

STATE OF THE PACIFIC 2016

Day 1 - Tuesday 13 September

9.00am Coombs LT
Welcome to Country
Aunty Agnes Shea, Senior Ngunnawal Elder

Welcome to ANU
Professor Veronica Taylor
Dean, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific

Keynote Address
Dr Transform Aqorau, Technical and Legal Support/Adviser to the Parties to the Nauru Agreement Office

10.30am Hedley Bull Atrium
Morning Tea (provided by SSGM)

11.00am	<u>Coombs LT</u> Democracy in the Pacific: The state of play Convenor: <u>Julien Barbara</u>	<u>Hedley Bull 1</u> Health in Pacific Places: Local challenges and responses Convenor: <u>Jenny Munro</u>
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12.30pm Hedley Bull Atrium
Lunch (provided by SSGM)

1.30pm	<u>Coombs LT</u> Democracy in Papua New Guinea Convenor: <u>Nicole Haley</u>	<u>Hedley Bull 1</u> Communication Technologies, Media and Development Convenor: <u>Amanda Watson</u>
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3.00pm Hedley Bull Atrium
Afternoon Tea (provided by SSGM)

3.30-5.00pm	<u>Coombs LT</u> State of the Economy and Governance in Papua New Guinea Convenor: <u>Stephen Howes</u>	<u>Hedley Bull 1</u> Media Freedom, Access to Information, and Online Activism Convenor: <u>Avinash Kumar</u>	<u>Hedley Bull 2</u> Christianity and Gender Convenor: <u>Richard Eves</u>
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STATE OF THE PACIFIC 2016

Day 2 - Wednesday 14 September

9.00am	<u>Coombs LT</u> Women and Elections Convenor: Kerryn Baker	<u>Hedley Bull 1</u> The Climate Change-Development Nexus Convenor: George Carter
10.30am	<u>Hedley Bull Atrium</u> <i>Morning Tea (provided by SSGM)</i>	
11.00am	<u>Coombs LT</u> Political Transitions: Bougainville, New Caledonia and Fiji Convenor: Thiago Cintra Oppermann	<u>Hedley Bull 1</u> Rapid Urbanisation: Managing change in Pacific cities Convenor: Meg Keen
12.30pm	<u>Hedley Bull Atrium</u> <i>Lunch (provided by SSGM)</i>	
1.30pm	<u>Coombs LT</u> The Relationship between Democracy and Development in the Pacific Convenor: Colin Wiltshire	<u>Hedley Bull 1</u> Private Sector Development in the Pacific Convenor: Sinclair Dinnen
3.00pm	<u>Hedley Bull Atrium</u> <i>Afternoon Tea (provided by SSGM)</i>	
3.30pm	<u>Coombs LT</u> Reflections on 70 years of Pacific Studies at ANU Chair: Nicole Haley , Associate Professor and Convenor, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU Yadran Mimica , Senior Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, University of Sydney Brij Lal , Emeritus Professor, ANU Roannie Ng Shiu , Convenor of Pacific Studies, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU Professor Asofou So'o , Vice Chancellor and President, National University of Samoa	
5.00-7.00pm	<u>Hedley Bull Atrium</u> Reception and Book Launch (<i>refreshments provided by SSGM</i>) <i>Statebuilding and State Formation in the Western Pacific: Solomon Islands in transition?</i> Edited by Matthew Allen and Sinclair Dinnen	

