



CENTRAL BANK OF
SOLOMON ISLANDS



BANK OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA



SPCB18

INAUGURAL SOUTH PACIFIC CENTRAL
BANKING RESEARCH CONFERENCE

11-13 DECEMBER | SUVA, FIJI

PROGRAM



Motivation

The two-day conference brings together for the first time South Pacific central bank researchers to share with academics, policy makers, regulators, multilateral organisations, business leaders, civil society, from the South Pacific, Australasia and the wider Asia-Pacific region current research on the region and to explore vital links between research and policy relating to central banking issues, including financial and private sectors and economic growth and development.

Conference Convenors

Parmendra Sharma
Program Convenor, South Pacific Centre for Central Banking
Griffith University
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Esala Masitabua
Deputy Governor,
Reserve Bank of Fiji
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Steering Committee

- Gae Kauzi, (Deputy Governor, Bank of Papua New Guinea)
- Peter Tari (Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of Vanuatu)
- Luke Forau (Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Solomon Islands)
- Jen Je Su (Senior Lecturer, Griffith University)

Organising Committee [Reserve Bank of Fiji]

- Petaia Tuimanu
- Disusu Delana
- Isoa Wainiqolo
- Mareta Matanitobua
- Joanne Sakaraia
- Agnes Bula



Program

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| WELCOME Tuesday 11 December | |
| Venue: Holiday Inn, Suva | |
| 5:00pm | Pre-registration and bula wear collection for Day #1 |
| 6:00pm | Pre-conference welcome drinks |
| 6:30pm | Welcome address: Esala Masitabua , Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of Fiji |
| 9:00pm | End of day's program |
| DAY 1 Wednesday 12 December | |
| Venue: Holiday Inn, Suva | |
| 8:30am | Registration / networking |
| 9:45am | Welcome: Parmendra Sharma , Program Convenor, South Pacific Centre for Central Banking |
| 10:00am | KEYNOTE Opening Remarks: Amy Crago , Deputy Australian High Commissioner to Fiji Keynote Address: Ariff Ali , Governor, Reserve Bank of Fiji |
| 10:45am MORNING TEA / NETWORKING/ PHOTO SESSION | |
| 11:15am | SPECIAL SESSION Central banking in an increasingly uncertain and risky environment: How is the South Pacific responding? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator: Brett Winton, Manager Technical Cooperation, Reserve Bank of Australia Loi Bakani, Governor, Bank of Papua New Guinea Denton Rarawa, Governor, Central Bank of Solomon Islands Q&A for speakers |
| 12:30pm LUNCH | |
| 1:30pm | PLENARY SESSION I The macro-economy I Chair: Iris Claus , Macroeconomic Analysis Advisor, IMF-PFTAC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaker 1 V. Takana, A.H. Bataania and T. Singh, <i>Role and implications of inflation expectation in Solomon Island</i>, [CBSI] Speaker 2 R. Chowdhury, J. Yabom and T. Singh, <i>Foreign exchange shortage in Papua New Guinea: Is devaluation an option?</i> [BPNG] Speaker 3 A. Tuicakau, C. Waqabaca and J. J. Su, <i>Interest rate pass through in Fiji</i>, [RBF] Speaker 4 M. Ofoi, and T. Singh, <i>The conduct of monetary policy in PNG: An assessment of the money multiplier & credit channel</i>, [BPNG] Speaker 5 M. Tumsok J. J. Su and T. Singh, <i>Exchange rate volatility and its impact on trade in Papua New Guinea</i>, [BPNG] Q&A for speakers |
| 3:00pm AFTERNOON TEA / NETWORKING | |

