

SEIAPI SOLAR CONFERENCE - A SUCCESS



SEIAPI Conference 2026 Group Photo

About 200 delegates attended the 2-day SEIAPI solar conference from 24th-25th March 2026 at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva, Fiji. The conference was officially opened by the Minister for Public Works (and Energy), Hon Ro Filipe Tuisawau. The conference brought together development partners, solar companies from Fiji and abroad, solar equipment wholesalers, consultants, researchers, NGOs, university students, electrical utilities, energy regulators and others. A wide range of issues were discussed at the conference with knowledge-filled panel sessions and informative presentations. The highlight on Day 1 was a panel session on how women play a part in the energy transition. Its Time Foundation showed an entertaining video on the 20 young women who installed an off-grid PV system in a village in Fiji's Yasawa group in March 2026. All were present at the conference. The panel session noted how men on many building sites need to become more respectful and supportive of women in trades. Day 1 also had sessions led by development partners: Asian Development Bank (ADB) European Union (EU) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

There were also presentations on funds are being allocated for energy transition, technical solutions to transition covering wind load considerations, battery protection, software for PV systems and floating solar opportunities and challenges. There were case study presentations on commercial scale solar projects by Superfly Ltd, CBS Power Solutions and Clay Energy.

Day 2 discussed implementing a quality framework, jointly presented by the Pacific Centre on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) and SEIAPI, maintaining quality in solar projects and how it is done in Its Time Foundation remote school electrification projects, UNDP's Fiji Rural Electrification Fund (FREF) and Australia's RENEW Pacific projects. Also, regional renewable energy initiatives, finance for transition, the continuing brain drain and related labour shortages were discussed.

SEIAPI would like to thank the 15 sponsors (listed below) who supported this conference to make it a success. SEIAPI also compiled a video to highlighting all sponsors, available from the following link:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1URMFFeP5ffXiT9q3s3fu7aFn2Zujl3kT&usp=drive_fs



- AC Solar Warehouse
- BlueTTI
- CBS Power Solutions
- Smart Energy Council
- Its Time Foundation
- EPC Renewables
- PCS
- Berrys Energy Services
- Superfly
- GSES
- PCREEE
- DPA and
- Pacific Engineering Projects
- Pernix Pacific
- Renew Pacific

SEIAPI MARCH CONFERENCE 2026 KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Left to right: Choir performing, Official opening by the Minister, and Rob Edwards' Keynote Session



Left to right: Donor panel session and Technical solution to transition panel session



Day 2 included Barriers to transition (left), RE initiatives (centre) and a discussion on topics for the 2027 conference(right)

The 2026 SEIAPI conference organising committee comprised Geoff Stapleton (Chair), Rob Edwards, Sandip Kumar, Sydel Whippy, Tamara Smith and Mosese Nabulivou. Sydel Whippy was the Conference co-ordinator supporting the team remotely from Australia. Tamara Smith managed affairs on the ground during the event. Also providing support during the conference were Brandon Cook and Fernanda Oliveira from the Global Sustainable Energy Solutions (GSES) team.



(L-R) Michelle Singh (MC), Rob Edwards, Geoff Stapleton, Sandip Kumar, Tamara Smith, Mosese Nabulivou
SEIAPI Conference 2026 Organising Committee



(L-R) Sandip Kumar, Fernanda Oliveira, Geoff Stapleton, Brandon Cook

Pacific's First All-Women Solar System



In March 2026, the Pacific's first all-female solar system installation team transformed Ratu Naivalu Memorial School on Waya Island in Fiji's Yasawa Group to solar. The team of 10 Solar Tech and 10 University of South Pacific (USP) engineering students provided clean, renewable power and connectivity to 4 school buildings, 3 hostels and 10 teachers homes as indicated below:

- 18kW PV solar array
- 40kWh lithium battery storage
- Starlink internet link & school-wide network
- Smart TVs & laptops installed
- Quality control to Australia / New Zealand standards

This brilliant group of women is continuing to drive the transition to renewable energy in the Pacific! The video shown during the conference can be accessed from the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jiKgkszrU-Y>

SEIAPI Samoa Workshop



Geoff Stapleton (Executive Officer) and Mosese Nabulivou (Technical Projects Officer) facilitated meetings with sustainable energy stakeholders in Samoa. Engagements with major banks - the Australia New Zealand Banking Corporation (ANZ), Bank of the South Pacific (BSP), and Samoa Commercial bank – indicated increasing demand for solar energy solutions from both households and businesses. However, most financial institutions do not yet offer dedicated solar loan products, instead relying on existing lending frameworks while seeking stronger technical assurance to reduce risk.