STATE OF THE PACIFIC 2016

Day 3 - Thursday 15 September

9.00am	<u>Coombs LT</u> The Framework for Pacific Regionalism: A progress report Convenor: James Batley	<u>Hedley Bull 1</u> Pacific Labour Mobility: The intended and unintended consequences for development Convenor: Rochelle Bailey
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10.30am	<u>Hedley Bull Atrium</u> <i>Morning Tea (provided by SSGM)</i>
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11.00am	<u>Coombs LT</u> The New Pacific Diplomacy Convenor: George Carter	<u>Hedley Bull 1</u> Policy Approaches to Large-scale Mining in the Western Pacific Convenor: Matt Allen
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12.30pm	<u>Hedley Bull Atrium</u> <i>Lunch (provided by SSGM)</i>
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1.30pm	<u>Coombs LT</u> Security Developments and Challenges in the Region Convenor: Stewart Firth	<u>Hedley Bull 1</u> The State of Play: Sports diplomacy and development in the Pacific Convenor: Roannie Ng Shiu
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3.00pm	<u>Hedley Bull Atrium</u> <i>Afternoon Tea (provided by SSGM)</i>
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3.30-5.00pm	<u>Coombs LT</u> Closing Plenary Chair: James Batley , Distinguished Policy Fellow, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU
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[Jon Fraenkel](#), Professor in Comparative Politics, School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations, Victoria University of Wellington

[Greg Fry](#), Associate Professor, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

[Nicole Haley](#), Associate Professor and Convenor, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

[Steven Ratuva](#), Director Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies, University of Canterbury

THE STATE OF DEMOCRACY IN THE PACIFIC

Democracy in the Pacific: The state of play

Chair: Julien Barbara, Senior Policy Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

Speakers

Jon Fraenkel, Professor in Comparative Politics, School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations, Victoria University of Wellington
Democracy, Justocracy and the Risk of Authoritarianism in the Pacific Islands

Ruth Liloqula, Transparency Solomon Islands
Democracy and Democratic Institutions in Solomon Islands: 40 years

Kalafi Moala, Chief Executive and Publisher, Taimi 'O Tonga Group
Democratisation in Tonga: Challenges and opportunities

This session reviews the democratic state of play in the Pacific. Pacific democracy, which is highly variegated, has proven remarkably resilient. Despite some major challenges—most notably the suspension of democracy in Fiji in 2006—democratic elections remain the main way in which Pacific societies decide who governs and how they hold their leaders to account. On the face of it, recent democratic trends appear positive, with most national elections being reasonably free and fair, and democracy extended in Tonga and restored in Fiji. But many Pacific democracies also face significant—and in some cases existential—challenges. These include the increasingly moneyed nature of politics, issues of political instability, the continued marginalisation of women in formal politics, and the delivery of more inclusive forms of development. The democratic environment is also changing rapidly, with the rise of social media, deepening urbanisation, and ongoing processes of regional and global economic integration. This session will take stock of the state of democracy and consider what these developments mean for the future of democracy in the region.

Democracy in Papua New Guinea

Chair: Nicole Haley, Associate Professor and Convenor, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

Speakers

Bryan Kramer, Founder and Director of Youth-Link, Papua New Guinea
Risks and Challenges Involved in Conducting Free and Fair Elections in Papua New Guinea

Bal Kama, PhD Scholar, ANU College of Law
How Have Judicial Decisions Impacted the State of Democracy in Papua New Guinea?

Dame Carol Kidu, former Member of the Parliament of Papua New Guinea
Reflections on Democracy in Papua New Guinea

With national elections due to be held in Papua New Guinea in 2017, this session will review key election issues and challenges and the broader state of democracy in Papua New Guinea. There can be no doubt that the elections will occur in a highly charged political environment and in the context of a fading economic boom. What will this mean for electoral competition and political stability? How are election preparations shaping up? Where are the risks and opportunities, and why should we care? Our speakers will reflect on the state of democracy in Papua New Guinea, drawing upon experiences as citizens, candidates and as a Member of Parliament. They will interrogate the manner in which the courts have sought to address corrupt election practices and extent to which recent court decisions have served to strengthen or weaken democracy in Papua New Guinea.

