



(Sitting-middle): H.E. Hon. Tuilaepa Lupeolai Aiono Sailele Malelegai, Prime Minister of Samoa with the Samoa Peer Review Team, November 2013.



H.E. Christopher J. Loek, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) with his Cabinet and RMI Peer Review Team, February 2012



(Centre) Hon. Toke Talagi, Niue Premier with the Niue Peer Review Steering Committee and PIFS Peer Review Follow up team, April 2012.



(Second from Left) Hon. Dr Kieren Keke, (Former) Nauru Minister for Finance and Planning with the Nauru Peer Review Team, March 2010.



(Front-second from left): H.E. Thomas Esang Remengesau, Jr, President of The Republic of Palau with the Palau Peer Review Team, May 2013.



(Third from left): Hon. Mark Brown, Cook Islands Minister of Finance with Cook Islands Peer Review Team, October 2013.



(Left) H.E. Hon. Tommy Esang Remengesau with Palau Peer Review team member, Natalia Palu, Tonga Ministry of Finance and National Planning, May 2013.



(Left) H.E. Hon. Tuilaepa Lupeolai Aiono Sailele Malelegai, Prime Minister of Samoa with Samoa Peer Review team member, Lesieli Tufui Faletau, Tonga Ministry of Finance and National Planning, November 2013.



(Fifth from left): H.E. Emanuel Mori, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) with the FSM Peer Review Team, November 2012



(Fourth from left): Hon. Connelley Sandakabatu, Solomons Islands Minister for National Planning and Aid Coordination with the Solomon Islands Peer Review Team, September 2013.

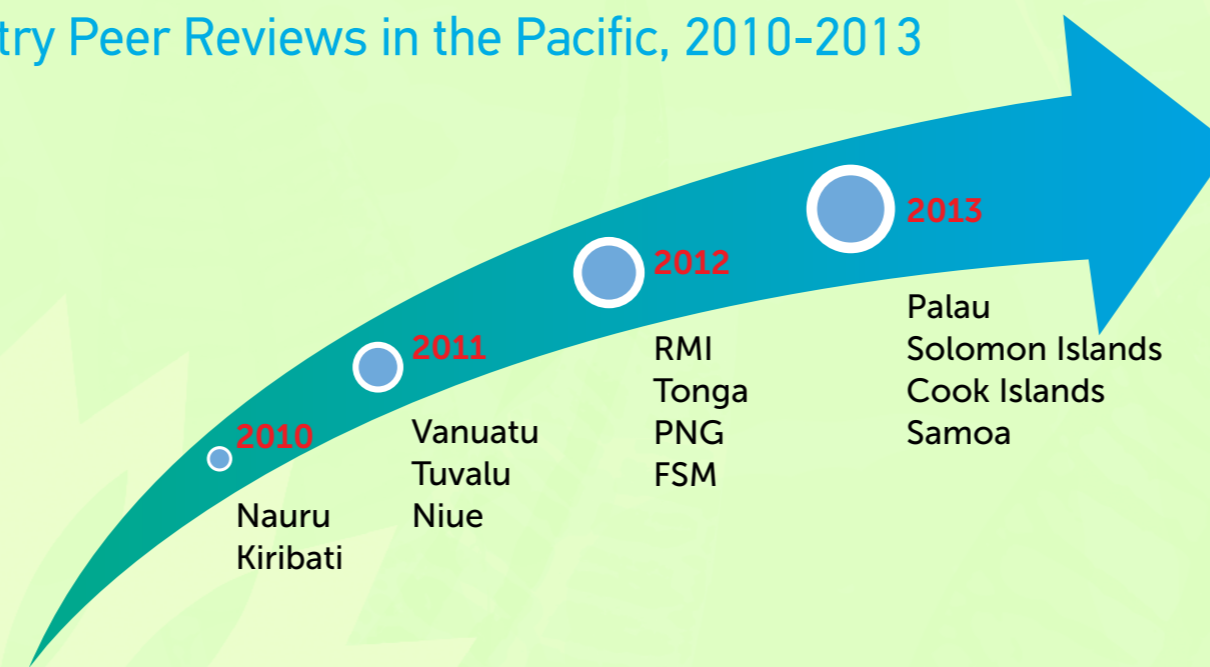


(Fourth from left) H.E Lord Tu'ivakano, Prime Minister of Tonga, (Fifth from left) Tuiloma Neroni Slade, PIFS Secretary General and the Tonga Peer Review Team



(First-right): Hon. Charles Abel, Papua New Guinea (PNG) Minister of National Planning and Monitoring with the PNG Peer Review Team, October 2012.

