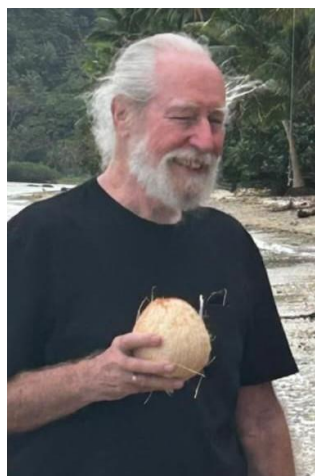


Day 1: Opening Session



Peter Johnston: Chair, SEIAPI

Peter Johnston is a Fiji citizen with degrees in aerospace engineering (BE, Ohio State University), science and technology policy (MSc, Sussex University) and environmental management (MSc, University of London). He has been involved in national economic planning, sustainable energy and environmental issues in the Pacific, and to a lesser extent Southeast Asia since the 1970s. He taught at the University of the South Pacific (foundation physics), was Energy Adviser, Fiji's Ministry of Finance (Canadian IDRC, late 1970s), Chief Planning Officer (sectoral) in Fiji's Central Planning Office and was Fiji's first Director of Energy in 1981. He managed a UNDP-funded regional energy programme for the Pacific Islands in the 1980s, was chief technical adviser for a national environmental advisory programme in Cambodia in the 1990s, and has been a consultant with ADB, DFAT, MFAT, the EU, GIZ, GGGI, PRIF, SPC, SPREP, the World Bank, UNIDO and other regional and international organizations. He was lead consultant for ADB/PRIF and SPC for an external review of the 2010-2020 Pacific regional energy framework and for development of the subsequent 2021-2030 regional framework. He was also lead consultant for the Pacific Power Association's 2025-2029 strategic plan, with a strong focus on the transition to renewable energy.



Geoff Stapleton AO Executive Officer, SEIAPI

Geoff Stapleton specialised in solar (PV) energy in the final year of his electrical engineering degree at UNSW in 1981. He joined BP Solar Australia on 1987. In 1989 he started his own company on the south coast of NSW, Australia where he designed, installed and maintained off grid power systems. In 1998 he was one of the co-founders of Global Sustainable Energy Solutions Pty Ltd (GSES). Geoff has undertaken projects in Australia, Africa, Asia and the Pacific islands and travels extensively. Geoff was a part-time senior lecturer at the UNSW School of PV and RE Engineering from 2003 to 2015. Geoff played an active role in the various Australian industry associations from 1991. In 2010 Geoff helped to form SEIAPI and in 2022 he stepped down as managing director of GSES to focus on being the executive officer of SEIAPI



Rob Edwards OAM Founder, Its Time Foundation

With degrees in anatomy and physiology, Rob worked for five years in cardiac rehabilitation where he wrote the successful book "Better Blood Pressure". As a leader for 15 years in the health and well-being industry, his Workplace Health Appraisals Program engaged over 30,000 participants at all levels of business across Australia and NZ. As a conference speaker, his focus is simply to encourage people to take a brief time out to consider their most important asset - themselves. We can't look after other people unless we look after ourselves first. "It's All About You!" Rob received the Order of Australia Medal as founder and CEO of Its Time Foundation, that installs solar in remote Pacific Island schools, also his plastic free oceans projects and remote women's health initiatives. The week, before the SEIAPI conference, Its Time Foundation is delivering a remote school solar system installed by 15+ women - as part of its strategy to build women's capacity in the renewables industry.

Day 1: Session 2

How the Renewable Energy Council of Asia Pacific is supporting small associations like SEIAPI?



Mr John Grimes CEP Smart Energy Council (Australia)

John Grimes was appointed Chief Executive in 2008, and has grown the profile and influence of the Smart Energy Council since that time. John is a bold advocate for the smart energy industry and sits on a number of expert reference committees and boards providing advice to several state governments and the energy sector.

John started his career as an officer in the Air Force and went on to found and grow a number of companies, including a startup company he took to a successful listing on the ASX with a market capitalisation in excess of \$30m. His most recent company was in the environmental sector with operations in Australia, the US and the Middle East.

John has a passion for the solar, storage and the smart energy industry. He is regularly called upon by the media to provide relevant and independent comment in these areas.

