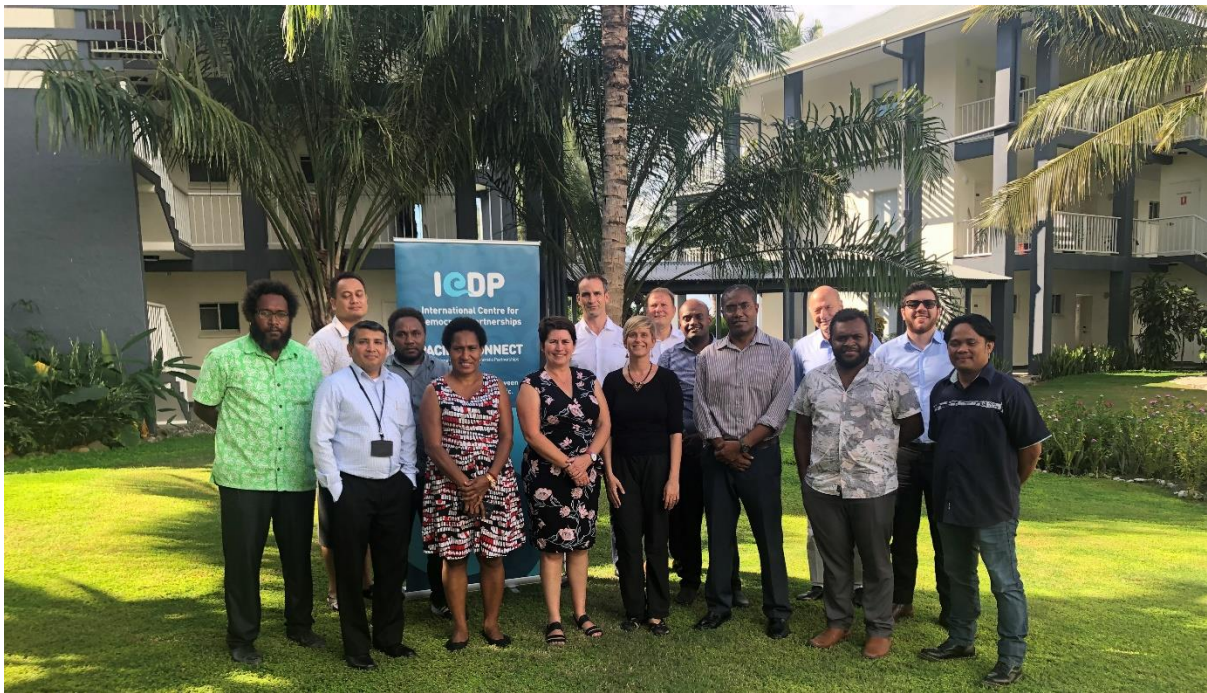


Australia-Pacific Connections
for a Digital Future

PACIFIC CONNECT DIALOGUE FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS

25 –26 June 2019
Honiara, Solomon Islands



Participants of the Pacific Connect Network Dialogue 2019 – Solomon Islands

PACIFICCONNECT

Summary

The International Centre for Democratic Partnerships (ICDP) hosted the *Pacific Connect* Dialogue titled 'Digital transformation opportunities in freight and logistics' at the Heritage Park Hotel in Honiara, Solomon Islands on 25-26 June 2019.

The Dialogue brought together a broad group of motivated individuals with diverse backgrounds and experiences across a range of sectors, including, maritime logistics, sustainable and ethical supply chains, software development, supply chain management, blockchain development, entrepreneurship, freight management, social impact, government and academia. Participants gathered to discuss how improved digital connectivity can modernise the transportation industry and enable greater choice of commercial and employment opportunities in the Solomon Islands and broader Pacific region

The aim of the Dialogue was to connect current and emerging leaders in Solomon Islands and Australia. The Dialogue provided the opportunity for participants to build connections and identify opportunities to work together through selecting practical projects to take forward.

The Dialogue was run with the support of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and was organised in consultation with Mr Eranda Kotelawala, CEO, Solomon Islands Ports Authority and Mr Peter Kenilorea, member of Solomon Islands parliament.



The Dialogue was facilitated by Mr Eranda Kotelawala, Mr Peter Kenilorea and Mr Peter Fritz AM. Agenda [attached](#) for reference.

Discussions

Thirteen emerging leaders - six from Solomon Islands, one from PNG, one from Fiji and five from Australia convened over two days and included four women. Participants firstly attended through an initial introductory session and welcome dinner addressed by the Solomon Islands Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade, the Hon. Jeremiah Manele, MP, and Deputy High Commissioner to Solomon Islands Ms Sally-Anne Vincent.



The Foreign Minister congratulated the participants for coming together to discuss ICT related issues such as freight and logistics. He spoke about the importance of the Coral Undersea Cable and how it will transform the Solomon Islands and of the importance of maritime infrastructure in relation to economic growth – he is keen to create business opportunities between the countries and jobs for youth. He announced that the government is broadening its presence by re-establishing a consulate general office in Brisbane. He also acknowledged the importance of people-to-people engagement and highlighted some of the projects that are underway to reduce the costs of doing business in the Solomon Islands. He thought that this dialogue could be the beginning of new business relationships to facilitate further trade between countries and was looking forward to seeing some proposals from the dialogue.



