

RE NEWS

Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands



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SEIAPI AGM 2025

Update on SEIAPI-supported USP Sustainable Energy Training Centre



This month saw SEIAPI holding its 2025 Annual General Meeting via ZOOM on 21 August. 25 people joined the meeting. The Executive Committee elections are as follows:

Chair: Peter Johnston (Fiji), Vice-Chair: Praneel Kumar (Fiji), Treasurer: Bruce Clay (Fiji), Secretary: Sandip Kumar (Fiji); and

Six Ordinary Members:

Holland Sikou (Solomon Islands), Ann Marie Daka (Pohnpei FSM), Belinda Strid (Vanuatu), Rob Edwards (Australia/Fiji), Janendra (Jay) Prasad (Fiji/Australia), Vasiti Talakubu (Fiji)

There is a majority of Pacific Island nationals in the new Executive Committee. It is hoped that this might have more impact on SEIAPI's drive to create an enabling environment for the growth of sustainable energy business entities and sustainable energy equipment and energy services in the Pacific Islands.

The full profiles of Executive Committee members will be available soon on the SEIAPI website (www.seiapi.com).

SEIAPI's goal remains to encourage all Pacific based renewable energy / solar PV companies who are not members to join. In the coming year, SEIAPI invites its members to collaborate with the Executive Committee to develop a five-year strategic plan for SEIAPI; strengthen capacity through more training, projects and collaboration; work with each other to identify barriers affecting members; and assist them to deliver sustainable systems with high quality and a competent workforce.

SEIAPI has always relied on the time and energy of a small number of volunteers. Over the next year, our over-arching goal is to lay the framework for SEIAPI to become a sustainable, professional regional organisation that has the capacity to support evolving industry needs and challenges during a period of rapid change and expected continued rapid growth in the Pacific's transition to renewable energy.

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



The construction works for the SEIAPI-supported Pacific Regional Sustainable Energy Training Centre, which is being constructed at the Statham campus of USP's Pacific Technical and Further Education (TAFE) facility is progressing well. The construction contract was awarded by the University of the South Pacific (USP) to CBS Power Solutions earlier in May this year and construction is nearly 40% complete, with walls complete, roofing expected to begin in the coming weeks, and completion expected by January 2026. A second tender for the solar/battery (BESS) system that will power the building is about to be released by USP. Two full-time trainers and solar training equipment are also funded under the same grant arranged by SEIAPI with a private foundation. Applicants for the position of Solar Co-ordinator have been interviewed and a person is expected to be hired soon.

A SEIAPI/USP Pacific TAFE Collaboration Agreement for the training centre has been drafted and is awaiting acceptance and signing by USP. SEIAPI is committed towards helping to create a trained and competent workforce for the sustainable energy industry.

2025 Pacific Infrastructure Conference

August 2025 Newsletter

Pacific Climate Change Roundtable



Opening of Pacific Climate Change roundtable., Samoa

The Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR), guided by the theme “1.5 to stay alive and thrive,” took place at Taumeasina Island Resort (Apia, Samoa) from 13-15 August.

The PCCR was attended by Pacific governments, youths, civil society, academia, NGOs, and the private sector to engage collectively through interactive activities to share their experiences amongst peers, bolster their networks and utilise the event to initiate new partnership opportunities.

The PCCR follows the Pacific Regional Loss and Damage Dialogue 2025 and the inaugural Pacific Youth Dialogue on Loss and Damage, at the same venue in Samoa.

There is an urgent call from Pacific Islands to utilise the recent advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that gives a mechanism to hold states and superpower countries accountable for their actions contributing to the loss and damages caused by climate change.

Representatives from the Pacific region were engaged in discussions on ways to get justice for the loss and damages caused by climate change to the Pacific countries emanating from the actions of superpowers and industrial countries. Loss and Damage as an issue remains of critical importance to the Pacific.

Climate change causes harm to our families, communities and countries and these are set to continue even under the most favourable emissions pathways.

