



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION



PACIFIC ISLANDS
FORUM SECRETARIAT



Celebrating the Pacific, Shaping its Future

Aid for Trade in Asia and the Pacific: Promoting Connectivity for Inclusive Development

7–8 February 2018

University of South Pacific, Suva, Fiji

Since the launch of the Aid for Trade (AfT) initiative, AfT has been an important part of ADB's support for regional cooperation and integration, and inclusive development in Asia and the Pacific. This conference will discuss key findings from ADB's 2017 Aid for Trade report.

Under the overarching theme of promoting connectivity for inclusive development, the event will review the latest trends in AfT disbursements and trade costs in the region, particularly for the geographically challenged sea-locked economies of the Pacific in a comparative Asian context. As intraregional trade and investment linkages, especially in the services sector, play an increasingly important role in promoting inclusive growth, the report also explores how AfT can be further leveraged to facilitate trade in services across Asia and the Pacific. Further discussion on institutional and regulatory reforms and cutting-edge trade facilitating solutions to promote trade in services and e-commerce would be welcome.

The event will bring together stakeholders from the Pacific, including policy makers, representatives from international organizations, the donor community, and academia to discuss the emerging challenges facing the remote island economies of the Pacific, and the way forward for the AfT initiative to boost connectivity and facilitate trade for inclusive growth. In the process, the discussion will also help highlight future intervention areas and inform the focus areas of ADB's 2019 Aid for Trade report.

Wednesday, 7 February 2018

Venue: Postgraduate Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Business and Economics Building

8:00–9:00 am Registration

Opening Ceremony

9:00–9:10 am	Welcome Remarks Professor Rajesh Chandra, Vice Chancellor, University of South Pacific
9:10–9:15 am	Statement from DFAT, Australia H.E. John Feakes, Head of Mission, Australian High Commission
9:15–9:30 am	Opening Remarks Shaheen Ali, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism, Government of Fiji
9:30–9:45 am	Keynote Speech Bambang Susantano, Vice President, Asian Development Bank
9:45–10:00 am	Photo Session and Coffee Break

Session 1: ADB 2017 Aid for Trade Report

Chair: Yasuyuki Sawada, Chief Economist, Asian Development Bank

10:00–10:30 am **Aid for Trade in Asia and the Pacific: Promoting Connectivity for Inclusive Development**
Cyn-Young Park, Director, Regional Cooperation and Integration Division, Asian Development Bank

10:30–12:00 pm **Round Table Discussion**

Caleb Jarvis, Trade and Investment Commissioner, Pacific Trade Invest, Australia

Cyn-Young Park, Director, Regional Cooperation and Integration Division, Asian Development Bank

Howard Politini, Chair, Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization

Michael Roberts, Head of Aid for Trade Unit, World Trade Organization

Seema Sharma, Director, Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade, Government of Fiji

Rup Singh, Senior Lecturer, University of South Pacific

Lunch Break, 12:00 – 2:00 pm

Session 2: Issues for Inclusive Development in the Pacific

Chair: Robert Jauncey, Regional Director, Pacific Sub-regional Office, Asian Development Bank

2:00 – 4:00 pm **People's Perspective on Inclusive Development**
Emele Duituturaga, Executive Director, Pacific Islands Association of Non-governmental Organizations

Private Sector Perspective on Inclusive Development

Ram Bajekal, Managing Director, FMF Foods Group of Companies

Climate action and implications for the Pacific

John Connor, Executive Director, COP23 Secretariat, Government of Fiji

Regional trade agreements: Way forward for open regionalism in the Pacific

Shiu Raj, Director, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

Linking trade and inclusive development

Neelesh Gounder, Senior Lecturer, University of South Pacific

Tourism in the Pacific

Chris Cocker, CEO, South Pacific Tourism Organization

Dinner Reception, 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Venue: Faculty of Business and Economics, University of the South Pacific

Thursday, 8 February 2017

Venue: Postgraduate Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Business and Economics Building

Session 3: Promoting Trade, Inclusiveness and Connectivity for Sustainable Development - Aid for Trade Global Review 2017

Chair: Shishir Priyadarshi, Director, Development Division, World Trade Organization

9:00–10:45 am

Overview of the Aid for Trade Global Review and At a Glance publication

Michael Roberts, Head of Aid for Trade Unit, World Trade Organization

Pacific Aid for Trade Strategy

Ben Czapnik, Aid for Trade Advisor, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

National perspective on trade, inclusiveness and connectivity: Presentation by Pacific partner country

Muliufi Nickel, Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Labour, Government of Samoa

Donor perspective on trade, inclusiveness and connectivity

H.E. Halia Haddad, Acting HOM, New Zealand High Commission

10:45–11:00 am

Coffee Break

11:00–12:00 pm

Update on WTO 11th Ministerial Conference - implications for the Pacific region

Shishir Priyadarshi, Director, Development Division, World Trade Organization

Lunch Break, 12:00–2:00 pm

Session 4: The future of inclusive trade driven growth – wrap up policy session

Chair: Professor Rajesh Chandra, Vice Chancellor, University of South Pacific

2:00–3:30 pm

Round Table Discussion

Hillary M J Kumwenda, Trade Policy Advisor, Government of Fiji

Matthew Lapworth, Counsellor, Australian High Commission

Shishir Priyadarshi, Director, Development Division, World Trade Organization

Shiu Raj, Director, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

Yasuyuki Sawada, Chief Economist, Asian Development Bank

3:30–3:45 pm

Closing Remarks

Dame Meg Taylor, Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat