

# Australia-Pacific Connections for a Digital Future

## PACIFIC CONNECT DIALOGUE

22-23 November 2018 • Honiara, Solomon Islands

***Pacific Connect* is calling for expressions of interest from ambitious, accomplished and forward-thinking individuals to join its Network Dialogue in Honiara on 22-23 November under a theme of “Australia-Pacific Connections for a Digital Future”.**

### What is ‘Pacific Connect’?

*Pacific Connect* was launched by Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull in September 2017 to forge strong and enduring strategic relationships between Pacific and Australian leaders across the public, private and community sectors. *Pacific Connect* is delivered by the International Centre for Democratic Partnerships (ICDP) and sponsored by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

### What is the ‘Network Dialogue’?

The Pacific is undergoing an unprecedented technological transformation, making it an ideal time to discuss and plan our region’s digital future.

Since the official announcement of *Pacific Connect* at the 48<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Forum, ICDP has been working with regional partners and local leaders to create a series of Network Dialogues in Pacific Island countries. The inaugural Business Network Dialogue was held on 27-28 March 2018 in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea; the Academic Network Dialogue was convened in Suva, Fiji on 19 June, co-hosted by the University of the South Pacific; and a workshop ‘*Exploring Practical Concepts for Digital Innovation*’ was held in Apia, Samoa on 8 June.

On 6 September, 80 Network members attended the inaugural Pacific Connect Forum at NSW Parliament House in Sydney, Australia.

### What are we aiming for?

The *Pacific Connect* Network Dialogue in Honiara will bring together emerging leaders from the Pacific and Australia to discuss how improved digital connectivity in the Solomon Islands can enable greater choice of educational opportunities available to Pacific Islanders, with a particular focus on future employment. The development of digital training courses for teachers will also be explored.

Through facilitated, outcome-focused roundtable discussions, participants will identify challenges to solve, select practical projects to take forward, and develop them through a series of subsequent meetings and long-term collaboration.

Examples of practical projects could include introducing innovative technology solutions to support teachers and skills development, or providing IT solutions to access seasonal workers programs.

The Dialogue will be co-facilitated by **Peter Kenilorea Jr**, former Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade in the Solomon Islands; **Dr Ian Watt AC**, Chairman of the International Centre for Democratic Partnerships; and **Peter Fritz AM**, Group Managing Director of TCG, Chairman of Global Access Partners, and ICDP’s Strategic Advisor.

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### Who are we looking for?

We are looking for people with leadership skills, a positive, 'big picture' outlook, and a record of achievement in their chosen field.

Our participants will be courageous and passionate free thinkers willing to share their own networks and ideas to build a better tomorrow for all. A keen interest in education, technology and seasonal workers programs is necessary, but technical skills are not.

### How will you benefit?

*Pacific Connect* offers exciting opportunities for outstanding people in Australia and the Pacific to forge new relationships through continued engagement on common challenges.

Through a "Second Track" process which encourages fresh thinking and concrete solutions, participants will be able to test their ideas, broaden their knowledge and widen their networks for future interaction.

Opportunities include:

- ▶ Internships and secondments with Australian and Pacific organisations
- ▶ An invitation to participate in major international forums, including the Annual Pacific Connect Forum in Sydney
- ▶ Unique networking opportunities with regional leaders

### PROGRAMME

Thursday, 22 November 2018  
Heritage Hotel

6:00pm Welcome Dinner  
9:00pm Free time

Friday, 23 November 2018  
Heritage Hotel

8:30am Registration. Tea & Coffee  
9:00am SESSION ONE  
10:30am Break  
11:00am SESSION TWO  
12:30pm Lunch  
1:30pm SESSION THREE  
3:00pm Break  
3:30pm SESSION FOUR  
5:00pm Vote of Thanks & Close

### How can you get involved?

**Please forward your CV and a brief overview of your relevant achievements to [pacific\\_dialogue@icdp.com.au](mailto:pacific_dialogue@icdp.com.au)**

**Enquiries +61 409 810 190**