unreported. This paper is based on research into two migrant Simbu squatter communities in Port Moresby. Internal migration is rife in most Papua New Guinean cities and towns, with people looking for better opportunities; unfortunately, this also brings added problems. The aim of the research is to understand the complex societal, economic and political factors that influence, in some way, the changes in the belief of 'kumo' or sorcery in these migrant communities. Further, the research hopes to come to some conclusion of what the implications of these changes could mean for policy.

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

Rapid expansion of resource-related sectors in resource-rich countries often moves in tandem with strong commodity prices and global economic activity. This paper emphasizes the importance of distinguishing these underlying drivers when evaluating the effects of a resource boom. Using Papua New Guinea as a case study, we find that innovations in domestic resource activity do not increase the level of employment in the country. In fact, the results reveal that job creation is mainly caused by commodity prices while the effect of global economic activity on employment is mixed. The results are robust across industries and regions.

Panel 5C: Infrastructure

1.30-3.00pm, Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Video Conference Room 2

Chair: Satish Chand
Professor, University of New South Wales

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

Renee Berthome, Energy Analyst, Isabel Neto, Senior Energy Specialist – East Asia and Pacific, Felix Taaffe, Environmental Safeguards Specialist, Joyce Onguglo, Social Development Specialist, and Kamlesh Khelawan, Senior Energy Specialist, World Bank

On the road: lessons from Kiribati

Pierre Graftieaux, Program Leader for Infrastructure, Environment, Disaster Risk Management, Agriculture, Rural, Urban and Social Development, Papua New Guinea and Pacific Islands, World Bank

The Republic of Kiribati is one of the most remote and geographically dispersed countries. Of the population of just over 110,000, around half live in Tarawa, the country's capital, making it densely populated. The South Tarawa Road is an important road – in fact, it's the only road in South Tarawa – connecting more than 50,000 people between Betio seaport in the west, and Bonriki and the international airport in the East, and making it a lifeline for those who live along it. Until recently, the South Tarawa road was in extremely poor condition and had not been rehabilitated since the 1970s. With heavy rain and significantly increased use, large potholes formed, making travel along the road slow, uncomfortable, and dangerous, particularly after rain. During the dry season, excessive dust would collect along the road and was a major contributor to upper respiratory illnesses for the people of Tarawa. This presentation looks at the project undertaken by the Government of Kiribati, in partnership with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the Government of Australia, which rehabilitated the road, significantly improving its condition and reducing vehicle operating costs and damages. Vulnerable users were provided better protection through footpaths and traffic calming measures and the technical design included road safety and climate adaptation features. The

project also successfully piloted an innovative pavement for low-volume roads – geocell concrete pavement – for the first time in the Pacific region and trained local residents in sustainable routine road maintenance. While the project was deemed successful, it offers a long list of lessons relevant to other Pacific nations. This presentation provides insight into such challenges which include, remoteness, developing reliable cost estimates, use of local materials, and the impact of sea level rise and related engineering solutions.

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

When the Australian Government announced details of its Pacific step-up in the course of 2018, a joint Australian-New Zealand commitment was included to partner with Pacific island countries to enhance collective cyber resilience. In the past decade, most Pacific island countries went through two major transitions. One was the liberalisation of telecom markets which paved the way for companies like Digicell and Vodafone to enter the market alongside the ‘old’ national telcos. The other transition is the increased connectivity. International financial institutions, regional telcos and donors invested in submarine communications cables which are making a drastic difference to the percentage of coverage and internet use. As we’re shifting from the challenge of ‘getting connected’ to the one of ‘effective and responsible usage’, we may also be confronted with issues that held back sustainable development in the Pacific region in the first place (see World Development Report 2016). Theory suggests the introduction of ICTs has the potential to ‘significantly reducing the costs of economic and social transactions’. Authors of the World Development Report theorise that ICTs expand the information base, lower the information cost, and create information goods. With the last cable coming onshore in the Solomon Islands this December, concepts of e-government are gaining traction with local governments and donors. The idea is that the digitalisation of government, government services and interactions with government, will provide greater efficiency and effectiveness, and an ability to deliver services in remote areas hardly reached thus far. The implicit assumption here seems to be that when connectivity is there, usage will follow automatically. Does this hold in the context of the South Pacific? If the uptake of ICTs indeed help the Pacific region achieve SDGs, what can be done to prove this theory of change right?