THE STATE OF DEMOCRACY IN THE PACIFIC

Media Freedom, Access to Information, and Online Activism

Chair: Avinash Kumar, Pacific Research Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

Speakers

Robert Aneisia, Head of the Media and Communications Bureau, Autonomous Bougainville Government; and **Verena Thomas**, Vice-Chancellor's Research Fellow, Queensland University of Technology; and Director, Centre for Social and Creative Media, University of Goroka

Capturing and Understanding Information Access and Media Use in Bougainville

Shailendra Singh, Head of Journalism, USP

The Impact of Journalist Professionalism, Media Legislation and Political Economy of Media Ownership on Journalism and Conflict Reporting in Fiji: Findings of a field survey

Tait Brimacombe, Research Fellow, Developmental Leadership Program, La Trobe University; and

Jope Tarai, Teaching Assistant, School of Government, Development, and International Affairs, USP

Digital Feminism: Online activism in Fiji

Although the 2016 Freedom House Report on 'Freedom of the Press' classifies most Pacific island countries as having 'free status' vis-à-vis media or press freedom, the real picture on the ground in some of them may reveal otherwise. While some Pacific island countries do have a free media, they suffer with the problem of reach, accessibility and consistency which denies the locals with the empowerment needed in making sound decisions of national importance. On the other hand, some notable Pacific island country governments have become notorious for exerting pressure on activists, academics, journalists and independent media organisations from highlighting serious national issues relating to social, economic and political developments. This state-led interference has had a serious impact on the progress of democracy in those polities. However, the introduction and uptake of social media in the Pacific island countries has renewed hope amongst the advocates for disseminating information to the public with a click of a button. This expansion has no doubt provided an opportunity, but, at the same time, brought new challenges. The panellists in the session will highlight the above three trends in the Pacific island countries ranging from the lack of accessibility to the key challenges confronting media freedom. They will offer insights in relation to mitigating those challenges with the evolution of social media.

State of the Economy and Service Delivery in Papua New Guinea

Chair: Stephen Howes, Professor of Economics at the Crawford School of Public Policy and Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Speakers

Nelson Nema, Lecturer, Division of Economics, School of Public Policy, UPNG; and

Manoj Pandey, Lecturer, Development Policy Centre, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU

PNG Economic Survey 2015-16

Carmen Voigt-Graf, Senior Research Fellow, PNG National Research Institute and Fellow, Development Policy Centre, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU

PNG's Work Permit System: A critical review

Peter Kanaparo, Academic Lecturer, Human Resource and Management Division, School of Business and Public Policy, UPNG;

Tara Davda, Research Officer, Development Policy Centre, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU; and

Grant Walton, Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU

The State of Education in PNG: Insights from Gulf and East New Britain

This session provides an update on the state of Papua New Guinea's economy and service delivery capacity. It will examine Papua New Guinea's recent economic performance, and macroeconomic and structural policy developments. These broader economic considerations are complimented by a critical analysis of the challenges of Papua New Guinea's work permit system. While this system is relatively balanced on paper, a lack of monitoring and enforcement and the granting of many exemptions, particularly in regards to language requirements, have led to a situation where Papua New Guinean workers are arguably disadvantaged. The session then examines the capacity of the state to deliver services for its citizens through an examination of the impacts of the government's current education policy. It highlights the political, social and economic challenges facing schools and administrators in implementing sometimes contradictory, and multi-scalar, education policies. This session will take stock of the economic and policy challenges facing Papua New Guinea and what these mean for development into the future.

THE STATE OF DEMOCRACY IN THE PACIFIC

Women and Elections

Chair: [Kerryn Baker](#), Research Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

Speakers

[Kerryn Baker](#), Research Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU; and [Julien Barbara](#), Senior Policy Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU
Improving Women's Electoral Chances through an Evidence-based Approach

[Roannie Ng Shiu](#), Research Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU; and [Kerry Zubrinich](#), Research Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU
Women's Political Participation in the 2016 Samoan General Elections

[Dame Carol Kidu](#), former Member of the Parliament of Papua New Guinea
Campaigning as a Woman in Papua New Guinea

Elections are one of the most visible expressions of democracy. The unequal participation of women and men in elections as candidates and voters is a key issue in Pacific politics. The Pacific has the lowest level of women's representation in parliament of any region in the world; only one in 20 Pacific parliamentarians are women, compared to one in five globally. While there have been some notable gains in recent elections in the Pacific—including an increase to 10 per cent women's representation in the Samoan Parliament, and the election of the region's first female head of government, Hilda Heine in Marshall Islands—progress on the issue has been slow and uneven. As voters, women are disproportionately affected by voter intimidation and disenfranchisement, and the experiences of women voters with money politics in elections can be very different from their male counterparts. This session will look at women's participation in elections from both academic and candidate perspectives, and in regional and country-specific contexts.

