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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.30am</td>
<td>Prayer and Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What is Ocean Policy and Ocean Governance? And how does this link to the 2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>GROUP PHOTO/ MORNING TEA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00am</td>
<td>Overview of the Regional Ocean Policy and Ocean Governance Dialogue – agenda, story areas, media approach</td>
<td>OPOC- Mereseini Marau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30am</td>
<td>Reporting Ocean from Gender Lens How can we ensure ocean issues are reported with gender lens?</td>
<td>Arienne Oligario- Internews VIRTUAL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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- EJN |
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

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

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](https://dailypost.vu)
2. [Regional Dialogue to Foster Holistic Ocean Governance Approach](https://dailypost.vu)
3. [Regional Reporters Trained to Elevate Ocean and Environmental Reporting](https://dailypost.vu)
4. [Pacific Ocean Commissioner Outlines Office's Goals and Unity Focus](https://dailypost.vu)
5. Vanuatu Elevates National Ocean Policy at Regional Oceans Dialogue | News | dailypost.vu

6. Fostering Pacific Dialogue for Ocean Governance | News | dailypost.vu

7. Japan’s Impending Fukushima Wastewater Discharge Stirs Pacific Debate | News | dailypost.vu


9. PACNEWS


FBC News


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

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.fijitimes.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
Kiribati Broadcast and Publication Authority

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

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.