



सत्यमेव जयते



INDIA–PACIFIC ISLANDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

‘Furthering the FIPIC Agenda through Sustainability Initiatives’

25 – 26 May, 2017 | Suva, Fiji

In association with



Confederation of Indian Industry

Executive Summary

Introduction

The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India hosted the 'India–Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference' in Suva, Fiji, from 25 to 26 May, 2017. The conference was held under the framework of the Forum for India Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIIC). The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) was the key knowledge partner for this event.

Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen. (Dr) V K Singh (Retd.) hosted heads of state, ministers and senior officials from the Pacific Island Countries at the conference. A total of eleven island countries marked their presence at the conference. The dignitaries included Hon'ble Baron Waqa MP, President, Republic of Nauru; Hon'ble Toke Tufukia Talagi, Premier of Niue; Hon'ble Fiame Naomi Mataafa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Natural Resources & Environment, Samoa; Hon'ble Maatia Toafa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Economic Development, Tuvalu; Hon'ble Mark Brown, Minister of Finance, Cook Islands; Hon'ble Semisi Fakahau, Minister for Agriculture, Food, Forests & Fisheries, Kingdom of Tonga; Hon'ble Ham Lini Vanuarorua, Minister of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology, Geo-Hazard, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management, Vanuatu; Hon'ble Tekena Tiroa, Member of Parliament, Kiribati; Ms Makereta Konrote, Permanent Secretary, Minister for Economy, Republic of Fiji; Ms Hakaua Harry, Secretary, Department of National Planning and Monitoring, Papua New Guinea; and Mr Shadrach Fanega, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination, Republic of Solomon Islands.

The two-day conference focussed on issues such as Blue Economy, adaptation-mitigation practices for climate change, disaster preparedness, health, the International Solar Alliance (ISA), as well as finding practical solutions to implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The conference aimed at facilitating exchange of knowledge and experiences, and initiating public-private partnerships and collaborations for the benefit of all participating countries. The conference format featured plenary sessions and thematic tracks which aimed at encouraging new thinking that, it is hoped, will inform the official processes of engagement among stakeholder countries.

On the sidelines of the conference, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, held bilateral talks with President of Fiji, Major General (Retd.) Jioji Konusi Konrote, Fijian Parliament Speaker Dr Jiko Luveni, President of Nauru Mr Baron Waqa, MP Premier of Niue Mr Toke Tofukia Talagi, Acting Prime Minister and Attorney General of Fiji Mr Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Minister of Defence of Fiji Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, Deputy Prime Minister of Tuvalu Mr Maatia Toafa, Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa Ms Fiamē Naomi Mataafa, Minister of Finance of Cook Islands Mr Mark Brown and Member of Parliament of Kiribati Mr Tekena Tiroa.

India also signed several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with Pacific Island Nations to deepen co-operation across a variety of fields. These included MoUs for setting up Centres of Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) with Fiji, Cook Islands, Nauru, Samoa and Niue. India and Fiji also signed three MoUs for 'Co-operation in Youth Development', 'Cooperation between Broadcasting Agencies, of India and Fiji', and 'Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy'. Prasar Bharti, India's largest public broadcasting agency, also gifted programmatic content on India for telecast to all the Pacific Island Countries.

The conference proceedings reached a vast section of people through the medium of live webcast and engaged members of the audience on-ground through voting sessions, which helped gauge preferences of the audience from a series of options presented to them related to the conference themes. The conference valedictory session featured Mr Peniana Vaidei, a student of Grade 8 from Saint Joseph the Worker Primary School, Nausori, Fiji who shared his inspiring thoughts and moving concerns with the august audience, bringing to the fore opinions which are of immediate relevance and which affect us all.

The conference featured a total of 55 speakers including five heads of government in seven plenary sessions, four thematic tracks and witnessed an attendance of more than 500 over two days.

Other conference partners included Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF).

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List of Abbreviations

FIPIC	Forum for India–Pacific Islands Cooperation
TERI	The Energy and Resources Institute
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
CEIT	Centres of Excellence in Information Technology
CII	Confederation of Indian Industry
FICCI	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
PIDF	Pacific Islands Development Forum
PICs	Pacific Island Countries
ICCR	Indian Council for Cultural Relations
SDC	Sustainable Development Conference
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
ADB	Asian Development Bank
NDRF	National Disaster Response Force
PSIDS	Pacific Small Island Developing States

About FIPIC

India's Act East Policy lays emphasis on strengthening India's engagement with the countries in the East and the extended neighbourhood in the Asia-Pacific region, including the 14 Pacific Island Countries (PICs). The Act East Policy aims at promoting economic cooperation, cultural ties and developing strategic relationship with countries in the Asia-Pacific region through continuous engagement at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.

The Forum for India–Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) was formed during the visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Mr Narendra Modi to Fiji in November 2014. Members of FIPIC include India and the 14 PICs, namely: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The first FIPIC Summit was held in Suva, Fiji during Prime Minister Modi's visit followed by the second Summit in Jaipur in August 2015.

Major outcomes of the two Summits included grant of e-Tourist visa on gratis basis to all PICs; grant of 2 ICCR scholarships to 13 PICs (excluding Fiji); doubling of ITEC slots from 110 to 238 for 13 PICs; increase in annual Grant-in-Aid from USD 1,25,000 to USD 2,00,000; training of diplomats in May 2015 in Fiji and Palau; Distinguished Visitors Programme in February 2016; goodwill visits by INS Satpura to Marshall Islands and Micronesia in August, 2016 and by INS Sumitra to Fiji in October 2016.

The FIPIC Journey

India has been engaging with the Pacific Island Countries on a wide range of issues.

- Two major projects for all 14 PICs are underway. These include (i) Solar Electrification of 2,800 houses (200



houses in each country) at a cost of approximately USD 1.54 million and (ii) Establishment of Centres of Excellence in Information Technology in each country at a cost of approximately USD 7.22 million.

- A line of credit (LoC) of USD 70 million was signed with Fiji to upgrade sugar mills in Fiji.
- Operationalisation of grant of USD 2.2 million for promotion of 'Small Business and Village Enterprises' in Fiji has been successfully implemented. The first tranche of Fiji \$1 million (USD 0.47 million) has been paid to Fiji.
- India assisted Fiji by granting USD 1 million and supplying 45 tonnes of relief material following Category 5 Cyclone Winston that hit Fiji in February 2016.
- 5 tonnes of vegetable seeds were granted to Fiji in October 2016 at a cost of USD 4.5 million.
- Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee visited Papua New Guinea from 28–30 April, 2016. Four MoUs were signed during the visit which were (i) LoC of USD 100 million for infrastructure development, (ii) Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine, (iii) Cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Horticulture, and (iv) Setting up a Centre of Excellence in Information Technology.
- Prime Minister of PNG had requested President Mukherjee for Anti-Retroviral medicines for HIV/AIDS patients in PNG. Total cost incurred was USD 2.7 million.
- India has given a grant of USD 910,700 to Niue for establishing a 4G/LTE mobile network in Niue.
- India has given a grant of USD 190,000 to Vanuatu for providing IT equipment for 76 schools in Vanuatu.
- India has given a grant of USD 200,000 to Vanuatu for relief work following Cyclone Pam in 2015.
- India has given a grant of USD 690,846 to Cook Islands for Community Development Projects.
- India has given a grant of USD 450,000 to Nauru in 2015 to build a Sea Wall.
- India has given a grant of USD 200,000 to Micronesia to conduct its Integrated Agriculture Census.
- India has given a grant of USD 199,680 to Marshall Islands for the Atoll Community Coral & Clean Project and another USD 100,000 for recovery efforts following flash floods.
- India gave a grant of USD 1.3 million for renovation of 20 schools in Fiji.
- India is in the process of setting up a Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) in 2 PICs to improve local IT infrastructure, and help to provide tele-medicine and tele-education services to the people.



Message from the
**Hon'ble Prime
Minister of India**
on the occasion of
**India-Pacific Islands
Sustainable Development
Conference 2017**



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प्रधान मंत्री

Prime Minister

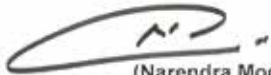
MESSAGE

Friends,

Over the past few years, relations between India and Pacific Island Countries have grown closer than they have ever been before. I myself have very pleasant memories of my visit to this region in 2014 when we held the first Forum for India and the Pacific Island Countries (FIPIIC) in Suva. I had the privilege of hosting leaders of this region for FIPIIC-II in New Delhi and Jaipur the following year. We had then agreed on areas of cooperation in sustainable development, renewable energy, disaster risk reduction, health care and blue economy.

This year, a Pacific Island country – Fiji has assumed the Presidency of COP-23. This is both a matter of pride for this region as well as an assertion of the importance of sustainable development for your countries. The India-Pacific Sustainable Development Conference being held in Suva, Fiji, brings together experts, policy makers, business and civil society representatives from India and this region, with a view to capacity building in a holistic manner in the areas we have identified in our cooperation with this region. I have no doubt that over the two days of your deliberations, there will not only be a better understanding of what could be some of the solutions to the challenges being faced by the region, but also of the opportunities that present themselves.

I wish your deliberations all success.



(Narendra Modi)

New Delhi
May 23, 2017

Conference background note

Ensuring the welfare of all mankind is a growing concern at the global level. The severe impacts of climate change are collectively experienced by all countries, due to which sustainable development is identified as the critical need of the hour by all nations to combat this pressing issue. The 14 PICs are equally vulnerable to climate change which has severe implications on the region's biodiversity, economic growth and overall development.