Where are the \$ supporting the transition coming from? Multi-Laterals



Mr Tim Gill Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

Timothy Gill is Director, Climate Infrastructure at DFAT's Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP) where he leads implementation of the Pacific Climate Infrastructure Financing Partnership. He has worked on Australia's official aid program for nineteen years with a focus on climate, renewable energy, food security, education and health, including diplomatic postings in Kiribati and Fiji. He holds a Masters in Human Rights Law, graduate qualifications in agriculture and humanitarian leadership, and a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Molecular Biology.



Roxanne Castelein Programme Manager Climate Change Mitigation and Energy at European Commission

Roxane Castelein has 15 years of experience working in energy and climate finance and lives in Suva since 2018. She is the focal point for climate change mitigation (energy and decarbonisation of transport) at the delegation of the European Union for the Pacific.

Prior to that she worked at the Global Green Growth Institute, based in Fiji as well, as regional investment lead for the Pacific.

Before moving to the Pacific, Roxane worked in Chile at the Ministry of Energy where she was managing a programme supporting local authorities defining and implementing their climate action plans.

Roxane holds a Msc in engineering in applied mathematics and a Msc in local economic development from the London School of Economics.



Jonathan Pryke: Principal Operations Specialist (Kiribati, Niue, Tonga and Tuvalu) South Pacific Subregional Office Asian Development Bank

Jonathan Pryke is a Principal Operation Specialist at the Asian Development Bank's Subregional Office in Suva where oversees ADB's economic analysis and project programming for four Pacific nations.

Jonathan has a career in the Pacific spanning more than 15 years across the multilateral, bilateral and academic sectors. Prior to joining ADB Jonathan was Lead Economist for the Pacific for the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs for three years. He was Director of the Lowy Institute's Pacific Islands Program for seven years and began his career as a researcher at the Australian National University's Development Policy Centre.

Vineil Narayan: Director for Energy in the Pacific. United Nations Development Programme



*Vineil Narayan is a Development Finance and Social Inclusion Specialist with over 10 years of experience in national economic planning, climate finance, and sustainable development across Fiji and the Pacific. He currently serves as project manager for UNDP's Blue Economy and renewable energy portfolio, where he has managed multi-million-dollar programmes advancing innovative public and private financing solutions to support marginalised and climate-vulnerable communities. In addition to leading ocean finance initiatives, Vineil manages the UNDP Pacific Multi-Country Office's flagship renewable energy initiative — the **Fiji Rural Electrification Fund (FREF) Support Project** — implemented on behalf of the Government of Fiji. The project is rolling out integrated solar mini-grids across rural and maritime communities, strengthening energy security, enabling productive use of energy, and catalysing inclusive local economic development. Vineil has played a catalytic role in mobilising climate and blue finance, including supporting the issuance of Fiji's first sovereign green and blue bonds and securing substantial co-financing for sustainable private-sector-led initiatives. His work consistently integrates Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) principles into financing frameworks, renewable energy deployment, and policy design, advancing resilient and inclusive energy access across Pacific Island countries.*

Day 1: Session 2B

Interview with SEI-API Lifetime Member; Dr Herbert Wade



Herbert A. Wade lived in Missouri from his birth late in 1939 until his move shortly after High School to the U.S Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He graduated from Naval Academy with honors in 1961 and following his Naval Service he received his MBA in 1967 (University of Rhode Island) and his PhD in 2008 (Clermont School of Business). His work over the years has been focused on solar energy—initially on its use in Asia and Africa for power distribution into isolated areas. In the more recent years, his interest has been largely focused on solar use for the power development of Islands in the Pacific and the integration of solar power into the grids of the islands.

Day 1: Session 3

Technical Solutions to Support the Transition



Margreet Leeftink: Technical trainer/Sales Victron Energy

Margreet Leeftink is an electronics engineer and senior professional at Victron Energy with more than three decades of industry experience. She began her career with Victron in the early 1990s as a service engineer, before moving into purchasing, product administration and technical documentation. Her strong technical foundation led naturally into roles that required both precision and clarity in communication.

After relocating to Australia, she took on responsibility for sales in the region, combining commercial accountability with deep product knowledge. She has worked extensively with distributors and installers, supporting system design, compliance and product integration across diverse markets.

Her current role focuses on technical training and sales for New Zealand and the Pacific. She develops and delivers structured training programmes, builds practical training systems, and ensures that partners understand how to design and integrate Victron systems correctly. Her work sits at the intersection of engineering, education and commercial strategy.



Purna Chava Clenergy

Purna Sai Rama Krishna (Purna) Chava is a Sales Engineer at Clenergy, supporting customers across Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, New Zealand, and the Asia-Pacific region. He holds a Master's degree in Structural Engineering and has several years of hands-on experience delivering structural assessments and wind compliance reviews for solar PV installations.

