

NEWSLETTER

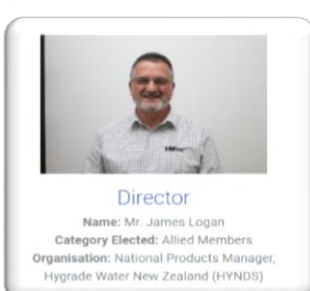
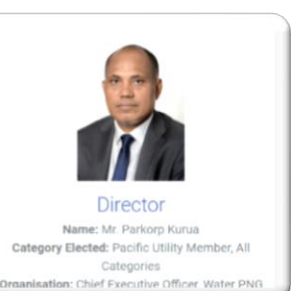
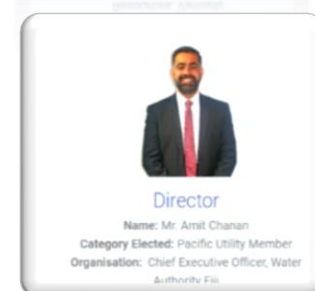
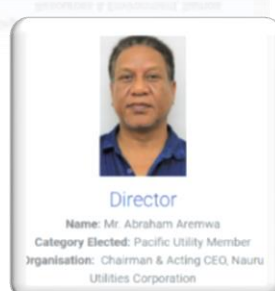
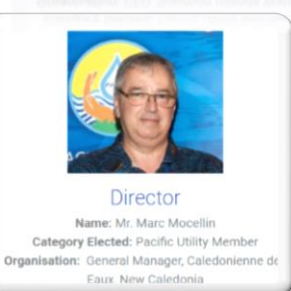
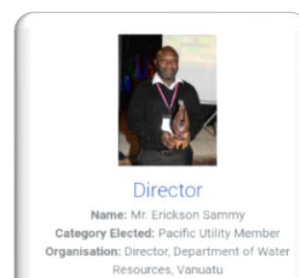
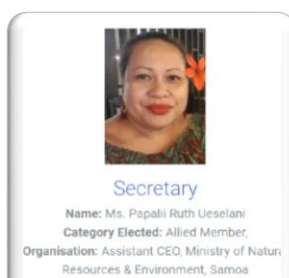
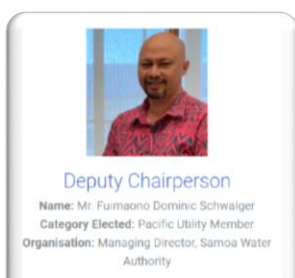
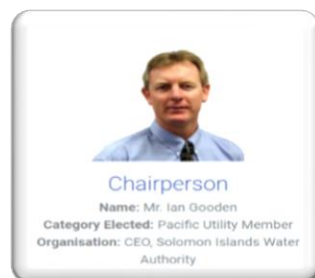
01 October – 31 December 2022

happy
holidays



Pacific Water & Wastewater
Association

NEW ELECTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022 - 2025



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Elections for a new Board of Directors were held at the AGM of the Association held during the Annual Conference on 16th November 2022. The new Board brings together a collective wealth of experience, knowledge and skills to the PWWA as it embarks on the next phase of growth in its journey. The new Board will serve for three years completing at the AGM in 2025.

13th PACIFIC WATER & WASTEWATER CONFERENCE & EXPO & 6th MINISTERIAL FORUM 2022



PWWC 2022 OFFICIAL OPENING



The 13th Annual Pacific Water and Wastewater Conference & Expo was the major event of this quarter. Held in Nadi Fiji, at the Sofitel Resort & Spa from 14-18 November 2022, this was the first conference since 2019 in Vanuatu, due to border restrictions from the COVID19 pandemic.

It was rated a success by all and was well attended by 300 participants. The Chief Executive Officer, Dr Amit Chanan, management, and staff of the Water Fiji Authority worked hard to ensure that Fiji hosted a successful conference for PWWA.

