

DIGITAL MARKETPLACE & ONLINE SERVICES

**Helping to Empower
Pacific Women**

Pacific Connect Dialogue
15-16 July 2019
Port Vila, Vanuatu

The *Pacific Connect* Network Dialogue in Port Vila on 15-16 July will bring together current and emerging leaders from the Pacific and Australia to discuss how digital connectivity and emerging technologies can expand business opportunities and empower women in Vanuatu and the broader Pacific. Deadline for expressions of interest – 17 June.

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?

Women make enormous contributions to economies, whether in businesses, on farms, as entrepreneurs or employees, or by doing unpaid care work at home. Digital globalisation is an era in which you can buy and sell globally, seek and offer advice, learn and find work, and build personal networks. Connectivity provides women with a greater opportunity to start their own business at a very low cost, seek expert advice and connect with professional service providers, such as doctors and teachers.

Through facilitated, outcome-focused discussions, the participants of the *Pacific Connect* Network Dialogue in Port Vila will identify opportunities for Pacific women in the emerging digital marketplace, select one or two practical projects to take forward and develop them through a series of subsequent meetings and long-term collaboration.

Ideas could include:

- ▶ Creating an online health support service that provides general advice and assistance
- ▶ Developing an app that enables ni-Vanuatu to book appointments with medical professionals online
- ▶ Establishing an online marketplace where people can advertise and trade goods and services.

The Dialogue will be co-facilitated by **Prof Ian Young AO**, Director of ICDP and Kernot Professor of Engineering at the University of Melbourne, and **Mr Francis Herman OAM**, Chief Executive Officer, Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation.

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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, 15 JULY 2019

Warwick Le Lagon - Vanuatu

- 4:00pm Registration. Official welcome
- 4:10pm LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE
- 6:30pm Free time

Warwick Le Lagon - Vanuatu

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

TUESDAY, 16 JULY 2019

Warwick Le Lagon - Vanuatu

- 8:45am Networking, Tea & coffee
- 9:00am PLANNING SESSION
- 10:30am Morning tea
- 10:45am PROJECT INITIATION
- 12:00pm Lunch
- 1:00pm INFORMATION SESSION
- 1:30pm PROJECT CONCEPTION
- 2:45pm OUTCOMES & NEXT STEPS
- 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 17 June 2019