He has worked across both rooftop and ground-mount applications, giving him practical insight into how design standards and product detailing translate into real-world constructability, safety, and long-term performance.

At the SEI/API Conference 2026, he will present on "Wind Standards and Key Design Considerations for PV Mounting Systems", with a focus on interpreting AS/NZS 1170.2:2021 and the key site parameters that drive basic wind pressures, the critical first step in a safe and robust PV design for Pacific conditions.



Francisco G. Vozza, Director of Business Development, Floating Solar - Fred Olsen 1848

Francisco G. Vozza is an Argentine-Italian economist with two decades of experience across the global energy sector. He has held senior commercial and strategic roles at Equinor, Scatec, and SolarDuck, spanning oil and gas, renewables, and floating solar (FPV). His career has focused on business development, corporate strategy, and new market entry for clean energy solutions worldwide. Operating at the intersection of technology, capital, and market design, he has consistently translated strategic ambition into scalable, executable growth platforms.

He is currently Director of Business Development, Floating Solar at Fred. Olsen 1848, based in Oslo (Norway). He leads global market development for nearshore FPV, shaping commercial strategy, partnerships, and project origination. His focus is on deploying bankable solutions in island, port, and coastal markets, where nearshore FPV can deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable power.



Brandon Cook, Mindaro (Part of GSES Group)

Brandon Cook is Operations Manager at Mindaro, a NSW-based engineering consultancy specialising in utility-scale solar, battery energy storage systems (BESS) and EV infrastructure. After seven years as a design engineer, he moved into operations leadership, where he now oversees project delivery systems, resourcing and engineering quality across the business.

At Mindaro, Brandon leads the engineering team responsible for delivering detailed design and IFC documentation across projects ranging from 100kW commercial and industrial systems to large utility scale projects up to 300 MW. His remit focuses on team performance, technical standards and delivery consistency across utility-scale solar, grid-connected BESS and complex C&I deployments. He combines hands-on technical expertise with

a disciplined focus on process, performance and scalability, strengthening engineering outputs in a rapidly expanding renewable energy market.

Day 1: Session 4

Land Art Generator Initiative (LAGI)



Ms Loma Mataika

Master of Engineering Architecture, Nagoya Institute of Technology. Owner Atelier 153, an architecture and art-driven studio based in Suva with an extensive portfolio spanning the country, including the outer islands.

With two decades of industry experience and academic training in architecture and sustainable building design across Japan, Australia, Germany, Portugal, and Fiji, the business has refined its approach and lead clients through a journey of discovery, from unconventional concepts to beautifully unexpected outcomes.

Loma is the Founder and Director of Women in Sports Hub (WISH) Fiji. Also, Chair and Board Member of the Solar Fund (Fiji)

Building Women's Capacity in the Industry



Lauren Hamilton, Head of Marketing & Partnerships at Smart Commercial Energy

Lauren Hamilton is Head of Marketing & Partnerships at Smart Commercial Energy, where she runs a full-service B2B program including content marketing, PR, design and digital communications. With more than 20 years in marketing, including a decade running her own digital agency, she holds a BA in Communication Studies, with expertise in business-to-business growth strategies.

Lauren is a passionate environmentalist and has worked in clean energy since 2022. She is a board member of AWISE (Australian Women in Solar Energy) and an in-demand speaker, presenting at industry events including Solar & Storage Live, the Smart Energy Expo and AWISE's Recharge Your Spark.

Through Smart, Lauren has been proud to support the One Sun initiative, which delivers renewable energy projects to communities across Pacific Island nations to support energy equity.



Julianne Verma Managing, Director Toorak Central Hospitality

Julianne is a seasoned executive with over two decades of experience in Fiji and the Pacific Islands. She holds Diplomas in Project Management and Land Use Planning/Development from The University of The South Pacific.

In recent years a leader in the properties and construction sectors – property management, project and construction management – she has grown a significant properties portfolio from scratch. From pre-purchase, due diligence to conveyance work to post settlement renovations, tenanting, all aspects of project and operations management. These roles have further developed and honed the management and leadership skills required for the industry.

Julianne is Founder and Chairwoman of Women in Construction and Trade Fiji.



Oliana Nayago - Industry and Community Liaison Officer at the University of the South Pacific (USP)

Mrs. Oliana Nayago holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of the South Pacific, majoring in Computing Science and Mathematics. She currently serves as the Industry and Community Liaison Officer at the University of the South Pacific. In this role, she works closely with students, faculty, and industry partners to strengthen pathways between academia and the workforce, particularly in technology, engineering, and innovation.