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

Information communication technology (ICTs) is one of the most significant and important innovations for growth during the past three decades. Advanced countries were quick enough to recognise the benefits and began to exploit them as early as in the 1990s, with heavy investments in the required infrastructure and production of ICT goods. With early investment, they began to reap benefits by the end of the second millennium and they experienced high growth rates thereafter. Pacific island countries (PICs), who were late entrants to the field, did not have to re-invent the wheel and innovate, but only to borrow the innovations and import devices. In addition, they liberalised and promote competition. However, not all Pacific island

countries proceeded at same pace: some PICs dismantled monopolies and opened up in early 2000s, some were not quick enough; some did not allow generous imports of ICT related goods and services; some were slow to accept foreign direct investment in ICT. The progress is uneven and is reflected in the ICT development indicators in terms of internet usage and spread of mobile phone services. This paper undertakes a panel study along the lines of the Cobb-Douglas production function, with constant returns and Hicks-neutral technical progress, and shows that ICT has been an effective shift variable in the conventional model of production function, besides capital stock and labour.

Panel 6A: Fiji humanitarian responses

3.30-5.00pm, 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, and Losevati Naidike, Researcher, Habitat for Humanity Fiji

30,000 homes were damaged or destroyed by Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016, representing the greatest loss to Fiji's housing stock by a single event. Assessments indicated that much of the loss was experienced by low-income households and came from the limited use of appropriate structural design principles. Reasons for this include lack of access to appropriate building technologies, materials and skills, compounded with the complex logistics required to transport materials and tools to affected island communities. Furthermore, the National Building Code (which requires structures to withstand the design wind speeds of a Category 3 storm) is not enforced in rural and informal communities, nor does it represent affordable or localised construction methods. These factors, restricting the disaster responses of the shelter sector and community resilience, disproportionately affect remote and island communities. To tackle these issues, Habitat for Humanity Fiji began the four year 'Stand Strong' project in 2018 to improve the level of resilience of Fijian communities to disasters, through improved shelter conditions. Funded through New Zealand's Partnership for International Development Fund and supported by Habitat for Humanity New Zealand, the research component of the project aims to identify appropriate and accessible shelter solutions for remote communities in Fiji with limited market access to building materials. Primary data collected in early 2019 from 20 remote communities across four provinces has been analysed against existing literature and a wider stakeholder consultation to, firstly, appraise the supply chain for traditional materials, secondly, review the existing construction expertise in communities, and lastly, test and promote traditional housing for disaster resilience. With the assistance of engineering consultants, this paper presents innovative accessible and affordable disaster resilient shelter options that are appropriate to the remote contexts of Fiji.

Bridging the divide between humanitarian-development nexus: lessons of governance from TC Winston in Fiji

Anna Gero, Research Principal and Keren Winterford, Research Director, University of Technology Sydney

Bridging the divide between the humanitarian and development sectors has been a goal of key actors across both domains for decades. While earlier thinking about how this plays out in practice has evolved, challenges remain in bringing the humanitarian and development communities together. Efforts continue to bridge the divide on the global scale, as well as regionally in the Pacific, and at national and subnational levels. This paper explores how the divide may be bridged through consistent subnational multi actor governance. The Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney carried out research which explored the 'humanitarian-development nexus' at the local level, and focused on disaster response in an urbanising setting in the Pacific. We drew on the Tropical Cyclone Winston response in Fiji's Western Division, and investigated the concept of the humanitarian-development divide and relevant issues such as urban disaster policy and localisation of response in the Fiji context. Within this paper we outline three main findings and reflections from the research: 1) evidence of bridging the humanitarian-development divide from the Tropical Cyclone Winston response in Fiji, challenges and opportunities for stronger links between the two domains, 2) examples of localisation of disaster response in action, with subnational government and local leaders playing key roles thus demonstrating opportunities for blurring the divide, and 3) the Pacific policy lag of urban development and disaster response. We suggest ways in which urban disaster response policy in the Pacific can better align with development planning going forward. We conclude by providing critical reflections and suggested avenues to further overcome the challenges associated with the humanitarian-development divide. These insights into the governance and institutional arrangements for connecting long-term development and humanitarian response offer opportunities to strengthen resilience to disasters and climate change.

