

SEIAPI April 2025 Newsletter

RE NEWS

Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands



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USP awards Building tender to CBS Power Solutions

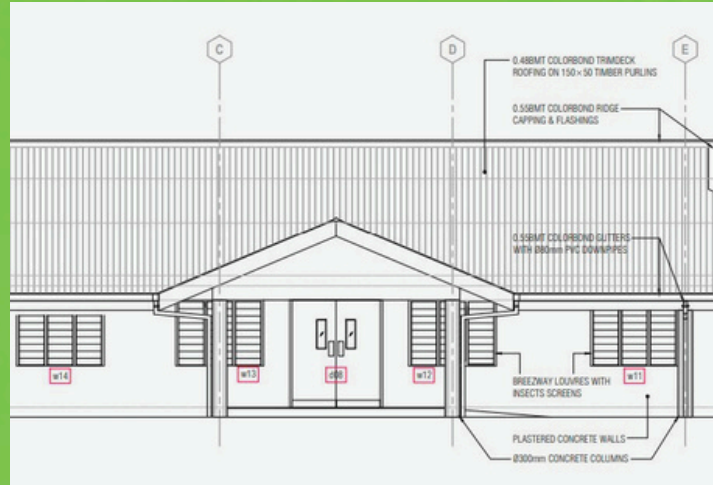
This month has seen a remarkable development with the University of the South Pacific awarding the Pacific Regional Sustainable Energy Training Centre building construction tender to CBS Power Solutions (Fiji) Ltd. CBS Power Solutions Fiji Ltd is a Renewable Energy Services Provider and General Contractors based in Fiji and delivering projects across the Pacific region. The building tender was released by USP's Estates and Infrastructure department in September last year. The training centre building is funded by a private foundation and is being built at USP Pacific TAFE, Statham Campus, Suva, Fiji.

The funding includes construction of a new training centre building, a PV/Battery system for the building, equipment for undertaking practical training and hiring of two Fiji-based full-time trainer.

The training centre building will comprise a large training workshop space, a lecture/tutorial room, storage space, office space for two trainers and a washroom. There will be a simulated roof at the back where trainees will practice mounting of solar panels. The building will have a roof-top grid connected solar PV system and a battery energy storage system. The PV/BESS system is designed to power all the training centre loads under normal conditions.

The building construction is expected to finish in the next 6-9 months. SEIAPI is excited to be an initiator and contributor to this initiative and they intend to work closely with USP on various training models to benefit the solar tradesman, technicians and engineers in the region.

The regional training centre will be the regional hub working in collaboration with in-country training centres to deliver virtual training making training accessible in the respective countries and supporting them to deliver accredited training on sustainable energy building regional capacity.



Pacific and SEIAPI @ the Smart Energy Council Conference and Exhibition

The Smart Energy Council Conference and Exhibition was held in Sydney on 9th and 10th April, 2025.

Pacific leaders/ministers/officials that were in attendance included:

- *President of Palau, President Surangel Whipps Jr.*
- *Hon Mona AINU'u, Minister for Natural Resources, Niue*
- *Hon. Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa*
- *Coral Pasisi, SPC's Director of Climate Change and Sustainability (based in Niue)*
- *Luke Daunivalu Former High Commissioner of Fiji to Australia and Former Fiji Ambassador to the United Nations in New York and Geneva*



**SAVE ENERGY!
HARNESS RE
TECHNOLOGIES!
GO SOLAR!**



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SEIAPI's Executive Officer, Mr Geoff Stapleton was invited to be a member of panel of the session titled:

THE ROLE OF THE PACIFIC AT COP31: ENHANCING REGIONAL COLLABORATION FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION

The session was chaired by Kesaya Baba, the senior manager COP31, World Wide Fund (WWF)-Australia

The other panelist included:

- Coral Pasisi SPC's Director of Climate Change and Sustainability
- Luke Daunivalu Former High Commissioner of Fiji to Australia and Former Fiji Ambassador to the United Nations in New York and Geneva
- Manjusha Thorpe: Senior Analyst, Asia Pacific Independent Project Analysis (IPA)
- Richie Merzian, Clean Energy Investor Group

Mr. Stapleton spoke after Mr. Daunivalu and Ms. Pasisi and was given the opportunity to speak on the activities of SEIAPI since its formation in 2010 and how its activities were similar to those undertaken in Australia in the 1990s and 2000s.