Over the years, she has had the privilege of leading and facilitating several impactful initiatives, including the FJ STEAM Princess Project, which empowers young women in Fiji and Tonga through technology and innovation bootcamps. Through funding from the US Embassy Suva, FJ STEAM Princess conducted bootcamps in Fiji and Tonga to ignite, create awareness of, and re-invent an interest in STEAM subjects and careers in young girls in the Pacific in a fun and creative way – exposing our princesses to a series of workshop sessions, guest lectures, and hands-on science activities.



Vasiti Talakubu

The Solar Fund's Retained Maintenance Contractor

At the Training and Productivity Authority at Narere Campus Vasiti completed the Electrical Trades Certificate and Class 3 Trades and recent the Electrical Inspectors Course with Global Sustainable Energy Solutions.

Two years' experience as Electrician and Maintenance for Total service stations. Five years with CBS Power Solutions installing and maintaining solar systems across most regions of Fiji, including for remote marine communities and extensive community wiring works. Also, working on high voltage commercial projects on the Fiji mainland. Prior to being invited to this current position at The Solar Fund Fiji, she was the lead Electrician at Vomo Resort.

As well as technical capability, Vasiti brings a passion for increasing women's representation in the electrical and solar industry and is exploring the creation of Fiji Women in Solar.



Alana Wilson Fusitu'a Pacific Director for Blue Planet Alliance

Alana Wilson Fusitu'a is a Native Hawaiian serving as Pacific Director for Blue Planet Alliance, a global nonprofit dedicated to helping islands, states, and countries achieve 100% renewable energy by 2045 while building thriving, resilient communities in harmony with people and nature. In this role, she advances renewable energy transitions, climate finance strategies, and collaborative solutions across Hawai'i and the Pacific Islands.

She holds a self-designed Master's degree in Pacific Islands Studies with a concentration in Climate Finance from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Smith College and Hawai'i Pacific University. A graduate of Kamehameha Schools, she was the first Gates Millennium Scholar from Kaua'i to receive full funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Her professional experience includes roles with AAPI Women Lead under EPIC, Hawai'i State Energy Office, serving as the youngest steering committee member for the first Indigenous Geothermal Rising Symposium and contributing to the HAVEN initiative presented at FESTPAC. Alana is deeply committed to uplifting Indigenous women and girls, particularly in STEM, renewable energy, and climate leadership.



Fiona Dace - Lynn College Director, Trade Skills Canberra Institute of Technology

Fiona is a senior vocational education leader driving Australia's clean energy workforce transition. As Director of Trade Skills at one of Australia's leading technology and training institutes, she leads large-scale portfolios across renewables, EV technologies, construction and emerging industries — aligning training systems with the skills demands of a net zero economy.

Fiona works at the intersection of industry, policy and education, building partnerships that translate innovation into real employment pathways. A passionate advocate for women in male-dominated trades, she champions inclusive workforce strategies that attract, retain and elevate women in construction, energy and technical fields — seeing the renewable transition as a catalyst for cultural and structural change.

With international experience spanning India and the UK, Fiona brings a global perspective to skills reform and workforce development. She is committed to ensuring Australia's clean energy future is powered by a skilled, diverse and industry-connected workforce.

Day 2: Session 1

Overview of the Pacific centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency



**Solomone Fifita, Manager
Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
(PCREEE)**

Mr Solomone Fifita is currently the Manager of the Pacific Community's Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency or PCREEE. He is the former Energy Planner for the Kingdom of Tonga. He has served as Chief Technical Adviser, Project Manager and Team Leader for major regional energy and climate change projects for the Pacific Islands. He was the head of the Regional Energy Programme, housed at the Pacific Community in Suva, Fiji.

Solomone was a lead author in the IPCC's Special Report on Renewable Energy, the IPCC's special report on the 1.5°C Mitigation Pathway and the IPCC's 5th & 6th Assessment Reports.

Solomone was a Lead Reviewer of Annex 1 Parties' National Communications under the UNFCCC.

Solomone has more than 30 years of working experience in the energy sector of the Pacific Islands and holds a Master of Science in Energy Planning and Policy.

How the Global Solar Council is supporting small associations like SEIAPI?