Country Peer Reviews in the Pacific, 2010-2013



Source: PIFS, FIC Peer Review Reports 2010-2014

Pacific Island Countries Helping each other through PEER REVIEWS

About The Pacific Islands Forum

The Pacific Islands Forum is a political grouping of 16 independent and self-governing states. Established since 1971 the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat drives regionalism and coordinates action by Pacific Island countries to address regional issues. Membership encompasses: Australia, Cook Islands, Federates States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.



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PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

Helping each other through Peer Reviews

Peer Reviews are an important part of the Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific (Forum Compact) agreed by Pacific Forum Leaders in August 2009. The Compact is a tool for the Forum Island Countries (FICs) to support their existing efforts to become more efficient in managing national development and handling of aid.

It is co-ordinated by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) in Suva. The provisions of the Compact call for action on the ways that FICs, with support of development partners, use their own funding and overseas aid to ensure a better life for their people. The Compact helps FICs to make progress towards achieving their national priorities and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Peer Reviews bring together officials of FICs and development partners to mutually address development challenges. The Review concept is based on the idea that if an FIC wants to make improvements in its development efforts, it may be better to seek advice from Pacific neighbours rather than relying too much on international experts. The thinking is that other Island countries may be facing, and could have found solutions to, exactly the same dilemmas confronting the FIC requesting a Review.

The reviewers do not question the policy direction of the country being reviewed, but consider how the choices made by that country are supported through planning, budgeting and coordination of resources. They aim to come up with simple and practical actions tailored to local capacity and based on regional experience, which can be implemented in the short to medium-term to improve development coordination in a country.

Nauru and Kiribati Peer Reviews (2010)

In 2010, Nauru volunteered to undertake a Peer Review by the Cook Islands and Tonga with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Kiribati invited Papua New Guinea, with the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, to undertake their Review.

Nauru:

"There is a lot that we can learn to improve on through the Compact process.... We would like our aid donors to address what we consider to be our priority areas. We want them to do this in a way that is suitable for us taking into consideration our current capacity to absorb such assistance and the processes we need to undergo to access this assistance." **Hon. Dr Kieren Keke, (Former) Minister for Finance and Planning, Nauru Peer Review, March 2010.**

Vanuatu, Tuvalu and Niue Peer Reviews (2011)

In 2011, three additional Forum Island Countries, Vanuatu, Tuvalu and Niue, volunteered to undertake Peer Reviews. Vanuatu invited officials from Papua New Guinea, Samoa and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, to conduct a Peer Review of its national development planning, budgeting, public financial management and aid management systems and processes. Tuvalu requested officials from Tonga, Vanuatu and from UNESCAP and Niue invited officials from Nauru, Samoa and Australia to carry out its Review.

"I think a review is always very healthy. The mistake one should never make is to carry on doing what you're doing without reflecting upon it. It is important to get people from the Pacific region to carry out the review as a lot of problems faced are similar. I think that the next step is actually dealing with these problems collectively. I'm sure the problems are the same and the solutions will be very similar."

H.E. President Anote Tong,
President of the Republic of Kiribati,
PIFS Peer Review Follow Up visit, Kiribati, October 2011.

Vanuatu:

"The Peer Review couldn't have come at a better time for the government of Vanuatu after 30 years of independence. We have already identified six recommendations from the Peer Review team that we will start implementing in 2011 and 2012" **Johnson Naviti, Acting Director General, Prime Minister's Office, Vanuatu.**

Tuvalu:

"For a country of limited resources and capacity, I am interested in how we can improve our capacity to access and better coordinate development funds from our development partners. With the expectation of considerable climate change financing in the future, my country is looking forward to the findings and recommendations of this Peer Review so we can better prepare ourselves to absorb and best utilise those resources to benefit our people" **Hon. Willy Telavi, (Former) Prime Minister of Tuvalu.**

Niue:

"I would recommend to other FICs to undertake a peer review because I think it's good to see whether you are taking the right path. I was pleased with the calibre of the people who were on the team. The group did an excellent job."

Hon. Toke T. Talagi,
Niue Premier,
PIFS Peer Review Follow Up visit, May 2012.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tonga, Papua New Guinea and the Federated States of Micronesia Peer Reviews (2012)

In 2012, four more Forum Island Countries volunteered and completed the peer review of their national planning, budgeting, public financial and aid management processes and systems. The Republic of the Marshall Islands in February 2012 invited

officials from the governments of the Cook Islands and Vanuatu and a development partner from the United Nations System to be on their review team. The government of Tonga in August 2012 invited officials from the governments of Samoa and Vanuatu and an official from United Nations Development Programme to serve on their peer review team.