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| 3:30pm | PLENARY SESSION II | The macro-economy II Chair: Erik Aelbers , Unit Head, Economics and Programming, ADB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker 1 S. Hlatshwayo, <i>Fixing the Roof While the Sun Is Shining: An Assessment of Fiji's Fiscal Outlook & Debt Sustainability</i> [IMF] • Speaker 2 K. Longe'au, J. Boe and V. Takana, <i>Debt-growth nexus: the case for Solomon Islands</i>, [CBSI] • Speaker 3 B. Aipi and G. Sabok, <i>Estimating an aggregate import demand function for Papua New Guinea</i>, [BPNG] • Speaker 4 J. Hesaie, <i>Estimating potential GDP</i>, [IMF-PFTAC] • Speaker 5 A. Richardson, T.F. Mulder and T. Vehbi, <i>Nowcasting GDP using machine learning</i>, [RBNZ] Q&A for speakers |
| 5:00pm | | ADJOURNMENT |
| 6:30pm | | Conference dinner [Key note: Caitlin Byrne -Director, Griffith Asia Institute] |
| 9:00pm | | End of day's program |
| DAY 2 Thursday 13 December Venue: Holiday Inn, Suva | | |
| 8:00am | | Registration / networking |
| 8:30am | SPECIAL SESSION | Research for policy development and formulation Chair: Caitlin Byrne , Director, Griffith Asia Institute Panellists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Dirou, Asian Development Bank (PSDI) • Deva De Silva, World Bank—International Financial Corporation • Iris Claus, IMF—Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre • Brett Winton, Reserve Bank of Australia • Adam Richardson, Reserve Bank of New Zealand Q&A for panel |
| 10:15am | | MORNING TEA / NETWORKING |
| 10:45am | PLENARY SESSION III | Financial sector I Chair: Eduardo Roca , Professor of Finance, Griffith University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker 1 S. Cagilaba, K. Ranadi, E. Roca, V. Wong and P. Sharma, <i>Financial integration in the South Pacific</i>, [RBF] • Speaker 2 S. Manoa, S. Taleniwesi, P. Sharma and S. Nghiem, <i>Technical efficiency using distance SFA of banking institutions in a Pacific Island country: Empirical analysis</i>, [RBF] • Speaker 3 V. Takana, S. Iro, L. Suti and P. Sharma, <i>Banking reforms and performance in PICs; the case of SLB</i> [CBSI] • Speaker 4 C. Rokoua, C. Miller, P. Werekoro, K. Hunt and P. Sharma, <i>Developing Fiji's microfinance sector: some policy implications</i>, [RBF] • Speaker 5 L. Darcy and P. Dirou, <i>State-owned banks in the South Pacific: Performance and contribution to financial sector development</i> [ADB] Q&A for speakers |
| 12:15pm | | LUNCH |

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| 1:15pm | PLENARY SESSION IV | <p>Financial sector II</p> <p>Chair: Tracey West, Finance and Financial Planning, Griffith University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker 1 C. Moli, G. Siri, S. Alam and P. Sharma, <i>Financial access, depth, efficiency and stability: the case of a PIC on a global scale</i>, [RBV] • Speaker 2 K. Prasad, S. Alam and P. Sharma, <i>Finance and socio-economic development in Fiji: some stylized facts</i>, [RBF] • Speaker 3 A. Baniuri, A. Bill, T. West, J.J. Su and P. Sharma, <i>Financial inclusion in Vanuatu</i>, [RBV] • Speaker 4 M. Pita, A.H. Bataania, S. Alam and P. Sharma, <i>Depth and efficiency of SI banking sector on a global scale</i>, [CBSI] • Speaker 5 B. Aipi, L. Aba, E. Direye and P. Sharma, <i>Advancing financial inclusion using contemporary digital technology in PNG</i>, [BPNG] • Speaker 6 L. Boulton and B. Winton, <i>Developments in correspondent banking in the South Pacific</i>, [RBA] <p>Q&A for speakers</p> |
| 3:00pm AFTERNOON TEA / NETWORKING | | |
| 3:30pm | PLENARY SESSION V | <p>Private sector development and wealth creation</p> <p>Chair: Henry Sanday, Senior Private Sector Specialist, IFC/World Bank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker 1 L. Ragon, P. Sharma and J.J. Su, <i>Determinants of private sector growth in Vanuatu</i>, [RBV] • Speaker 2 M. Tuisawau, J. Kakhkharov, L. Nguyen and P. Sharma, <i>Remittances in Fiji</i>, [RBF] • Speaker 3 S. Kasingu, G. Sabok, D. Tuam, G. Hamua and J.J. Su, <i>Determinants of private sector credit PNG</i>, [BPNG] • Speaker 4 P. Dirou, <i>Strengthening Pacific retirement funds: Anchoring social protection in good finance</i>, [ADB] <p>Q&A for speakers</p> |
| 4:45pm | Closing remarks: Peter Tari , Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of Vanuatu | |
| 5:15pm | End of conference / networking continues | |

