



PACIFIC SKILLS SUMMIT

25-26 JUNE 2019, THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC LAUCALA CAMPUS, SUVA
KEY MESSAGES AND ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS



The Pacific Skills Summit, held at The University of the South Pacific Laucala Campus in Suva, Fiji on 25-26 June 2019, served as a regional platform to focus attention on the collaborative efforts and investments needed to secure skills for a sustainable and inclusive future.

The Summit was a key deliverable of the Pacific Skills Partnership, launched by His Excellency Baron Divavesi Waqa, President of the Republic of Nauru, at the 49th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders 2018 meeting. The Pacific Skills Partnership was established in recognition that a sustainable region will require relevant and quality skills and Pacific-led collaboration on skills-based, real-life outcomes for Pacific people and communities.

More than 400 representatives attended the Summit from students to business, academic, entrepreneurial, government and development representatives from across the region. The Summit program featured more than 30 speakers, including futurists, business, development and entrepreneurial practitioners from 12 countries within the Pacific and beyond.

The Summit drew on the inspiration and direction from the energy of Pacific youth and the wisdom of its elders to inspire and guide collective action on skills development. Recognising that one of the Pacific's greatest comparative advantages is in its navigation skills and ability to navigate through complex political, economic and social histories; and deal with natural and human made adversity with resilience and purpose. It expressed confidence in the Pacific's ability to navigate towards a new and innovative skills agenda for the Pacific, and the enabling role of the Pacific Skills Partnership

The following Key Messages and Actionable Recommendations were made at the conclusion of Pacific Skills Summit on Wednesday 26 June and reflect a general consensus of the Summit. The



Key Messages were delivered to the Summit by the Honourable Charmaine Scotty, Nauru Minister for Education, with the Actionable Recommendations delivered by the Honourable Taukelina Finikaso, Tuvalu Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Founding signatories of the Pacific Skills Partnership include: the governments of Nauru and Australia, The University of the South Pacific (USP), the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO) and the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO).

KEY MESSAGES

Positive and constructive action on climate change must be deeply entrenched in all we do in the skills development space – which includes knowing what relevant skills are needed to effectively manage the proliferation of climate financing in the Pacific; to generate more Pacific experts and scientists to analyse and influence evidence; and finally, to ensure quality in the design, construction and management of climate infrastructure

A human centered skills agenda is a "human diversity" recognised agenda, in that addressing the skills gaps within the Pacific; responding to the call for more equitable job opportunities for all; can only be achieved by enabling and recognising the capabilities and abilities all employees bring to the workforce

Partnerships are necessary between policy makers, institutions, and industry to create and sustain a more adaptive and robust architecture for skills development that prioritises knowledge transfer and informs and escalates action to address data gaps and greater knowledge sharing.

ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Pacific Skills Partnership is not a government body, nor is it a Non-Government Organisation. It is not a business and neither is it a training institution. Rather, it is a coalition of committed institutions, governments, industry and individuals, to making a difference in the Pacific skills landscape.

Recommendations to the Pacific Islands Forum Chair, His Excellency Baron Divavesi Waqa, President of the Republic of Nauru

- That the Forum Chair consider drawing to the attention of Leaders the positive outcomes and ideas emerging from the Summit.
- That the Forum Chair consider drawing to the attention of Leaders slow progress in implementing the intent of the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration of 2012, and the continuing inequality that women experience in the workplace, particularly women working in non-traditional fields, and to accelerating efforts of the Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women's human rights 2018-2030.



Recommendations to the Pacific Skills Partnership

- That working for **gender equality** must be a central imperative for the Pacific Skills Partnership.
- That the Pacific Skills Partnership takes every opportunity to encourage employers to see the benefits of employing people with disabilities to help close skills gaps and create a more **diverse and equitable workforce**.
- That the Partnership raise at the Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting the issue of a **Pacific skills visa** to support intra-regional mobility.
- That the Partnership continue the momentum created by the Summit by taking forward the development of the **Pacific Skills Portal** to address data gaps and to share labour market information.
- That the Partnership reach out build a **broader membership base** to maximise the opportunities and resources for taking forward the ideas that emerged in this Summit and escalating action.

Recommendation to Summit Participants

- That participants from each country look to convening a **national workshop** to explore how the knowledge created and shared through this Summit might be shared at national level with business, civils society, training institutions and government.

For more on the Pacific Skills Summit, visit: <https://bit.ly/2WrMQCZ>

Founding Signatories: Pacific Skills Partnership

