

SEIAPI Solar Conference March 2026

Transitioning to Solar Energy in the Pacific Islands

Day 1 Tuesday 24 March 2026			
Time	Session	Session Title	Speakers
7:30 - 8:45am	Registration		
8:45 - 10:30am	Session 1	<i>Conference Opening and Keynote and Speaker</i>	<i>Fijian Choir and Opening Prayer</i> <i>Welcome: Mr Peter Johnston -Chair of SEIAPI</i> <i>Opening of conference: Hon Ro Filipe Tuisawau Fiji's Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport</i> <i>SEIAPI Now and the Future: Mr Geoff Stapleton AO - SEIAPI Executive Officer</i> <i>Keynote: Taking care of the most important asset in business - You!"</i> <i>Mr Rob Edwards OAM (Its Time Foundation)</i>
10:30 - 10:55am	Morning Tea		
11:00 – 11:10 am	Session 2 A	<i>How the Renewable Energy Council of Asia Pacific is supporting small associations like SEIAPI?</i>	<i>Mr John Grimes CEO of Smart Energy Council (Video)</i>
11:10am - 12:10pm	Session 2B	<i>Panel: Where are the \$ supporting the transition coming from?</i>	<i>Mr Tim Gill: Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)</i> <i>Ms Roxanne Castelein: European Commission</i> <i>Mr Jonathan Pryke: Asian Development Bank</i> <i>Mr Vineil Narayan: United Nations Development Program</i>
12:10-12:25pm	Session 2B	<i>Perspective by SEIAPI Life Member on the energy transition</i>	<i>Mr Peter Johnston interview SEIAPI Life Member: Dr Herbert Wade</i>
12:25 -12:30pm	Session 3C	<i>Pacific Sustainable Energy Training Centre</i>	<i>Geoff Stepleton AO – SEIAPI Executive Officer</i>
12:30 – 1:25pm	Lunch		
1:30– 2:45pm	Session 3A	<i>Technical Solutions to Support the Transition</i>	<i>Battery protection: wiring and fusing: Ms Margreet Leeftink (Victron Energy)</i> <i>Wind loadings in the Pacific: Puma Chave (Clenergy)</i> <i>Floating solar - challenges, opportunities and applications relevant for the Pacific islands - Francisco G. Voza (Fred Olsen 1848)</i> <i>Software for designing commercial sized PV systems: Mr Brandon Cook (Mindaro)</i> <i>Pacific Commercial System presentations by SEIAPI members:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBS Power Solutions (Fiji) • Clay Energy (Fiji) • Superfly (Solomon Islands)
2:45 – 3:15 pm	Session 3B	<i>Processing grid connected PV applications in Fiji</i>	<i>Vinitesh Kumar: Fiji Consumer and Competition Commission (FCCC)</i> <i>Krishneel Prasad, Energy Fiji Limited (EFL)</i>

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3:15 - 3:40pm	Afternoon Tea		
3:45 - 4:00pm	Session 4A	<i>Land Art Generator Initiative (LAGI)</i>	<i>Ms Loma Mataika</i>
4:00 - 5:15pm	Session 4B	<i>Building Women's Capacity in the Industry</i>	<i>Its Time Foundation support of women in Fiji - Rob Edwards. OAM</i> <i>Learnings from Women In Construction and Trade Fiji.</i> <i>Julianne Verma</i> <i>Learnings from Australian Women in Solar Energy (AWISE) Lauren Hamilton</i> <i>Panel Session:</i> <i>Oliana Nayago (USP)</i> <i>Vasiti Talakubu (VESS)</i> <i>Fiona Dace - Lynn (Canberra Institute of Technology)</i> <i>Alana Wilson-Fusitu'a (Blue Planet Alliance)</i> <i>Loma Mataika (Atelier 153)</i> <i>Julianne Verma (WICAT)</i> <i>Lauren Hamilton (AWISE)</i>
5:15 pm – 7:15pm	Networking Reception		