In the face of such challenges, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his visit to Fiji in November 2014, launched the FIPIC, a multinational platform for widespread cooperation between India and the PICs. The Forum reflects India's keen interest in strengthening its engagement with the PICs under its 'Act East Policy'.

FIPIC marks a serious effort to expand India's engagement in the Pacific region with a focus on sustainable development of the region and the issues of infrastructure development, Blue Economy, security, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Since the establishment of FIPIC, India has offered assistance in the form of an annual Grant-in-Aid of USD 2 million to each of the 14 PICs for community projects of their choice and a USD 1 million fund for adapting to climate change practices, adopting clean energy and improving digital connectivity, among others.

The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in collaboration with TERI, PIDF, CII, FICCI, and NDMA facilitated the India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference (SDC).

"This partnership demonstrates that geography is no barrier to productive partnerships of convergent interests and shared challenges... It stems from our belief in *Vasudhaivakutumbakam* – the world is one family– and from the conviction that in sharing what we have, we enrich each other and make this world a better place."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 2nd FIPIC Summit at Jaipur, August 2015

The SDC, held under the aegis of the FIPIC, was organised in association with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The PICs grapple with the most severe impacts of climate change, even though their contribution towards creating the problem has been small. Therefore, one of the primary objectives of the conference was to encourage region-wide strategic policies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, promote regional cooperation and exchange of expertise as well as enhance public-private action to build climate resilience, with a focus on the threat to small island nations.

As Fiji was all set to take on the role of the COP23 Presidency in Bonn (Germany) in November 2017, time was appropriate to highlight the challenges obstructing sustainable development. Fiji's Presidency has drawn the attention of the world to the challenges posed by climate change.

The SDC laid emphasis on collective action to combat the most critical climate change challenges and the need to collaborate in order to implement innovative and effective solutions to drive sustainable development. It aims to provide a platform to facilitate dialogue and



"Climate change is one of the crucial challenges today and combating it is India's prime aim. Today, we are at an important moment where we need to think of Sustainable Development for the entire global community. India has taken a number of initiatives for the benefit of our friends in the Pacific region, for our geographies might seem to be different but our fortunes are linked. The sustainable energy future is bright, and there is a huge potential for cooperation in the 21st century, provided we keep abreast of the technologies. India is truly committed to renewable energy and the earlier we all join the International Solar Alliance, the better it is for the world and for climate change."

Gen. (Dr) V K Singh (Retd.)
Minister of State for External Affairs,
*Government of India, at the Inaugural, India
Pacific Islands Sustainable Development
Conference, 2017*

create an enabling atmosphere that fosters understanding and cooperation. In the course of the proceedings, the event was instrumental in highlighting sustainable development challenges and threats from natural hazards faced by the developing states of small island nations.

The key objectives of the SDC were to:

- Promote regional cooperation and exchange of expertise on the implementation of effective sustainable development policies in the region;
- Encourage region-wide strategic policies to mitigate and adapt to climate change;
- Enhance the public-private action and nexus to build resilient communities;
- Act as a platform to develop a post-COP 22 regional strategy to guide joint climate change mitigation and adaptation; and
- Guide participating stakeholders in securing financial support and exchanging innovative technology.

PICs are facing extreme climate change impacts such as eroding shorelines and riverbanks, shortage of water, depleted fisheries stocks, reduced food production, large-scale flooding, increase in outbreak of vector borne diseases and sea-level rise. Further examples include cyclones and storms, which affect every sector of the region's economy, such as

employment levels, availability of natural resources and building resilience. The various plenaries and thematic tracks held during the conference sought to explore distinct themes and sustainable development issues, including the following:

- Implementing NDCs by creating appropriate institutional frameworks. It is the need of the hour to support developing countries to find practical solutions to their NDC implementation challenges which will require technical expertise, practical application, understanding of the wider developmental challenges, financial requirements and innovative business models to enhance participation of the corporate sector.
- Solar energy interventions in the PICs to expand access to electricity at an affordable price. PICs are endowed with renewable energy resources, mainly solar and biomass, and the ISA can support PICs in utilising solar energy to meet their electrification goals in an environmentally-benign and cost-effective manner.
- Enhancing disaster risk reduction in the PICs and coastal regions through capacity building and investment in development and enhancement of early warning and communication systems for natural hazards.

- Leveraging 'Blue Economy' as an engine of growth to achieve development goals in small island and coastal states. Blue Economy covers a wide canvas of economic activity including fisheries and aquaculture, trade and investment, ports and shipping, coastal infrastructure development, along with the associated sectors of finance and tourism.
- Strengthening the healthcare delivery systems by opening dialogue channels with the health systems of PICs and leveraging the expertise of Indian healthcare providers — including pharmaceutical industry, device manufacturers and health technology companies.
- Transitioning towards sustainable business practices in the PICs for greater economic integration, more equitable natural resource agreements, increasing open labour markets and adaptation to climate change are vital.

The SDC witnessed participation from the Government of India and the governments of the 11 PICs, representatives from industry, academia, multilateral and bilateral development organisations and sustainability think-tanks from India and the region.

It is time to work together as a global community to increase access to finance for climate adaptation and to develop products and models to attract private sector participation in climate action.



Agenda

Day 1 - May 25, 2017

Inaugural Session

Welcome & Setting the Context : **Mr Amar Sinha**, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs, India

Special Address : **Dr Ajay Mathur**, Director General, TERI, India

Keynote Address: **Gen (Dr) V K Singh (Retd.)**, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, India

Inaugural Address: **Hon'ble Aiyaz Sayed Khaiyum**, Attorney General and Minister for Economy, Public Enterprises, Civil Service and Communications, Republic of Fiji

Concluding Remarks & Vote of Thanks: **H.E. Mr Vishvas Sapkal**, High Commissioner of India to Fiji

Exchange of MoUs

Ministerial Session 1

Sustainable Development - Challenges

Moderator: **Ambassador Ajai Malhotra**, Distinguished Fellow & Senior Advisor (Climate Change), TERI

- **Gen. (Dr) V K Singh (Retd.)**, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, India
Hon'ble Baron Waqa MP, President, Republic of Nauru
- **Hon'ble Fiame Naomi Mataafa**, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Natural Resources & Environment, Samoa
- **Hon'ble Maatia Toafa**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Economic Development, Tuvalu
- **Hon'ble Ham Lini Vanuaroroa**, Minister of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology, Geo-Hazard, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management, Vanuatu
- **Ms Hakaua Harry**, Secretary, Department of National Planning and Monitoring, Papua New Guinea
- **Mr Shadrach Fanega**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination, Republic of Solomon Islands

Ministerial Session 2

Sustainable Development: Vision 2030

Moderator: Ambassador Ajai Malhotra, Distinguished Fellow & Senior Advisor, TERI

- **Gen. (Dr) V K Singh (Retd.)**, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, India
- **Hon'ble Toke Tufukia Talagi**, Premier of Niue
- **Hon'ble Tekena Tiroa**, Member of Parliament, Kiribati
- **Hon'ble Mark Brown**, Minister of Finance, Cook Islands
- **Hon'ble Semisi Fakahau**, Minister for Agriculture, Food, Forests & Fisheries, Kingdom of Tonga
- **Ms Makereta Konrote**, Permanent Secretary, Minister for Economy, Republic of Fiji

Presentation on the International Solar Alliance

Mr Upendra Tripathy, Interim Director General, International Solar Alliance

Presentation

Ms Meagan Fallone, CEO, Barefoot College, India

Thematic Tracks: Session 1

Roundtable on Pacific Islands Medical Collaboration

Moderator: Ms Bernadette Welch, Permanent Secretary for Civil Service, Acting Permanent Secretary for Health, Fiji

- **Dr Praveen Jain**, Neuro Surgeon, Deoyani Multispeciality Hospital, Pune
- **Dr Chandrashekhar Kulkarni**, Cardiac Surgeon, Deoyani Multispeciality Hospital, Pune
- **Prof. Manu Munibhargav**, Director, Sahyadri Specialty Pacific Hospital Limited, Fiji
- **Dr Harinder Sidhu**, VP-Corporate Affairs, Apollo Hospitals

Solar Energy Interventions in PICs : A Round table

Moderator: Mr Upendra Tripathy, Interim Director General, International Solar Alliance

- **Ms Meagan Fallone**, CEO, Barefoot College, India
- **Mr Dau Iferemi**, Energy Program Officer, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- **Mr Paula Katirewa**, Director of Energy, Government of Fiji
- **Mr Amit Kumar**, Senior Fellow & Senior Director, TERI
- **Dr Ajay Mathur**, Director General, TERI
- **Dr Anirudh Singh**, Adjunct Associate Professor, University of South Pacific
- **Ms Sharon Potoi Aiafi**, ACEO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Samoa

Thematic Tracks: Session 2

Blue Economy: A New Growth Frontier

Moderator: Ambassador Anup Mudgal, Member, FICCI Task Force on Blue Economy & Former Indian High Commissioner to Mauritius

- **Mr Mark Borg**, Team Leader Programmes, Pacific Islands Development Forum
- **Dr Priyadarshi Dash**, Research Associate, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)
- **Ms Arpana Pratap**, Team Leader Member Capacity, Pacific Islands Development Forum
- **Mr Alfred Ralifo**, Pacific Policy Officer, WWF
- **Dr P Sekhar**, Member, FICCI Task Force on Blue Economy & Chairman, Micro Tech Global Foundation
- **Dr Jan H. Steffen**, Project Director, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- **Mr Ulu Bismarck Crawley**, CEO, Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment, Samoa