Political Transitions: Bougainville, New Caledonia and Fiji

Chair: [Thiago Cintra Oppermann](#), Research Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

Speakers

[Sandra Tarte](#), Head of School Government, Development and International Affairs, USP
Democratic Transition in Fiji: Problems and prospects

[Scott Robertson](#), PhD Scholar, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU
The Referendum on Independence in New Caledonia: Looking back and looking forward

[James Tanis](#), Acting Secretary for the Department of Referendum, Veterans Affairs and Peace, Autonomous Bougainville Government
Bougainville in Transition: From peacebuilding, to autonomy building, to a possible state building

This session presents perspectives on three major political transitions taking place in the Pacific over the next five years: the referenda on independence in Bougainville and New Caledonia and the reorganisation of Fiji's political system. At stake here are some very significant issues: Is Bougainville's referendum the end point or a turning point of the peace process? What are the long term prospects for France in the Pacific? Is Fiji navigating a fine line between ethnic conflict and national reconciliation, or is it developing new forms of autocracy? These issues are significant not only for the peoples of Bougainville, New Caledonia and Fiji, but also for the wider region, as the manner in which they are addressed is likely to have broader reverberations. These are difficult and politically charged questions, with deep implications for the organisation of the Pacific state system and the prospects for democracy and self-determination in the region.

THE STATE OF DEMOCRACY IN THE PACIFIC

The Relationship between Democracy and Development in the Pacific

Chair: [Colin Wiltshire](#), Research Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

Speakers

[Elizabeth Avaisa](#), Senior Project Officer, Papua New Guinea Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council
Promoting Budget Transparency in Papua New Guinea

[Kristina Sogavare](#), Chair of the Solomon Islands Young Women's Parliamentary Group
Perspectives from the Solomon Islands Young Women's Parliamentary Group

[Elvira Rumkabu](#), Lecturer, Cenderawasih University
Special Autonomy and the Oppositional Dichotomy of Komin and Amber in Papua Province

[Muliagatele Potoae Roberts Aiafi](#), Samoa Country Representative, Pacific Leadership Program
Public Policy Processes and Citizen Voice in Pacific Islands Nations

This session will consider the relationship between democracy and development in the Pacific region. Democracy is often held to be conducive to improving development outcomes because it promotes more accountable and effective governance. In practice, the evidence that suggests democratic institutions have supported improved development in the Pacific is less clear. Clientelistic and personality-based forms of distributive politics, which predominate in the Pacific, can undermine the capacity of Pacific governments to take a long-term view on development. The rise of constituency funding models challenges existing notions of development, replacing the state as a key development agent with personalised models centred on the political priorities of MPs. The failure of democracies in the region to deliver more inclusive development outcomes may undermine the legitimacy of existing democratic frameworks. This session will consider how the relationship between democracy and development in the Pacific plays out in practice, and what this means for the type of development that is likely to occur within democratic contexts across the region. It will also consider if new forms of participatory democracy can be supported to better connect citizens with government, making the latter more responsive to development priorities.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PACIFIC

Health in Pacific Places: Local challenges and responses

Chair: Jenny Munro, Research Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

Speakers

Ellen Kulumbu, PhD Scholar, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

The Health Challenges and Responses of Women in Rigo, Port Moresby, and Imbonggu, Papua New Guinea

Colin Wiltshire, Research Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU; and
Denise Lokinap, Division of Strategic Management, School of Business Administration, UPNG

Health Expenditure and Performance in Papua New Guinea

Josina Wospakrik, PhD Scholar, School of Humanities and Languages, UNSW

Amungme Women's Health in Timika, Papua

George Gavet, PhD Scholar, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

Fonofale – Pacific Health Models and Service Delivery for Pacific People

The success of even the best international and national health improvement efforts is determined by local factors. This panel highlights some complexities, challenges and opportunities of engaging with health at the local level. Presenters will discuss recent or ongoing research on topics such as youth mental health, HIV/AIDS, women's health, and health services.