This year's theme was ***"Resilience and Water Security"***, which saw a Water Ministers Forum, attended by Pacific Island Ministers for Water, and Infrastructure, a technical conference, a program and platform for Young Water Professionals, workshops and Expo.



A traditional ceremony to open the conference was accorded to the Deputy Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Hon. Sato Kilman as the highest ranked attending Minister and Fiji's Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Jone Usamate who thanked the Fijian Government for hosting the annual Conference, on behalf of all the Ministers and participants. The symbolic gifts Fiji gifted



Ministers representing all participants included mats for participants to sleep on, taro and pig to feed everyone, and of course kava for talanoa and networking sessions. *This was the second time in 13 years of this annual PWWA event that Fiji has hosted.*

YOUNG WATER PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM 2022

A total of 28 young water professionals (YWP) participated in this year's program, which started online from August for 10 weeks. The program aimed to bring together YWPs from across the Pacific region to foster professional relationships, build networks, facilitate interactions with experienced water professionals including CEOs and equip

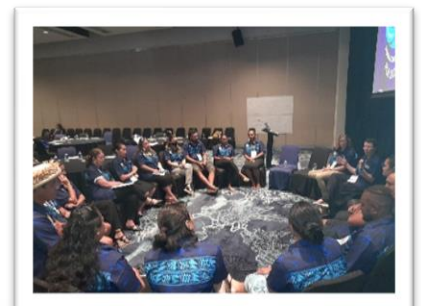


participants with professional leadership, communications and other skills. This important program is also a huge success to the work of PWWA and its donor partner – AWP. It was a productive event with a great amount of positive feedback and energy on ideas to address the ongoing problems with water and wastewater resources in the Pacific.



The YWPs parallel program at the conference included sessions on gender equality and inclusivity in the water and sanitation space; a leadership/mentoring program by some industry CEOs and presentation of projects groups had worked on from their online sessions.

A session with all utilities CEOs was part of their program and provided the opportunity to engage and gauge from these experienced water professionals their stories and advise of their journeys. The YWPs group had the opportunity to also present to the Ministers Forum and be provided feedback from Ministers.



6th MINISTERIAL FORUM 14TH – 15TH NOVEMBER 2022

Ministerial Forum

Emphasis was on wastewater and sanitation during the 6th Pacific Water and Wastewater Ministerial Forum; Leaders agreed there needs to be a strong emphasis on wastewater and sanitation in the Pacific within the next 5 years. This sentiment was shared during the 6th Pacific Water and Wastewater Ministerial (PWWM) Forum in Denarau, Nadi which concluded on the 15/11/22.



The Chairman for the Water Forum and Fijian Minister for Infrastructure, Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources, Hon. Jone Usamate spoke on the need for urgent targeted and collaborative action by governments, development partners and civil society over the next five years.

"There is a strong emphasis on this Communique on wastewater and sanitation and this is something that we as the Pacific Ministers will then take to the United Nations Conference in 2023," he said.

This was especially apt as this coincides with the final five years of the UN Decade of Action on Water and Sanitation.

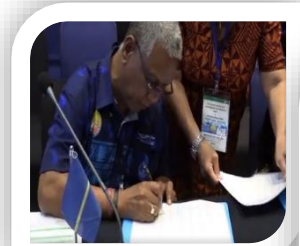
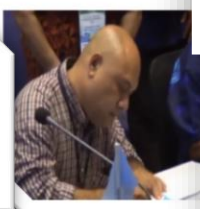
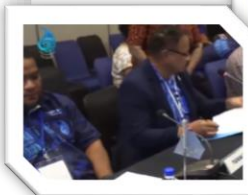
Another relevant point that was highlighted was that a large number of people living in the South Pacific lack access to safe sanitation and hygiene facilities - with an estimated 1.8 million practicing open defecation.

"It is an honour to be the Chair of this meeting -- we received good input from the Ministers and I am very glad that we are able to come to an agreement to the Communique on some of the key things", after which the Minister thanked the participants for attending and the various sponsors for their support.

Hopefully we have put together something that will set the direction for us in the future," concluded Minister Usamate.