L-R: Mr Eranda Kotelawala; Hon. Jeremiah Manele, MP; Hon. Peter Kenilorea, MP; Mr Peter Fritz

Day two involved further exploration of the topic, brainstorming and open discussions using the second track process. Participants discussed the opportunities and issues surrounding exports and imports and broke into small project groups to come up with a range of projects. At the end of the day the groups were invited to deliver a short pitch summarising the project.

Following the dialogue ICDP organised a workshop in collaboration with the Solomon Islands Women in IT. The IT group requested a workshop focussing on Blockchain for its members. The workshop was delivered by Mr Kenneth Katafona, Founder and Managing Director, Traseable



Pacific Connect Dialogue, Solomon Islands May 2019 | Report

Solutions Pty Ltd and Mr Tim Stasse, Chief Technology Officer, Agile Digital. 30 people from the Solomon Islands attended the workshop.



Projects

Participants identified several areas for action. They worked together to identify five projects for immediate work. The participants broke into small working groups to discuss areas of interest and to forge project teams to continue work after the dialogue. As a result of discussions on day 1 which were further refined on day 2, the following topics were identified to take further as projects:

- Less than Container Load sharing – Access to markets;
- Forecasting Data (Export/Production) Demand for organisations;
- Automating the business of ports;
- Capability support services for entrepreneurs and Start-ups; and
- Port and shipping symposium.

Feedback

Following the Dialogue, participants were asked to complete a Post-Dialogue survey. Twelve participants completed the survey out of the 13 in attendance (92%). When questioned, **92% (11 of the 12 respondents)** indicated that they believed that *Pacific Connect* is a program that both *'expands and strengthens Australia-Pacific connections by developing new networks'* and that it is a program that *'cultivates meaningful enduring relationships between Australian and Pacific individuals and organisations'*.

An important aim of the *Pacific Connect* program is to develop genuine, long-lasting relationships between Australians and Pacific Islanders across the public, private and community sectors. It is through this framework that Dialogue participants were questioned on whether their view of Australia or the Pacific changed as a result of participation in the Freight & Logistics Dialogue i.e. affinity between the Pacific and Australia. The overwhelming majority (**nine participants**) believed that their view of Australia (from a Pacific participant perspective) and that of the Pacific (from an Australian perspective) has changed in the positive.

A summary of the survey data is provided in the attached Dialogue Findings Report.

Next steps

Participants have agreed that they will continue to network online via a dedicated Slack channel set up for the dialogue and nominated sub-channels for each project group to liaise separately as needed. Attached is the communicate they cleared.

Dialogue Participants

Facilitators

- Mr Eranda Kotelawala, CEO, Solomon Islands Ports Authority
- Mr Peter Kenilorea, Solomon Islands MP
- Mr Peter Fritz AM, Chairman TCG, Australia

Solomon Islands Participants

- Mr Brown Onahikeni, Business Advisor, Adam Smith International Strongim Bisnis
- Mr Darwin Cuizon, Shipping & Freight Forwarding Manager, Express Freight
- Mr James Kana, Managing Director, Ueniusuunu Agribusiness Group
- Mr Brian Mangi, Network Administrator, SI National University
- Ms Lyn Fa'arodo, Manager Digital, BSP Bank
- Ms Julie Haro, Director, Premiere Mobile Money & Digital Financial Services

PNG Participant

- Ms Lena Korugl, ICT Project Manager

Fiji Participant

- Kenneth Katafono, Founder, Traseable Solutions

Australian Participants

- Mr Peter van Duyn, Deputy Chairman, ICHCA Australia Ltd
- Mr Cameron Neil, Co-founder Red Hat Impact
- Mr Tim Stasse, Software Developer, Agile Digital Ethitrade
- Ms Samantha Kies-Ryan, Director, Earth Water People
- Mr Mark Jenkin, Director, CBS Software

ICDP

- Simone Pensko, Chief Executive Officer, ICDP
- Tina Briggs, Program Manager, ICDP

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PROGRAMME

Purpose: The dialogue will bring together emerging leaders from the Solomon Islands and Australia to discuss how improved digital connectivity can modernise the transportation industry and enable greater choice of commercial and employment opportunities in the Solomon Islands and broader Pacific region.

Aim: The aim of the dialogue is for participants to identify one or two practical projects to take forward. Ideas the group will consider include opportunities for providing a Less than Container Load service for freight from Honiara, ways to optimise freight and logistics in shipping, e-commerce for freight and logistics in shipping, a standardised collaboration platform for agricultural data management or digital technology through the supply chain and developing mobile apps to enable efficiencies in farming.