Communication Technologies, Media and Development

Chair: Amanda Watson, Visiting Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

Speakers

Jon Berry, Senior Consultant, ITS Global

Case Study on the Role of Services Trade in Global Value Chains: Mobile telecommunications in Papua New Guinea

Ioana Chan Mow, Associate Professor Computing & Computer Education, National University of Samoa

Evaluation of the Use of Aptus within the Samoan Education Context

Joys Eggins, Research Officer, ABC International Development (MDI NBC project)

Youth-focused News and Innovating Content Delivery in Papua New Guinea: A case study of Tribe 92FM

Socio-economic development and lifestyles in the Pacific are changing due to increased access to mobile phones, other information and communication technologies and media outlets. This panel will discuss the relationships between communication technologies, media and development. In particular, it will closely explore the roles of mobile phones in Papua New Guinea and Samoa in terms of socio-economic development and education. It will also introduce and examine a new youth-oriented radio station in Papua New Guinea. It is anticipated that attendees at this session will be challenged in their thinking regarding contemporary communication practices in the Pacific.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PACIFIC

Christianity and Gender

Chair: [Nicole Haley](#), Associate Professor and Convenor, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

Speakers

[Richard Eves](#), Senior Research Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU
Christianity and Masculinity in Papua New Guinea

[Jane Anderson](#), Visiting Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU
Engaging with Gender Issues: Promising steps in the Papua New Guinea Church Partnership Program

[Reverend Cliff Bird](#), Pacific Programs Region Coordinator, UnitingWorld
Wifely Submission or Mutual Submission? Reinterpreting Ephesians 5:(15) 21-31.

The cultural landscape of Papua New Guinea has long been dominated by Christianity, which is now completely entrenched, being central to the way in which most Papua New Guineans make sense of the world, and having a pervasive influence in their daily lives. Indeed, the dominance of Christianity is striking; there is a Christian church in every community, often several, and churches have been a significant catalyst for change, with church leaders generally commanding a far greater respect than representatives of the government. Understandably, though, the churches have been influenced by the existing indigenous culture and the longstanding practices of gender inequality and violence against women in Papua New Guinea have seen the churches providing scriptural support to the culture of male dominance and to justify violence against women. However, it is also important to note that there is considerable diversity in the approaches of the various churches to these problematic issues. While the prospects for gender equality are far from bright, some of the churches are increasingly adopting more progressive programs and this session reports on some of these initiatives.

The State of Play: Sports diplomacy and development in the Pacific

Chair: [Roannie Ng Shiu](#), Research Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

Speakers

[Mark Mom](#), In-country General Manager, NRL
NRL League Bilong Laif Program in Papua New Guinea

[Joanna Lester](#), Journalist and former League Bilong Laif Coordinator
Connecting through Sport: Women's stories from Papua New Guinea

[Frank Puletua](#), History, Recognition and Award Manager, NRL; and
[Nigel Vagana](#), Education and Wellbeing Manager, NRL
NRL Pacific Strategy