Representatives shared the impact of climate change to their countries and have called on a collective action from Pacific leaders. With the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) leaders meeting coming up in September in the Solomon Islands, several representatives have asked how climate change can be a priority at the PIF meetings.

There was also a two-day session for youth who voiced concern and what they hope to see happen in the future. Although they understand climate change is a complex issue, they remain hopeful and are determined to be “heard and seen”.



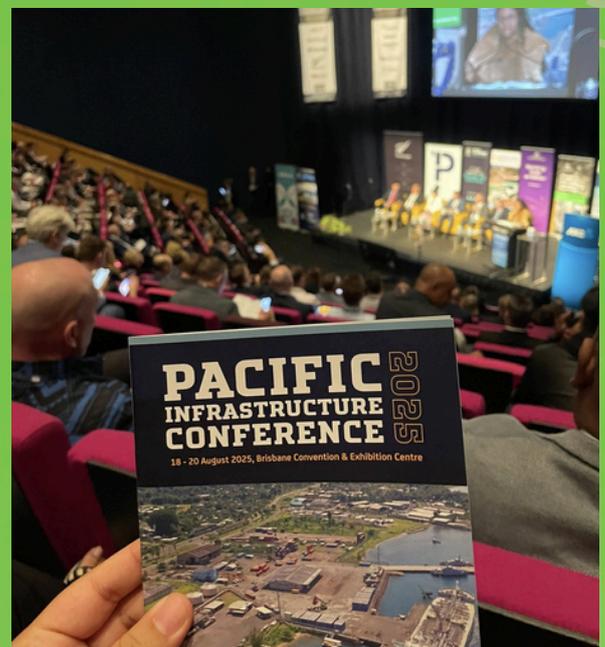
Channel dredging in Vanuatu (Photo: Halls Contracting)

The 2025 Pacific Infrastructure Conference was held in Brisbane, Australia from Monday, 18 August to Wednesday, 20 August 2025 to discuss national and regional infrastructure plans.

The conference united leaders, development partners, and business professionals from Australia and 16 Pacific Island Countries to discuss regional infrastructure priorities. The Pacific infrastructure gap requires USD3.1 billion in investment every year as revealed by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General, Baron Waqa. According to Baron Waqa, Fiji lost 31% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) due to Cyclone Winston back in 2016. He added that a volcanic eruption in Tanna (Vanuatu) in 2022 resulted in damage equivalent to 18.5% of the country’s GDP. And most recently, the 7.3 magnitude earthquake that struck (Vanuatu) in December 2024 triggered an estimated USD230 million in recovery costs. For more information:

visit

<https://islandsbusiness.com/newsbreak/infrastructure-gap-requires-usd3-1-billion/>



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1203471065135123&set=pcb.1203471551801741>

August 2025 Newsletter

Bank of Tuvalu invests in climate friendly energy security



The Bank of Tuvalu recently installed a solar energy storage system providing uninterrupted power. This solar system was installed at the main branch of the Bank of Tuvalu in Funafuti, the capital island of Tuvalu. The installation offers several advantages: it brings improved power stability, energy security, greatly reduced energy costs and leads by example in climate-friendly commerce.

The system comprises a 40kWp array of solar panels. A Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) RS 450/100 solar charge controller harvests the energy and stores it in the battery bank. There are three Fronius Symo PV three-phase AC inverters of 10 kW each, together with three MultiPlus-II 48/15 kVA inverterchargers, which can control battery charging from excess solar energy. The system employs a ZYC lithium battery bank of over 60kWh capacity.

The energy system was collaboratively designed, engineered and installed by three regional organisations: Victron Energy distributor Solar Fiji being responsible for device procurement, installation and oversight; whilst Sulani Green and Electrify EnergyMonkey provided system commissioning, local support and diagnostics. For more information, please visit: www.victronenergy.com



Solar for households Guide

The Australia Government's, department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) has a guidance link for solar for households - <https://www.energy.gov.au/solar>. The government-backed guide about rooftop solar for your home, including what to consider when buying a rooftop solar and battery system, though developed for Australia, could be relevant to the Pacific in most aspects. Some excerpts from the guide have been included below that may be useful and relevant to the Pacific readers.