Mr. Stapleton was also invited to a roundtable lunch in honor of the representatives from the Pacific.

Other SEIAPI members were also involved with a session titled: POWERING THE PACIFIC'S REMOTE COMMUNITIES WITH CLEAN ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

This session provided an overview of the Australia DFAT Renew Pacific Program by Mohammed Angawi Team Leader, REnew Pacific. Presentations on their Renew Pacific supported projects were given by SEIAPI members:

Gavin Pereira Founder, Superfly (Solomon Islands) and Rob Edwards, CEO, Its Time Foundation (Fiji)

The final presentation in that session was given by Yolanda Dasgupta, Technical Health Advisor, for the NGO Respond Global. SEIAPI has been liaising with Yolanda with respect to their HELPR and in particular HELPR1 program in Vanuatu. (<https://respondglobal.com/helpr/>). HELPR1 is boat that travels around the provinces of Vanuatu providing health care services at the various clinic. However, on the boat are 2 solar technicians who undertake maintenance service on the solar systems on the clinics and the homes of the staff of the clinics. These 2 technicians are currently undertaking solar training through USP Pacific TAFE.



SEIAPI welcomes new members

New members that have recently joined include:

- Techno (Fiji) Pte Ltd
- Solar Juice
- AC Solar Warehouse Pty Ltd

To join SEIAPI, please visit:

<https://www.seiapi.com/joining-seiapi/>



WORLD EARTH DAY TUESDAY 22ND APRIL 2025 THEME: "OUR POWER, OUR PLANET"

Did you know?

In 2022, the International Energy Agency (IEA) forecasted that by 2050, one-quarter of the world's electricity needs would be generated by solar panels.

32nd PPA Annual Conference and Trade Exhibition – Koror, Palau
Koror, Palau from 22 September – 25 September 2025

Please visit: www.ppa.org

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SEIAPI's mission to Kiribati

The SEIAPI secretariat had been contacted by Mr Roman Korimara, the project manager of the Promoting Outer Island Development through the Integrated Energy Roadmap (POIDIER) project. POIDIER is managed by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy (MISE). Kiribati had passed the Energy Act in 2022 and Mr Korimara was working on the renewable Energy Regulations. Under this act there will be licensing for two different categories: grid connect generation system greater than 100kW, mini grids in the outer islands and permits required for grid connect and off grid systems less than 100kW. The installations will be undertaken by licensed PV contractors/installers and SEIAPI had been approached with respect to what training should be undertaken within Kiribati for individuals to be licensed.

The SEIAPI executive officer, Mr Geoff Stapleton and SEIAPI secretary, Mr Sandip Kumar had ongoing communication with both Mr Korimara and also trainers at the Kiribati Institute of Technology.

On April 28th, Mr Stapleton travelled to Tarawa, Kiribati and had meetings with:

- Mr Korimara and other staff at MISE
- Mr Mikaere Tioro and Mr Tikaua Teriaki from KIT
- Mr David Drake, CEO of Public Utilities Board
- Staff from DFAT at the Australian High Commission, and
- Mrs Nuntaake Tokamauea, CEO of Kiribati Green Energy Solutions (KGES)

SEIAPI will continue working with MISE and KIT to arrange training later in the year along with providing advice on the regulations that is being finalized by MISE.



Meeting with KGES



Geoff's visit to KIT



Meeting with MISE



11 year old PV system in Kiribati

Vanuatu to benefit soon through REnew Pacific

Over 84,000 people living in Vanuatu's remote communities are about to experience cleaner energy, safer water and better healthcare, thanks to REnew Pacific's first two local projects announced in April.