The 6th PWWM Forum was attended by the Ministers from Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, as well as senior government representatives from American Samoa, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu.

COMMUNIQUE SIGNING



EXPOSITION 2022

BOOTHS SET UP

Thank you to Water Authority Fiji, Sofitel Resort, Encore Event Technologies and the Total event Co for pulling together a professional setup and platform for our Allied Members to showcase their products, equipment and services.

Vinaka vakalevu!



to assist our water utilities improve their services to our pacific people, quoted the Chairman, Ian Gooden.



LIST OF EXHIBITORS

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 WATER SUPPLY PRODUCTS

EXPO OPENING

Running parallel to the conference was the exhibition display of several business companies, technical service providers and products in the water sector. Twenty five (25) exhibitors were able to participate in this year's exhibition show which took up 40 booths to set up their displays.



Congratulations and thank you to all our exhibitors at the conference this year.

"This is one of the most important part of our Conference as this platform provided for members to showcase their products and emerging technologies

ADB IN THE PACIFIC

(source ADB)

The Asian Development Bank participated in the 13th Pacific Water and Wastewater Conference and 6th Water Ministerial Forum held in Nadi, Fiji.

ADB Pacific Department Director Jingmin Huang led an ADB team at the event on 14-18 November. ADB discussed ongoing ADB support with CEOs of Pacific water and sanitation utilities.



DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Development Partner's perspective - Resources for water resilient programs. The Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) in collaboration with PWWA facilitated this session where the Australia Water Partnership (AWP), European Union (EU), World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAT) presented on their water resilient programs and funding available to our Pacific Utilities to assist in resourcing water resilient and WASH initiatives.



PACIFIC COMMUNITY (SPC)

(source SPC)

Pacific leaders emphasised the need for action to strengthen water security and resilience across the region, at the 6th Pacific Water and Wastewater Ministers' (PWWM) Forum, held in Fiji. Across the Pacific, more than 5 million Pacific people still lack access to basic drinking water facilities, and more than two-thirds live without access to basic sanitation. This significantly undermines the resilience of Pacific communities. Ministers and conference representatives urged the scaling up of investments to support the science, infrastructure and local capacities needed to implement local water and sanitation solutions resilient to the impacts of disasters and climate change. The Water Forum was an opportunity for these Pacific water leaders to share challenges, success stories, and knowledge on key issues relating to water security and sanitation, elevating and accelerating coordinated work that support increased access to water and sanitation for Pacific communities. The Water Forum communique noted that Pacific water security challenges have been further exacerbated by the effects of the pandemic and natural hazards such as Tropical Cyclones Harold, Yasa and Ana, the eruption of the Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai volcano and associated tsunami, and the serious drought currently affecting the atoll nations of Kiribati and Tuvalu. Pacific Community's (SPC) Water Security and Governance Coordinator, Mr Dave Hebblethwaite, commended the great work of the PWWA Secretariat and Water Authority of Fiji in organizing the Water Forum and welcomed the opportunity to present to Ministers and representatives on emerging water security challenges facing the region, as well as opportunities for support under climate financing mechanisms; critical in addressing the intensifying climate-related risks affecting the water sector.



AWARDS NIGHT

An unforgettable under the starry sky gala dinner to close the 13th PacificWater and Wastewater Conference & Expo, took place at the Sofitel Resort & Spa Beach front, to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all participants and the host for an extraordinary event.

The event also presents the annual water and wastewater benchmarking awards, truly a highlight for all utilities participating. The winners of 2021 were based on data collection from utilities for 2020.

The Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) was awarded the 'Best Overall Utility 2021 along with other awards.