Day 2 Wednesday 25 March 2026			
Time	Session	Session Title	Speakers
8:45 – 9:00am	Session 1A	<i>Opening Prayer</i> <i>The Role of the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE)</i>	<i>Mr Solomon Fafita: Manager of PCREEE</i>
9:00 - 9:15am	Session 1B	<i>How the Global Solar Council is supporting small associations like SEIAPI?</i>	<i>Ms Sonia Dunlop: CEO Global Solar Council (Video)</i> <i>Mr Danny Kennedy: GSC Strategy Board Member</i>
9:15 - 9:40am	Session 1C	<i>Video Presentations: Where are the \$ supporting the transition coming from Part 2</i>	<i>Mr Ximing Peng: World Bank</i> <i>Mr Reuben Ross: Australia, Department of Climate Change Energy the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)</i> <i>Ms Merinda Lee Hassall, (New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade MFAT)</i>
9:40 - 9:55am	Session 1D	<i>Pacific Infrastructure Data Base on Pacific Projects</i>	<i>Ms Jane Romero: Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility</i>
9:55 – 10:10am	Session 1E	<i>Quality in Donor Projects</i>	<i>Mr Ravinesh Nand: REnew Pacific</i>
10:10 - 10:30am	<i>Group Photo</i>		
10:30 - 10:55am	<i>Morning Tea</i>		
11:00- 11:05am	Session 2 A	<i>State of the market 2025 and outlook 2026</i>	<i>Mr Andrew Birch Co-Founder and CEO of Open Solar (Video)</i>

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11:05am - 12:30pm	Session 2 B	<i>Implementing a Quality Framework for the Energy Transition</i>	<p><i>Overview of SEIAPI activities relevant to a quality framework: Mr Geoff Stapleton AO Executive Officer of SEIAPI</i></p> <p><i>Overview of the International Solar Alliance: Dr Ishan Purohit</i></p> <p><i>Regional solar QI framework and management system for Pacific community (SPC) : Mr Solomon Fifita Manager of (PCREEE)</i></p> <p><i>The Role of the Office of the Pacific Energy Regulatory Office: Mr Antony Garie (OPERA)</i></p> <p><i>The Quality Framework for the Fiji Rural Energy Fund: Mr Deepak Chand Acting Director of Energy Department of Energy Fiji</i></p>
12:30 - 1:30pm	Lunch		
1:30 - 2:15pm	Session 3A:	<i>Initiatives to Achieve Energy Resilience in the Pacific</i>	<p><i>100% Renewable Energy for the Pacific Islands. Richard Neumann Senior Adviser Smart Energy Council</i></p> <p><i>Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific (FESRIP). Ngedikes Olai Uludong (SPC)</i></p>
2.15 -3:00PM	Session 3B:	<i>Finance for the Energy Transition</i>	<p><i>Project Finance to support the transition: Paul Makumbe. Director Sunergise</i></p> <p><i>Unlocking Finance for Solar through Adoption of Standards</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Moses Nabulivou- Project Officer. SEIAPI - Nicholas Wolf, Market Development Facility (MDF)
3:00 - 3:25pm	Afternoon Tea		
3:30 - 4:40pm	Session 4A	<i>How to address barriers faced by industry in the transition</i>	<p><i>Issues faced by Pacific Island Solar Companies in retaining technical staff. Mr Ajay Prasad. CBS Power Solutions (Fiji) Ltd</i></p> <p><i>The Pacific Power Association Strategic Plan Mr Gordon Chang Executive Director Pacific Power Association (PPA)</i></p> <p><i>Operation and Maintenance of Off Grid Solar Power Systems</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - O & M in the Fiji Rural Energy Fund. Mr Vineil Narayan. UNDP - O & M in solar schools in Fiji: Mr Rob Edwards OAM Founder Its' Time Foundation
4:50 – 5:05pm	Session 4B	<i>Discussion on topics for the 2027 conference</i>	<p><i>Mr Peter Johnston Chair SEIAPI</i></p> <p><i>Mr Geoff Stapleton AO Executive Officer SEIAPI</i></p> <p><i>Mr Sandip Kumar Secretary SEIAPI</i></p>
5:05pm	<i>Close of Conference</i>		<i>Mr Peter Johnston Chair SEIAPI</i>