

# SEIAPI Solar Conference March 2026

## Transitioning to Solar Energy in the Pacific Islands

**Day 1 Tuesday 24 March 2026**

Time	Session	Session Title	Speakers
<b>7:30 - 8:45am</b>	<b>Registration</b>		
<b>8:45 - 10:30am</b>	<b>Session 1</b>	<i>Conference Opening and Keynote 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</i> <i>Fiji's Minister of 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>
<b>10:30 - 10:55am</b>	<b>Morning Tea</b>		
<b>11:00 – 11:10 am</b>	<b>Session 2 A</b>	<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>
<b>11:10am - 12:10pm</b>	<b>Session 2B</b>	<i>Panel: Where are the \$ supporting the transition coming from?</i>	<i>Mr Nicholas Murphy: 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>
<b>12:10-12:25pm</b>	<b>Session 2B</b>	<i>Perspective by SEIAPI Life Member on the energy transition</i>	<i>Mr Peter Johnston interview SEIAPI Life Member: Dr Herbert Wade</i>
<b>12:25 -12:30pm</b>	<b>Session 2C</b>	<i>Pacific Sustainable Energy Training Centre</i>	<i>Geoff Stepleton AO – SEIAPI Executive Officer</i>
<b>12:30 – 1:25pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>		
<b>1:30– 2:45pm</b>	<b>Session 3A</b>	<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>

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			<i>Pacific Commercial System presentations by SEIAPI members:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CBS Power Solutions (Fiji)</li> <li>• Clay Energy (Fiji)</li> <li>• Superfly (Solomon Islands)</li> </ul>
<b>2:45 – 3:15 pm</b>	<b>Session 3B</b>	<i>From Application to Approval: Solar Grid Licensing in Fiji</i>	<i>Vinitesh Kumar: Fiji Consumer and Competition Commission (FCCC)</i>  <i>Rusiata Faivakibau; Energy Fiji Limited (EFL)</i>
<b>3:15 - 3:40pm</b>	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>		
<b>3:45 - 4:00pm</b>	<b>Session 4A</b>	<i>Land Art Generator Initiative (LAGI)</i>	<i>Ms Loma Mataika</i>
<b>4:00- 5:15pm</b>	<b>Session 4B</b>	<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>
<b>5:15 pm – 7:15pm</b>	<b>Networking Reception</b>		

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**Day 2 Wednesday 25 March 2026**

Time	Session	Session Title	Speakers
8:45 – 9:00am	Session 1A	Opening Prayer  The Role of the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE)	Mr Solomone Fifita: Manager of PCREEE
9:00 - 9:15am	Session 1B	How the Global Solar Council is supporting small associations like SEIAPI?	Ms Sonia Dunlop: CEO Global Solar Council (Video) Mr Danny Kennedy: GSC Strategy Board Member
9:15 - 9:35am	Session 1C	Video Presentations: Where are the \$ supporting the transition coming from Part 2	World Bank Projects - Geoff Stapleton Mr Reuben Ross: Australia, Department of Climate Change Energy the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Ms Merinda Lee Hassall, (New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade MFAT)
9:35 - 9:50am	Session 1D	Pacific Infrastructure Data Base on Pacific Projects	Ms Jane Romero: Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility
9:50 – 10:05am	Session 1E	Quality in Donor Projects	Mr Ravinesh Nand: REnew Pacific
10:10 - 10:30am	Group Photo		
10:30 - 10:55am	Morning Tea		
11:00am - 12:30pm	Session 2	Implementing a Quality Framework for the Energy Transition	Overview of SEIAPI activities relevant to a quality framework: Mr Geoff Stapleton AO Executive Officer of SEIAPI  Overview of the International Solar Alliance: Dr Ishan Purohit  Regional solar QI framework and management system for Pacific community (SPC) : Mr Solomone Fifita Manager of (PCREEE)  The Role of the Office of the Pacific Energy Regulatory Office: Mr Antony Garie (OPERA)  The Quality Framework for the Fiji Rural Energy Fund: Mr Deepak Chand Acting Director of Energy Department of Energy Fiji
12:30 - 1:30pm	Lunch		
1:30 - 2:15pm	Session 3A:	Initiatives to Achieve Energy Resilience in the Pacific	100% Renewable Energy for the Pacific Islands. Richard Neumann Senior Adviser Smart Energy Council  Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific (FESRIP). Ngedikes Olai Uludong (SPC)

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<b>2.15 - 3:00PM</b>	<b>Session 3B:</b>	<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"> <li>- Mr Mosese Nabulivou- Project Officer. SEIAPI</li> <li>- Nicholas Wolf, Market Development Facility (MDF)</li> </ul>
<b>3:00 - 3:25pm</b>	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>		
<b>3:30- 3:35am</b>	<b>Session 4A</b>	<i>State of the market 2025 and outlook 2026</i>	<i>Mr Andrew Birch Co-Founder and CEO of Open Solar (Video)</i>
<b>3:35 - 4:40pm</b>	<b>Session 4B</b>	<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"> <li>- O &amp; M in the Fiji Rural Energy Fund. Mr Viniel Narayan. UNDP</li> <li>- O &amp; M in solar schools in Fiji: Mr Rob Edwards OAM Founder Its Time Foundation</li> </ul>
<b>4:40 – 4:55pm</b>	<b>Session 4C</b>	<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>
<b>4:55pm</b>	<i>Close of Conference</i>		<i>Mr Peter Johnston Chair SEIAPI</i>
<b>5:00 – 7:30PM</b>	<b>REnew Pacific Networking Reception</b>		