A major constraint is the slow and complex grid-connection and approval process, which delays projects and discourages investment. To help address these challenges, SEIAPI, with Australian Marketing Development Facility (MDF) support, is updating technical guidelines, financing guides, and training programs to strengthen market confidence. By improving standards, building Samoan capacity, and supporting collaboration among banks, regulators, and industry, SEIAPI is helping create an enabling environment for solar investment. These efforts are expected to unlock financing opportunities, improve installation quality, and accelerate the growth of solar energy across Samoa and the Pacific.

REnew Pacific Project in Samoa

The Australian Government, through the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP), is partnering with Samoa to deliver new solar and battery to bring clean, reliable electricity to families in remote communities across Upolu, Savai'i and Apolima.

Led by the Electric Power Corporation (EPC), Samoa, with the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development with support from Australia, REnew Pacific's first Samoa project will install solar PV and battery systems for 108 households and five community fales, and upgrade an existing mini-grid on Apolima Island to provide 24/7 renewable power to 11 households. This marks AIFFP's first investment in Samoa - a milestone for the country's transition to clean energy. REnew Pacific is Australia's \$75 million investment in off grid renewable energy for rural and remote communities across the Pacific and Timor-Leste.



Fiji Launches Electric Mobility Project



Fiji launched an electric mobility initiative for cleaner, more efficient transport on 26 March 2026. Led by the Fiji Ministry of Public Works, Meteorological Services, and Transport (MPWMST) in partnership with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) with implementation assistance from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), it aims to establish a foundation for a cleaner and more resilient transport system.

As transport carbon emissions continue to rise and reliance on imported fossil fuels places more and more pressure on the economy, the Fiji project aims to accelerate the transition to electric mobility through stronger policies, improved planning, and coordinated action across sectors. The initiative hopes to build a transport system that supports Fiji's climate goals, strengthens energy security, and delivers lasting benefits for communities and the economy.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

33rd Pacific Power Association Conference and Trade Exhibition

1-5 November 2026

Crowne Plaza Fiji Resort & Spa

Theme: "Ensuring fair rates and reliable services while accelerating investments in renewable energy and grids"

Visit: <https://www.ppa.org.fj/>

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



Standards Corner AS/NZS 3008.1.1:2025 Updates for Solar Cable Design

The selection and sizing of cables is fundamental to the safety and performance of any electrical installation. In the solar industry, where solar cable sizing must account for high currents and harsh environmental conditions, adhering to the latest standards is not just a regulatory requirement, it is a critical safety measure.

With the release of AS/NZS 3008.1.1:2025, there is a major shift in how cable sizing is approached. This update, which becomes mandatory across Australia (and thus those Pacific islands that adopt AS/NZ standards) on June 19, 2026, introduces a more streamlined structure, updated terminology, and specific provisions for DC systems that were previously absent.

Parameter	AS/NZS 3008:2017 Approach	AS/NZS 3008.1.1:2025 Update	Practical Impact
DC Cable CCC	Derived from AC values using 1.155 factor	Dedicated DC tables (3.21 & 3.22)	Faster and more accurate DC cable sizing
Voltage Drop	AC tables adapted for DC	Dedicated DC voltage drop table (4.16)	Simplifies DC calculations
Terminology	"Derating Factor"	"Correction Factor (CF)"	Aligns with modern terminology
Flexible cables	Separate considerations	Treated same as stranded conductors	Simplifies selection
HF-110 cables	Higher CCC assumptions	CCC slightly reduced	Some systems may require larger cable size

AS/NZS 3008:2017 vs 3008.1.1:2025

Major Changes for the solar industry

1. Restructured Tables for Better Accessibility

One of the most user-friendly updates is the complete restructuring of the tables. Previously, navigating the numerous tables for different installation conditions could be cumbersome. In the 2025 edition, tables are organized by chapter, and many have been consolidated onto single pages to reduce the need for constant page-flipping. Furthermore, several values have been refined for greater accuracy based on updated thermal modeling.

2. Dedicated DC Cable Tables

Historically, solar designers had to adapt AC cable tables for DC applications, often applying a 1.155 conversion factor to approximate values. The 2025 standard simplifies this by introducing dedicated tables for DC cables:

- DC cable current-carrying capacity (CCC) values are now found in Tables 3.21 and 3.22, replacing the previous workaround of adapting AC tables (see our previous guide on DC cable sizing using AS/NZS 3008).
- Voltage Drop for DC: Now found in Table 4.16.

More details are available here:

<https://www.gses.com.au/asnzs-3008-updates-for-solar-cable-design/>

For more updates, please visit <http://www.seiapi.com>. Follow us on LinkedIn - Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands - SEIAPI LinkedIn page