Resilient Pacific Island Countries: Issues and Challenges

Moderator: Mr R. K. Jain, Member, National Disaster Management Authority, India

- **Mr R. K. Pachnanda**, Director General, National Disaster Response Force, India
- **Mr Michael Arunga**, Information Management Officer, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- **Mr Paul Bayly**, Permanent Secretary for Infrastructure and Transport, Fiji
- **Mr Scott Hook**, Head of FRDP, Pacific Islands Forum
- **Dr M. Mohapatra**, India Meteorological Department
- **Prof. C.V.R. Murty**, Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur
- **Mr Taito Nakalevu**, Senior Advisor and Project Manager ACP-EU Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific Project, Pacific Community (SPC)
- **Dr Sateesh C. Sheno**i, Director, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad

Cultural Programme

Day 2 - May 26, 2017

Plenary I

Blue Economy as a Template for Sustainable Development

Moderator: Ambassador Anup Mudgal, Member, FICCI Task Force on Blue Economy & Former Indian High Commissioner to Mauritius

- **Dr Priyadarshi Dash**, Research Associate, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)
- **Ms Arpana Pratap**, Team Leader Member Capacity, Pacific Islands Development Forum
- **Mr Alfred Ralifo**, Pacific Policy Officer, WWF
- **Dr P. Sekhar**, Member, FICCI Task Force on Blue Economy & Chairman, Micro Tech Global Foundation

Plenary II

Addressing the NDC Implementation Challenge

Moderator: Dr Ajay Mathur, DG, TERI

- **H.E. Ms Lucy Bogari**, High Commissioner of Papua New Guinea to Fiji
- **Mr Karan Mangotra**, Fellow, TERI
- **Mr R. R. Rashmi**, Special Secretary, MoEF&CC, India
- **Ms Katerina Syngellakis**, Head of Office Pacific, Global Green Growth Institute

Plenary III

Transitioning towards Sustainable Business in the PICs

Moderator: Mr Francois Martel, Secretary General, PIDF

- **Mr Nafitalai Cakacaka**, General Manager Business Risk Services, Fiji Development Bank, Fiji
- **Ms Christina Leala-Gale**, Manager - Sustainable Tourism Development, South Pacific Tourism Organisation
- **Mr Amit Mukherjee**, Deputy General Manager, Shakti Pumps
- **Mr Howard Politini**, Chairman, Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation

Plenary IV

Role of Innovative Financing Mechanisms

Moderator: Mr Dipak Dasgupta, Former Principal Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance, Government of India

- **Hon'ble Lorna Eden**, Assistant Minister for Local Government, Housing and Environment, Fiji
- **Ms Meagan Fallone**, CEO, Barefoot College, India
- **Mr Robert Jauncey**, Regional Director, ADB-Pacific Sub-Regional Office
- **Mr Amit Kumar**, Senior Fellow & Senior Director, TERI
- **Mr Upendra Tripathy**, Interim Director General, International Solar Alliance

Plenary V

A Roadmap for Disaster Risk Reduction in Pacific Island Countries

Moderator: Mr. R. K. Jain, Member, National Disaster Management Authority, India

- **Mr R. K. Pachnanda**, Director General, National Disaster Response Force, India
- **Mr Subhash Mehta**, Chief Operating Officer- Fiji, The New India Assurance Company Ltd
- **Dr M. Mohapatra**, India Meteorological Department
- **Prof. C. V. R. Murty**, Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur
- **Mr Taito Nakalevu**, Senior Advisor and Project Manager ACP-EU Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific Project, Pacific Community (SPC)
- **Dr Sateesh C. Sheno**i, Director, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad

Valedictory Session

Presentation by Green Olympiad Participant 'Sustainable Development and Climate Change' in the presence of **Hon. Dr Mahendra Reddy**, Minister for Education, Fiji, and **Hon'ble Toke Tufukia Talagi**, Premier of Niue

Summary of the Proceedings: Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, TERI

Valedictory Address: Gen (Dr) V K Singh (Retd.), Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, India

Concluding Remarks & Vote of Thanks: H.E. Mr Vishvas Sapkal, High Commissioner of India to Fiji

Glimpses from the Conference



Representatives from the 11 PICs with Minister of State for External Affairs, India

MoUs Signed at the Conference



MOU between the Government of India and the Government of Fiji for establishing India — Fiji Centre of Excellence in IT



MOU between the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Fiji and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of India on Cooperation in the field of Youth Development



MOU between the Government of India and the Government of Fiji on Co-operation in the field of Renewable Energy



MOU for cooperation on broadcasting between Prasara Bharti, New Delhi, India and Fiji Broadcasting Corporation for Exchange of Audio Visual Programmes



MOU between the Government of India and the Government of Independent State of Samoa for Establishing India - Samoa Centre of Excellence in IT



MOU between the Government of India and the Government of Cook Islands for Establishing India — Cook Islands Centre of Excellence in IT



MOU between the Government of India and the Government of Republic of Nauru for establishing India— Nauru ICT learning Centre of Excellence in IT



Handover of a Cheque of USD 100,00 USD to the Republic of Marshall Islands, by the Government of India

Glimpses from the Conference



Inaugural Address by Hon'ble Aiyaz Sayed Khaiyum, Attorney General and Minister for Economy, Public Enterprises, Civil Service and Communications, Republic of Fiji



Keynote Address by Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd.), Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, India



Special Address by Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, TERI, India



Ambassador Ajai Malhotra, Distinguished Fellow & Senior Advisor (Climate Change), TERI, as the Moderator for Ministerial Session



Speakers at Thematic Track, Roundtable on Pacific Islands Medical Collaboration



Speakers at Thematic Track, Solar Energy Interventions in PICs - A Round table



Ambassador Anup Mudgalas, Moderator for Plenary, Blue Economy as a Template for Sustainable Development



Mr Alfred Ralifo, Pacific Policy Officer, WWF, during Plenary, Blue Economy as a Template for Sustainable Development



Mr R. R. Rashmi, Special Secretary, MoEF&CC, India, during Plenary, Addressing the NDC Implementation Challenge



Speakers of Plenary, A Roadmap for Disaster Risk Reduction in Pacific Island Countries



Speakers of Plenary, Blue Economy as a Template for Sustainable Development



Speakers at the Valedictory Session



Mr Howard Politini, Chairman, Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation, during Plenary, Transitioning towards Sustainable Business in the PICs.



Ms Christina Leala-Gale, Manager - Sustainable Tourism Development, South Pacific Tourism Organisation, during Plenary, Transitioning towards Sustainable Business in the PICs.



Mr Dipak Dasgupta, Former Principal Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, as Moderator for Plenary, Role of Innovative Financing Mechanisms



Speakers of Plenary, Role of Innovative Financing Mechanisms



Dance performance during Cultural Evening



Participants at the conference



From left, Hon'ble Aiyaz Sayed Khaiyum, Major General (Retd) Jioji Konusi Konrote and Gen (Dr) V K Singh at the social dinner



Participants at the conference

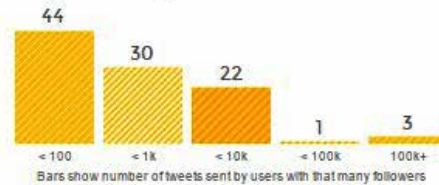
Media Coverage

ESTIMATED REACH

1,124,818
ACCOUNTS REACHED

EXPOSURE

3,959,804 IMPRESSIONS

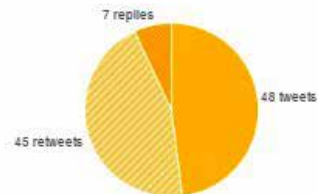


ACTIVITY

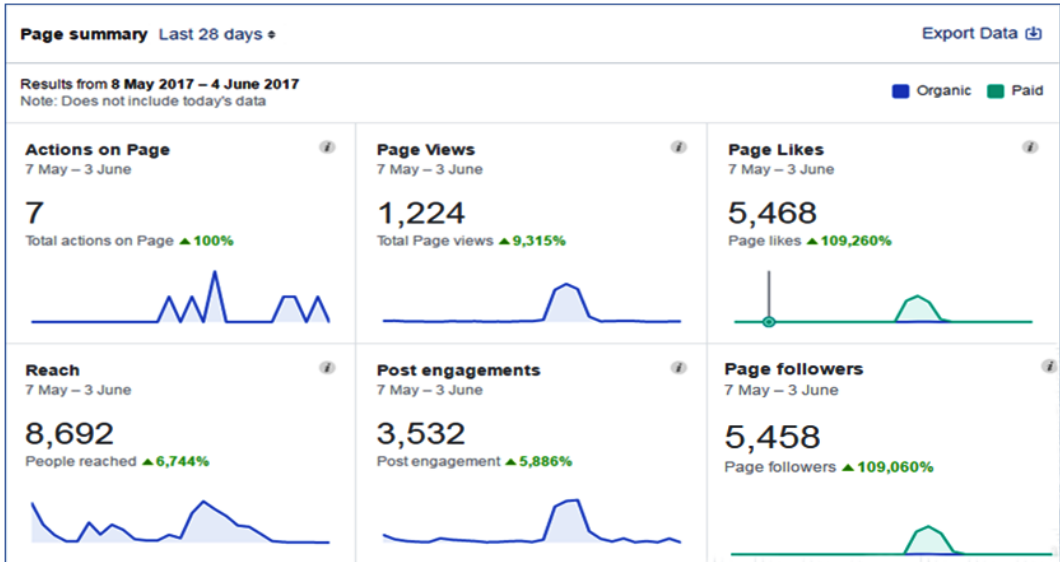
100
TWEETS

41
CONTRIBUTORS

4
DAYS



Facebook Statistics



Current Facebook Page Likes : 5,609 likes and 5,614 Followers



Keynote Address



Gen. (Dr) V K Singh (Retd.)
Hon'ble Minister of State
for External Affairs,
Government of India

'Excellencies, ladies and gentleman, *'bula vinaka'* and a very good morning to all of you. It is a pleasure to be here in the company of various leaders from the Pacific Island Countries. As our Prime Minister remarked when somebody said that we are small island countries that "we are in fact 'large portion' countries the type of economic zone that you possess, no other nation does". I welcome all leaders from these 'large-portion' countries, who have gathered here today. Last when I spoke to the Prime Minister, he was delighted to know that so many leaders and representatives from various countries are attending this conference.

