

AUGUST NEWSLETTER 2026

SEI API-Supported Pacific Sustainable Energy Training Centre Officially Opens



There could be no better news for SEI API. The Pacific Sustainable Energy Training Centre was officially opened on 27 August 2026 by the Minister for Public Service, Meteorological Services and Transport, Ro. Filipe Tuisawau, who is also responsible for Fiji's Department of Energy.

SEI API is extremely proud to have played an instrumental role in contributing towards the establishment of the Pacific Sustainable Energy Training Centre at the USP Pacific TAFE campus. SEI API Executive Officer Geoff Stapleton and Secretary Sandip Kumar represented the philanthropic donor from the United States, managing the project on the ground, providing technical expertise and supervising installations.

The purpose-built facility will support the development of industry-ready skills and strengthen the Pacific region's transition towards sustainable energy systems. The Sustainable Energy Training Centre will provide industry-responsive training in areas including solar photovoltaic systems, energy efficiency, battery storage technologies, electric transport systems, inspection and quality assurance, rural electrification, and emerging clean-energy technologies.

More than 100 people attended the opening ceremony, including international representatives who donated equipment, members of the Fiji solar industry, USP staff, representatives from the Australian High Commission and New Zealand High Commission, and representatives from SPC, PPA, PRIF, FCCC, FNU, ISA, UNSW, ASU, CATD and other organisations.



A Vision Realised for Renewable Energy Skills Development

USP Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council, the Honourable Siosia Utoikamanu, described the Centre as a major investment in the future of renewable energy skills development in Fiji and across the Pacific. He acknowledged the support of the Government of Fiji, industry partners and the Philanthropic Foundation from the United States, whose significant contribution made the project possible.

Representing the Philanthropic Foundation that supported the project, Geoff Stapleton stated in his speech that the Centre was the result of years of planning, collaboration and commitment by industry and education partners. Speaking on behalf of the Foundation, he shared a message from the organisation:

“ The funding organisation is proud of all the work undertaken by SEI API, USP Pacific TAFE, USP's Infrastructure Section and the construction team to support the renewable energy industry in Fiji and across the Pacific. We also thank the industry partners who donated equipment to support this Centre.



Geoff added that the facility fulfils a long-held vision for the renewable energy industry in the Pacific. He also paid tribute to renewable energy pioneer Dr Herb Wade, whose early work helped shape the vision for a regional training centre.

Back in 2005, Dr Wade and Geoff Stapleton co-authored a renewable energy training initiative that envisioned a centre in Fiji capable of supporting sustainable energy development throughout the Pacific. The opening of the Pacific Sustainable Energy Training Centre represents the realisation of that vision.

By combining practical learning facilities with strong industry partnerships, the Centre will create pathways for students, technicians, tradespeople and communities to gain the specialised expertise needed for a rapidly evolving energy sector.

SEIAPI would like to thank:

- The **USA** philanthropic foundation for its support;
- USP Pacific TAFE for providing the land;
- The following companies for donating equipment for the centre: Sungrow with Solar Juice, TCL SunPower, Victron Energy, GoodWe, Tindo Solar, ComAp, Clenergy and CBS Power Solutions; and
- The following companies for providing equipment at very reduced prices: Selectronic and Enphase with AC Solar Warehouse.



SEIAPI Chair Peter Johnston Advocates on Renewable Integration at 2026 Fiji-Australia Business Council Forum

Amid rising global fuel prices and the Pacific's growing need for economic diversification, the energy transition took centre stage at the 2026 Fiji-Australia and Australia-Fiji Business Councils Joint Forum at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva.

Session 6, "Strategic Dialogue – Energy Transition in Time of Fuel Crisis," brought together industry leaders to discuss the future of energy in the Pacific.

Representing SEIAPI, Chairperson Peter Johnston, a veteran environmental consultant and Fiji's first Director of Energy in 1981, shared his insights on the region's transition towards a greener and more sustainable economy. He joined a distinguished panel moderated by Bruce Sutton.



GSES/SEIAPI CELEBRATORY DINNER

On the evening of 27 August, following the official opening ceremony, GSES and SEIAPI hosted a dinner to thank the many individuals and organisations who contributed to the successful establishment of the training centre, including equipment donors, contractors, USP Pacific TAFE, Estates and Infrastructure staff, GSES staff and SEIAPI Executive Committee members.



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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