



SEI API calls for nominations for sub-committees

The SEI API Executive Committee successfully organised its first annual conference in March 2026, launched its initial strategic plan in July, saw the opening of the SEI API-supported Pacific Sustainable Energy Training Centre in Suva last month.

SEI API plans to improve service to members and this requires active member-led participation with at least one of our new sub-committees, each chaired by a member of the Executive Committee. A call for nomination was made in September these are the resulting chairperson and members for each sub-committee:

1

Technical Standards and Guidelines Sub-committee

Chair: Sandip Kumar

Members: Holland Sikou, Clayton Eigenmann and Pawan Kumar

2

Accreditation and Training Sub-committee

Chair: Sandip Kumar

Members: Shaneel Prakash, Slade Riirimae and Pawan Kumar

3

External Engagement and Advocacy Sub-committee

Chair: Eddy May

Members: Harry Chami, Nishant Pratap, Zaeen Khan and Peter Johnston

4

Sustainable and Emerging Technologies Sub-committee

Chair: Peter Johnston

Members: Holland Sikou, Craig Armstrong, Slade Riirimae, Clayton Eigenmann, Mohammed Suhail Shah and Pawan Kumar

5

Finance and Member Services Sub-committee

Chair: Rob Edwards

Members: Harry Chami, Zaeen Khan and Bruce Clay

Each sub-committee works within a specific strategic area so we can monitor implementation of the plan. An Administration and Communications Manager position has been advertised to support the sub-committees as required. More importantly, this person will help extend outreach to a wider audience, creating social media content on the use of sustainable energy technologies in the Pacific region.

Solar Inspection training for Solomon Power



Solomon Power Staff inspecting one of their systems

The training was successful and provided participants with practical knowledge and experience in the inspection of grid-connected solar PV systems. While the classroom component covered relevant standards and inspection requirements for BESS, the limited deployment of BESS systems in the Solomon Islands meant that participants had limited opportunities to undertake practical BESS inspections.

An issue identified during the training was limited access by participants to the Australian Standards (AS) and New Zealand Standards (NZS) referenced in the training materials and inspection checklists. Access to these standards is important to enable personnel to apply the inspection requirements consistently in their ongoing work.

SEI API's Executive Officer, Geoff Stapleton, was deployed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to Honiara, Solomon Islands, to conduct a five-day inspection training course for Solomon Power from Monday 7 to Friday 11 September 2026.

Twelve Solomon Power staff participated, including project managers, regulatory personnel and engineers. The practical component included onsite inspections of two systems at the Solomon Power head office, and two grid-connected PV systems at Henderson Field, with capacities of 2 MW and 1 MW respectively.

ADB contracted Global Sustainable Energy Solutions Pty Ltd (GSES) to deliver two training courses for Solomon Power:

- Inspection of Grid-Connected Solar Photovoltaic (PV) and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS); and
- Operation and Maintenance of Grid-Connected Solar PV and BESS.

Strengthening SEI API Partnerships in Solomon Islands

Although the training was undertaken through GSES, Geoff also met with Solomon Islands-based members of the SEI API Executive Committee, Slade Riirimae (Green Technology) and Holland Sikou (Superfly).

Geoff also met with Solomon Pita, Director of TAFE at Solomon Islands National University (SINU TAFE), together with trainers Samuel Kwaogaa and Eddie Pwaiouou Tony Nori. Discussions focused on the potential signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SEI API and SINU TAFE, as well as opportunities for SEI API to support SINU TAFE in having its solar training programmes, along with other relevant courses, reaccredited through the Solomon Islands Tertiary Education and Skills Authority (SITESA).

These discussions provided an important opportunity to strengthen collaboration between SEI API and training institutions in Solomon Islands and to support the development of locally available, industry-relevant renewable energy skills.



SAVE THE DATE
SEI API 2ND SOLAR CONFERENCE



MARCH 17-18, 2027

Advancing solar integration through battery energy storage systems

Sun Pacific Energy Ltd (SPEL) has added a 2 MW/4 MWh BESS to support the 5.5 MW solar farm it installed, marking the next stage of its renewable energy partnership with Electric Power Corporation (EPC, Samoa).



PC: Sun Pacific Energy Ltd

The system combines 2 MW of power capacity with 4 MWh of energy storage, enabling solar energy to be stored and dispatched beyond the time it is generated. It will help smooth fluctuations in solar output and create greater opportunity to capture energy that would otherwise be curtailed when grid conditions limit solar exports.