PWWA Awards 2022 – WINNERS

1. Best Coverage with Services

Group 1 - Caledonienne des Eaux
Group 2 - Water Authority of Fiji
Group 3 - Independent Water Schemes
Association Samoa

2. Sustainable Cost Recovery

Group 1 - Guam Waterworks Authority
Group 2 - Water PNG
Group 3 - To Tatou Vai, Cook Islands



3. Best Customer Services

Group 1 - Caledonienne des Eaux
Group 2 - Central Yap Public Utilities Corporation
Group 3 - Independent Water Schemes
Association Samoa

4. Best Technical Performance

Group 1 - Caledonienne des Eaux
Group 2 - UNELCO
Group 3 - Public Utilities Board, Kiribati

5. Most Improved Utility

Group 1 - Caledonienne des Eaux
Group 2 - Samoa Water Authority
Group 3 - To Tatou Vai, Cook Islands

6. Best Utility 2022

Group 1 - Caledonienne des Eaux
Group 2 - Water Authority of Fiji
Group 3 - To Tatou Vai, Cook Islands



7. Best Overall Utility 2022

- Water Authority Fiji



Young Water Professional of the Year 2022

- Mr Tapunui Taputu, Polynésienne des Eaux, French Polynesia



SPECIAL Awards 2022 - WINNERS

1. Gender Balance

- Chuuk Public Utilities Corporation, FSM

2. Salary Balance

- American Samoa Power Authority

Professional Long Service Tribute Award for pioneering and dedicated service to PWWA

- Mr Jim Keary, Individual Member, Australia



Best Expo Booth- polling 2022

- Caledonienne des Eaux



Runner-up, Best Expo Booth 2022

- DAEMCO



One of the special awards and highlight of the night was honoring the late Latu Kupa for his service to PWWA. Mrs Kisa Latu and her son Joseph Hemi Kupa were present to receive the award. **THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR CELEBRATION.**



The following post by Kisa “is a testimony of God’s faithfulness to His promises”. Thank you KEW Consult Ltd - Engineering and Water for all the years of voluntary services.

Kisa of KEW Consult quotes: “It was a great honour to attend the Pacific Water and Wastewater Conference Awards Dinner at Sofitel Resort in Denarau, Fiji on the evening of 17/11/22 to accept a tribute award for the work and contribution of our late Managing Director, Latu S Kupa to water utility initiatives in the Pacific region.



The first conference for Pacific Water utilities was held in Apia, 1995 - Latu was elected the first chairman, being the GM of SWA at the time. The Secretariat for the Pacific Water Association (PWA) was based in Fiji until its transfer to Samoa in 2007. KEW Consult voluntarily took on the secretariat role for the Association from 2007 until end of 2016; Latu was the Executive Director for those years. Today, the Association is thriving, with an efficient Board and successful Secretariat, managed by CEO, Mrs Pitoula Lusua Sefo. Membership has grown significantly.



‘Water is life, water for life’ was Latu’s motto. Thank you Chairman and members of the PWWA Board, the Secretariat and all the Association members for the honour given to KEW Consult in recognition of our beloved Latu’s legacy in the Pacific water sector. Special acknowledgement for Water Authority of Fiji for being a spectacular Conference host.

Vinaka vaka levu. God bless”.

From: - KEW Consult



Moerk Water sharing importance of local ownership and sustainability across the Pacific

Moerk Water attended the 13th Pacific Water and Wastewater Association Conference in Nadi, Fiji from the 14th to 18th of November. The conference was an excellent opportunity to meet with the operators of Pacific Island Country Water Utilities, as well as allied members of the PWWA and to hear about some of the important work being done to make these countries more resilient in the face of climate change.



Figure 1 Pitoula Lusio Sefo Leau, Chief Executive Officer of PWWA: Moerk Water colleagues: Dr Mat Francis, Director of Water Chemistry, Training and Capacity Development Lead: Barbara Brezger, Director of International Business Development

In addition to showcasing their technological solutions as part of the conference exhibition, Moerk Water were invited to present on their work providing holistic water treatment solutions for remote communities as part of the conference technical sessions.

