SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2026

SEIAPI signs MOU with SEC on the Solar Mentoring Scheme



On 28 October 2026, SEIAPI Executive Officer, Geoff Stapleton and Smart Energy Council (SEC) CEO David McElrea signed an MOU in Melbourne (Australia) on the Australia-Pacific Solar Mentoring Program.

SEIAPI Secretary, Sandip Kumar and Committee Member Eddy May were present during the MOU signing, joined by SEIAPI member Ajay Prasad. They were also attending the All-Energy Australia that week where the MOU signing session was organised by SEC at a nearby venue.

The Australia-Pacific Solar Mentoring Program will target to connect Australian mentors with Pacific grid connect PV systems and off-grid PV system installers to facilitate knowledge exchange and industry development as part of the Pacific's goal to achieve 100% renewable energy. The program will be managed by the Smart Energy Council which will select relevant members to support their Pacific colleagues with the Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands (SEIAPI) seeking expressions of interest from its members for mentoring.

In his address, CEO David McElrea stated regarding the Pacific's reliance on diesel: "The Pacific is so reliant on diesel, so being able to help decrease their reliance on expensive fuel by substituting it with distributed energy resources like solar and battery storage is so powerful."

SEIAPI Executive Officer Geoff Stapleton highlighted, regarding the plan for installers: "This is a long term plan for installers in Australia to build up lasting relationships with people in the Pacific and deliver permanent energy security solutions."

SEIAPI members interested in this program could register for this program from the following link: https://www.seiapi.com/mentoring-program/

Earlier on 8th October at Pro-COP31, the announcement was made involving the Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands (SEIAPI) and Smart Energy Council on the Australia-Pacific Solar Mentoring Program.

SEIAPI executive officer, Mr Geoff Stapleton attended the session titled: POWER STARTS AT HOME: PACIFIC ROOFTOP SOLAR EVENT PROSPECTUS in which the announcement was made.

SEIAPI at All Energy

SEIAPI Executive Officer Geoff Stapleton and Secretary Sandip Kumar attended the two-day All-Energy Exhibition 2026 that took place on 28–29 October 2026 at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre (MCEC). It is the Asia-Pacific region's largest clean energy exhibition and conference.

Through the event, Geoff and Sandip networked with the manufacturers and wholesalers who supply in the Pacific region and approached them for membership as well as found time to dwell on opportunities and strengthening partnerships and engagement.



Key event metrics:

- **Attendance:** 16,500+ industry professionals
- **Exhibitors:** 490+ global and national suppliers and innovators
- **Speakers & Sessions:** 500+ speakers across more than 100 sessions
- **Key Partners:** Delivered in partnership with the Clean Energy Council alongside the Energy Efficiency Council and Electric Vehicle Council.





Major Themes & Highlights

- **Batteries & Home Energy Storage:** Discussions and exhibits highlighted massive growth in residential battery and solar-plus-battery uptake across Australia, with annual installations projected between 350,000 and 400,000 systems.
- **National Regulation & DERs (Distributed Energy Resources):** The Clean Energy Council and the Clean Energy Regulator outlined plans for a single national code and technical requirements office to streamline solar inverters, home batteries, and EV chargers.
- **Electrification & Grid Security:** High-profile panels addressed how electrification, renewables, and storage can insulate households from fossil fuel price shocks. Prominent industry exhibitors included Sungrow, BYD Energy Storage, Fronius, ABB, Hitachi Energy, Origin Energy, and SEV Victoria.
- **Dedicated Show Zones:** Focused areas spanned the EV Tech & Infrastructure Zone, Energy Management & Energy Efficiency Zone, Grid & Network Solutions Zone, plus tracks covering green hydrogen, bioenergy, and First Nations yarning circles.
- Exhibitor announcements from companies like Sungrow, BYD, or Tesla

REnew Pacific projects announced at PreCOP31

During PRECOP31 in Fiji, Australia's Minister for Climate Change and Energy, the Hon Chris Bowen MP, announced three new projects that will bring clean, reliable power to more than 75,000 people across Fiji and Papua New Guinea:

1. **Fiji:** Its Time Foundation and the Fijian Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts will bring solar power, Starlink internet and laptops to 13 more remote schools.
2. **Oro, PNG:** Sola PayGo and Mbank PNG will bring pay-as-you-go solar to around 55,000 people in 19 communities.
3. **Bougainville, PNG:** Save the Children Australia and the Department of Education will power five remote schools and bring safer lighting to up to 2,000 homes

REnew Pacific now supports 13 locally led projects across seven countries.

For more details, visit: https://renewpacific.com.au/three-new-renew-pacific-projects-to-power-schools-homes-and-communities-in-fiji-and-papua-new-guinea/

REnew Pacific is delivered by the Australian Government's Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP) and implemented by Palladium.



SEIAPI 2nd Solar Conference registration to go live soon!

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:

GOLD Sponsors

1. Its Time Foundation
2. CBS Power Solutions
3. Berry Energy Services
4. Mindaro
5. GSES
6. Pacific Engineering Projects
7. PCREEE
8. REnew Pacific
9. EPC Solar
10. DPA Energy
11. TCL SunPower
12. Victron Energy
13. GoodWe
14. GomAp Control
15. Sunergise
16. Sungrow

Silver Sponsors

1. Superfly
2. Tindo Solar

Events:

1. **33rd Annual Pacific Power Association Conference, 2-5 November 2026, at the Crowne Plaza Fiji Resort & Spa, Nadi, Fiji.**
2.