**Sonia Dunlop
CEO Global Solar Council**

Sonia Dunlop is CEO of the Global Solar Council, where she represents the world's solar PV industry with respect to policy-makers, other sectors and the media. She previously worked for SolarPower Europe, Solar Energy UK and the RE-Source Platform. Previously she was for five years part of the senior management team of global climate politics think tank Third Generation Environmentalism (E3G) and worked for the COP26 Glasgow organising team in the UK government. She also spent five years in the European Parliament in Brussels working on renewables policy. She has expertise in solar PV, development finance, renewables, digitalisation of energy, Multilateral Development Banks climate finance and corporate Power Purchase Agreements. Sonia speaks fluent English, French and Italian as well as basic Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese, has two children and is based in London.



**Danny Kennedy
Board of the Global Solar Council**

Danny Kennedy works as a Senior Adviser to the Sunrise Project, Wollemi Capital and various startups and sits on the Board of the Global Solar Council amongst others.

He was the founding CEO of New Energy Nexus, a global platform organization for funds and incubators, with chapters in a dozen countries from 2015-2024. He continues as a Venture Partner with the New Energy Nexus' Catalyst Fund. His focus has moved from innovating new climate solutions to building the ones we've got while continuing to make SFUN! The time value of carbon means we can take no more expensive solutions nor pre-commercial tools. It's time to deploy!*

Where are the \$ supporting the transition coming from? Australia and New Zealand

Mr Tim Gill Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)



Timothy Gill is Director, Climate Infrastructure at DFAT's Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP) where he leads implementation of the Pacific Climate Infrastructure Financing Partnership. He has worked on Australia's official aid program for nineteen years with a focus on climate, renewable energy, food security, education and health, including diplomatic postings in Kiribati and Fiji. He holds a Masters in Human Rights Law, graduate qualifications in agriculture and humanitarian leadership, and a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Molecular Biology.



**Reuben Ross: Acting Director Pacific Energy Partnerships
Department of Climate Change Energy the Environment and
Water (DCCEEW)**

Reuben Ross is the Director of Pacific Energy Partnerships in the Australian Government's International Climate Negotiations Division, where he leads delivery of the \$50 million Australia-Pacific Partnership for Energy Transition (APPET). His work focuses on advancing practical renewable energy outcomes across the Pacific through bilateral partnerships, regional institutions, and flagship initiatives that strengthen regulatory capability, workforce development, and long-term energy system reform. Reuben plays a key role in shaping Australia's climate and energy diplomacy in the Pacific, including support for COP31 priorities, and regularly advises Ministers and senior officials on international energy transition issues. He has worked closely with Pacific governments, regulators, multilateral development banks, and regional organisations to deliver ambitious, partner-led solutions that respond to local needs and priorities.

Pacific Infrastructure Projects Data Base



Jane Romero Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF)

Jane Romero works as Technical Assistance Officer at the Pacific Region Infrastructure facility (PRIF). She has an engineering background and over 20 years of research, coordination and practical experience in infrastructure development. Prior to joining PRIF, she worked with various donors and governments in Asia on climate policy, sustainable transport, climate financing and renewable energy.

Maintaining Quality in Donor Projects



Mr Ravinesh Nand: Partnerships and Portfolio Lead, RENEW Pacific

Ravinesh brings over 2 decades of experience working in the sustainable energy sector, particularly championing renewable energy uptake across Fiji and around Pacific Island Countries, including supporting implementation of solar projects across many countries in Asia and Africa. Ravinesh has worked across Academia, Governments, Private Sector and International Development & Cooperation Agencies in various capacities. Some notable roles he held includes Lecturer in Renewable Energy Engineering at Fiji National University, Assistant Director of Fiji Department of Energy, Senior Energy Advisor at German International Cooperation Agency, Senior Advisor Renewable Energy Business Development at TotalEnergies and Solar Programme Specialist for Asia-Pacific region at the International Solar Alliance. From 2024, he started managing DFAT funded pilot Program for Off-Grid Renewables in the Pacific and is currently the Partnerships and Portfolio Lead of RENEW Pacific program, a Australian Government funded 75M AUD program for the Pacific and Timor Leste, focusing on off-grid renewable energy.