We've had two summits, one in Suva and one in Jaipur, where a lot of issues were deliberated upon. Our Prime Minister clearly articulated that India would like to work closely to advance the developmental agenda of Pacific Island Countries. He also said that India will provide technical assistance and training for capacity building to Pacific Island Countries and our partners to address the climate change issues. To this effect,

India has taken up a number of initiatives for the benefit of our friends in the region. We are at an important point in time for the world where we are looking at creating a sustainable future for the entire global community by ensuring our existence. All nations, large and small, have equal stake in realising this particular vision. While our geographies might seem to be different, there is a lot in common between India and the Pacific Island Countries. India has a coastline of 7,500 km and around 1,000 islands are located around the mainland. We have always been a country which has had maritime tradition. It is for this reason that the reach of our civilization spread far and wide in our neighbourhood. We also have a shared heritage and culture in terms of the reverence that we attach to nature. For centuries we have

We have always been a country which has had maritime tradition. It is for this reason that the reach of our civilization spread far and wide in our neighbourhood. We also have a shared heritage and culture in terms of reverence that we attach to nature. For centuries we have recognised the invaluable and enviable status of our natural environment and we have taken the path of development while respecting nature; this is common between Pacific- Island Countries and India.

recognised the invaluable and enviable status of our natural environment and have taken the path of development while respecting nature; this is common between Pacific Island Countries and India. Today, the world too is realising the importance of sustainable development and it is important for us to encourage countries to be true to their commitments, to push forward and to achieve and surpass our targets to reduce ammunition through mutual co-operation and collaboration. Climate change is of prime concern today and combating it is one of India's priorities. India has set a target under the leadership of our Prime Minister of 175 GW of solar energy by 2022. This has urged the growth of solar energy providers, and has also spurred the competition between the wind and solar conglomerates. Therefore, what we find in India today, is that prices have steadily come down, there are states in India where the power per unit agreements for solar energy are less than thermal energy and I am sure this benefit is going to spread far and wide, especially when we share our technology and resources with our friends in the Pacific Island Countries. We firmly believe in capacity building, and believe that what we have, we can pass on to our friends and ensure that they have the required manpower to train many more in their countries and it is with this aim that we have set various

scholarships for our friends from the Pacific Island Countries so that we can together tread on this path of capacity building. India is happy that Fiji is one among the FIPIC countries that will hold the presidency of COP23 to be held in Bonn later this year; this I believe, will send a very strong message to the world and will highlight the effects of climate change on island countries.

I am glad to announce that India will be contributing USD 1 million to Fiji's Trust Fund for the presidency of COP23. We are truly committed to renewable energy and have been ensuring that we inform people about how the International Solar Alliance, which has come up in India, is for their benefit. I am glad that most of our friends in the island countries have become a part of it, there are some yet to ratify it so that it becomes operational, others have already ratified and I am sure that the message which will be sent forth from these deliberations for the rest of the world will be that the earlier they join the International Solar Alliance, the better it is for the world and for climate change. There is a need for cutting edge engineering and technology which is suitable for our economies and our resources and provides us an opportunity to leap-frog the learning curve with the help of next generation technologies. The sustainable energy future as we look at it is bright, provided we keep

abreast of new technologies. There are many challenges that we face as we pursue economic development for our people using sustainable pathways but this is also an opportunity for us to think out of-the-box and maximise resource utilization for the economic good of our people. There are many innovative models and we hope to learn more about these during the conference when we deliberate over some of the issues that have been put forward. The fortunes of our region are linked just as the two oceans-Pacific and Indian- are linked. The oceans are critical to both yours and to India's future and there is a huge potential for co-operation in this area in the 21st century. Oceans have once again reclaimed their role as vital drivers of growth and economies. Besides trade, they are a source of clean energy, food security, climate regulating factors, and medicines. At the same time, it is essential to utilise the bounties in a sustainable manner. Our discussions on Blue Economy track will shed more light on the solutions and progress in this area.

In the end, I would like to echo Prime Minister Narendra Modi's words: "India sees you as 'large -portion' countries with unlimited potential in this interconnected world"; we have come here today with the hope of strengthening and taking forward our partnership and to take concrete action to create a sustainable world for the future.

With this, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all once again and I wish the conference great success. I would also like to thank the Government of Fiji and the Prime Minister,

and the Acting Prime Minister for their support and the leaders and friends from the Pacific Island Countries who have gathered here. *Bula Vinaka*'.

Inaugural Address



Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum

Honourable Attorney General
and Minister for Economy,
Public Enterprises, Civil Service
and Communications,
Republic of Fiji

'Your Excellency, General (Dr) Vijay Kumar Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs of the Government of India, Honourable Ministers, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, heir to the regional organizations and UN agencies, representatives of the civil society, and the private sector, our friends from the different NGOs from India, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, *'bula vinaka'* and a very good morning to all of you.

We are delighted to address you this morning at the Third India–Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference. As mentioned earlier, our Honourable Prime Minister is making his way back to Fiji after a successful campaign abroad to continue to build support for Fiji's presidency at the United Nations Climate Change negotiations or COP23. He is leading us to prepare for that enormous responsibility as Fiji looks to defend and implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and preserve the multilateral consensus for decisive action to address the underlying causes of climate change. We are proud to be leading the world on this issue of highest

importance indeed for the Pacific Island Countries and we look forward to working with every nation represented at this Conference to make our presidency a success.

For the Pacific leaders here today, I know I don't have to explain what is at stake if we falter in our mission to seek full implementation of the Paris Agreement and I know we all give this issue the serious attention it deserves. This of course is not Fiji's presidency alone; it is the presidency that seeks to place the interest of every nation at the forefront of the negotiations, in particular the vulnerable nations, in order to prepare us all for the more extreme impacts of global warming. And to our friends from India we all look forward to working with you to spur the industrial world interaction and dramatically reduce the harmful emissions that are warming up the earth's atmosphere. We have stood shoulder to shoulder with the Pacific on many earlier occasions Your Excellency, and we will need you full support in the future as well.

Ladies and gentlemen, we cannot separate the work we are carrying out to build up our region from the impacts of climate change. Its effects are simply too far reaching and devastating for us not to consider them across every level of government and at every stage of development. Indeed as we have said, development finance actually equates with climate finance. If we aim

to achieve sustainable development, we must aspire to achieve an infrastructure that can withstand severe climate disruptions, communities that are protected from rising seas and, sources of food that can sustain our people in the face of changing weather patterns. While he regrets he cannot be here to open this conference himself, our Honourable Prime Minister's work to rally the international community to our cause is tied immediately and ultimately to the goals of this conference as we all look to promote development that is sustainable and resistant to the adverse impacts of climate change. Ladies and gentlemen, Your Excellencies, three years ago when the honourable Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi first established the Forum for India–Pacific Islands Co-operation; India and the Pacific already enjoyed a solid foundation of development co-operation and since then those ties have become even stronger. The flow of goods, services, investments, technical co-operation, and human capital between the Pacific Islands and India has reached record heights and there is definitely an opportunity to go even further. These exchanges have inspired innovation, driven the adoption of international best practices and given people from India and every Pacific-Island country the chance to improve their lives and exercise excellent opportunities for themselves and their communities. It is therefore

our duty over the next few days to build on that success and realise even higher levels of engagement amongst the countries.

India is not only the world's largest democracy; it is home to one of the most dynamic and innovative economies of the world. India is very much a nation on the move, the world is changing and it has taken notice that India is an economic power, a technological innovator, a centre of advanced medicine and science, and an incubator of competitive global businesses. There is no limit of course to the lessons that we in the Pacific can learn from India's experiences, know of the opportunities for collaboration between our countries, throughout the region and together as a united voice in global forums. Fiji's own bond of course with India forms a deep and intimate part of our history as so many Fijians can trace their history back to British India as a result of the tens of thousands of indentured labourers who were brought to Fiji to work in our plantations, mainly in the sugar cane farms. Just last year, we celebrated the hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the last indentured labourers brought from British India into Fiji. The struggle and the stories of all the indentured labourers or the 'girimiyas' as they were known, form a vital part of our collective Fijian identity. And we are very proud that we have maintained such a strong friendship with the Indian Government to this day. India

extended valuable assistance to Fiji in support of establishment of our first genuine parliamentary democracy of equal votes of equal value. It has taken the form of scholarships for Fijians in the Indian institutions in a wide range of corporation in development and security and most recently through our signed MoUs on information technology, renewable energy, news development and our partnership during the International Solar Alliance last year. Indeed, Your Excellency, we have just presented the Solar Alliance Agreement to our Parliament as is required by our Constitution, once the parliament approves the verification, we hope to carry out the ratification in the next few months. Every Fijian values and appreciates India's support to our national development and in recent years we are glad to see India's increased engagement with our fellow Pacific Island Countries as well. Our natural environment is a source of livelihood throughout the region as highlighted earlier but beyond that it is the very life blood of our culture and so it carries deep personal significance for our people. Fiji has placed sustainability at the heart of our approach to development. We want the world to look at Fiji and the Pacific as examples of sustainable economic systems. Through our Green Growth Movement and formulation of our 20th National Development Plans, we are well on our way to making that a reality. We are making a foundation for Fiji to meet our international

commitments and to keep up with our record economic growth which is both inclusive and sustainable. We are at the cusp of economic advancement in the Pacific. Throughout our discussions, let us constantly consider how the benefits of our progress will reach every level of our society, and how development can ease the gaps in our economy for our people. We are particularly keen to explore how we can widen the region of health influences and boost agreements for development towards that end. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we are honoured to host

you all in Suva for this conference. We are grateful for the friendship shown to Fiji by every nation represented here today and have high hopes for the rest of our ambitions. Our doors remain open to the regions of the world and we are committed more so than ever to working alongside India and our partners in the Pacific in the months and years ahead. We look forward to a successful conference and wish you all the very best in the coming two days. *Bula vinaka* and thank you very much.

