Solevaka, a Virtual Community for Pacific SDG Partnerships

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

In this first edition of the Solevaka Newsletter (quarterly) we share a bit more about this new knowledge platform, highlights of the VNR Reports in the Pacific, spotlights of initiatives of the Pacific SDG Partnership, and other highlights.

Join the Solevaka Community - Solevaka.org
Allow me to Introduce Myself

In this contemporary society, online platforms are fast emerging to create and add value to the globalized and complex world of information. This why the establishment of the Solevaka knowledge platform is crucial particularly to integrate and accelerate progress and address challenges for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Pacific.
A Summary from our Communities of Practice

On Sovevaka, you will find a call for contribution on the Pacific’s response to the UN Secretary General’s call to raise for all leaders to come to New York on 23 September for the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit.

The Pacific Climate Action goes beyond the Summit and will end on the 20th of October.

More...
How Dare You

A short reflective poem which was posted on Solevaka by Viliamu Iese, Research Fellow (Climate Change, Food Security, Disaster Risk Management), Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (PaCE-SD), the University of the South Pacific.

How dare you didn't act?
How dare you didn't speak?
How dare you didn't share?
Now I dare you, I dare you to act, speak and share
For now, is the moment of "daring"
Or forever be drowned in the rising sea of regrets
2019 Pacific Voluntary National Review Reporting

Congratulations to Fiji, Nauru, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu for undertaking the Voluntary National Review (VNR) on their progress towards the SDGs this year. It is a testament of the excellent commitment that the Pacific region has made on implementing the 2030 Agenda, and the Sustainable Development Goals that five countries have reported in one year.
Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) Appoints Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Program Officer

By Soloveni Vitoso, Public Relations & Communications Officer, Pacific Disability Forum

The Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) welcomes Mereoni Daveta as its newly appointed Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Program Officer. Before joining PDF, Mereoni worked with the Oceania Paralympic Committee providing executive support and monitoring and evaluation of the National Board.

More...
A Passion for Siapo (Samoan Tapa-making)

By Funefe'ai Dikaiosune Atoa Tamaalii, Deputy Press Secretary for the Government of Samoa, Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Meet Rebeka Ainea, 54 years of age originally from the village of Siutu, Salailua and now resides at her family land in Vaitele. Rebeka is deeply passionate about continuing one of the oldest Samoan cultural art forms – the siapo – after learning the skills at 13 years old, she has been refining her talent for over 40 years.
Civil Society Engagement and Gender Highlighted at the Pacific Week of Agriculture

The Pacific Week of Agriculture (PWA), a biennial event, was hosted by the Government of Samoa from September 30 – October 04, 2019. Of interest were two papers presented focusing on Civil Society Engagement and Country Gender Assessments in Agriculture and Rural Development which discussed a civil society mechanism where farmers can engage directly with the Heads of Agriculture and Forestry. The second paper detailed the findings of a Country Gender Assessments in Agriculture and Rural Development which noted that Pacific women play a considerable role in agriculture and rural livelihood but their potential is not fully developed because of lack of attention to their contribution to the sector.
Launch of the Progressing the Transformative Agenda of the SDGs: A 2019 Voluntary National Review of Fiji Civil Society Organisations on the Sustainable Development Goals Report

This Fiji Council of Social Services launched the report which will soon be made public. The report is an overview of contributions to each of the 17 SDGs by civil society groups including trade unions and private sector organisations from 2016 to 2019. The initiative was led by the Fiji CSO VNR Taskforce comprising of Fiji Council of Social Services, Fiji Women’s Right Movement, Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation, Rainbow Pride Foundation, Citizen’s Constitutional Forum, Save the Children Fiji, Adventist Development Relief Agency Fiji, Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding, Pacific Islands Association of NGOs, Habitat for Humanity Fiji, Fiji Commerce &Employers Federation and Fiji Trade Union Congress.
2019 Climate Action Summit

In what was a busy month in New York, Pacific Island leaders joined world leaders at the UN Headquarters for a series of meetings beginning with the 2019 Climate Action Summit which was aimed at boosting ambition and accelerate actions to implement the Paris Agreement. The Summit on Monday, 23 September, challenged states, regions, cities, companies, investors, and citizens to step up action in nine areas: mitigation; social and political drivers; youth and public mobilization; energy transition; climate finance and carbon pricing; industry transition; nature-based solutions; infrastructure, cities and local action; and resilience and adaptation.
74th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA)

The 74th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). The general debate started on September 24 and ended on September 30. Heads of State reconvened for the first time since 2015 to wrestle with how the world will finance the Sustainable Development Goals.
UNCTAD has Published the First Version of the Digital Economy Report

The report examines the potentials presented by the digital economy and provides an assessment of the scope for value creation and capture in developing countries.
UNDP Launches SIDS Accelerator Labs to Tackle "Frontier Challenges"

In August this year the UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji launched its first-ever Accelerator Lab for the Pacific region.
The ‘Future is Now’ Report

The Global Sustainable Development Report prepared following the decision of the United Nations Member States at the 2016 high-level political forum for sustainable development (HLPF) reflects the universal, indivisible and integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and scientists are calling for urgent, targeted, action to avoid reversing the development gains of recent decades.

More...
Events

- **UN Day** - October 24, 2019
- **World Children's Day (UNICEF)** – November 20, 2019
- **16 Days of Activism (UNWomen)** – November 25, 2019
- **LDC, AOSIS & G77 Preparatory Meetings for UNFCCC COP 25** – November 26, 2019
- **UN 75th Anniversary Celebration** – October 24, 2020
Contact Information

- **Ruci Mafi Botei**, Solevaka Facilitator, UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji, ruci.botei@undp.org; and
- **Akosita Ratumaimuri**, Solevaka Communications and Research Officer, UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji, akosita.ratumaimuri@undp.org.

Join the Solevaka community - [Solevaka.org](http://solevaka.org)

Regards
The Solevaka Team
info@solevaka.org

*Images copyright of UNDP and UN.*
Want to change how you receive these emails? You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.