



**Report on the Ocean Reporting Workshop for Pacific Media
Venue: Sails Restaurant, Denarau
August 18, 2023.**



Purpose

01. A Pacific Islands News Association, Fiji Media Association, Internews Earth Journalism Network and the Office of the Ocean Pacific Commissioner (OPOC) Workshop convened on August 18, 2023 to create awareness among regional media on what is ocean policy and ocean governance, why is it needed and how they can contribute as journalists in this discourse. The workshop aims to increase and improve coverage of ocean issues by regional media including Fiji based journalists. This collaboration allowed PINA, FMA, IEJN and OPOC to provide the regional media with that capacity building training where

they were informed of ocean issues as well as what to expect in the inaugural Regional Ocean Policy and Ocean Governance Dialogue from August 21-24, 2023, in Nadi, Fiji.

02. Key objectives of the workshop were:

- To inform media in the Pacific on progress towards ocean policy and governance by Pacific States including the work undertaken to ensure advancement towards the 2050 Blue Pacific Continent.
- Understand the different players in the Pacific Ocean.
- Improve knowledge and understanding of ocean policy and governance issues as well as emerging ocean issues such as seabed mining, the new conservation and sustainable use of marine biological resources of areas beyond national jurisdiction, illegal unregulated unreported fishing.
- Talanoa with Pacific Ocean Commissioner Dr Filimon Manoni
- How the media can play a role in amplifying ocean advocacy messages from the region
- To be part of the inaugural Regional Ocean Policy and Ocean Governance Dialogue from August 21-24, 2023, in Nadi, Fiji and provide news stories via their respective media outlets.

03. The agenda of the training was as follows:

Time	Presentation	Presenter
8.30am	Prayer and Introduction	
	Address by Pacific Ocean Commissioner Dr Filimon Manoni. Meet the Pacific Ocean Commissioner Interview on his vision for the Pacific Ocean and any questions for the Commissioner	
	What is Ocean Policy and Ocean Governance? And how does this link to the 2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent	
	Workshop overview & Partner Engagement (PINA, EJM, FMA) – why do ocean issues matter and why are we involved?	
10.30am	GROUP PHOTO/ MORNING TEA	
11.00am	Overview of the Regional Ocean Policy and Ocean Governance Dialogue – agenda, story areas, media approach	OPOC- Mereseini Marau
11.30am	<i>Reporting Ocean from Gender Lens</i> <i>How can we ensure ocean issues are reported with gender lens?</i>	Arienne Oligario- Internews VIRTUAL

1pm	LUNCH	
2pm	Writing your ocean story Story ideas (what to look for in quotes/interviews, who to interview, what to get out of the interview, where to get data etc)	Elenoa Masi- PINA Donna Horder- EJNI
2.30pm	Group Work Develop a story from the topic given.	Topics to be given by Mereseini
3pm	STORIES PRESENTATION	
3.30pm	BIG OCEAN IDEA What is our one big idea to make the most impact with ocean comms?	
5pm	END- AFTERNOON TEA	

PARTICIPANTS

NAME	ORGANISATION
1. Iva Danford Naisara	Fiji TV
2. Vahefonua Tupola	Tonga Broadcasting Commission
3. Ezra Toara	Vanuatu Daily Post
4. Maman Boikawai	Kiribati
5. Samantha Magick	Islands Business
6. Makereta Komai	PACNEWS
7. Waisea Nasokia	Fiji Sun
8. Repeka Nasiko	Fiji Times
9. Siteri Sauvakacolo	Fiji Times
10. Filipe Naikaso	FBC News

KEY OUTCOMES/TRAINING SUMMARY



04. **The workshop achieved** its objectives set out in para 02. There was heightened awareness and interest on ocean policy and governance issues as well as emerging ocean issues such as the Fukushima Nuclear Waste issue, which coincidentally was the top news item the week of the Regional Ocean Policy and Ocean Governance Dialogue

from August 21-24, 2023, in Nadi, Fiji. Japan released nuclear contaminated water in Fukushima during the conference, allowing those journalists to ask those hard questions around it. Training participants were able to provide daily coverage of the conference, most of their stories are listed below. The content they developed was independent from the content developed by OPOC Communications.

