Dear SEIAPI Members             

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**IRENA/PPA/SEIAPI Design and Install Grid Connect Training**

The second practical training course was conducted in Apia Samoa in the week starting 12th may 2014. Ten people from the Electric Power Corporation (EPC) undertook the training and we are pleased to announce it included the first female engineer. The course was conducted by staff from GSES Australia. Those who attended are still finalising their assignments, but once finished, they will be eligible receive their provisional certification under the SEIAPI/PPA certification program and the EPC will be eligible to apply to become accredited under the same program.

The practical training course was funded by IRENA though a project being managed jointly by PPA and SEIAPI.

Starting the 3rd June there will be 2 courses conducted back to back in Tarawa Kiribati for the 22 people currently undertaking the online training courses

There is funding for at least one more course and possibly a 2nd course. The exact locations are still to be determined. The number of people still doing the online course who have not attended a practical course include:

* Samoa 2
* Tonga 2
* Fiji 2

For further information please contact the SEIAPI secretariat at info@seiapi.com

**Certification and Accreditation Program**

SEIAPI and PPA are pleased to announce that the first provisionally certified technician is Aman Singh and the first provisionally accredited company is Clay Energy , both from Fiji. Aman was the first to successfully complete all the assessments required from undertaking the online training course and the IRENA funded practical course that was conducted in Suva last November. The first certifications and accreditation are for the design and installation of grid connected PV systems.

SEIAPI/PPA are expecting more certified technicians and accredited companies over the next few months as people who undertook the course in Fiji complete their assessments.

SEIAPI is also investigating how to allow people who have previously undertake off-grid training courses in the region the opportunity to obtain their off-grid certification.

**NZ MFAT Funding Proposal**

Since the last newsletter SEIAPI and PPA have had a number of meetings with staff from NZ MFAT and both organisations just recently provided further information in response to a number of questions. SEIAPI and PPA both feel that is now closer to the point where there will be formal submission in the format required by NZ MFAT.

Please contact the secretariat on info@seiapi.com if you would like further information. (Yes still having internet issues for the SEIAPI website)

SEIAPI secretariat will update the members on this proposal when any information is available.

**Endorsement of Existing Guidelines at Pacific island Energy Officials and Minister Meeting**

Geoff Stapleton (Secretary) and Bruce Clay (Treasurer) attended the Pacific Island Energy Officials and Minister Meeting which was held in Nadi from the 31st March and 4th April 2014. At this meeting the four guidelines were presented for endorsement by the officials and then Ministers.

At the time the secretariat forwarded all members the new version of the guidelines.

**ADB and PRIF Supports Investors Forum**

The ADB and PRIF is supporting the Pacific Energy Investors Forum which will be held at the 23rd Pacific power Association’s Annual Conference in French Polynesia between the 7th and 11th July. At the forum Pacific Governments and the Pacific Power Association (PPA) member utilities will showcase some of the most promising energy investment opportunities in the Pacific. This is an opportunity to assess projects requiring private sector investment that are being currently developed and planned.

A prospectus of projects will be forwarded to interested parties ahead of the Forum.

If interested Register your interest online:

https://pacificinvestorsforum.wufoo.com/forms/z10btqo9104esqo/

**Projects in the Region**

In each newsletter the SEIAPI committee would like to highlight what is happening with EE and RE in the region. We therefore request members to send us information on RE systems installed or EE initiatives undertaken so that we can include it in the newsletter. The following is information on one new systems and one proposed system

# *New 90kW Solar System Niue*

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On the 1st May a 90kW solar system was formally opened at Niue International airport by the Premier Honourable Toke Talagi

The system was designed; supplied and installed by SEIAPI member CBS Power Solutions a Fijian based renewable energy company. This project was funded by the European Union for the Government of Nuie.

The system comprises of 3 SMA 10kW Tripower and 17 3kW Sunny Boys. Originally the 17 single PHASE systems was to be deployed to water pumping stations, however due to land management issues, it was later decided to have all the solar systems installed at the one location i.e Nuie Airport site. This brings the total solar power on the island of Niue to 341kW. Niue has a base load of approximately 380kW and peak load of 600 to 700kW. The power station comprises of 4 508kW generators. The recently installed PV systems means Niue now have one of the highest PV penetrations on a grid within the Pacific Region.

The key benefits of this project reduced dependency of fossil fuel. There will be saving on carbon emission and reduced fuel cost.

