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# 2022 PACIFIC UPDATE

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**TUESDAY 28 TO THURSDAY 30 JUNE**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC**  
**LAUCALA CAMPUS, SUVA, FIJI**

**#PacificUpdate**

**SUPPORTED BY**

**PACIFIC  
RESEARCH  
PROGRAM**

AN INITIATIVE OF THE AUSTRALIAN AID PROGRAM



**The Asia Foundation**



**REGIONAL PROGRAMME**  
**AUSTRALIA AND THE PACIFIC**

## 2022 PACIFIC UPDATE – ORGANISING COMMITTEE

### DEVELOPMENT POLICY CENTRE, ANU

Ryan Edwards, Deputy Director

Beth Orton, Manager

Charlotte Bedford, Research Fellow

Evie Sharman, Research Officer

*The Development Policy Centre's research on Pacific economic development and migration is part of the Pacific Research Program, a consortium led by the ANU Department of Pacific Affairs, with the Development Policy Centre and the Lowy Institute. The Program is co-funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the consortium partners' parent bodies.*

### SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING, FINANCE AND ECONOMICS, USP

Neelesh Gounder, Senior Lecturer

Josephine Singh, Secretary



**Supporting Pacific solutions to Pacific challenges.**

Building on decades of on-the-ground experience in the region, we are working together with leaders and changemakers across the Pacific Islands to amplify voice and accountability in decision making; advance women's leadership on climate action and disaster management; enhance digital economic opportunities and cybersecurity; and counter trafficking in persons.

 **The Asia Foundation**  
Improving Lives, Expanding Opportunities

   

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## 2022 PACIFIC UPDATE – PROGRAM

### TUESDAY 28 JUNE

**8.30am**      **Registration**

**9.00am**      **Welcome and opening plenary**

Chair: Dr Neelesh Gounder, The University of the South Pacific

Welcome remarks

Professor Pal Ahluwalia, Vice-Chancellor, The University of the South Pacific (online)

Opening remarks

His Excellency Lionel Rouwen Aingimea, President of Nauru (online)

*Where is the Pacific as we near the halfway point of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?*

Alison Culpin, Social Statistics Advisor (SDGs), Pacific Community

**10.15am**      **Morning tea**

**10.45 am**      **Keynote address**

Hon Pat Conroy MP, Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Australian Government (online)

**11.30am**      **Panel 1: Gender equality**

Chair: Nalini Singh, Fiji Women's Rights Movement

*Reporting on violence against women and girls: A critical discourse analysis of Pacific-based newspaper reporting*

Kate Power, The University of Queensland

*Tracking period poverty in Samoa – the case study of manufacture and distribution of reusable menstrual pads in Samoa*

Doris Tulifau, Vineta Pisia, Ramona Boodoosingh, and Annika Lemisio, Brown Girl Woke (online)

*Balance of Power: Shifting gender norms through localised political economy analysis*

Mereani Rokotuibau, Jennifer Kalpokas Doan (online), Wilson Toa, Epeli Tinivata, and Peni Tawake, Balance of Power

**1.00pm**      **Lunch**

**2.00pm**      **Panel 2: Aid effectiveness**

Chair: Sarah Boxall, Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative

*The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on aid effectiveness: The case of Vanuatu*

Morgane Rosier, University of Ottawa



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*Collaborative research to benefit industry and academia: Reflections on building a project*

Aidan Craney, La Trobe University and Mema Motusaga (online), Samoan Ministry for Women, Children and Social Development

*Conducting impact assessments of foreign aid projects in the community: A perspective from Vava'u, Tonga*

Edgar Haak and **Naohiro Nakamura**, The University of the South Pacific

**3.30pm** **Afternoon tea**

**4.00pm** **Panel 3: Fiji economy**

Chair: Ryan Edwards, Australian National University

*Fiji's debt crisis in the post COVID-19 recovery era*

Sunil Kumar, Pacific Polytech, and Gyaneshwar Rao, The University of Fiji

*Tourism and economic growth linkages: Economic responses and recovery in Fiji*

Rukmani Gounder, Massey University

*All in the same canoe: Impacts of cyclones on farmers' and fishers' livelihoods and income and strength of resilience in Vanua Levu, Fiji*

**Lau Viliamu Iese**, The University of the South Pacific, Krishnan Narasimhan, Jennifer Cisse, Jennifer Philip, Elisabeth Holland, Giulio Masasso Paunga, Filipe Veisa, Jioje Fesaitu, Otto Navunicagi, Timoci Koliyavu, Rahul Prasad, Salote Nasalo, Anamaria Tagicakiverata, Ratu Tevita Rokolutu, Jyoti Mala, Adi Davila Talemaimaleya, Maluseu Tapaeko, Mesake Volau, Epele Waqa, Sereana Rabalotu, Sioata Lota, Nasoni Roko, Christopher Ward, Isireli Qionimua

**5.30pm** **Close**

**5.45pm** **Cocktail and kava reception, and visual arts exhibition**

Oceania Centre for the Arts. Hosted by The Asia Foundation

## WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE

**8.30am** **Registration**

**9.00am** **Keynote address**

Chair: Associate Professor Sandra Tarte, Acting Head of School for Law and Social Sciences, The University of the South Pacific

*Rethinking poverty and household finance*

Professor Jonathan J Morduch, Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University, Executive Director of the Financial Access Initiative (online)

*The Pacific post-pandemic: An economic update*

Professor Stephen Howes and Huiyuan Liu, Australian National University

**10.30am** **Morning tea**

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**11.00am**

**Panel 4: Economic recovery**

Chair: Rup Singh, The University of South Pacific

*Financing for social protection: Strategic pathways to sustainable investment in the Pacific Island countries and Timor-Leste*