In October 2012, Papua New Guinea, the largest and most populous Forum Island Country accounting for 80% of the Pacific's population invited officials from the governments of Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu and an official from the New Zealand Aid Programme to undertake the review of their systems of planning and resource management. The Federated States of Micronesia which consists of a federation of four states invited officials from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa and Vanuatu governments and a development partner from United Nations Development Programme.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands:

"The Peer Review conducted in the Marshall Islands has been a fulfilling experience and we have great honour therefore to subject ourselves to this important exercise and to share with our peers what we think we have achieved over the past few years, in pursuit of the objectives entailed in policies that our government develops and how these policies are translated into programs that enhances development coordination, addresses identifiable gaps to national sustainable economic growth, and improves the quality of life of our people." **H.E. Christopher J. Loeak, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.**

Tonga:

"Perhaps the most significant challenge for Tonga is to maintain our current course with the reforms and new systems and processes. We hope to share what we learn from our experiences with the wider Pacific community, allowing us all to move forward and prosper through a better standard of living and quality of life." **H.E. Lord Tu'ivakano, Prime Minister of Tonga.**

Papua New Guinea:

"We remain steadfast to the Cairns Compact to ensure there is effective coordination between Government and our development partners in bringing about development effectiveness for Papua New Guinea. The PNG Peer Review process has raised robust discussions and highlighted various issues that are relevant to our existing efforts in development planning, public finance management and aid management."

H.E. Hon. Peter O'Neill, CMG MP,
Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea
PNG Peer Review Report, March 2013.

Federated States of Micronesia:

"We know that there are brothers and sisters down in the south pacific that are thriving, they have systems that are working and we can emulate some of those. What do they do that drives their economy? Maybe we can do the same."

H.E. Emanuel Mori,
President of the Federated States of Micronesia
FSM Peer Review, November 2012.

Palau, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands and Samoa Peer Reviews (2013)

In 2013, the remaining four Pacific Island Countries volunteered and completed their Peer Review Processes.

Palau:

The Republic of Palau invited officials from RMI, Tonga and an official from the Australian Aid Programme to serve on their peer review team.

"The Peer Review process is grounded in the fact that our islands share many of the same characteristics and challenges, and it simply makes sense for us to share our ideas and learn from each other's successes as well as our failures. But Peer Reviews also recognize that each of our islands is unique and the challenges we face and the policies we choose to pursue are not the same. Accordingly, the goal of the Peer Review process is not to recommend the direction our development should take, but rather to give us suggestions on how best we get where we want to go."

H.E Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr
President of the Republic of Palau,
Palau Peer Review Report, June 2013.

Solomon Islands:

Solomon Islands requested officials from Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Vanuatu and from UNESCAP to serve on their peer review team. The Government of the Solomon Islands also invited a representative from Papua New Guinea to observe on their Peer Review Team.

"The Peer Review is an important regional mechanism for mutual learning. It presented us with the opportunity to examine particularly the processes and mechanisms for development coordination with the ultimate aim of reinforcing country leadership over the establishment of development priorities and strengthening the country's capacity to guide the use of development resources from both government and partners."

Hon. Gordon Darcy Lilo,
Prime Minister of Solomon Islands,
Solomon Islands Peer Review Report, July 2014.

Cook Islands:

The Government of Cook Islands invited representatives from Niue, Samoa, Vanuatu and Australia to serve on their peer review team. The Government of the Cook Islands also invited the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the People's Republic of China to observe on their Peer Review. This was the first peer review that the People's Republic of China has engaged in.

"Although the Cook Islands is well on track with the Millennium Development Goals and have some of the best development statistics in the region, we know we can do better. We want to do better. This is why we welcomed with open arms the Peer Review Team made up of representatives from Vanuatu, Samoa, Niue and Australia. We were also pleased that the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the People's Republic of China accepted our invitation to be observers for this process."

Hon. Henry Puna,
Prime Minister of the Cook Islands,
Cook Islands Peer Review Report, October 2013

Samoa:

The Government of Samoa invited representatives from the Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and the World Bank as the development partner representative to be part of their peer review. The Peer Review team also included observers from the Federated States of Micronesia and from Papua New Guinea.

"The assistance of invited representatives from our family of nations in the Pacific Islands Forum, development partners and Forum Secretariat is an excellent modality, to learn and share our development aspirations and reform experiences to realize our goals for economic growth and sustainable development."

H.E. Hon. Tuilaepa Lufesolai Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi
Prime Minister of Samoa,
Samoa Peer Review Report, November 2013.

Australia:

"The peer reviews highlight that we all have mutual responsibilities for achieving sustainable development in the Pacific. For our part, Australia needs to better tailor our assistance and try to minimize the administrative burdens on countries so the peer review process involves dialogue with the private sector on the islands as well in Australia and that's critical for long term sustainable development. We also need to continue to work with the Pacific to ensure investors better understand the great opportunities that are there."

Hon. Julie Bishop,
Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Forum Compact video interview, August 2014

All Peer Review teams were supported by a team from the Forum Secretariat and nationally identified government focal points.