Day 2: Session 2

Implementing a Quality Framework for the Energy Transition



Geoff Stapleton AO Executive Officer SEIAPI

Geoff Stapleton specialised in solar (PV) energy in the final year of his electrical engineering degree at UNSW in 1981. He joined BP Solar Australia on 1987. In 1989 he started his own company on the south coast of NSW, Australia where he designed, installed and maintained off grid power systems. In 1998 he was one of the co-founders of Global Sustainable Energy Solutions Pty Ltd (GSES). Geoff has undertaken projects in Australia, Africa, Asia and the Pacific islands and travels extensively. Geoff was a part-time senior lecturer at the UNSW School of PV and RE Engineering from 2003 to 2015. Geoff played an active role in the various Australian industry associations from 1991. In 2010 Geoff helped to form (SEIAPI and in 2022 he stepped down as managing director of GSES to focus on being the executive officer of SEIAPI.



Dr Ishan Purohit International Solar Alliance

Ishan Purohit is a Program Specialist for the Solar Technology Application Resource Centres (STAR-C) initiative at the International Solar Alliance (ISA), India. STAR-C currently operates in 11 countries and is on track to expand to 20 centres by 2026 toward a goal of 50 centres by 2030. He brings over nine years of experience as a Senior Energy Specialist at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), World Bank Group, where he led renewable energy initiatives across South and East Asia. His work spans utility-scale solar PV, CSP, wind power, battery energy storage systems, and off-grid solutions. He has supervised multiple IFC investment and advisory projects ranging from 100 MW to 1000 MW, including IFC's first 180 MW/360 MWh BESS project commissioned in 2025. Before IFC, Ishan served as Group General Manager–Renewables at Lahmeyer International (now Tractebel Engineering) and earlier worked at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) on national and international renewable energy projects. A prolific contributor to the sector, he has authored over 150 research publications and frequently delivers expert lectures on renewable energy technologies and project development.



Solomone Fifita, Manager Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE)

Mr Solomone Fifita is currently the Manager of the Pacific Community's Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency or PCREEE. He is the former Energy Planner for the Kingdom of Tonga. He has served as Chief Technical Adviser, Project Manager and Team Leader for major regional energy and climate change projects for the Pacific Islands. He was the head of the Regional Energy Programme, housed at the Pacific Community in Suva, Fiji. Solomone was a lead author in the IPCC's Special Report on Renewable Energy, the IPCC's special report on the 1.5°C Mitigation Pathway and the IPCC's 5th & 6th Assessment Reports. Solomone was a Lead Reviewer of Annex 1 Parties' National Communications under the UNFCCC. Solomone has more than 30 years of working experience in the energy sector of the Pacific Islands and holds a Master of Science in Energy Planning and Policy.



Anthony Garae, OPERA Coordinator

Antony Garae recently joined OPERA as its first-ever Coordinator in August 2025. Prior to this, he served as Director of the Department of Energy, Vanuatu, a role he held from 2017, having earlier worked as Principal Scientific Energy Officer (On-Grid). He brings over 11 years of public sector experience in the energy sector. Antony is a graduate Electrical Engineer and holds a Master's degree in Power and Energy Systems Engineering from Auckland University of Technology (AUT), New Zealand. He began his career in the private sector, working with Telecom/Vodafone Vanuatu and Digicel Vanuatu Ltd as a GSM Engineer and ICT Field Engineer, respectively.

	<p>He has represented Vanuatu as its Mitigation Lead and previously served as the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) Just Transition Lead under AOSIS during COP negotiations. During his tenure as Director, Antony led numerous policy, legislative, and regulatory reforms, and oversaw the implementation of energy development projects spanning electrification, renewable energy, energy security, and energy efficiency, working closely with donors and development partners.</p>
	<p>Deepak Chand, Acting Director of Energy, Fiji DOE</p> <p><i>I'm an energy professional with more than 20 years of experience in renewable energy, rural electrification, project management, and energy related policy development. I currently serve as the Acting Director of Energy at the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Meteorological Services, Fiji. I hold a Master of Engineering Science (Emerging Power Systems) from Curtin University, Australia along with a Post-Graduate Diploma in Renewable Energy and a Bachelor of Science from the University of the South Pacific.</i></p> <p><i>I have worked in the areas of Grid extension projects, different types of solar projects, Wind, Ocean Energy, Biomass, and energy-efficiency initiatives across Fiji. I have expertise in policy advisory work, Project development, project lifecycle management, technical evaluations, and stakeholder coordination with development partners. I represented Fiji in numerous international forums, including COP meetings, international assemblies, and regional energy conferences. I'm also coauthor for few Energy related Articles, Policies and strategic planning documents.</i></p> <p><i>I'm also a certified regional trainer in solar hybrid power systems and my professional interests include research in Renewable Energy technologies and applications, policy development, sustainability, energy laws and economic.</i></p>

