



PACIFIC ISLANDS CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND RESEARCH

Developing capacity for research and policymaking in

2023 Pacific Research Conference and Leaders' Forum

Koror, Palau

28-29 June 2023

Ngarachamayong Cultural Centre

Motivation

The Griffith-PICs annual regional conference brings together Pacific policymakers such as central banks and government ministries to share with academics, regulators, multilateral organisations, business leaders, civil society, from the Pacific, Australasia and the wider Asia-Pacific region current research on the Pacific and to explore vital links between research and policy including those relating to financial and private sectors and economic growth and development.

The purpose of the concurrent Leaders Forum is to hear first-hand from the Leaders of the region (Governors and Ministers) on how things are in their economies—opportunities and challenges, especially post COVID19. The forum provides a rare confluence of such high-profile speakers and an equally rare opportunity for interaction and engagement.

Convenors

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DAY #1 | Wednesday 28 June 2023

8:25am **Session Chair: Turang Rengiil, Ministry of Finance, Palau**
Welcome and housekeeping

8:30am **Keynote address: Palau's Honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Kaleb Udui Jr.**

LEADERS FORUM | Session Chair: Turang Rengiil, Ministry of Finance, Palau

(Presentations by Heads of PICDPR Pacific Partners—Governors, Ministers, etc. on economic update)

9:00am Banco Central de Timor-Leste, Deputy Governor Borges

9:30am Bank of Papua New Guinea, Acting A/Governor Yabom

10:00am Central Bank of Solomon Islands, Deputy Governor Moveni

10:30am Morning tea

11:00am Ministry of Finance, Palau, Minister Udui

11:30am Reserve Bank of Fiji, Acting Chief Manager Economics Hesaie

12:00pm Reserve Bank of Vanuatu, Governor Athy

12:30pm Q&A for all presenters

1:00pm Lunch

RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Session Chair: Boniface Aipi, Bank of PNG

2:00pm David Ereai, *Monetary policy transmission in Solomon Islands*, CBSI

2:30pm Octavio Manuel Dos Reis, *Government expenditure and consumption in Timor-Leste*, BCTL

3:00pm Afternoon tea

3:30pm Primula Mua & Kevis Kimasaru, *Fiscal Policy cyclicalities in Solomon Islands*, SIMoFT

4:00pm **End of day's events**

DAY #2 | Thursday 29 June 2023 (Research conference continues)

Session Chair: Savaira Manoa, Reserve Bank of Fiji

9:00am PICDPR Presentation by Program Director

9:30am Gordon Kapak & Meson Tumsok, *Housing market demand in PNG*, BPNG

10:00am Ludwig Aba, *Ease of doing business by SMEs in PNG*, BPNG

10:30am Morning tea

Session Chair: Natasha Eddie Hivae, Central Bank of Solomon Islands

11:00am Kelera Rogoiruwai, *Technology and trade in PICs*, RBF

11:30am Latu Sera Kaukilakeba, *Determinants of green finance in PICs*, RBF

12:00pm Olga Ines Ferreira da Conceicao, *Remittance trends in Timor-Leste*, BCTL

12:30pm Angeline Rohoia, *Solomon Islands banking sector: A 40-year depth and efficiency analysis*, CBSI

1:00pm Lunch

Session Chair: Eli Direye, Bank of PNG

2:00pm Gloria Siri & Cynthia Moli, *Financial sector development in Vanuatu*, RBV

2:30pm Roleen Ronny, *Financial sector development in Palau*, PMoF

3:00pm Afternoon tea

3:30pm Katia D'Hulster, *De-risking of Correspondent Banking Relationships in the Pacific*, WBG

4:00pm Peter Dirou, *Competition for Scarce Financing Opportunities in PICs: Policy Challenges*, ADB/PSDI

4:30pm **Closing remarks: Raynold Moveni, Deputy Governor, CBSI (Host, 2024 Conference)**

5:00pm **End of conference | Conference Dinner follows**—time and venue to be announced during the conference