Summary of the Sessions

INDIA–PACIFIC ISLANDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The state visit by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India, to Papua New Guinea (PNG) and New Zealand in April 2016 marked an important milestone in India's extended 'Act East' Policy. It flagged the emergence of a new momentum in India's relations with the PICs since Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi assumed office in May 2014 and subsequently instituted the FIPIC.

As a reflection of its deep and enduring ties with the Pacific Island nations, the Ministry of External Affairs, India organised the India–Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference, which was facilitated by TERI, on May 25 and 26, 2017 in Suva, Fiji. The conference was held under the aegis of the FIPIC framework and witnessed ministerial representation from India and the 14 PICs.

Inaugurated by Hon'ble Aiyaz Sayed Khaiyum, Attorney General and Minister for Economy, Public Enterprises, Civil Service and Communications, Republic of Fiji, the two-day

conference consisted of two Ministerial Sessions, five Plenary Sessions and four Thematic Tracks. There was also an exchange of MoUs and a presentation on the ISA by Dr Upendra Tripathy, Interim Director General, ISA.

List of MoUs exchanged at the conference:

- MoU between the Government of India and the Government of Fiji for establishing India–Fiji Centre of Excellence in IT
- MoU between the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Fiji and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of India on Cooperation in the field of Youth Development
- MoU between Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of the Government of India and Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport of the Government of Fiji on Co-operation in the field of Renewable Energy
- MoU for cooperation on broadcasting between Prasar Bharti, New Delhi, India and

Fiji Broadcasting Corporation for Exchange of Audio-Visual Programmes

- MoU between the Government of India and the Government of Independent State of Samoa for Establishing India–Samoa Centre of Excellence in IT
- MoU between the Government of India and the Government of Cook Islands for Establishing India–Cook Islands Centre of Excellence in IT
- MoU between the Government of India and the Government of Nauru for establishing India–Nauru ICT learning Centre of Excellence in IT
- Handover of a cheque of USD 10,000 to the Republic of Marshall Islands by the Government of India

In the course of the proceedings, the conference focused on the environmental challenges and threats facing the PICs and India, as well as adaptation and mitigation strategies and areas of collaboration between India and the PICs. The conference provided a platform for people-to-people dialogue to encourage an enabling atmosphere that fosters understanding, cooperation and collective action.

The conference encouraged region-wide strategic policies to mitigate and adapt to climate change,

promote regional cooperation and exchange of expertise as well as enhancement of public–private action to build climate resilience.

Key representatives from all Pacific Island nations, as well as representatives from government, industry, academia, and sustainability think-tanks from India and the region participated in the conference.

Key messages

The underlying theme of the conference was '*Managing the Unavoidable, and Avoiding the Unmanageable*'.

The conference also focused on the importance of South–South Cooperation. While North–South Cooperation is important for the transfer of technology and finance, South-South Cooperation is equally important. Many developing countries, including India and the PICs, face similar climate change challenges, such as threat to agriculture, fishing and sea-level rise. Cooperation amongst these countries enables the sharing of knowledge and experience, leading to more effective implementation of policies and initiatives.

Ministerial Session Summaries

Ministerial Session 1: Sustainable Development Challenges

Moderator

Ambassador Ajai Malhotra, Distinguished Fellow & Senior Advisor (Climate Change), TERI

Panellists

- **Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd.)**, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, India
- **Hon'ble Baron Waqa MP**, President, Republic of Nauru
- **Hon'ble Fiame Naomi Mataafa**, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Natural Resources & Environment, Samoa
- **Hon'ble Maatia Toafa**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Economic Development, Tuvalu
- **Hon'ble Ham Lini Vanuaroroa**, Minister of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology, Geo-Hazard, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management, Vanuatu
- **Ms Hakuaa Harry**, Secretary, Department of National Planning and Monitoring, Papua New Guinea
- **Mr Shadrach Fanega**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination, Republic of Solomon Islands

The world is currently facing challenges in all three dimensions of sustainable development—

economic, social and environmental. Sustainable management of natural resources aims to tackle issues of poverty and exclusion, climate change, and ensure availability of essential resources such as water, energy and clean air. These issues are critical for developing countries which are still in the process of providing a just and equitable standard of living for their citizens.

The focus of this ministerial session, identified as follows, was to highlight the key challenges faced by India. The challenges are as follows:

- Risk of natural disasters in both regions, specifically due to their proximity to the coastline;
- Rapid increase in population, further limiting the availability of natural resources; and
- Limited access to energy for a vast majority of the population.

It was agreed by all Ministers present at the session that India and the PICs need to collaborate on these development challenges. Climate change threatens the very existence of a number of PICs.

There was consensus from both sides on the following leads:

- Countries around the world need to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions;



Ambassador Ajai Malhotra moderating the Ministerial Session

- Resilience, adaptation and mitigation capacities need to be enhanced; and
- Energy produced from renewable sources needs to be increased.

India aims to install 175 GW of solar energy by 2022 and stop the sale of cars running on petroleum by 2030. The PICs are committed to renewable energy but the problem of financial assistance and lack of technical know-how continue to

exist. They are, thus looking towards developed countries for assistance. Transformation to a sustainable future cannot be achieved solely through government policies but it requires an inclusive pathway leading to change, which involves action by government, business, civil society, and the public at large. The challenge, therefore, is to create conditions which attract the involvement of all stakeholders.

Ministerial Session 2: Sustainable Development: Vision 2020

Moderator

Ambassador Ajai Malhotra, Distinguished Fellow & Senior Advisor, TERI

Panellists

- **Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd.)**, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, India
- **Hon'ble Tekena Tiroa**, Member of Parliament, Kiribati
- **Hon'ble Mark Brown**, Minister of Finance, Cook Islands
- **Hon'ble Toke Tufukia Talagi**, Premier of Niue
Hon'ble Semisi Fakahau, Minister for Agriculture, Food, Forests & Fisheries, Kingdom of Tonga
- **Ms Makereta Konrote**, Permanent Secretary, Minister for Economy, Republic of Fiji

Sustainable development requires global action to deliver on the legitimate aspiration towards further economic and social progress, while at the same time, ensuring environmental protection and preventing degradation. As communities begin adapting to the impacts of climate change, collaboration, knowledge sharing and an array of multi-pronged approaches and strategies are required. There is an urgent

need to build strong institutions of governance that encourage sustainable consumption and production patterns, necessitate both business and government interventions to mainstream the solutions and ensure that the world lives within the carrying capacity of the planet. In this session, each minister highlighted their countries' proactive approach in this direction and the steps further required towards this end.

India's solar energy initiatives have been extremely successful and have even decreased the cost of production. Access to energy has become easier and the promotion of LED bulbs has reduced power generation and usage. The next challenge that faces India is to find an efficient mechanism of storage of this renewable energy.

Kiribati aims to reduce usage of fossil fuels by 2020. With India's help in capacity building and education on renewable energy, Kiribati has initiated a number of solar energy projects. The country's priority also includes sustainable ocean management, since its culture and economy depends on oceans. Kiribati has made headway in protecting marine ecosystems. It has already achieved the fifth target of SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainably development). Conservation of at least 10 per cent of coastal and

marine areas, which is consistent with national and international law, is the target to be reached by 2020.

Cook Islands depends on sea resources since majority of its population consists of fishermen and farmers. Cook Islands has already protected 50 miles of coastline from mining and fishing. Tonga aims to supply 50 per cent of energy by 2020 and increase the same to 70 per cent through renewable sources. The country is also working to ensure that energy efficiency is improved by 9 per cent by 2020 such that by 2030, the country becomes climate resilient.

Fiji's primary aim, at the COP23, was to highlight the impact of climate change in the Pacific. Fiji also highlighted its recent alliance with the ISA through the benefit of which it aims to protect its marine areas to sustain food security.

Transparency and accountability are necessary for the development process along with financial and technological aid from developed countries to enable India and the PICs to achieve their carbon reduction and ocean protection targets. Global partnerships are necessary for an inclusive sustainable development governance structure and partnerships. India and the PICs are leading by example by sharing their technologies, experience and knowledge.

Presentation on International Solar Alliance by Mr Upendra Tripathy, Interim Director General, International Solar Alliance

The ISA is a common platform for cooperation among sun-rich countries lying fully or partially between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. ISA is also a platform for countries that are seeking to massively foster solar energy, thereby helping to bend the global greenhouse emissions curve whilst providing clean and cheap energy.

The primary aim of the ISA is to make countries work together towards the deployment of appropriate benchmarks, facilitating resource assessments, supporting research and development and demonstration facilities, with a view to encouraging the innovative and affordable application of solar technologies.