<h2 style="color: #0070C0;">Day 2: Session 3</h2>	
<h3 style="color: #0070C0;">Initiatives to Achieve Energy Resilience in the Pacific</h3>	
	<p>Richard Neumann: Smart Energy Council</p> <p><i>Richard Neumann is Chair of the Smart Energy Council's Pacific Working Group and is a member of the Franco-Australian Centre for Energy Transition Advisory Council. He is a former diplomat who served overseas in Beijing, Seoul and Taipei, and was Director of the Climate Mitigation and Investment Section in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade from 2019 to 2024. He has been Australia's Senior Official to the Forum for Latin America and East Asia Cooperation and represented Australia at the G20 Energy Working Group and the Asia Development Bank's Asia Clean Energy Forum. He co-designed a Grid Integration of Renewable Energy Course with the Australian National University, managed the Australia-Germany Hydrogen from Renewable Energy Supply Chain Feasibility Study with the University of New South Wales and contributed to "Lighting the Way: A pathway for a 100% Renewable Blue Pacific" report</i></p>
	<p>Ngedikes Olai Uludong Pacific Community (SPC)</p> <p><i>Ngedikes "Olai" Uludong is the Deputy-Director for the Geoscience and Energy Programme (GEP) within the GEM Division. Olai has extensive experience across different sectors; public service; diplomacy, resource mobilisation, and environmental issues including climate change, oceans, energy, and foreign policy in Micronesia, the Pacific region, and internationally. Olai is a former Palauan diplomat who served as the Permanent Representative of Palau to the United Nations and was the first Palauan Ambassador to the European Union, Ambassador on Climate Change, Ambassador to the EU-ACP, and first Permanent Representative of Palau to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). During her tenure, she also organized, developed, and coordinated the 2017 Palau Energy Summit to assist Palau in reforming its energy regulatory framework. Olai has worked as a regional civil servant and has served in national roles for various Pacific and International countries on issues such as energy security, strategic mobilisation of resourcing for key development issues, climate</i></p>

negotiations, and UNFCCC processes and served as the Lead Negotiator for the United Nations Negotiating Bloc: The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) in New York.

Finance for the Energy Transition



Paul Makumbe, Director, Sunergise

Paul Makumbe is the Founder and CEO of [Sunergise](#), Oceania's leading commercial and industrial solar energy companies. With more than 25 years of experience across asset finance, telecommunications, and renewable energy, he combines strong financial and operational expertise to deliver scalable clean energy solutions.

Over the past 13 years, Paul has grown Sunergise into a vertically integrated, multi-market platform serving listed companies, major corporates, and development agencies across New Zealand and the Pacific. The group operates in New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, and the Cook Islands through multiple subsidiaries, including its EPC division under the Powersmart and Clay Energy brands, as well as its asset financing and owning division. Together, the business has delivered more than 170 solar installations across the region.

Paul holds a Master's degree in Finance and is a board member at Inviol. He previously served as Director at Camco Pacific, helping establish the Pacific's first blended finance fund to accelerate clean energy investment.



Nicholas Wolf, Market Development Facility (MDF)

Nick Wolf is the Regional Director (Pacific) at the Market Development Facility (MDF), an Australian-Government funded program implemented by Palladium. Based in Fiji for the past four years, Nick leads MDF's activities in Samoa, Vanuatu, Tonga and regionally.

MDF's objectives include sustainable economic development, increased incomes and jobs, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. MDF works closely with businesses, governments and other organisations to support new business models and innovations that improve investment, trade, and generate economic benefits for individuals and households.

MDF works in a diverse range of sectors including agriculture, tourism, financial services and renewable energy. It utilises a market systems development approach which emphasises collaborating with local partners, flexible support, commercial sustainability and achieving results at scale.

Nick has extensive experience working at the intersection of economic development, private sector engagement, market-based approaches, agriculture, infrastructure and development finance. Prior to his time in Fiji, he has worked in Timor-Leste, Cambodia, Austria, Kenya, Nigeria and Australia.



Mr Mosese Nabulivou- Project Officer. SEIAPI

Mosese Nabulivou is a climate finance and resilience specialist with over 10 years of experience delivering renewable energy, climate adaptation, and water infrastructure projects across the Pacific. He currently serves as Project Technical Officer with the Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands (SEIAPI), supporting strategic planning, climate finance mobilisation, and development of bankable renewable energy proposals.