***650kw Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Carport Facility for Marianas***

SEIAPI’s latest member : MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA SOLAR has been awarded a USDA REAP GRANT AWARD to Construct a 650kw Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Carport Facility  
  
  
Mr. Joseph Diego, Area Director for USDA Rural Development, announced the selection of the Marianas Business Plaza Solar (MBPS), to receive a $500,000 grant. The total cost of this 650kw solar photovoltaic (PV) carport system is about $2.3 million. The funding is being provided through USDA Rural Development’s Rural Energy for American Program (REAP).  
  
Diego stated, “We are so pleased to have received this financial assistance for a thriving small business on Saipan. Not only does this major solar project contribute to a better and cleaner environment, it also reduces the high cost of electricity on Saipan, and further, it contributes to the CNMI’s renewable energy portfolio required by law.”  
  
This first ever 650kw solar photovoltaic carport project, when completed, will be the biggest solar system, not only in the CNMI, but in the region as well. The facility will provide power for the Marianas Business Plaza building in Susupe, Saipan and to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) under a net-metering agreement. The former Nauru building is one of the biggest commercial buildings on Saipan and boosts eight floors. The building houses restaurants, law offices, educational organizations, and more. The carports will be erected at the front of the building and will serve multiple purposes: (1) they will carry the over 2000 solar panels and serve as carport covers, and (2) they will serve as permanent covers for night and day markets, tourist activities, car shows, and other events.   
  
Erick Van Der Maas, part owner of the Marianas Business Plaza Solar, stated: “We sincerely appreciate the USDA’s confidence in MBPS as indicated by this great award and so honored to have been selected after competing at the national level for the grant. We believe in the critical importance that solar energy plays in not only making life more affordable, but in helping the rest of the planet fight against climate change and global warming. But this project is not just about providing cleaner, safer, and cheaper energy, it’s about providing jobs and activities for locals and tourists, and it’s about helping our local economy grow stronger.”

***Telecommunications System New Caledonia***

Telecom towers’ extremely remote location on South Pacific island location posed a challenge for the site operators

Constant uptime, minimal operating expenditure and reliability were key factors for choosing an off-grid renewable energy system

The hybrid wind and solar system designed by UGE and Self Energy Pacific exceeds performance expectations, facilitating communication services during difficult conditions without diesel generator backup

**Telecom services as pristine as their South Pacific surroundings**

Nearly all telecom operators face an ongoing challenge: maintaining constant service even in remote locations. But the island of Île Ouen in New Caledonia takes “remote” to a new level. The island’s three telecom towers can only be accessed by helicopter, meaning that any trip for the South Pacific telecom company OPT is an ordeal and an added expense.

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Without roads or excess resources, finding a reliable and efficient power source for the towers became a must for OPT. The company selected local Partner Self Energy Pacific and UGE to design and install a solar PV, wind, and battery hybrid system. The varied renewable energy sources help OPT maintain constant uptime while still reducing the overall operating expenditures.

Traditionally, telecom operators have turned to inefficient, costly diesel generators for similar situations. By utilizing the abundant wind and solar potential on the island, OPT has eliminated the waste and inefficiencies associated with diesel, while spending less money on operating the sites in the process. Perhaps most importantly, the company has greater peace of mind: During a recent storm that ravaged New Caledonia, all three of the UGE/Self Energy Pacific towers maintained uptime, facilitating critical communication, which is needed more than ever during rough weather conditions.

Though upfront costs for hybrid renewable energy systems have typically been a deterring factor for telecoms operators, financing capabilities now can eliminate this burden. The project on Île Ouen is saving time, money, resources, and for anyone lucky enough to visit the island, keeping the surroundings as beautiful as they are today.

**Project Details**

Location:  Île Ouen, New Caledonia

Site Details: 900W Load, 24 hours per day

UGE Solution: 6kW solar PV, eddyGT 1kW wind turbine, 2500Ah 48V VRLA Gel battery bank

**WEBSITE**

Unfortunately the website is still unavailable due to it being compromised by hackers last year. Bruce Clay is working with a new website company in Fiji and it is hoped that it will be operating again very soon.

Die to the issue the website will be changing to www.seiapi.com

The secretariat can now receive e-mails at info@seiapi.com

**Membership Update**

The secretariat has not been actively seeking new members while it has been concentrating on securing funding to facilitate a full time person. This year the association is going to start a new membership drive particularly for those companies not based on the region but operating and/or supplying product to the region.

**Current membership is 65 comprising:**

Industry members 32

Associate Members 16

Honorary Members 17