Thematic Tracks Summaries

Thematic tracks allow for in-depth discussion on issues of critical importance. Held simultaneously on themes in sync with overarching agenda of the conference, the thematic tracks comprised experts and key practitioners from the grassroots.

The conference hosted four thematic tracks.



A thematic track in progress

Thematic Track 1: Roundtable on Pacific Islands Medical Collaboration

Moderator

Ms Bernadette Welch, Permanent Secretary for Civil Service, Acting Permanent Secretary for Health, Fiji

Panellists

- **Dr Praveen Jain**, Neurosurgeon, Deoyani Multispeciality Hospital, Pune
- **Dr Chandrashekar Kulkarni**, Cardiac Surgeon, Deoyani Multispeciality Hospital, Pune
- **Prof. Manu Munibhargav**, Director, Sahyadri Specialty Pacific Hospital Ltd, Fiji
- **Dr Harinder Sidhu**, VP-Corporate Affairs, Apollo Hospitals

PICs face major healthcare challenges with the

foremost being the inequitable provision of services since its population is scattered over many islands. Moreover, there are some crucial medical services that are currently not available in the PICs, specifically for non-communicable diseases.

On the other hand, healthcare facilities in India have advanced substantially. Transfer of knowledge between India and Fiji through an exchange of doctors was highlighted in the discussions. It was recognised that PICs need capacity building in all areas of healthcare, including availability, accessibility, affordability and accountability. One of the solutions that was reached through the deliberations was to build Fiji, amongst the PICs, as a medical hub with improved facilities. With India's support, this 'hub' can provide medical care to other islands that would otherwise find it difficult to access healthcare. This would also require the support of airlines that are willing to assist patients for their medical travel needs.

Deliberations also extended to the need for development of the pharmaceutical sector as well. In India, the pharmaceutical sector, including medical technology, has witnessed a major growth. With increasing investments in India, more international manufacturers are setting up units or augmenting capacity to meet the country's future needs and to help develop India as an export hub. The idea of creating demand for Indian products in PICs through tie-ups with



health systems and providers was also discussed. The opportunity to enter into Preferred Provider Agreements with PICs is immense and this would

help in boosting exports for the pharmaceutical, device manufacturers and medical technology providers.

Thematic Track 2: Solar Energy Intervention in PICs - A Round table

Moderator

Mr Upendra Tripathi, Interim Director General, International Solar Alliance

Panellists

- **Ms Meagan Fallone**, CEO, Barefoot College, India
- **Mr Dau Iferemi**, Energy Program Officer, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- **Mr Paula Katirewa**, Director of Energy Government of Fiji
- **Mr Amit Kumar**, Senior Fellow & Senior Director, TERI
- **Dr Ajay Mathur**, Director General, TERI
- **Dr Anirudh Singh**, Adjunct Associate Professor, University of South Pacific
- **Ms Sharon Potoi Aiafi**, ACEO Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Samoa

With 993 islands in the Caribbean and the Pacific, the population of the combined SIDS is 10,260,000. While on an average, 60 per cent of the population in SIDS has access to electricity, there are islands like Haiti, Papua New Guinea,



Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Marshall Islands and Fiji with limited access to electricity. Given that diesel is an imported source of energy in PICs, the island nations face enormous expenditure of foreign exchange. Not only is this environmentally unsustainable but it also has direct implications for their energy security.

Fortunately, PICs have abundant renewable energy resources, mainly solar and biomass. In this scenario, the role of the ISA to help PICs utilise solar energy to meet their electrification goals in an environmentally-benign and cost-effective fashion was deliberated upon during the panel discussion.



For PICs, solar energy can be a primary source of power. Solar mini-grids with appropriate storage and smart features – for metering, payments, and over-drawl could reduce PICs’ dependence on diesel. However, at present, the PICs lack the technology to undertake such a specialised project. This session was largely focused on finding policies and innovative financing mechanisms. The IUCN representative highlighted a project currently underway in the Sigatoka. Sand dunes are being installed wherein solar PV systems, also connected to the FEA, will provide surplus electricity to the grid. However, the high cost of hardware and capital costs involved in procuring the equipment for renewable energy solutions are the major roadblocks. While capacity building is required in the complete value chain in solar systems, cost of financing and market aggregation also need to be considered in the transition towards solar energy. Another area

where strengthened capacities are required is the coordination in terms of specification, timing, and delivery of stored solar energy.

Thematic Track 3: Blue Economy- A New Growth Frontier

Moderator

Ambassador Anup Mudgal, Member, FICCI Task Force on Blue Economy & Former Indian High Commissioner to Mauritius

Panellists

- **Mr Mark Borg**, Team Leader Programmes, Pacific Islands Development Forum
- **Dr Priyadarshi Dash**, Research Associate, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)
- **Ms Arpana Pratap**, Team Leader Member Capacity, Pacific Islands Development Forum
- **Mr Alfred Ralifo**, Pacific Policy Officer, WWF



- **Dr P Sekhar**, Member, FICCI Task Force on Blue Economy & Chairman, Micro Tech Global Foundation
- **Dr Jan H Steffen**, Project Director, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- **Mr Ulu Bismarck Crawley**, CEO, Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment, Samoa

Resources in the ocean, currently estimated at USD 24 trillion, now have been contributing to the world's economy in the form of fishing, transport, tourism, and hydrocarbons as well as in the fields of deep-sea mining, renewable energy, and ocean biotechnology for a millennium now. With land-based resources depleting fast, there could be renewed attempts to further expand economic exploitation of the world's oceans. However, if further exploitation of oceans is not managed sustainably, this could risk further aggravation of their already strained condition with serious impact on their natural role as the single most important carbon-dioxide sink and replenisher of oxygen. This, in turn, could accelerate global warming with catastrophic effects on fish stocks, climatic stabilisation, water cycle and essential biodiversity.

'Blue Economy' is a new paradigm in the development



discourse which gives equal weightage to economic growth and environmental sustainability of maritime nations. This thematic track attempted to develop a template for Blue Economy that would ensure sustainable use of oceans. A sustainable Blue Economy template is urgently required to ensure that oceanic resources are not exhausted in a manner similar to land resources, either of which would prove to be catastrophic.

Developing a Blue Economy template would require a multi-sectoral approach to cover the wide range of human activities that affect the oceans, such as shipping, coastal infrastructure development, and sea exploration. There is an urgent need to identify all sectors that are linked with oceans both directly and indirectly. Once these sectors are identified, a complete analysis



of the oceans' value and extent of the impact of human activities on them will be required. This data gained by the sectors from oceans will be important for policy making at regional, national and international levels.

At the same time, it is important to ensure that the numerous ocean-linked activities already underway are sustainable to maintain a healthy ecosystem. This requires capacity building and an integrated approach towards governance of marine resources. PICs have already started developing policies to manage marine resources and this needs to be further strengthened through partnerships with other countries. In conclusion, it was agreed that the major building blocks of a Blue Economy are policy, data and capacity. This needs to be taken care of so that like smart cities, oceans too become a sustainable environmental system.

Thematic Track 4: Resilient Pacific Island Countries- Issues and Challenges

Moderator

Mr R K Jain, Member, National Disaster Management Authority, India

Panellists

- **Mr R K Pachnanda**, Director General, National Disaster Response Force, India
- **Mr Michael Arunga**, Information Management Officer, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- **Mr Paul Bayly**, Permanent Secretary for Infrastructure and Transport, Fiji
- **Mr Scott Hook**, Head of FRDP, Pacific Islands Forum



- **Dr M. Mohapatra**, India Meteorological Department
- **Prof. C.V.R. Murty**, Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur
- **Mr Taito Nakalevu**, Senior Advisor and Project Manager ACP-EU Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific Project, Pacific Community (SPC)
- **Dr Sateesh C. Shenoj**, Director, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad

With a combined population of almost 10 million people, PICs are highly prone to natural disasters, such as floods, droughts, tropical cyclones, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis, affecting the social and physical environment and economy of the entire region. India too is highly vulnerable to severe disasters, which are further compounded by demographic disparities and pressures. Nevertheless, India has made a number of technological advancements in the field of disaster management, especially in early warning and communication systems and can significantly contribute to Disaster Risk Reduction in the PICs. India's disaster management initiatives for earthquakes, tsunamis, disaster mitigation and cyclones were highlighted. In this context, areas of cooperation, enumerated as follows, between India and the PICs were identified.



- (a) Strengthening government preparedness and responses;
- (b) Empowering and preparing communities, as first responders, to have well-defined coordinated roles for disaster response;
- (c) Strengthening contingency planning for context-specific hazards;
- (d) Capabilities for emergency Medical First Responders;
- (e) Training for enhancing capacity for preparing and executing community-driven preparedness plans; and
- (f) Training of Response Teams, including
 - (1) Composition of Teams,
 - (2) Equipment provision,
 - (3) Training Infrastructure,
 - (4) Training Modules for Medical First Responders, Urban Search and Rescuers, and Aquatic Disaster Responders; and,



Panellists at Thematic Track: Resilient Pacific Island Countries: Issues and Challenges

(e) Retrofitting existing structures, especially through development of norms for earthquake retrofitting, training of engineers & artisans in the construction methodology of retrofitting, and pilot demonstration projects.

These activities would require a legal framework for effective cooperation between India and

PICs. Capacity building activities would need to be tailored at national and regional levels and be inclusive of stakeholders across all sectors. A partnership between India and PICs has the potential to lessen the impact in case of a natural disaster.