The Australian government reaffirmed its interest in sports diplomacy and sport for development in the region with the launch of the Pacific Sports Partnerships in 2015 as part of DFAT's broader Australian Sports Diplomacy Strategy 2015-2018. Sports diplomacy involves the intentional use of sporting events and people to undertake representative or diplomatic activities by government. Sport for development refers to the use of sport as a tool in development assistance and poverty alleviation. The use of sports for diplomacy and development is not new. Sport is often used to remind people that although nation states and political boundaries may separate people, sport and the values of sport have the ability to bring people together. To this end, the use of sport by Australia for diplomatic and development purposes in the Pacific can be a savvy political tool in building enduring relations with Pacific nations. Sport, most notably rugby and rugby league, have a religious-like following in nations such as Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Samoa. As the concentrated effort to recruit Pacific athletes from within the region continues, it is important to critically discuss Pacific sports diplomacy and sports for development issues in relation to broader political-economic and socio-cultural debates that are reshaping sporting traditions and challenging power relations within the industry and the region. This panel will draw on lessons learnt from recent Pacific sports diplomacy and development activities utilising the NRL. This includes the annual Pacific Rugby League Test matches held in Australia, as well as the NRL sports-for-development project in Papua New Guinea, League Bilong Laif.

POLITICAL ECONOMY TRENDS IN THE PACIFIC

The Climate Change-Development Nexus

Chair: Meg Keen, Senior Policy Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

Speakers

George Carter, PhD Scholar, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU
The Pursuit of Climate Political Resilience

Matthew Dornan, Deputy Director, Development Policy Centre, Crawford School, ANU
Climate Change Adaptation Financing in the Pacific

Tagaloa Cooper-Halo, Climate Change Institutional Strengthening Adviser, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program
Climate Change Policy and Practice: A regional organisation perspective

Despite the divergence of climate change policies amongst nations on the road to Paris Climate Change Agreement 2015, including Australia and the rest of the Pacific, the agreement marks a new era of climate collaboration. This panel explores what the Agreement means for the Pacific Islands post 2015 and the work of regional organisations in the climate change space, whether it be in regional governance response, or how the agreement has opened opportunities to forge new climate partnerships. These climate partnerships are built upon and dependent upon climate finance of a climate industry. Despite a global target of no less than \$100 billion to address climate change resilience, there continues to be barriers that challenge Pacific islands from directly accessing these funds. Ultimately, while the Agreement has provided a guide for a global response to fight climate change over the next decade, it has also created open-ended questions and debates on implementation both regionally and nationally; these have both climate-development nexus policy implications, and impact regional climate politics.

Rapid Urbanisation: Managing change in Pacific cities

Chair: Julien Barbara, Senior Policy Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

Speakers

Meg Keen, Research Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU
Sharing the City: Bridging urban institutional divides in Honiara

Joseph Foukona, Lecturer, School of Law, USP
Urban Land Management in Port Vila: Meeting the challenges
(Co-authored paper by Joseph Foukona and Siobhan McDonnell)

Caroline Sage, Senior Social Development Specialist, World Bank
Urbanisation in Port Moresby and Lae: Emerging urban institutions and gutpela sindaun
(Co-authored paper by David Craig, Doug Porter and Caroline Sage)

Respondents: Luke Kiddle and Alexie Trundle, UN Habitat Consultants

Pacific island countries are rapidly urbanising, even by global standards. Escalating pressures on land, housing and services in Melanesian cities are resulting in social tensions, inequities and service shortfalls. International experience has shown that cities can be drivers of development and employment, but in Melanesia, the political and economic institutions to manage urban growth effectively have been lacking, and human and financial resources have fallen short. Even so, there have been pockets of innovation and successful partnerships that address the unique circumstances shaping Pacific urban development. This panel draws on the work of academics and practitioners currently working in cities around Melanesia to gain a better understanding of urban change processes, land management initiatives, and new institutional arrangements that have the potential to improve urban development prospects.

POLITICAL ECONOMY TRENDS IN THE PACIFIC

Private Sector Development in the Pacific

Chair: Sinclair Dinnen, Senior Research Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

Speakers

Lisa Rauter, First Assistant Secretary and the Head of the innovationXchange, DFAT
Private Sector Partnering in the Pacific – An innovation and shared value opportunity

Everlyne Sap, Chairperson of the FSVSC of the Restorative Justice Initiative Association at Porgera, and Community Development and Gender Specialist in the Papua New Guinea Highlands
Barrick Initiated Restorative Justice Initiative Associations Addresses Law and Order Issues in Porgera

