

Australia-Pacific Connections for a Digital Future

PACIFIC WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS – TECHNOLOGY INFLUENCERS

Pacific Connect Network Dialogue
16-19 June 2019 • Brisbane, Australia

***Pacific Connect* is calling for expressions of interest from ambitious, accomplished and forward-thinking people to join its Network Dialogue in Brisbane on 16-19 June 2019 to discuss the role of women entrepreneurs as technology influencers. Apply by 27 May 2019.**

What is 'Pacific Connect'?

Pacific Connect was launched by the Prime Minister of Australia 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 Dialogue, delivered using the 'Second Track' unofficial, informal, consultative style, focusses participants on specific issues and their possible ICT solutions, as well as potential practical projects that can be taken further.

Since the official announcement of *Pacific Connect* at the 48th Pacific Islands Forum in 2017, ICDP has been working with regional partners and local leaders to create a series of Network Dialogues. In 2018, it held the inaugural Business Dialogue in Port Moresby (March); the Academic Dialogue in Suva, co-hosted by the University of the South Pacific (June); the Creative Arts Dialogue in Apia (July); and the Education Dialogue in Honiara (November). On 6 September 2018, 80 Network members attended the inaugural *Pacific Connect* Forum at NSW Parliament House in Sydney.

The year 2019 opened with the *Pacific Women in Business and Digital Delivery* Dialogue in Brisbane (February), the *Digital Trade and Labour Mobility* Dialogue in Port Vila (March) and the *Disruptive Technology in Agriculture* Dialogue in Port Moresby (April).

What are we aiming for?

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

The *Pacific Women Entrepreneurs – Technology Influencers* Dialogue will bring together current and emerging female leaders, IT entrepreneurs, business practitioners and creative thinkers from the Pacific and Australia to share ideas and identify opportunities for collaboration. The event will build on the success of the first *Pacific Women in Business and Digital Delivery* Dialogue held in Brisbane in February.

Through facilitated, result-driven discussions, the Dialogue will explore commercial opportunities and innovative business models enabled by improved connectivity in the Pacific, ways to encourage more women to transition into the tech industry and entrepreneurship, the challenges facing Pacific women in ICT, and potential solutions. Participants will brainstorm and select one or two projects to take forward and develop them through subsequent meetings and online collaboration. These could include establishing a network for Australian and Pacific women – technology influencers, building on project ideas from previous *Pacific Connect* Dialogues, mentorship and professional development opportunities.

The Dialogue will be co-facilitated by **Catherine Fritz-Kalish**, Director of ICDP, **Zha Agabe-Granfar**, Founder and Executive Director of VERGE (PNG), and **Michael Collins**, Partner, Strategic Development Group.

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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 digital technology 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 the development of concrete solutions, participants will be able to test their ideas, broaden their knowledge and widen their networks for future interaction.

Opportunities include:

- Mentoring and internships with Australian and Pacific organisations
- An invitation to participate in future regional *Pacific Connect* Dialogues and international forums, including an Ideas Exchange at NSW Parliament House in Sydney
- Unique networking opportunities with regional leaders
- New commercial partnerships

PROGRAMME

Sunday, 16 June 2019

- Arrival and informal meet & greet

Monday, 17 June 2019

Dialogue Venue – QLD Parliamentary Annexe

- Overview of *Pacific Connect*
- Talanoa and discussions
- Keynote presentations from invited guests
- Small group brainstorming
- Conclusions and agreement on next steps
- Welcome Dinner

Tuesday, 18 June 2019

- Extra-curricular activities

Wednesday, 19 June 2019

- Departures

How can you get involved?

You can help set the Pacific's digital agenda through *Pacific Connect*.

Please forward your CV and a brief overview of your relevant achievements to pacific_dialogue@icdp.com.au

Enquiries +61 409 810 190

Deadline 27 May 2019