Charles Knox-Vydmanov, independent consultant, Nikunj Soni, independent consultant, Sinta Satriana, Pacific Partnerships for Social Protection Program, and Stephen Kidd, Development Pathways

*An investigation into differentiated disaster risk and discussion of potential implications for insurance solutions: A case study in Fiji*

Alexandra Dudley, United Nations University, and Reginald Singh, United Nations Capital Development Fund

*Pacific Islands debt: financing post-COVID-19 recovery amid precarious sustainability*

Roland Rajah and **Alexandre Dayant**, Lowy Institute

**12.30pm**

**Lunch**

**1.30pm**

**Panel 5: PNG economy**

Chair: Alexandre Dayant, Lowy Institute

*Financial inclusion in Papua New Guinea: Neither a borrower nor a lender be*

Laura Nettuno, Vanderbilt University, and Martin Davies, Washington and Lee University

*The determinants of excess reserves in the banking system of Papua New Guinea*

Thomas Wangi, Australian National University

*Chinese companies' engagement in PNG*

Huiyuan Liu and Sandra Kraushaar, The Asia Foundation, and Nikiunj Soni, independent consultant

**3.00pm**

**Afternoon tea**

**3.30pm**

**Panel 6: Social protection**

Chair: Kirstie Petrou, The World Bank

*Tonga case study on skills development for the tourism and hospitality sector*

Semisi Taumoepeau, New Zealand Tourism Research Institute, and Anna Addison, Auckland Institute of Studies

*Exploring the impacts of climate change: experiences of the vulnerable populations in Solomon Islands*

Hensslyn Pwe'a-Boseto, Ecological Solutions Foundation

*Natural disasters, community, and giving*

**Emilia Tjernström**, Monash University, and Pike Stahlmann-Brown, Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research

**5.00pm**

**Close**

**6.00pm**

**Conference dinner (by invitation only)**

Japan-Pacific ICT Centre Marquee. Hosted by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

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### THURSDAY 30 JUNE – PACIFIC MIGRATION RESEARCH WORKSHOP

8.30am	<b>Registration</b>
9.00am	<b>Opening plenary</b> Chair: Professor Stephen Howes, Australian National University <i>Future directions of the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme</i> Carli Shillito, Assistance Secretary, Pacific Labour Policy and Engagement Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government <i>Mobile bodies in warming waters: climate futures for labour mobility in the Pacific</i> Associate Professor Yvonne Te Ruki-Rangi-O-Tangaroa Underhill-Sem, The University of Auckland <i>The future of labour mobility schemes in Vanuatu</i> Murielle Metsan Meltenoven, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Vanuatu, Gareth Priday, Action Foresight, and <b>Anne-Sofie Gerhard</b> and <b>Marine Destrez</b> , United Nations Development Programme Pacific
10.30am	<b>Morning tea</b>
11.00am	<b>Panel 7: Labour mobility in a changing region</b> Chair: Yvonne Te Ruki-Rangi-O-Tangaroa Underhill-Sem, The University of Auckland <i>Seasonal worker schemes in the Pacific through the lens of international human rights and labour standards</i> <b>Angelica Neville</b> , Sanushka Mudaliar and Carmen Voigt-Graf, International Labour Organization <i>Lessons from integrating labour mobility and climate change into a regional framework</i> Carmen Voigt-Graf, <b>Sabira Coelho</b> , and Angelica Neville, International Organization for Migration <i>The role of youth migration in transforming food systems in the Pacific: Current knowledge and critical gaps</i> <b>Marisa Mitchell</b> (1), Patrick Smallhorn-West (1, 2, 3), Jacqueline Lau (1, 2), Philippa Cohen (1, 2), Andrew Song (4), Tiffany Morrison (1) 1. James Cook University, 2. WorldFish, 3. Wildlife Conservation Society, 4. University of Technology Sydney
12.30pm	<b>Lunch</b>

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1.30pm	<b>Panel 8: Maximising development impacts</b> Chair: Rochelle Bailey, Australian National University <i>The place premium: Evidence from three Pacific labour mobility schemes</i> Ryan Edwards and Nguyen Truong Toan, Australian National University <i>The role of remittance sending in connection to culture for the diaspora community</i> <b>Vaoiva Ponton</b> and Nicola Fa'avale, MANA Pasifika <i>Constraints and opportunities of decentralisation in labour mobility: Reflections on Papua New Guinea</i> Natasha Turia-Moka, Australian National University
3.00pm	<b>Afternoon tea</b>
3.30pm	<b>Panel 9: Understanding social impacts</b> Chair: Mereseini Cawaru, Pacific Labour Facility <i>What happens to the learning outcomes of children left behind when parents work overseas? Evidence from Tonga</i> <b>Vu Thu Trang</b> and Daniel Suryadarma, Asian Development Bank Institute <i>Lost in space (and time): Transnational family life in the PALM Scheme</i> Matt Withers, Australian National University <i>The gendered and social impacts of labour mobility in Pacific Island countries</i> <b>Kirstie Petrou</b> , Ursula Casabonne, Matthew Dornan, and Dung Doan, The World Bank
5.00pm	<b>Conference close</b>

#### Note:

Bold text indicates the presenter/s where there is more than one author.  
 If no names are in bold text all authors intend to present.

**Did you enjoy the conference?**

**We'd love to hear your feedback.**

**Please fill in our quick survey at**

**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PacificUpdate>**