05. **The training participants was a balanced mix** of senior, mid-level and junior journalists sharing knowledge and experiences on why oceans should be prime news and why it was not being considered as such by editors and newsroom leaders. There were two publishers among those trainees.
06. **The Talanoa session** with the Ocean Commissioner, Dr Filimoni Manoni and Ocean Analyst & OPOC Manager, Peni Suveinakama provided an opportunity for discussions on his expectations of the media and vice versa as well as an update from him on the role of his office and future activities.
07. **Participants were briefed** on analyzing stories from the gender lens by Ms Arienne Oligario (Internews).
08. The **practical session** provided an opportunity for discussions on story ideas on oceans governance. OPOC provided topics for the practical session and following that, each reporter was paired with a senior reporter who presented story ideas from each topic. Reporters presented on how they would pursue the story in various mediums- newspaper, broadcast and online. Coincidentally, the Fukushima Nuclear Waste provided an opportunity for the journalists to pursue global ocean issues and link them to regional and local levels.
09. **Mentorship** of the reporters continued during the conference with over 44 stories produced.
10. From the training and conference, a **Community of Practice on Ocean** known as the Ocean Communications Engagement and Advocacy Network or OCEAN was also established.

STORY LIST:



Vanuatu Daily Post

1. [Dr Manoni Takes the Helm as OPOC's New Commissioner | News | dailypost.vu](#)
2. [Regional Dialogue to Foster Holistic Ocean Governance Approach | News | dailypost.vu](#)
3. [Regional Reporters Trained to Elevate Ocean and Environmental Reporting | News | dailypost.vu](#)
4. [Pacific Ocean Commissioner Outlines Office's Goals and Unity Focus | News | dailypost.vu](#)

5. [Vanuatu Elevates National Ocean Policy at Regional Oceans Dialogue | News | dailypost.vu](https://www.dailypost.vu/news/vanuatu-elevates-national-ocean-policy-at-regional-oceans-dialogue)



6. [Fostering Pacific Dialogue for Ocean Governance | News | dailypost.vu](https://www.dailypost.vu/news/fostering-pacific-dialogue-for-ocean-governance)
7. [Japan's Impending Fukushima Wastewater Discharge Stirs Pacific Debate | News | dailypost.vu](https://www.dailypost.vu/news/japan-s-impending-fukushima-wastewater-discharge-stirs-pacific-debate)

8. https://www.dailypost.vu/news/vanuatu-supports-opoc-office/article_6cb8e623-652c-5ce0-ae02-4746781a257d.html

PACNEWS

9. <https://pina.com.fj/2023/08/22/opoc-commissioner-not-concerned-with-turf-war-and-mandate-creep-in-the-ocean-space/>
10. <https://pina.com.fj/2023/08/21/new-opoc-office-challenged-to-grow-and-effectively-coordinate-the-pacifics-growing-ocean-and-policy-governance-needs/>
11. <https://pina.com.fj/2023/08/23/cook-islands-marae-moana-marine-park-an-example-of-whole-of-society-buy-in/>
12. <https://pina.com.fj/2023/08/23/pacific-countries-urged-to-take-advantage-of-geopolitical-interests-to-support-ocean-governance/>
13. <https://pina.com.fj/2023/08/23/vanuatu-national-ocean-policy-addresses-some-outstanding-ocean-related-territorial-disputes/>
14. <https://pina.com.fj/2023/08/23/a-new-chapter-for-pacific-ocean-governance/>
15. <https://pina.com.fj/2023/08/21/special-envoy-urges-pacific-nations-to-ratify-and-implement-oceans-agreements/>
16. <https://pasifika.news/2023/08/forum-chair-calls-on-the-region-to-be-wary-of-nuclear-wastewater-discharge/>

FBC News

17. <https://www.fbcnews.com.fj/news/positive-outlook-on-ocean-health-needed/>

Fiji TV

18. New Oceans Commissioner plans
19. Opening of oceans conference
20. Oceans commissioner UN GS special Envoy and PANG on Fukushima.
21. Statement from IAEA on release and reaction from participants of conference
22. PANG wrote to Special Raptors at the UN on breach of Human Rights from the Fukushima release.
23. Marshals Island calls
24. SPC on Fukushima
25. SPC on Capabilities to monitor

Islands Business

26. <https://islandsbusiness.com/breaking-news/pacific-oceans-governance/>
27. <https://islandsbusiness.com/news-break/special-envoy-urges-oceans-agreements/>

Tonga Broadcasting Commission

28. Opening of the regional conference in Nadi
29. New OPOC Commissioner and his new chapter in the region
30. OPOC Commissioner comments on Fukushima issue
31. IEAE report to release Fukushima waste water the next day
32. Ocean test, after ocean talks – trip to Tivua
33. SPC director general comment on Fukushima