Mosese has worked with governments and development partners including UNDP, UNEP, ADB, EU, MFAT, SPC, and the Adaptation Fund, contributing to projects ranging from community-led adaptation initiatives to multi-million-dollar climate finance proposals. His expertise spans off-grid solar systems, donor-funded program management, environmental and social safeguards, and infrastructure oversight.

With a background in environmental management and postgraduate studies in climate change adaptation, Mosese combines technical engineering experience with climate finance expertise to advance sustainable, resilient development outcomes across Pacific Island countries.

Day 2: Session 4

State of the market 2025 and outlook 2026



Andrew Birch, CEO Open Solar

Andrew Birch ("Birchy") is Cofounder and CEO of OpenSolar, and a 25-year veteran of the solar industry. Birchy has a MEngTech in Photovoltaics from UNSW, Sydney. As BP Solar's head of Business Development, he led the early Australia policy work and secured the country's first residential Australian solar market.

How to address barriers faced by the industry in the transition



Ajay Prasad, CBS Power Solutions

Ajay Prasad is the Founder and Managing Director of CBS Power Solutions Fiji, a company he built from a two-person startup in 2006 into one of the Pacific's leading providers of solar and hybrid power systems. With more than 40 years of experience in the electrical industry, Ajay's commitment to renewable energy was sparked during a visit to a remote Fijian village where families relied on kerosene lanterns. That moment inspired his mission to deliver clean, reliable power to underserved communities. Today, CBS delivers megawatt-scale projects across the region, specialising in resilient hybrid solutions for remote and challenging environments. Ajay is recognised for his practical leadership, community-driven approach, and long-standing contribution to sustainable energy development in the Pacific.



Gordon Chang, Executive Director, Pacific Power Association (PPA)

Gordon Chang is the current Executive Director for the Pacific Power Association (PPA) since 2023. Gordon Chang joined the PPA from the Forum Secretariat (PIFS) where he was the Finance & Administrative Team Leader for the EU Projects where his experience reflects a good working relationship with the Pacific Island Utilities. Before joining PIFS Gordon Chang worked with USAID in Suva as their Chief Accountant responsible for the financial maintenance of all their projects. From 1999 Gordon joined the Pacific Power Association and was their deputy Executive Director until his appointment as Executive Director. Gordon Chang holds a BA degree in Finance and a Masters degree in Business Administration from George Washington University in Washington D.C.



Rob Edwards OAM. Founder Its' Time Foundation

With degrees in anatomy and physiology, Rob worked for five years in cardiac rehabilitation where he wrote the successful book "Better Blood Pressure". As a leader for 15 years in the health and well-being industry, his Workplace Health Appraisals Program engaged over 30,000 participants at all levels of business across Australia and NZ.

As a conference speaker, his focus is simply to encourage people to take a brief time out to consider their most important asset - themselves. We can't look after other people unless we look after ourselves first. "It's All About You!" Rob received the Order of Australia Medal as founder and CEO of Its Time Foundation, that installs solar in remote Pacific Island schools, also his plastic free oceans projects and remote women's health initiatives.

The week, before the SEI-API conference, Its Time Foundation is delivering a remote school solar system installed by 15+ women - as part of its strategy to build women's capacity in the renewables industry.

Vineil Narayan: Project Manager, United Nations Development Programme



Vineil Narayan is a Development Finance and Social Inclusion Specialist with over 10 years of experience in national economic planning, climate finance, and sustainable development across Fiji and the Pacific

He currently serves as project manager for UNDP's Blue Economy and renewable energy portfolio, where he has managed multi-million-dollar programmes advancing innovative public and private financing solutions to support marginalised and climate-vulnerable communities

*In addition to leading ocean finance initiatives, Vineil manages the UNDP Pacific Multi-Country Office's flagship renewable energy initiative — the **Fiji Rural Electrification Fund (FREF) Support Project** — implemented on behalf of the Government of Fiji. The project is rolling out integrated solar mini-grids across rural and maritime communities, strengthening energy security, enabling productive use of energy, and catalysing inclusive local economic development.*

Vineil has played a catalytic role in mobilising climate and blue finance, including supporting the issuance of Fiji's first sovereign green and blue bonds and securing substantial co-financing for sustainable private-sector-led initiatives

Previously, as Head of Climate Change and International Cooperation at Fiji's Ministry of Economy, he led national climate finance coordination, mobilised over US\$30 million in climate funding, and served as Fiji's lead technical negotiator at COP25 and COP26

His work consistently integrates Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) principles into financing frameworks, renewable energy deployment, and policy design, advancing resilient and inclusive energy access across Pacific Island countries.