A Fiji shelter handbook to localise disaster response

Doreen Narayan, Shelter Project Manager, Habitat for Humanity Fiji

The Fiji Shelter Handbook aims to enable shelter sector actors in Fiji to deliver government and Shelter Cluster-endorsed country-appropriate, practical and inclusive shelter solutions to urban and rural Fijian communities during a disaster response and recovery. One of the key challenges faced by the sector is timely transition into early recovery which must be prioritised during the response to ensure affected communities are placed back on a pathway to permanent shelter as quickly as possible. It has been evident that responses have been delayed due to an absence of technical shelter guidance and standard processes in the form of documented instructions and information, education and communication materials (IEC). Suitable shelter guidance would incorporate vernacular architecture, build back safer and safe shelter awareness methodology, and supply chain flow in Fiji context to promote speedy and appropriate responses. The Fiji Shelter Handbook is aimed to act as a quick reference guide to ensure shelter stakeholders have access to relevant information (interventions, designs and processes) and are able to respond in a timely manner. With the aim of progressing this research into forming ni-Vanuatu and Solomon Islander equivalent handbooks, this Fijian pilot initiative is part of a bigger Disaster READY program, which is a component of the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) program funded by the Australian Government. The Handbook

draws upon lessons learnt by the Shelter Cluster following Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016, consultations with 19 diverse communities across Fiji, and discussions with 70 sector stakeholders. The paper focuses on these findings of which the specific purposes are to: 1) ensure the rights and needs of Women, People with Disabilities, youth and children are being met in disaster preparedness and response at all levels, and 2) improve coordination amongst Government, NGOs, the private sector and communities for inclusive disaster preparedness and response.

Panel 6B: Youth and development

3.30-5.00pm, 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, Consultant, 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, Myrna Machuca-Sierra, Consultant, and Siosiana Tapueluelu, PEARL Project Coordinator – Tonga, World Bank

Investing in people through nutrition, health care, quality education, jobs and skills helps build ‘human capital’, which is essential for a nation’s productivity and economic growth. When these investments begin in the early years of life, they lay a strong foundation for future prosperity, while conversely, limited opportunities for growth and learning in childhood are associated with later social and financial costs to a nation’s economy. Results from the Pacific Islands Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (PILNA), show that less than half of Pacific school children are achieving the basic math and literacy levels expected for their age. This presentation discusses two pilot interventions in Tonga, conducted between 2015 and 2017, which sought to enhance school readiness and early literacy of children. The first intervention supported communities to setup and facilitate community playgroups for children aged zero to five and their caregivers; while the second provided first and second grade teachers with training, instructional materials and coaching on a new method to teach reading, in addition to providing new learning resources for their students. This presentation provides an overview of the two interventions and outlines key results, finding strong evidence for the effectiveness of such programs in improving early learning outcomes, with potential lessons and opportunities for other Pacific nations.

The political economy of youth in Fiji and Solomon Islands: to be seen but not heard

Aidan Craney, Lecturer, La Trobe University

With roughly one-third of their populations aged 15-34, both Fiji and Solomon Islands are experiencing a ‘youth bulge’. The social and economic outcomes for these young people will be pivotal to the cultural, political and economic futures of these states. This paper discusses findings from research into perceptions and practices of youthhood in urban, peri-urban and rural communities in Fiji and Solomon Islands drawing upon ethnographic observations,

community consultations and interviews conducted with youth activists and development workers, bureaucrats and other authority figures working in fields related to youth. In investigating how formal and informal structures – such as education, employment and civil society – are acting to promote or hinder youth capabilities to achieve their individual potentials and to engage in their societies as active citizens, a recurrent theme of structural minimisation of youth in these countries develops. This is best encapsulated in the notion that they are ‘to be seen but not heard’. Despite this, Pacific youth are more than citizens in waiting; they are already important members of their communities, with varying degrees of engagement in critical civil society. Numerous examples exist of young people in these countries forging their way as leaders not just of youth, but of their communities. Whilst the majority of youth are engaging in society in acceptable, socially-ascribed ways, and the majority of adults resist youth participation as a technique to maintain the social status quo, a small but influential cohort of both youth and adults are creating spaces for today’s youth to help to shape the developmental futures of the great ocean states of the Pacific.