Day One – Tuesday, 25 June 2019

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OPPORTUNITIES IN FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS PACIFIC CONNECT BUSINESS NETWORK DIALOGUE

Gallery I Room
Heritage Park Hotel
Mendana Avenue, Honiara

4:00PM *Registration & official welcome*

4:10PM *Introductory Roundtable*

Facilitators – **Mr Peter Fritz AM**, Special Advisor, International Centre for Democratic Partnerships (ICDP)
Eranda Kotelawala, CEO, Solomon Islands Port Authority

6:30PM *Free time*

NETWORKING DINNER

Ha'hona Room
Heritage Park Hotel

7:00PM *Welcome Dinner*
Keynote Address
Guest Speaker
(TBC)

The Hon. Jeremiah Manele, MP
Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade

9:00PM *Close*

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Day Two – Wednesday, 26 June 2019

Gallery I Room
Heritage Park Hotel

- 8:45AM** *Participants check-in & networking*
- 9:00AM** *First Planning Session*
Digital Transformation Opportunities and Challenges in Freight and Logistics
Facilitator – **Eranda Kotelawala**, CEO, Solomon Islands Port Authority
- 10:00AM** *Delivering an 'enhanced capability' Project identification*
Facilitated discussion/brainstorming
Facilitators – **Peter Fritz AM**, Special Advisor, ICDP &
Eranda Kotelawala, CEO, Solomon Islands Port Authority
- 10:45AM** *Morning tea*
- 11:45AM** *Project Conception*
Small group discussion
- 12:30PM** *Lunch*
- 1:30PM** *Project Conception continued*
Small group discussion
- 2:30PM** *Final Planning Session*
Project Concept Pitch
Facilitators – **Mr Peter Fritz AM**, Special Advisor, ICDP
Eranda Kotelawala, CEO, Solomon Islands Port Authority
- 3:20PM** *Outcomes and Next Steps*
Summary of Dialogue outcomes
Member communication
Next steps
- 3:30PM** *Close & free time*
- 6:00 – 7:00PM** *Pacific Connect Community Networking*

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International Centre for Democratic Partnerships

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Pacific Connect Network Dialogue

Freight and Logistics

25-26 June 2019, Honiara, Solomon Islands

Communiqué

1. We, the participants of the Pacific Connect Network Dialogue on Freight and Logistics, met on 25 – 26 June 2019 in Honiara, Solomon Islands at the invitation of the International Centre for Democratic Partnerships (ICDP) with the support of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).
2. We would like to thank our hosts – Simone Pensko, Tina Briggs and the staff of ICDP – for excellent arrangements and hosting the event. We also thank Eranda Kotelawala and Peter Fritz AM for their skilful facilitation of the sessions and keynote speaker the Hon. Jeremiah Manele, MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Solomon Islands for his inspiring speech.
3. We congratulate the organisers on assembling an impressive group of participants from Solomon Islands and Australia. Participants had diverse backgrounds and experiences across a range of sectors, including, maritime logistics, sustainable and ethical supply chains, software development, supply chain management, blockchain development, entrepreneurship, freight management, social impact, government and academia.
4. We applaud Australia’s step-up in engagement with the Pacific and its commitment to build stronger, long-lasting relationships with Pacific Island nations. We believe that Pacific Connect and the ‘Second Track’ process offer opportunities to collaborate and build personal rapport in an informal, consultative environment that encourages positive, fresh thinking and a personal interest in achieving practical results.
5. We acknowledge that people must have a reason to connect and stay connected in order to build enduring relationships. We think that

translating ideas into concrete projects is the best way to achieve this. We are inspired by the success of previous Pacific Connect Dialogues and projects such as ‘Every building is a classroom’ in the Solomon Islands and the World Economic Forum’s Global Shapers Pacific Hub in Samoa, as they demonstrate what can be achieved through sustained collaboration.

6. We agree that digital technologies play an increasingly important role in people’s lives and have the potential to transform the livelihoods of Pacific communities.
7. We considered several areas for action which Dialogue participants could pursue collectively or in subgroups and we have slated the following five projects for immediate action:
 - a. Less than Container Load sharing – Access to markets;
 - b. Forecasting Data (Export/Production) Demand for organisations;
 - c. Automating the business of ports;
 - d. Capability support services for entrepreneurs and Start-ups; and
 - e. Port and shipping symposium.
8. We will develop these ideas and opportunities through further meetings, ICDP’s Slack forum and a dedicated Facebook page for the Pacific Connect Community. We appreciate the importance of clear objectives and firm timelines and will mobilise existing resources and adapt best international practice where possible. While not every idea from the Dialogue may come to fruition, we hope that the time and effort spent on their development will strengthen our personal links and form a foundation of longer-term relationships.
9. We believe the Dialogue substantially met our expectations in terms of topics of importance to the Pacific, providing a forum for open and honest discussion, expanding our networks and contacts and as an enabler for developing joint tangible projects to take forward. This was already apparent in the dialogue and afterwards.
10. We welcome the invitation to participate in the Pacific Connect Ideas Exchange, planned for Sydney, Australia on 18-19 September 2019, and look forward to forming closer bonds with other members of the fast-growing Pacific Connect Community.