

STRENGTHENING SOLAR FINANCE ACROSS THE PACIFIC

SEIAPI DELIVERS TECHNICAL TRAINING FOR PACIFIC FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

On 8 July 2026, the Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands (SEIAPI), with support from the Market Development Facility (MDF), delivered an online technical workshop aimed at strengthening the capacity of Pacific financial institutions to finance both off-grid and grid-connected solar photovoltaic (PV) systems.

Facilitated by Peter Johnston, Chair of the SEIAPI Executive Committee, and Geoff Stapleton, SEIAPI Executive Officer, the workshop brought together representatives from the Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF), Credit Corporation (Vanuatu), and the National Reserve Bank of Tonga.



The workshop was informed by MDF's consultations with financial institutions across Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu, which revealed that the principal barrier to increased solar lending is not primarily the availability of finance, but the lack of consistent assessment processes. Financial institutions identified the need for standardised documentation, recognised supplier networks, clear regulatory pathways, and reliable inspection procedures to improve confidence in renewable energy lending.

Feedback from participants was positive, with attendees describing the training as practical, informative, and directly applicable to their day-to-day loan appraisal processes.

One of the key outcomes of the workshop was a recommendation for SEIAPI and the Pacific Power Association (PPA) to jointly develop and maintain a regional register of accredited solar suppliers that includes after-sales service obligations. Such a resource would provide financial institutions with a trusted reference when assessing loan applications and approving finance for solar installations.

Participants also expressed strong interest in further practical training, particularly in battery technologies and solar installation practices. This demand aligns closely with the forthcoming Pacific Sustainable Energy Training Centre at USP Pacific TAFE's Tafenua Campus in Suva, Fiji, which is expected to play a significant role in building technical capacity and supporting the continued growth of the Pacific's renewable energy sector.

By strengthening the technical knowledge of financial institutions and promoting consistent lending practices, SEIAPI and MDF continue to support greater investment in clean energy, helping accelerate the transition towards a more resilient and sustainable Pacific.



The training addressed the practical aspects of solar lending by providing financiers with the technical knowledge needed to confidently assess renewable energy loan applications.



Participants explored the information required beyond a supplier's quotation, expected seasonal variations in solar energy production, the typical lifespan of solar panels, inverters and battery systems, and methods for verifying installer accreditation and equipment quality prior to loan approval.



SEIAPI 2027 CONFERENCE DATE CHANGED

The conference was originally scheduled for 24–25 March 2027. As Good Friday falls on 26 March, the conference has been moved to 17–18 March 2027.

This change has been made to avoid a scheduling conflict with the Easter holidays, which fall during the same week as the original announced dates.

SEIAPI apologises for any inconvenience this change may cause and appreciates the understanding and support of all stakeholders.

SEIAPI HAS RELEASED THE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES PACKAGE FOR THE SEIAPI 2027 CONFERENCE.

We particularly wish to thank the 2026 sponsors and companies who have donated equipment for the PSEIC and these companies have already committed to sponsor next year. These include:

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Please reach out to the secretariat (secretariat@seiapi.com) if you wish to sponsor.



PACIFIC SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TRAINING CENTRE OPENING

The SEIAPI-supported Pacific Sustainable Energy Training Centre will officially open on 27 August 2026.



Located at USP Pacific TAFE in Suva, the Training Centre represents a significant milestone in strengthening technical capacity and workforce development for the renewable energy sector across the Pacific.

USP Pacific TAFE will invite stakeholders to a formal opening ceremony at the training centre building. This will bring together representatives from government agencies, development partners, industry stakeholders, and training institutions.

The opening reflects SEIAPI's ongoing commitment to helping to build a skilled renewable energy workforce and supporting the Pacific's transition to a more sustainable energy future.

Vanuatu Solar Repair Initiative Wins International Resilience Prize

Fixim Sola, a Vanuatu-based solar repair initiative, has won US\$200,000 through the Macquarie Community Resilience Prize. The program tackles a common problem: off-grid solar systems that fail early become e-waste due to a lack of local repair skills.

Fixim Sola builds capacity at three levels: teaching repair basics in secondary schools, running provincial vocational training for technicians, and supporting the Vanuatu Institute of Technology (VIT) as a national training hub.

Grown from a DFAT-funded pilot that trained 141 people and repaired over 150 solar products, the initiative is a partnership between UNSW Sydney, VIT, the Vanuatu Department of Energy, and the Vanuatu Disability Promotion and Advocacy Association.

NIUE CUTS DIESEL USE BY 1.2 MILLION LITRES A YEAR



Niue has significantly reduced its reliance on diesel generators, cutting daily operation from 24 hours to just 2–3 hours through the installation of a 2.79 MWp solar photovoltaic (PV) system and an 8.19 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The project, supported by the New Zealand Government and delivered by Sunergise, marks a major milestone in the country's transition to renewable energy.

According to Sunergise, the new system is reducing diesel costs by approximately NZD 4 million per year, strengthening Niue's economic resilience while supporting its target of generating 80% of its electricity from renewable energy by 2030.

Constructing the solar facility on a remote coral atoll presented significant engineering challenges. The uneven, rock-hard terrain required innovative foundation solutions, and all structures were designed to withstand cyclone-force winds.



SEIAPI
Sustainable Energy

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

BRINGING TOGETHER
STAKEHOLDERS TO
POWER UP CLIMATE
RESILIENCE AND
AFFORDABLE ENERGY

TECHNICAL AND
CAPACITY BUILDING
SUPPORT
TRAINING

INFORMATION AND
SKILLING & ADVICE
A REPUTABLE
PACIFIC

ADVANCING CLEAN
ENERGY AND
RESILIENT
ECONOMY

PROMOTING
CLIMATE
RESILIENCE

SAVE THE DATE

SEIAPI 2ND SOLAR CONFERENCE



MARCH 17–18, 2027