Plenary Session Summaries

Plenary 1: Blue Economy as a Template for Sustainable Development

Moderator

Ambassador Anup Mudgal, Member, FICCI Task Force on Blue Economy & Former Indian High Commissioner to Mauritius

Panellists

- **Dr Priyadarshi Dash**, Research Associate, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)
- **Ms Arpana Pratap**, Team Leader Member Capacity, Pacific Islands Development Forum
- **Mr Alfred Ralifo**, Pacific Policy Officer, WWF
- **Dr P. Sekhar**, Member, FICCI Task Force on Blue Economy & Chairman, Micro Tech Global Foundation

Oceans have served humanity well for millennia and continue to do so. They have contributed in a big way towards humanity's survival but whether they will continue to do so in the future is a pertinent question. Hence, there is a need to discuss the importance of Blue Economy. Blue Economy is a new paradigm in the development discourse which accords equal weightage to economic growth and environmental sustainability, especially of maritime nations. One of the questions raised during the session was: 'How can a template for Blue

Economy be drafted which will ensure that it places humanity on the right path of sustainable use of oceanic resources?'

A cause for alarm has been over-exploitation of the oceans. Though they have been a life source for humanity, the question remains whether humanity has respected the oceans enough to derive any future benefit from them. Despite the increase in oceanic understanding, a major doubt that presents itself is whether a suitable template for Blue Economy exists that could promote sustainable development.

Any further exploitation of oceanic resources will take us the same path as grave misuse of land resources has done. Promoting Blue Economy needs a sectoral approach. In pursuit of high growth, there is a contribution towards poverty and environmental degradation. Challenges for the Blue Economy include a complete lack of understanding of the ocean's contribution to the world economy.

Incomplete data and lack of accurate figures to assess the oceans' contribution to the economy becomes a major hurdle. Unless deficits in knowledge and technology are addressed, significant sustainability of marine resources cannot be ensured. A number of regulatory activities have been conducted in the Pacific over time; however, constant improvement



Speakers from Plenary Session- Blue Economy as a Template for Sustainable Development

and development is the need of the hour to ensure that the marine ecosystem is preserved.

Developing a new vision for oceans to include environmental, social, and economic aspects is necessary to ensure that while natural capital of the oceans is used, it is done in a sustainable manner to prolong continuity. As consumers, there is a need to look at local production systems and support them. A recommendation on governance stated that there is a need to manage resources through an integrated approach. The need of the hour is to develop policies that manage marine resources in a more integrated manner. Blue Economy should be self-sustaining and environment friendly. Attempting to quantify

Blue Economy will reveal big figures as it is not a novel concept. Instead what is required at present are efficient solutions which will ensure long term benefits.

Key Highlights

- Blue Economy is an ambitious development agenda because of pitfalls of brown development model
- Constitutes 60–70 per cent of GDP of island nations
- Blue Economy has to be smart, should add value without impacting ecology
- Is there an existing template for determining a vibrant Blue Economy?

Plenary 2: Addressing the NDC Implementation Challenge

Moderator

Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, TERI

Panellists

- **H.E. Ms Lucy Bogari**, High Commissioner of Papua New Guinea to Fiji
- **Mr Karan Mangotra**, Fellow, TERI
- **Mr R. R. Rashmi**, Special Secretary, MoEF&CC, India
- **Ms Katerina Syngellakis**, Head of Office Pacific, Global Green Growth Institute

The 2015 United Nations International Climate Change Conference in Paris (COP21) agreed to limit global warming to well below 2°C and to take steps to eventually limit it to 1.5°C. It was the first



time that countries were asked to develop national plans that decoupled economic growth from carbon emissions while simultaneously achieving increased growth and decreased emissions. The session on 'Addressing the NDC Implementation Challenge' discussed cross-cutting issues including the coordination of climate actions; capacity-building; stakeholder engagement; implementing the NDCs; & monitoring and updating the NDCs. During the course of the session, it was highlighted that the absence of capacity was the root cause of NDCs not being implemented effectively. Knowledge on the subject is relatively new and not shared properly across the world. Decarbonization initiatives are dependent on international financial support and technology-transfer.

The way forward will be achieved through policy frameworks and mainstreaming climate change action. South-South learning and cooperation is very important and the PICs need both technology and funding in addition to time for implementation. A common challenge faced by the PICs was streaming and aggregating climate action. It was stressed that while choosing the NDCs, it is important to focus on national income and vulnerability of economies. While India has a variety of missions to address issues arising due to climate change, it is imperative to equip



governance systems in countries to enable them implement options open to them. Addressing vulnerability and resilience is important especially to the Pacific Island Countries.

Access to information still remains a basic challenge which proves to be a massive roadblock in the implementation of NDCs. Thus, both accessing information and capacity-building to enhance local capacity are essential. People with the right skill-sets are also required to work in the relevant sectors. NDCs implementation must have a multi-stakeholder approach by engaging all relevant parties.

It was also noted that ‘ambition is nothing without implementation’ and capacity-building through a strong South-South collaboration is key for the PICs.

Key Highlights

- What each country thinks is at the heart of NDC implementation, such as how to bring together aspirations, need for jobs, growth;
- Monitoring is important;
- While one needs to make the right NDC choices, one should also consider economic development;
- Collaborative NDC implementation is important;
- New approach in terms of legislation, mainstreaming, co-ordination is required.

Plenary 3: Transitioning towards Sustainable Business in the PICs

Moderator

Mr Francois Martel, Secretary General, PIDF

Panellists

- **Mr Nafitalai Cakacaka**, General Manager Business Risk Services, Fiji Development Bank, Fiji
- **Ms Christina Leala-Gale**, Manager - Sustainable Tourism Development, South Pacific Tourism Organisation
- **Mr Amit Mukherjee**, Deputy General Manager, Shakti Pumps
- **Mr Howard Politini**, Chairman, Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation



Ms Christina Leala-Gale speaks during the Plenary Session: Transitioning towards Sustainable Business in the PICs

Though smaller when compared to their counterparts in Asia, the PICs have their own set of advantages and challenges related to sustaining healthy businesses and business practices in the region amidst the various challenges and threats cast by nature over the Pacific Island region. The plenary speakers discussed a wide range of challenges and possibilities with respect to adopting sustainable business practices in the PICs. As the PICs share a common cultural background with India, it was mutually observed that collaboration with India could be very beneficial. Since sustainability of economic development leads to economic growth, geographical location poses challenges to the PICs for greater energy

usage. It was urged that the PICs should utilise the opportunities that can arise by collaborating with the FIPIC as the PICs lack sufficient resources and infrastructure to support the transition towards sustainable businesses. The plenary highlighted the importance of focusing on sustainable tourism as an absolute requirement and not as a desirable option. This raises the need for innovative, sustainable, environment friendly and profitable businesses in the tourism sector which becomes even more important along with utilising the full potential of private sector investment which is the proverbial backbone of tourism sector in the Pacific. It was realised that to facilitate change, new and effective practices

need to be adopted. Furthermore, sustainability data recording and maintenance practices are imperative for a sustainable tourism sector. The speakers called upon each individual to take the lead and act responsibly for the sustainable use of resources. During the presentation by Shakti Pumps, it was informed that it is an organisation which has supplied around 10,000 solar pumps worldwide while also manufacturing and supplying diesel pumps. It has the capacity and infrastructure to provide clean water to the PICs. The plenary discussed the possibility that comes with the abundance of solar energy and how solar pumps can help resolve the problems of water shortage, thereby providing clean water for agriculture to the PICs.

A major part of the discussion was dedicated to attracting local and international investors by providing conducive and workable environment as it is only through small yet robust business set-ups that the isolated and smaller countries can benefit. The session also touched upon the various challenges that threaten sustainable development in the Pacific, such as lack of advice in the financial sector, lack of education and awareness about our environment, and encouraged capacity building as a measure to tackle problems. The plenary concluded with the common thought of developing entrepreneurship at the grass-roots level.

Key Highlights

- Tourism is a key sector in the PICs, but a majority are micro-small industries;
- Need to manage resources sustainably, pollution control and waste management;
- Important to share experience and best practices and;
- Since the Paris Agreement, business and investors are standing up and sending the clear message that the transition to cleaner and low emission energy resources is inevitable, irreversible, and immensely beneficial.

Plenary 4: Role of Innovative Financing Mechanisms

Moderator

Mr Dipak Dasgupta, Former Principal Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance, Government of India

Panellists

- **Hon'ble Lorna Eden**, Assistant Minister for Local Government, Housing and Environment, Fiji
- **Ms Meagan Fallone**, CEO, Barefoot College, India
- **Mr Robert Jauncey**, Regional Director, ADB-Pacific Sub-Regional Office
- **Mr Amit Kumar**, Senior Fellow & Senior Director, TERI

- **Mr Upendra Tripathy**, Interim Director General, International Solar Alliance

The plenary focused on the role of innovative financing mechanisms that play a crucial role in attracting external funding and serve as an essential tool to deal with poverty, improve living standards and support sustainable development.

To achieve this, there is a need for innovative infrastructure which further requires financial assistance. While acknowledging India and the Barefoot College for educating rural women, it was mutually decided that further effort

was needed to be made in exploring existing opportunities and procuring external financial support. It was observed that with ADB's support for various projects in Fiji and upsurge in financing for the PICs, wider opportunities would be readily available for the PICs in the near future. However, partner countries have to be patient with each other and work together for achieving bigger goals.

Realising the importance of small business entrepreneurs, it was also observed that in the local settings they may not have the access to innovative financing. Hence, it is imperative to



Panellists for Plenary Session: Role of Innovative Financing Mechanisms



connect such entrepreneurs directly to the donors and try to help them get access to the available funding, while also mobilising resources, as the risk of doing nothing is far greater than one can imagine. Citing India's example, it was learnt that

before the early Renewable Energy Summit, it was difficult to receive funding for renewable energy as there was lack of confidence in the renewable energy sources. However, after the summit, there was substantial funding available and it has continued to do well till date. With the help of ADB funding and contribution of even small amounts from donor countries, the total amount received would be sufficient for the renewable energy sector in the PICs. The session concluded with the discussion and suggestions for PICs to avoid importing expensive fuel for producing electricity.

