

TECHNOLOGY ENABLING INCLUSIVENESS



Pacific Connect Network Dialogue
29-30 July 2019 • Suva, Fiji

ICDP is looking for ambitious, accomplished and forward-thinking people to join its Pacific Connect Network Dialogue on 29-30 July 2019 in Suva. The Dialogue will explore how assistive technology and improved digital connectivity can contribute to social inclusion in the Pacific. Deadline for expressions of interest - 1 July 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 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 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).

Pacific Connect Network Dialogues, delivered using the 'Second Track' unofficial, informal, consultative style, focus participants on specific issues and their possible ICT solutions, as well as potential practical projects that can be taken further.

What are we aiming for?

The *Pacific Connect* Network Dialogue in Suva on 29-30 July will bring together current and emerging leaders from Fiji and Australia to discuss the power of digital technologies to bridge the disability divide and generate new commercial opportunities.

A wide range of assistive technology can help people perform tasks they would otherwise be unable to do, helping them play a full role in society. Similarly, employers can apply technological solutions to broaden employment opportunities for all members of society.

Potential discussion topics could include:

- an annual 'inclusiveness forum'
- innovations in local manufacturing
- entrepreneurs and assistive technology

The *Pacific Connect* Network Dialogue in Suva will examine all these aspects, and more, to benefit both people living disabilities and the wider community.

Through facilitated, outcomes-based roundtable discussions, participants will identify and select one or two projects to take forward and develop them through a series of subsequent meetings and long-term collaboration.

The Dialogue will be co-facilitated by **Dr Ian Watt AC**, Chair of ICDP, **Rakesh Ram**, Chief Executive Officer of HFC Bank, 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 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

MONDAY, 29 JULY 2019

Venue – HFC boardroom

- 5:00pm Registration. Official welcome
- 5:10pm LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE
- 6:30pm Free time

Venue TBC

- 7:00pm NETWORKING DINNER
- 9:00pm Close

TUESDAY, 30 JULY 2019

Venue – HFC boardroom

- 8:45am Networking, Tea & coffee
- 9:00am 1ST PLANNING SESSION
- 10:30am Morning tea
- 10:45am 2ND PLANING SESSION
- 12:00pm Lunch
- 1:00pm INFORMATION SESSION
- 1:30pm FINAL PLANNING SESSION
- 3:00pm Dialogue Closes

How can you get involved?

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

Enquiries +61 409 810 190

Deadline 1 July 2019