Nomeneta Saili, Technology Developer, SKYEYE Ltd.
Starting Up a Geospatial Company in Samoa/Pacific: Challenges and application

The Australian government has identified engagement with the private sector as critical to the promotion of economic growth and as a key plank of its 'new aid paradigm'. This panel brings together speakers who from a variety of perspectives will discuss the potential and actual role of the private sector in development in different parts of the region. This will include introducing the work of Seed Pacific, an Australian initiative that seeks to leverage private sector investments to address development challenges in the Pacific, as well as hearing about the cutting edge enterprise of SKYEYE Ltd, a Samoa-based company using GPS to map parts of the Pacific, and an innovative corporate-supported scheme involving family and sexual violence reduction strategies in the Papua New Guinea Highlands.

Pacific Labour Mobility: The intended and unintended consequences for development

Chair: Rochelle Bailey, Research Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

Speakers

Peter Bumseng, Team Leader and Co-Founder, Strengthening Seasonal Worker Families Program, Vanuatu
Providing Social Support Systems for Seasonal Workers and Their Families

Chakriya Bowman, Director, Pacific Economic Growth Section, Pacific Division, DFAT
LMAP's Contribution to Improving Development Outcomes from Labour Mobility Programs

Alisi Kautoke Holani, PhD Scholar, School of Social Sciences, University of Adelaide
Temporary Labour Migration in the SWP and PACER Plus: A policy framework for sustainable development in Pacific island countries

To encourage economic development in the Pacific, recent labour mobility programs, such as Australia's Seasonal Worker Program (SWP) and New Zealand's Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme (RSE), offer employment opportunities for workers in the region. Governments involved in the bilateral agreements regulating the RSE and SWP schemes expect workers to contribute to development in Pacific island nations. This panel highlights various development impacts that have occurred as a result of SWP and RSE. There have been a number of intended and unintended outcomes associated with the newly established relationships, particularly those stemming from absences from home. The panellists will share their experiences of these labour policies and the ways in which their involvement has contributed to development or supported those associated with the schemes, including workers. They will discuss challenges and opportunities associated with the schemes, and their perspectives on the future of these schemes and their development potential.

POLITICAL ECONOMY TRENDS IN THE PACIFIC

Policy Approaches to Large-scale Mining in the Western Pacific

Chair: Anthony Regan, Senior Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

Speakers

Colin Filer, Associate Professor at the Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU
Policy Approaches to Sea Bed Mining in Papua New Guinea

Hon Robin Wilson MP, Minister for Minerals and Energy Resources, Autonomous Bougainville Government
Large-scale Mining in Bougainville

Matthew Allen, Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU
Hem mas fittim iumu lo Solo – Developing a Solomons-specific mining agenda
(Co-authored paper by Matthew Allen, Thomas Toba and Melanie Phillips)

Recent years have seen major reviews and reforms to mining policy and legislation being undertaken in Papua New Guinea the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARB) and Solomon Islands. Perhaps the most significant of these is in the ARB where the Bougainville Mining Act (2015), one of the first major laws to be enacted since the transfer of a suite of powers to the Autonomous Bougainville Government under the Bougainville Peace Agreement (2001), represents a significant step towards the possible recommencement of large-scale mining on the island. In Papua New Guinea, a suite of policies have been under review, arguably the most important being the development of new policy and legislation in relation to off-shore mining. Solomon Islands' mining policy and legislation is comparatively the least developed, reflecting the much smaller scale of its mining industry. However, in the context of an anticipated intensification in large-scale mining activity and growing recognition of the limitations of the existing legislative framework, the Solomon Islands Government is currently undertaking a major review of mining policy and legislation. The purpose of this session is twofold. First it will provide updates on these review and reform agendas with a particular focus on their objectives and intended outcomes. Second it will explore the scope for sharing of knowledge and experience between these three neighbouring Melanesian jurisdictions and ask whether there may also be broader lessons to be drawn for other countries in the region, such as Fiji, or for regional approaches to the governance of large-scale mining.