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

Panel 6C: Private sector issues

3.30-5.00pm, 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

Non-communicable disease (NCD) has emerged as a major public health issue in the Republic of Kiribati. Among all kinds of NCDs, obesity may be the most serious. It’s widely believed that increasing prevalence of obesity is associated with higher incidence of type 2 diabetes, cancer, and long-term vascular complications. A lack of vegetable and fruit consumption is one of the risk factors to the health of i-Kiribati. According to a WHO STEPS Report published in 2016, the mean vegetable and fruit consumption across both genders is 0.9 servings. Cultivating proper eating habits and ensuring individuals receive nutritional education from childhood seem to be effective ways of addressing the problems associated with obesity and poor nutrition. The Nutrition Enhancement Project (2015-2020) implemented by Taiwan ICDF aims to enhance i-Kiribati nutritional status through increasing production of vegetables and fruits, nutrition-oriented education, kitchen renovation, cooking skill training, and nutrition surveillance. The

project provides vegetables and fruits to six schools and one hospital in South Tarawa whilst also training kitchen staff, including training in hygiene and cooking skills. The project also collaborates with a senior high school in establishing a school garden which provides courses, such as gardening, nutrition, and cooking. The courses aim to help students to remodel their diet habits and behaviours from adolescence. From 2015 to 2018, both the beneficiaries and consumption of vegetables and fruits were increased through efforts addressing production of fruit and vegetables, recipe development, cooking training and monitoring, etc.. The outcome of vegetables and fruits accumulative delivery and beneficiaries in 2018 was that every beneficiary was served on average 95 grams of vegetables and fruits per day, which is approaching the project's goal of 100 grams per day by the end of 2020. To improve outcomes further, the project would expand nutrition-related programs in home gardening, cooking and recipe development, and advocate public awareness and physical exercise for better health of i-Kiribati.

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; Logotonu Wagainabete, Curator, Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees, Pacific Community

Pacific island communities are highly exposed to a range of hazards, including extreme weather events and outbreaks of pests and diseases. These hazards can cause severe losses to yields of traditional food crops, and increase the risks of famine and food insecurity in Pacific island communities. Historically, the cultivation of sweet potato enabled communities to adjust their farming systems and reduce food security risks before, during, and after disasters. The food security features of sweet potato contributed to its adoption as a staple crop by communities at the 'edge' of agro-ecological limits for their traditional crops. Sweet potato was also adopted as a supplementary crop, adding nutrition and stability to communities' food systems. In present times, sweet potato is being cultivated as part of food security and climate change adaptation projects in Pacific communities. This has been facilitated by regional mechanisms for sustainable use of plant genetic resources. But as climate change continues to intensify extreme events and cause sea levels to rise, the resilience of current sweet potato varieties is not guaranteed. Sweet potato, like other Pacific staple crops, is not 100% 'disaster-proof'. There is a need for multi-partner, proactive agro-ecological based research on sweet potato and other staple crops to reduce both short-term and long-term food security risks faced by Pacific island communities.

Mired in MIRAB

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

Migration, remittances, aid, and bureaucracy. How well has the 'MIRAB' model served the economic growth and development of the Pacific island countries? Do the seasonal worker schemes, international assistance, and protected environments for business serve the

economies of the islands or serve other economies and contribute to hidden and undeclared costs and constraints to those who would invest in the islands themselves? To a lesser or greater extent, the resources of all PIC economies do often seem to serve overseas economies to the detriment of their own. This can be observed in domestic skill shortages, declining agriculture sectors as labour is encouraged to join the overseas worker programs, poor environments for domestic investment and commerce, and in the undermining of incentives for greater domestic dynamism. Is MIRAB, therefore, a comparative strength or weakness? Whether the MIRAB model serves solely to describe the nature of PIC economies or whether it has been promoted as a preferred model of PIC development, the impact of the MIRAB factors needs to be better understood, declared and addressed. Despite all the challenges, many private investors and some governments are, nevertheless, pursuing an alternative, domestic-vested – while at the same time, more international – model of growth and development. The authors present a framework for such a growth model for PICs that is based on established socio-economic policies and building institutions that support growth and development.