Fiji Sun



34. Trillions required for Blue Economy

The Fiji Times



35. <https://www.fjitime.com/commissioner-has-powerful-post/>
36. Our cry is to ratify
37. Manoni touches upon fear of our future
38. Dr Manoni: Dialogue Timely
39. Climate crisis worsens by the day, says Thomson
40. We want trillions of dollars, says UN
41. Need for due diligence
42. Now is not the time to panic
43. Aussie minister accepts Agency's findings
44. Be ready for future impacts

Dr Manoni: Dialogue timely

By SITERI SAUVAKOALO

THE PACIFIC OCEAN Dialogue Series, which is the first of its kind in the Pacific region, is a timely and important initiative that will help to build trust and understanding between the Pacific Island nations and the United States. The series will focus on key issues such as climate change, maritime security, and sustainable development. The first dialogue was held in Honolulu, Hawaii, in October 2022, and was attended by high-level officials from both sides. The series is being organized by the Pacific Community and the United States Department of State.



Manoni, Island Marine Resources Authority Director Peter Thomson, with Peter's Minister for Fisheries, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Deputy Minister and Pacific Islands Commissioner Dr. Peter Thomson at the Regional Dialogue Series in Honolulu, Hawaii, 10th-11th October 2022.

Climate crisis worsens by the day, says Thomson

By SITERI SAUVAKOALO

THE CLIMATE CRISIS is worsening by the day, and Pacific Island nations are being hit hardest, says Peter Thomson, the United States Deputy Secretary of State. Thomson said that the Pacific region is facing a "catastrophic" future if the world does not take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He called for a "global pact" to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Thomson also said that the Pacific region is being hit by "unprecedented" climate change impacts, including sea level rise, coral bleaching, and more frequent and intense tropical storms.

We want trillions of dollars – UN rep

By SITERI SAUVAKOALO

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS need trillions of dollars to adapt to the impacts of climate change, says a United Nations representative. The representative said that the Pacific region is being hit by "unprecedented" climate change impacts, including sea level rise, coral bleaching, and more frequent and intense tropical storms. He called for a "global pact" to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The representative also said that the Pacific region is being hit by "unprecedented" climate change impacts, including sea level rise, coral bleaching, and more frequent and intense tropical storms.



Pacific Community Secretary General Peter Thomson, Deputy Secretary of State Peter Thomson, and Pacific Islands Commissioner Dr. Peter Thomson at the Regional Dialogue Series in Honolulu, Hawaii, 10th-11th October 2022.

'Need for due diligence'

By SITERI SAUVAKOALO

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS need to take a "proactive" approach to climate change, says a United Nations representative. The representative said that the Pacific region is being hit by "unprecedented" climate change impacts, including sea level rise, coral bleaching, and more frequent and intense tropical storms. He called for a "global pact" to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The representative also said that the Pacific region is being hit by "unprecedented" climate change impacts, including sea level rise, coral bleaching, and more frequent and intense tropical storms.

Now is not the time to panic

By SITERI SAUVAKOALO

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS need to take a "proactive" approach to climate change, says a United Nations representative. The representative said that the Pacific region is being hit by "unprecedented" climate change impacts, including sea level rise, coral bleaching, and more frequent and intense tropical storms. He called for a "global pact" to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The representative also said that the Pacific region is being hit by "unprecedented" climate change impacts, including sea level rise, coral bleaching, and more frequent and intense tropical storms.

Aussie minister accepts agency's findings

By SITERI SAUVAKOALO

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS need to take a "proactive" approach to climate change, says a United Nations representative. The representative said that the Pacific region is being hit by "unprecedented" climate change impacts, including sea level rise, coral bleaching, and more frequent and intense tropical storms. He called for a "global pact" to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The representative also said that the Pacific region is being hit by "unprecedented" climate change impacts, including sea level rise, coral bleaching, and more frequent and intense tropical storms.

Kiribati Broadcast and Publication Authority

45. <https://fb.watch/mK6qvgbrbi/>

Rongorongon abam aia oika a boou reirei!!