For EPC, this provides greater operational flexibility to integrate renewable generation while maintaining a stable electricity supply and reducing diesel reliance and consumption.

SPEL's investment reflects the evolution of Samoa's Independent Power Producers (IPPs) towards integrated solar and storage facilities that support the changing needs of our electricity grid.

Tradesmen to get free access to mandatory standards in Australia

The Australian Government is providing free access to Australian workers (such as electricians, plumbers and builders) to mandatory Australian Standards online.

Until now Australian workers had to pay to read rules they are legally required to follow. A provision of AUD42.7 million over four years to Standards Australia to give free online access to Australian Standards contained in Commonwealth, State and Territory laws.

For a small construction firm, the Government estimates that free access to construction and electrical standards could save up to \$1,600 a year.

Free access will also benefit consumers. Making the rules easier to check helps businesses get them right, supporting safer work and better products.

For the economy, easier access to standards can lower business costs and support greater competition.

SEIAPI hopes that free access will be extended to PICTs that follow the Australian standards.

Read More

<https://ministers.treasury.gov.au/ministers/andrew-leigh-2025/media-releases/tradies-get-free-access-mandatory-standards>

Trends in Photovoltaic Applications 2026 report



The International Energy Agency (IEA) Photovoltaic Power Systems Programme (PVPS) Trends in Photovoltaic Applications 2026 report highlights that the global solar sector reached an extraordinary milestone, with global cumulative installed PV capacity hitting 2.96 TW by the end of 2025. Supported by historically low module costs and steady market conditions, the world added around 690 GW of new PV capacity during 2025. This is a robust 15% increase compared to 2024, but the pace of annual growth slowed to a more moderate and mature phase following the hyper-expansion recorded the preceding two years.

China continued to dominate the global solar landscape, cementing its position as the largest single market by deploying 415 GW in 2025 — a 16% annual increase that accounted for roughly 60% of all global installations.

TOP 5 MARKETS: ANNUAL INSTALLATIONS IN 2025



Beyond China, the geographic footprint of solar energy expanded substantially. India surged into second place globally with 54 GW of new capacity, followed closely by the United States with 43 GW. Germany added 18 GW, and Pakistan an estimated 14 GW. This broader international distribution underscores solar technology's transition from a regional focus into a globalised infrastructure priority. The 2026 findings emphasise that solar PV has evolved beyond a fast-growing renewable technology to become a central cornerstone of modern electricity systems. Globally, photovoltaic systems now supply more than 10% of total electricity demand and roughly 12% of overall consumption. With centralized utility-scale projects representing the majority of new capacity, attention toward grid integration, power system flexibility, and scaling energy storage solutions to manage massive volumes of generation seamlessly.

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

We wish to thank the 2027 sponsors who have come up on board, these include:

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4. Mindaro	12. Victron Energy	
5. GSES	13. GoodWe	
6. Pacific Engineering Projects	14. ComAp Control	
7. PCREEE	15. Sunergise	
8. REnew Pacific	16. Sungrow	

Sustainable Energy Training Centre Video Highlights

For the opening of the Sustainable Energy training centre in Fiji last month, SEIAPI member TCL SunPower, brought over a videographer. The videos they have released are all on YouTube and available from the following links:

Teaser: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHiqfQB8x_4 (released a day after opening)

Part 1 - Training Centre: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1C-JndLqvn8&t=1s>

Part 2 - Challenges in the Pacific: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47wtus3Ho8&t=13s>

Events:

1. Pre-COP31, October 5 to 8, 2026, Nadi, Fiji.

SEIAPI will be at Pre-COP31 in Nadi from 5th to 8th October represented by Geoff Stapleton, Rob Edwards and Eddy May.

SEIAPI Executive committee member, Eddy May will be presenting at the session titled: **Power starts at home: Pacific rooftop solar.** Rob Edwards will be part of a panel discussion on **Powering the Pacific: Electrification for Climate, Resilience and Development.**

2. 33rd Annual Pacific Power Association Conference, 2-5 November 2026, at the Crowne Plaza Fiji Resort & Spa, Nadi, Fiji.

s Access
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JOIN US Early Bird Registration Opens: 10 January 2027

CONTACT THE CONFERENCE MANAGEMENT TEAM:
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