The focus of Dr Mat Francis' presentation was that seawater desalination is going to become an integral water treatment technology for Pacific Island Countries and their ongoing response to climate

change. However, this technology will fail long term, as it has historically for Pacific Island Countries, if a holistic approach is not taken when the technology is installed. Moerk Water's holistic approach to desalination is that well designed technology built to a robust and durable standard need to be combined with local partnerships, renewable energy and local capacity building to succeed. If water treatment systems cannot be serviced and maintained locally then they will not succeed in the long run.



Figure 2 Barbara Brezger, Director DoWR Erickson Vanuatu, Hon Jone Usamate Fiji, DPM Hon Sato Kilman, Vanuatu



Figure 3 Barbara Brezger presenting on the Aid Conference in Canberra

The Australasian Aid Conference is an annual conference held in Canberra hosted by the Development Policy Centre and the Asia Foundation. For the 2022 conference, which ran from the 28th to the 30th November, Moerk Water was invited by the IDCC (International Development Contractors Community) to represent small enterprises on a panel discussing localization chaired by Andrew Egan from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. On the panel was Anna Winoto from Abt Associates, Fremden S. Yanhambath from Vanuatu Skills Partnership, Barbara Brezger, Moerk Water, Ratna Kreshtiana from Australia Indonesia Partnership for Justice and Dr Bernadette Whitelum from Alinea Whitelum.

The panel examined different approaches to localization and some of the advantages and risks of this implementation strategy. Moerk Water presented on their work in the Pacific providing sustainable drinking water solutions to remote communities and how long term and sustainable solutions can only be achieved by using local partners and expertise. The main takeaways from Moerk Water's talk were that we need to promote more local ownership, improve regional training and capacity and ensure that projects can be supported using both local service personnel and local spare parts.

This message was echoed by the other panel members who called for more localization initiatives, particularly through skills development.



Figure 2 Barbara Brezger, Jose Legarra, EU Program Manager, Dr Mat Francis, Misisleti Masoe-Satuala, Development Project Coordinator

The conference was a great opportunity to talk to our donor partners and fellow contractors about issues around water security in the Asia Pacific region. It was also an excellent opportunity to network with some of the key decision makers in the Aid sector.

Our highlight of the conference was the presentation by Mrs Ofakilevuka Guttenbeil-Likiliki, Filmmaker and Director of the Women and Children's Crisis Centre (WCC) in Tonga titled "Enough is enough: audaciously decolonising the development and humanitarian nexus".



Figure 3 Barbara Brezger with Ofa Guttenbeil-Likiliki

Besides promoting gender and cultural equity, which is something Moerk Water proudly supports, Ofa's talk included a Hawaiian proverb that resonated strongly with us.

"The top of the cliff isn't the place to look at us, come down, learn about our big and little currents face to face." The outcome of the conference was that there is still a long way to go particularly in gender equity issues and that aid, as long as it is well directed, to the water and energy sectors will be key to combatting climate change in the region.

Moerk Water Solution would like to thank both the Pacific Water and Wastewater Association and the Water Authority of Fiji for hosting such an amazing conference.

See you all at the next PWWA Conference in 2023!



Association Agreement: AWA Capability Enhancement Program (CEP).

PWWA in November signed up to participate in the Australian Water Association Capability Enhancement Program in SE Asia and the Pacific. Following the signing of a renewed MOU with the Australian Water Association in June 2022, PWWA decided to join up with AWA on the CEP program for the next 2 years, a program funded for AWA by the Australian Water Partnership for SE Asia and the Pacific.

The CEP aims to accelerate climate smart and water resilient water sectors through partnerships and capacity building in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. The CEP involves twinning between AWA and PWWA, and twinning between Australian and Pacific based utilities. For the CEP, proposals have now been sought for interested utilities to be selected to participate following evaluation by PWWA, AWP and AWA to match requirements of Pacific utilities with Australian utilities and vice versa.

PWWA looks forward to a long term relationship with the Australian Water Association moving forward and expects this program to be a first of further collaborations.

Secretariat

*Merry Christmas
and a Happy new Year*

PACIFIC WATER AND WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION SECRETARIAT

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