Pacific Island Forum are iria naba Kiribati

"Kateimatoan tararuan maru ara marawa" - kamoa te maroro ae kakawaki

TRUUN Maman Botkawai (BPA Reporter - Cover PIF in Fiji)

E a tia te Kamitina ibukin ana Marawa te Betebeke ae Dr. Filimoni Manoni ni kauka te maroro, ae te Pacific Regional Ocean Policy and Governance Dialogue, i Nadi Biti ni te Moambong ae e nako, ae e iraki irooua taan tei man aban nako te Betebeke ni ikotaki ma Kiribati.

Aio are ai bon ilowa ana moantai naba ni maroro Dr. Filimoni Manoni ma aban te Betebeke, ake a mena i aan te Forum, i mwin rineana ngaia bwa te Kamitina ae e boou, tabeua te wiki ni nako, ao i mwin tubu memakom te rabwata ae te Pacific Ocean Commission mai aan te Pacific Islands Forum, ao n riki bwa te rabwata ae e inaomata.

A tia aban te Betebeke ni kauka aia boutoka ae e korakora, nakon te Kamitina ibukin ana Marawa te Betebeke ae e boou aia, i nanon waakina te moan maroro ae e kakawaki sei, are e karaooki i nanon te man ae

bwa aei te tabo ae e maro ni koma ni tibwanaa lai aia iango, are e na rangi ni ibuobuoki ni kaimeti ma totokoon kanganga ake a na riki nakon kaubwaira n te Betebeke ae ara marawa.

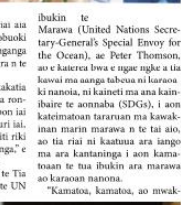
"E nga ngie ni rangi ni kakatia n tamaron ao kaubwain ma rongorongon ara marawa, ma bon lai naba taai ae ti riai ni mwakuri lai, ni kauka aanga aia a mwai riid ngana e ailara ma te kanganga," e taku riki Kamitina Mononi.

N ana maroro ana tia tei te Tia Koroboki ni Kabuta nakon te UN

ibukin te Marawa (United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean), ae Peter Thomson, ao e katera te bwa e ngae ngae a tia kaswai ma aanga tabeua ni laraoa ki nanota, ni kaimeti ma ana kaimbaira te aomaba (SDGs), i aon kateimatoan tararuan ma kawakin maru marawa n te tai aia, ao tia riai ni kaituua ara iango ma ara kantaringi i aon kamatoan te tuu ibukin ara marawa ao karaaon nanona.

"Kamatoa, kamatoa, ao mwakuria mwakuria" ke "Ratify, ratify, Implement, implement". Aio ana kakawenako Peter Thomson nakon ia te maroro sei, are a na uotia rikaaki bwa aia tianaki ngkana a oki rikaaki nako abais aika a kakawenako ao ni kabroroua lai taningais aia taan kairiti mai eta, te naake lai inkereken tabeua ma karaaon tuua ma kaimbaira ibukin te marawa.

E ngae n anne ao ake a tei mai Kiribati nakon te maroro ae e kakawaki sei bon te Director of Geoscience Division man te Botaki n Akawa ae Karikirakan Kaubwaira mai Marawa ae Nei Kabure Yeeting ao te Senior Fisheries Officer ae Nei Riria Moamiba.



11. Conclusion

Building the capacity of journalists in newsrooms around the region to cover issues such as ocean is critical and needs to be happening time and again. Organisations working on ocean issues including OPOC need to invest in building capacity of regional journalists to ensure that they are able to provide coverage we need.

The Media Masterclass on Ocean Governance Reporting was an opportunity for regional journalists to soak in and tune themselves to ocean discourse. Most of these journalists do general news coverage back in their newsrooms.

While there is competition for air time and newspaper slots in newsrooms daily, it is important that we start sensitizing those who matters in any news organisations- the editors and reports on why it is important to cover ocean stories.

Editors and reporters will only be interested in covering issues such as ocean if they are aware of it and have some form of capacity building around it. The increasing ocean issues that is arising from the region recently will only be given the much needed attention if those who makes the news are aware of its implications, why it matters and how it affects the people on the ground. There is definitely a need for more capacity building opportunities. And it has started with the formation of a community of practice on ocean coverage known as the Ocean Communications Engagement Advocacy Network (OCEAN).



PACNEWS Editor and Pacific Islands News Association Managing Director Makereta Komai with regional journalists attending the ocean media workshop and the inaugural Regional Ocean Governance and Policy Dialogue.



Pacific Ocean Commissioner Dr Filimon Manoni with members of the media during the Regional Ocean and Governance and Policy Dialogue.