The benefits of solar

Installing rooftop solar can:

- reduce your household electricity bills
- protect you from electricity price rises
- reduce the cost of charging an electric vehicle
- help reduce the cost of getting off gas (and eliminate gas bills altogether)
- significantly reduce your household greenhouse gas emissions.

The cost of solar

How much you will pay for a rooftop solar system depends on a range of factors including:

- the solar system's size
- the brand and quality of the hardware components
- the quality of the installation and level of after-sales service
- challenges to installation, such as a steep roof, difficult access or a multi-storey building
- extras that might be needed, such as an upgraded switchboard, rack mounting or extended cabling
- adding a battery, which can be a large upfront cost.

Steps to getting solar

To get a quality solar system that suits your household needs, your budget and rooftop:

- Find out what size solar system you need and estimate the cost and savings
- Discover the financial benefits and government rebates on offer (if applicable)
- Get to know the basics of solar technology
- Explore rooftop solar design options
- Choose a reputable solar installer
- Get ready for installation day
- Get the most from your rooftop solar system

For more information, please visit: <https://www.energy.gov.au/solar>

August 2025 Newsletter

32nd PPA Conference

The 32nd Pacific Power Association Annual Conference & Trade Exhibition will be held from 22-25 September 2025 at the Ngarachamayong Cultural Centre in Koror, Palau, hosted by Palau Public Utilities Corporation.

The PPA Conference will offer delegates a combination of speeches, donor presentations, technical presentations, Utility Board Members workshop, Engineer's Workshop and the Trade Exhibition of products and services by the Allied Members.

Each year the conference gains more participants and it is one of the largest energy conferences in the region, focusing on all aspects of electricity in the Pacific Islands. The 31st Conference held in Tonga was attended by 221 delegates with 38 trade booth displays. The theme for this year's conference is "Smart Grids and Digital Transformation in Energy". There are forty (40) exhibition tables in this year's Trade Exhibition. SEIAPI will be represented with Sandip Kumar (Secretary) assisting in facilitating the Engineer's Workshop during the PPA conference with sessions solar inspections. Outgoing SEIAPI Executive Committee member Zaeen Khan will help present PPA's new five-year strategic plan, developed by Zaeen and SEIAPI chair Peter Johnston.



International Conference

6th International Conference on Solar Technologies and Hybrid Mini-Grids to improve energy access
SAVE THE DATE

8-10 April 2026, Mallorca, Spain

www.energy-access-conferences.com

Regional Conference



32nd PPA Annual Conference and Trade Exhibition

This year's conference will be held at the Ngarachamayong Cultural Centre, Koror, Palau from 22 September – 25 September 2025

Please visit: www.ppa.org

Standards Corner

In recent months, SEIAPI has been conducting webinars related to the current Australia and New Zealand Standards and we will arrange similar webinars for the USA National Electrical Code. To supplement these webinars, the newsletter includes this 'standards' corner highlighting an installation identified during a site visit in the Pacific that does not comply with relevant standards, SEIAPI guidelines or international best practices.



The above photo illustrates cables only supported by plastic cable ties and single insulated cables used between modules. This does not comply with the following standard requirements:

- AS/NZS 5033:2021 4.4.3.3 / AS/NZS 5033:2021 4.4.6.2 - Double insulation must be maintained between any live conductor and any earthed or exposed conductive part
- AS/NZS 5033:2021 4.3.2.3.1 - The method of cable support and fixing shall have a lifetime greater than or equal to the life of the PV system. Plastic cable ties shall not be used as a primary means of support.



The photo above shows that appropriate solar dc cables have been used (conductor double insulated where the calculated PV d.c. circuit maximum voltage is above 35 v). Also, stainless steel cable clips have been used for cable management to improve durability of the cable support.

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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