Friday 5 July 2019

Labour mobility workshop

Opening plenary

9.00-11.00am, Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Auditorium

Welcome and Chair: Stephen Howes
Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU

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

Pacific labour mobility – impacts and futures

John Connell, Professor, The University of Sydney

Kirstie Petrou, Research Associate, The University of Adelaide

Plenary: Sending-country governance

11.30-12.30pm, 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

Discussants:

Matthew Gibbs, NZ MFAT Pacific Labour Mobility Advisor

Murielle Metsan Meltenoven, Vanuatu Labour Commissioner

Panel 7A: Skills

1.30-3.00pm, 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

It is a well acknowledged phenomena in economics that more than 70% of GDP is created by human inputs, while the rest, 30% (or less), arises from capital, technological or systemic inputs. Any shortage of labour, skilled or unskilled, is likely to negatively influence economic growth unless effectively addressed through policy. Fiji has experienced a shortage of both skilled and unskilled labour in the last few years which has affected economic growth significantly. This paper analyses economic growth drivers, such as human resources and investments, to ascertain the shortfalls in economic growth, as discernible from human resource deficiencies. A graphical and anecdotal approach is used here to describe the state of the Fijian economy and identify the fundamental causes of low economic growth (2.5-3.5%). To address the underlying problems of the economy, a computable general equilibrium (CGE) analysis is done with various types and extents of shock treatments to study the effects of policy options available to the government. In particular, this paper examines the effect of a more receptive immigration policy to fill the labour market void which has affected economic growth negatively for the last five years. It is expected that the economy would realise a much higher economic growth of over 4% if such policies were to be adopted.

Brain drain and/or brain gain: what have we learnt thus far?

Satish Chand, Professor, University of New South Wales

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

Rochelle Bailey, Research Fellow, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

This research stems from a ten year longevity study of 22 ni-Vanuatu temporary migrant labourers participating in New Zealand's Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme (RSE) that was established on 30 April 2007. The RSE scheme was a grower initiated policy and the objectives two-fold: to fill labour gaps in the horticulture and viticulture sectors, and at the same time, New Zealand government officials promoted the RSE as a way forward for economic development in the Pacific region, via various monetary and social remittances sent home. With a lack of waged employment opportunities at home, many families in the Pacific region perceive labour mobility as an additional source of income that can meet individual and community needs. The positive economic and social outcomes from the RSE are why it is attractive for governments, industries and Pacific workers, and the reason why the scheme is continually being expanded. As part of a longitudinal study (2007-2018), I observed the lives of a group of ni-Vanuatu seasonal workers, their employers, families, and communities, irrespective of if they continued in the scheme. This paper discusses changes, challenges and opportunities for governments, industries, employers, workers, families and communities over the past 11 years and makes recommendations on possible issues that should be considered in the future.

Overall, this research argues the positive impacts from participation in labour mobility schemes outweigh unintended negative consequences. Nonetheless, impacts both in New Zealand and Pacific participating countries should be constantly monitored.

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

This study conducts a comparative discourse analysis on Pacific labour mobility media reporting (across online, print and radio) from both Australia and the Pacific. The Pacific Labour Scheme and the Seasonal Worker Programme have been regarded as key initiatives in providing Pacific citizens with low- and semi-skilled work opportunities in rural and regional Australia. Media coverage around both initiatives, in the Pacific and Australia, is integral towards providing information around their broader impact, challenges and progress. Through a concordance analysis of media content on labour mobility produced by Australian and Pacific based journalists, specifically in the six month lead up to the Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting (PLMAM) (held on October 2018), this study will present the differences in the framing of labour mobility news and its broader developmental impacts between the Pacific and Australia. The findings will explore the nuances in how labour mobility is presented and deliberated as an issue of public and policy debate both within a regional labour sending (Pacific) and industrial needs context (Australia). Cross-cutting issues around gender and disability representation will be assessed in terms of their quantitative significance in coverage and qualitative value as agenda setting themes. It is hoped that the findings from this study will feed into future communication efforts to: 1) understand key differences in how labour mobility initiatives (and related incentives/challenges) are framed in the Pacific and Australia and, 2) strategically address information gaps that are apparent in both locations.

'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

Plenary: Research agenda brainstorming

3.30-5.00pm, Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Auditorium

Chair: Jane Bastin-Sikimeti
Director, Pacific Labour Mobility and 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



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