The Framework for Pacific Regionalism: A progress report

Chair: James Batley, Distinguished Policy Fellow, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

Speakers

Cristelle Pratt, Deputy Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
The Totality of our Regional Ambitions: Delivering on the Framework for Pacific Regionalism

Nic Maclellan, Journalist and Researcher
Can the Framework Balance its Multiple Objectives?

Leonard Louma, Freelance Consultant on Foreign Policy and International Relations; and member of the Specialist Sub-Committee on Regionalism
Renewed Efforts, Lingering Challenges

The Framework for Pacific Regionalism was endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders at their meeting in July 2014, an outcome of the 2013 review of the Pacific Plan led by Sir Mekere Morauta. The Framework was seen as providing the platform for a reinvigorated regionalism through a more open and consultative process of priority-setting, and as a means of uncluttering the agenda of Leaders' meetings. In the words of the Leaders, the Framework would support 'focussed political conversations and settlements that address key strategic issues, including shared sovereignty, pooling resources and delegating decision-making'. The Framework came into operation during the course of 2015, with Leaders endorsing five regional priorities at their meeting in Port Moresby. Leaders have just met for their 2016 meeting in Pohnpei, FSM. Is the Framework living up to expectations? How has it shaped the regional agenda? What have the consultative processes established under the Framework revealed about regional priorities and concerns?

The New Pacific Diplomacy

Chair: George Carter, PhD Scholar, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

Speakers

Sandra Tarte, Head of School of Government, Development and International Affairs, USP
Revisiting and Reimagining the New Pacific Diplomacy

Tess Newton Cain, Principal, TNC Pacific Consulting
The Melanesian Spearhead Group: Is the renaissance over?

George Hoa'au, PhD Scholar, School of Government, Development and International Affairs, USP
The New Pacific Diplomacy: A tale of three stories

In recent years, there has been growing policy and academic interest in what some view as a resurgence of diplomatic agency or a 'paradigm shift' by Pacific island states in global and regional politics. The 'New Pacific Diplomacy' thesis explores new developments in Pacific diplomacy at various sub-regional, regional and global levels, and in key sectors of global negotiation for Pacific states: from fisheries, trade, climate change and sustainable development to name a few. These developments are influencing Pacific islands foreign policy practice and behaviour: whether it be through non-traditional bilateral, plurilateral or multilateral partnerships, complex networks of actors in the diplomatic space, the use of innovative tools of diplomacy, and the greater participation of civil society and private sectors. At the same time, the Melanesian Spearhead Group, as recently as last year seen by some as enjoying a renaissance, has come under severe internal stress. Where is the New Pacific Diplomacy headed?

Security Developments and Challenges in the Region

Chair: [Stewart Firth](#), Research Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

Speakers

[Joanne Wallis](#), Senior Lecturer, Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, ANU
Hollow Hegemon: The levers of and limits on Australia's influence in the Pacific

[Sinclair Dinnen](#), Senior Research Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU
Changing Patterns of Security Governance – The rise and rise of private security in Papua New Guinea

[Mark Harradine](#), Policy Implementation Adviser, Vanuatu and Visiting Fellow, SSGM, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU
Land and Security in Vanuatu

Regional security has always meant different things to different people. Recent damaging cyclones in Vanuatu and in Fiji have underlined the vulnerability—and yet also the resilience—of small Pacific island countries; much of the region's rhetoric on climate change also asserts the region's vulnerability as a primary consideration. Recent focus on the growth of the private security sector in the Pacific has underlined gaps in national and regional governance frameworks. Australia's latest Defence White Paper, released in March 2016, has re-asserted Australia's claim to be the region's principal security partner; Australia's new Pacific Maritime Security Initiative is a major new commitment. Even so, 'non-traditional' players remain active—and perhaps increasingly so—in the region. How effectively are governments in the region responding to new and emerging security challenges and do existing regional processes, such as the Biketawa Declaration and the Forum Regional Security Committee, remain fit-for-purpose?