Key Highlights

- Need to continue to experiment with practical financial products for the future;
- Scale-up cannot replace traditional assistance but should add complementarity – should not



Panellists for Plenary Session : A Roadmap for Disaster Risk Reduction in Pacific Island Countries

create roadblocks to existing sustainability – should be designed imaginatively.

Plenary 5: A Roadmap for Disaster Risk Reduction in Pacific Island Countries

Moderator

Mr R. K. Jain, Member, National Disaster Management Authority, India

Panellists

- **Mr R. K. Pachnanda**, Director General, National Disaster Response Force, India
- **Mr Subhash Mehta**, Chief Operating Officer-Fiji, The New India Assurance Company Ltd
- **Dr M. Mohapatra**, India Meteorological Department
- **Prof. C. V. R. Murty**, Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur
- **Mr Taito Nakalevu**, Senior Advisor Project Manager ACP-EU Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific Project, Pacific Community (SPC)
- **Dr Sateesh C. Shenoi**, Director, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad

The plenary focused on how disaster managers from around the world are now concentrating on disaster risk reduction and are gradually distancing themselves from plain disaster management. Citing many examples, it was suggested that by adopting better social awareness strategies, such

as dissemination of information and forewarning among communities, the risk of disasters could be effectively reduced. Learning from the Indian model of establishing National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) which has saved approximately five million lives during recent disasters, the speakers advocated for a similar model for the PICs as well. The Pacific region has also developed a Disaster Risk Framework: Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP), which has identified priority actions in the Framework. As India supports the developmental vision adopted by the Pacific leaders, with a robust plan of action coupled with India's support, preparations for capacity building of PUC's civil engineers on science and technology can be carried out. Insurance companies could also play a major role in the plan as the finance budget is usually constrained during natural disasters. Hence, schemes such as Parametric and Agricultural insurance schemes can be beneficial for the people and local businesses. In addition to the bigger steps, efforts at the ground level also are crucial. These may include training state level forces, empowering community representatives, and school children during non-disaster times to help them prepare adequately for the unavoidable and upcoming disasters. This can be done through better risk awareness, Tsunami readiness of the island countries, and strengthening lines

of communication, along with capacity building by establishing good response units for disaster risk reduction.

Key Highlights

- Adopting better and social awareness strategies like sharing information, among communities, makes the effort of reducing disaster risk reduction even more effective.
- Efforts at the ground level also stand as crucial which may include training state level forces, empowering community representatives, and school children during non-disaster times to help them better prepare for the unavoidable and upcoming disasters.

Valedictory Session

The Valedictory session for the two-day conference began with a presentation by the Green Olympiad Participant, Mr Peniana Vaidei, an eighth grade student, on 'Sustainable Development and Climate Change' in the presence of Hon. Dr Mahendra Reddy, Minister for Education, Fiji, followed by the summary of the proceedings given by Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, TERI and an address by Hon'ble Baron Waqa MP, President, Republic of Nauru & Chairman, PSIDS (Pacific Small Island Developing States). A special valedictory address was also given by Gen (Dr) V K Singh (Retd.), Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, India, followed by concluding remarks and vote of thanks by H.E. Mr Vishvas Sapkal, High Commissioner of India to Fiji.



Panellists at the Valedictory Session

SPEECH by PENIANA VAIDEI

Grade 8, Saint Joseph the Worker Primary School, Nausori, Fiji

Dr Grey Mcphesen states and I quote “If you really think that the Environment is less important than the Economy, try holding your breath while you count your money”

I stand before you this afternoon to speak to you on the topic: “Sustainable Development and Climate Change”,

To begin with: What is climate change? Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia, states that: climate change is the significant and lasting change in the stastical distribution of weather patterns over periods, ranging from decades, to millions of years. It is this overloading of carbon dioxide - a heat trapping gas- into the atmosphere, also known as the greenhouse effect. It contaminates the body of gases surrounding the earth resulting in an imbalance in the world’s climate system. Some examples of this climate change are the increase in the earth’s temperature, changing rainfall patterns, changes in nature, rise in sea



level, retreating glaciers and melting of the icebergs.

Our actions are now louder than words. Scientists have found that humans are the major contributors to these changes. It is through our actions that the atmosphere is greatly polluted. Burning of fossil fuels such as oil, coal and gas have increased. Poisonous gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide have polluted the atmosphere.

Smoke from factories, emissions from vehicles, deforestation and agriculture practices are all contributing factors to the Green house Effect.

Recent economic developments, increasing number of motor vehicles, upgrading of roads, towns, cities, reclamation of land for hotels and housing also threaten the environment and need to be undertaken with extreme caution.

So what are Governments and businessmen doing presently to address this issue? We cannot say that it is none of our business anymore; it is everyone's business to save the world.

Sustainable development and climate change are two sides of the same coin. In order to decrease the repercussions of climate change, individuals need to be aware and practice acceptable living standards, conservation and preservation of natural resources. Resources need to meet human needs, while ensuring the sustainability of natural systems and the environment, so that these needs can be met, not only in the present but also for future generations. This is termed as Sustainable Development.

Measures that can be taken to diminish negative impacts of future climate change are:

1. Developing green industries. For example, the use of renewable energy, wind and solar energy to reduce carbon emissions,
2. Crop Rotation,
3. Sustainable Construction,
4. Green Space,
5. Sustainable Forestry.

These practices, therefore, spur economic growth and at the same time promote biodiversity.

To conclude, climate change is one of the pressing issues of our time and its adverse impacts undermine the ability of all countries, and that includes my beloved Fiji, to achieve sustainable development.

Let us hold hands to combat this major environmental problem.

Christine Legarde states, "Unless we take action on Climate Change, future generations will be roasted, toasted, fried and grilled."

Thank you.

Key Knowledge Partner



The Energy and Resources Institute

A dynamic and flexible organization with a global vision and a local focus, TERI was established in 1974, with initial focus on documentation and information dissemination. Research activities, initiated towards the end of 1982, were rooted in TERI's firm conviction that efficient utilization of energy and sustainable use of natural resources would propel the process of development.

All activities in TERI, the largest developing-country institution working towards sustainability, move from formulating local and national-level strategies to shaping global solutions to critical issues.

Buoyed by more than 43 years of excellence in research and innovation, TERI is now poised for future growth, driven by a global vision and outreach, with a philosophy that assigns primacy to enterprise in government, industry, and individual actions.

Key Partners



Confederation of Indian Industry

Confederation of Indian Industry

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering industry, Government, and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.

CII is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, playing a proactive role in India's development process. Founded in 1895, India's premier business association has over 8,300 members, from the private as well as public sectors, including SMEs and MNCs, and an indirect membership of over 200,000 enterprises from around 250 national and regional sectoral industry bodies.

CII charts change by working closely with Government on policy issues, interfacing with thought leaders, and enhancing efficiency, competitiveness and business opportunities for industry through a range of specialized services and strategic global linkages. It also provides a platform for consensus-building and networking on key issues.

Extending its agenda beyond business, CII assists industry to identify and execute corporate citizenship programmes. Partnerships with civil society organizations carry forward corporate initiatives for integrated and inclusive development across diverse domains including affirmative action, healthcare, education, livelihood, diversity management, skill development, empowerment of women, and water, to name a few.

The CII theme for 2017–18, **India Together: Inclusive. Ahead. Responsible** emphasizes Industry's role in partnering Government to accelerate India's growth and development. The focus will be on key enablers such as job creation; skill development and training; affirmative action; women parity; new models of development; sustainability; corporate social responsibility, governance and transparency.

With 66 offices, including 9 Centres of Excellence, in India, and 10 overseas offices in Australia, Bahrain, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Singapore, South Africa, UK, and USA, as well as institutional partnerships with 344 counterpart organizations in 129 countries, CII serves as a reference point for Indian industry and the international business community.



FICCI

Established in 1927, FICCI is the largest and oldest apex business organisation in India. Its history is closely interwoven with India's struggle for independence, its industrialization, and its emergence as one of the most rapidly growing global economies.

A non-government, not-for-profit organisation, FICCI is the voice of India's business and industry. From influencing policy to encouraging debate, engaging with policy makers and civil society, FICCI articulates the views and concerns of industry. It serves its members from the Indian private and public corporate sectors and multinational companies, drawing its strength from diverse regional chambers of commerce and industry across states, reaching out to over 2,50,000 companies.

FICCI provides a platform for networking and consensus building within and across sectors and is the first port of call for Indian industry, policy makers and the international business community.



National Disaster Management Authority

On 23 December 2005, the Government of India enacted the Disaster Management Act, which envisaged the creation of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), headed by the Prime Minister. NDMA, as the apex body, is mandated to lay down the policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster Management to ensure timely and effective response to disasters.



Pacific Islands Development Forum

Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) is a space for catalysing, mobilizing and mainstreaming action in support of sustainable development through green/Blue Economy in Pacific Island Countries. It is an action-oriented platform to identify innovative solutions that will ensure sustainable development and works closely with international institutions to engage state and non-state actors to develop high-impact collaborations on sustainable development and poverty reduction in the Pacific Islands. We provide a framework for bringing together the expertise of the private sector, normative leadership of the public sector, and successful delivery mechanisms of civil society.

In association with



Confederation of Indian Industry