

Fiji Innovation Hub



Dear readers, we are delighted to share the first of a series of monthly e-newsletters, helping you stay informed on the latest news and developments, including upcoming events and activities of the Fiji Innovation Hub. Let’s dive in! 😊

INNOVATION HUB LIFTS OFF!



LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

In a landmark moment for the nation, the Fiji Innovation Hub (“Hub”) was officially launched in August 2025 – marking a significant milestone in Fiji’s ongoing journey to cultivate a vibrant, inclusive, and regionally competitive startup ecosystem.

This milestone was made possible through a strategic partnership led by the Reserve Bank of Fiji (RBF), in collaboration with the United Nations (UN) Pacific Digital Economy Programme (PDEP) — supported by the European Union, Australia, and New Zealand’s leading innovation agency, Creative HQ.

The Hub also receives support from Mastercard, along with Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Communications (MTCMSMEC), and local sponsors Home Finance Company (HFC) Bank and the national carrier, Fiji Airways.

In its inaugural year, the Hub will pilot fintech solutions that build on Fiji’s progress in modernising its digital payments infrastructure. Recent reforms have significantly increased electronic transactions, signalling strong market readiness for innovative digital tools.

This momentum provides a solid foundation for fintechs to scale solutions that promote financial inclusion and economic growth, particularly for underserved communities, ensuring that the benefits of the digital economy reach every Fijian.

At the launch event, the RBF extended its heartfelt gratitude to all partners and stakeholders who helped turn this vision into reality. And this is just the beginning! As the Hub gains traction, upcoming events will serve as catalysts for connection, creativity and collective progress.

To review highlights from the event in our joint press release, visit the [RBF website](#).

NEW LOCAL PARTNERS ONBOARD



Since unveiling the Hub, the RBF is excited to announce partnerships with three new local sponsors, including the MTCMSMEC, HFC Bank and Fiji Airways.

These organisations join our existing network of partners, the UN PDEP supported by the European Union, New Zealand and Australian Governments, Creative HQ and Mastercard. Their support brings not just funding, but a shared commitment by all towards seeing this initiative thrive.

STUDY TOUR OF WELLINGTON



Between 6 and 8 August this year, the RBF led a study tour of Creative HQ’s innovation hub in Wellington, New Zealand. The 9 participants represented the RBF, fintechs, micro, small and medium enterprise accelerators, commercial banks and development partners.

Here are a few standout lessons they’ve brought home:

- 💡 Mindset matters - Innovation needs risk-taking, patience, and trust;
- 🌱 Build the ecosystem - Capability, storytelling, and a strong advisory group are key;
- 🏠 Unlock investment - De-risking startups can attract private and diaspora capital;
- 🌐 Start local, think regional - Fintech, energy, health, and construction hold big potential; and
- 🔗 Design for connection - A creative and collaborative hub space is essential.

ADVISORY GROUP TO SUPPORT HUB IMPLEMENTATION



Comprising a cross-section of members from the fintech ecosystem, the Advisory Group serves as a cornerstone of strategic guidance for the Hub, offering independent, expert insights to shape its direction and impact.

This Advisory Group committee plays a vital role in fostering collaboration among key stakeholders and across sectors, encouraging the creation and co-creation of ideas within shared spaces and nurturing talent among startups. The group’s first ever meeting was convened on 26 August, bringing together passionate, experienced voices from across the digital economy.

Stay tuned – we’ll be sharing more soon.

SPOTLIGHTING SUCCESSES



Local fintech Solé took first runner up overall, amongst five finalists in the 2025 Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) Inclusive Fintech Showcase. The five finalists pitched their innovative solutions that empower underserved communities and enhance financial inclusion before a panel of judges at the 2025 AFI Global Policy Forum in Swakopmund, Namibia on 3 September 2025.

Selected as one of five global finalists from a competitive pool of innovators across Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Pacific, Solé impressed with its inclusive digital accounts, designed to empower individuals and communities with practical financial management tools.


Among the other finalists was Saver Global, an Australian-owned fintech operating in Fiji and across the Pacific Islands. Saver Global’s solution leverages gamification to deliver financial education and cybersecurity awareness, targeting underserved populations and addressing critical gaps in digital literacy.


The impressive achievements of local fintechs such as Solé and Saver Global on the international stage highlight the immense potential within Fiji’s fintech ecosystem. These successes are not isolated; rather, they reflect a growing capacity to address persistent financial inclusion challenges across Fiji and the Pacific.

The Hub will actively support fintechs in tackling these regional problem statements, fostering solutions that are both locally relevant and globally competitive. To read more about the winners, visit the [AFI website](#).


UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Over the next few weeks, we’ll be rolling out:

 **Certificate in Applied Innovation** (29 September - 3 October) – A hands-on professional development programme by Creative HQ designed to equip participants with necessary competences to drive innovation within organisations and across ecosystems.



 Establishment of social media pages and channels on selected messaging applications – A digital space to keep abreast with not just the activities of the Hub, but also key developments and initiatives of our collaborative partners and across the innovation ecosystem.

SAVE THE DATE

 Join us for an evening of connection, collaboration and fresh ideas at the **Innovation Hub Community Networking Event** on 3 October 2025 at RBF. Please contact us for more details or to RSVP.

Further events and capacity-building programs will continue to roll out in the coming months.

CALL TO ACTION

 The success of the Hub hinges on shared commitment and collaborative efforts.  We invite all stakeholders – financial institutions, technology providers, investors, academic institutions and government bodies – to actively engage with us.

Whether through mentorship, partnership opportunities or participation in our upcoming initiatives, your contribution is invaluable in co-creating a dynamic and inclusive digital economy for Fiji and the wider Pacific region.

APPRECIATION

We extend a big vinaka vakalevu to our partners – UN PDEP and donor partners, the Governments of the European Union, Australia and New Zealand, Mastercard, MTCMSMEC, HFC Bank, and Fiji Airways whose collective support has enabled our success to date in this journey.



SHARE A THOUGHT

“Discovery is seeing what everybody else has seen, and thinking what nobody else had thought”- Dr Albert Szent-Györgyi

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If you have ideas, stories or news from your organisation that you would like to include in a future newsletter, contact: dfswg@rbf.gov.fj

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