These include:

🚑 40 health centres across 6 provinces that will get new or refurbished solar power systems, providing 24/7 energy to healthcare for around 80,000 people living in some of Vanuatu's most remote communities, powered by our project with Respond Global.

😊 8 off-grid Vanuatu communities will get solar-powered water pumping systems, improving water security and sanitation for over 4,700 people. It will also power 24 health centres and schools with clean, reliable energy, thanks to our new GGGI Pacific project.

🔗 For more information to apply before applications close on 28 April, visit <https://renewpacific.com.au>



Source: REnew Pacific facebook page

First 20 Solar systems for Health Centres

The HELPR-1 Climate Adaptation Program (CAP) team landed ashore at Loh Island in the remote province of Torba, Vanuatu to kick off the first 20 solar system installations across remote health facilities. For the first time since its establishment, Loh's newly declared Heath Centre which serves over 2000 people, will have reliable power. It will provide access to lighting, uninterrupted power for medical equipment, vaccine and medication storage and IT and office equipment. This is supported with partnership through REnew Pacific project.

Photos available on page 4 (Photo Gallery) of this newsletter.

For more information, please visit Respond Global Linked In page

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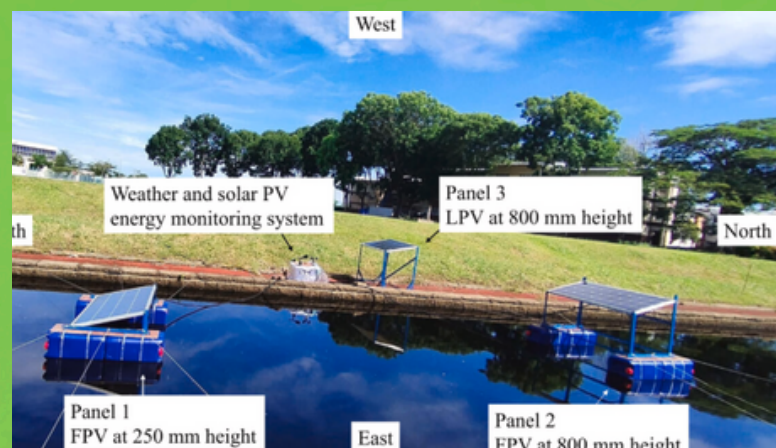
TECHNICAL ARTICLES

Testing floating PV at different heights

Researchers from Malaysia's Curtin University have compared the thermal behavior of floating PV (FPV) with different heights, also benchmarking it against a land-based system. The cooling effect made the high-height FPV the most effective system. In terms of power generation, the high-height FPV reached a peak performance improvement of 2.45% over the low-height FPV.

It also reached a peak performance improvement of 1.47% over the LPV during the afternoon. FPV.

For more information, please visit PV magazine website.



Bundled conduit improves residential rooftop solar install times

A pre-assembled conduit manufactured in Australia by Victoria-based balance-of-system supplier PV Connections has reduced installation time of rooftop solar systems by up to 20%. (Nov 6, 2024)

PV Connections Director Rick Arkcoll told PV magazine the Solarflex dramatically reduces the time needed to feed multiple cables through a site during installation. "With this product, you have one, pre-wired conduit that you feed from the roof, which is the best way because of the weight, down Through the roof cavity to the inverter in one run and then it's all done," he said. "It makes it a lot easier on site, which saves time and money, because it's easier, safer and faster, minimising time needed to be inside a roof. It's also pre-branded 'solar'." It can be used inside a roof space and is

rated for underground use, including submerged in temporary or permanent ground water, allowing for standalone buildings to separately host a solar installation, such as on a garage, and inverter on a house. For more information, please visit pv-magazine.com

PHOTO GALLERY

Source: Respond Global LinkedIn page



Offloading of system components for health centre project



Offloading in progress



System installation of health centre project

For more updates, please visit <http://www.seiapi.com> or email on info@seiapi.com/secretariat@seiapi.com for any queries and comments.

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