

PWWA NEWSLETTER

4th Edition, 01st October – 31st December 2023



Merry Christmas

Pacific Café Sessions at the 14th Pacific Water and Wastewater Conference & Expo in Palau

This year our Pacific Café sessions were focused on facilitating discussions about priority topics and for all to share their experiences and knowledge on strategies to a secure and climate resilient water sector in the Pacific. Equally critical is the discussion on climate resilient utilities and infrastructure and how these areas can be better improved.

These were the most popular sessions during the conference and discussions were vibrant and brought out many ideas for actions to further enhance collaboration and co-development across the sector's main players, such as utilities, water experts, allied members, and development partners.

We will continue to provide and facilitate this platform to create effective discussions on current issues that our sector is faced with and determine strategies or priority actions for a regional collaboration that will support and strengthen utilities efforts to provide quality water to our pacific communities.

We look forward to seeing you all in 2024 with some more creative and brilliant ideas.



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Water Authority Fiji

(source WAF)

ADB funding for the Rewa River Water Supply project.

The [Asian Development Bank](#) (ADB) has reaffirmed its commitment to flagship investments towards Fiji's water supply and sanitation needs.



ADB's President Masatsugu Asakawa highlighted this following a meeting with Fiji's Minister for Public Works,

Meteorological Services, and Transport, Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau with the Water Authority of Fiji Board Chairman Mr Savenaca Seniloli and WAF CEO Dr Amit Chanan at the WAF Headquarters in Nasinu today (13/11).

The ADB's current support towards WAF is through the co-funding of the \$270 million new 40 million litres water treatment facility in Viria, Naitasiri the 'Rewa River Water Supply Scheme' which will resolve the intermittent water supply issues in the Lami-Suva-Nausori corridor benefitting around 360,000 Fijians. "I particularly want to express my appreciation for your government's partnership with ADB to design and build the new Viria water intake plant under the Urban Water Supply and Wastewater Management

Investment Program. A highlight of this project is the mobilization of Green Climate Fund grants to finance the costs of upgrading and moving the water intake plant away from the river mouth to prevent rising seawater intrusion," ADB's President Masatsugu Asakawa explained.

Minister Tuisawau thanked the ADB President for the ADB funding for the Rewa River Water Supply project. ***"The Government together with WAF is developing our first national Water Sector Strategy 2050, to address the future needs of the water and wastewater sector. Through this strategic planning, we have identified the investment needs for the upcoming three decades, which is to the tune of FJD \$2.99 Billion in water and FJD \$4.7 Billion in the wastewater sector to meet SDG 6 goals and improve environmental performance. The government is keen to work with ADB to build a climate-resilient water and wastewater sector,"*** Minister Tuisawau said.

Also, in attendance at the meeting were the ADB Executive Directors Ms Rachel Thompson and Mr Made Arya Wijaya, with the Regional Director of the Asian Development Bank's Pacific Subregional Office, Mr Aaron Batten.

Meanwhile, the ADB reiterates its dedication to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific with a continued focus on eradicating poverty.



Brainstorming Session on Capacity Development in Water Management & Resilience in the Pacific.

The [UNSW](#) Global Water Institute and Water Authority of Fiji ([#WAF](#)) hosted a brainstorming session with international and local water and engineering academics, water industry operators and regional agencies to discuss viable models for bridging skills capacity gap in the Pacific, which is worsening due to increased migration rates in the recent times.



Director, UNSW Global Water Institute - Prof. Greg Leslie said the objective of the brainstorming session was to explore the possibility of establishing a Water Knowledge Hub or a Centre with international affiliations to address issues around capacity building in water management and resilience.

“The brainstorming session explored the idea of a Centre that could be grounded in capacity building, covering full spectrum from operator-level training to infrastructure planning and financing and the research needed to underpin these decisions,” said Prof Leslie.

WAF CEO and a Director on the [Pacific Water and Wastewater Association](#) Board Dr Amit Chanan said the growing skills shortage in the water sector is a concern for all Pacific States.

“A collaborative approach that brings together private sector (particularly the large O&M providers that can deliver skills-based training), government authorities, regional agencies and universities (from Pacific and International) would be the best way to tackle this challenge.”

SUEZ Team Leader Mr Huot SRUN, who has been working with WAF on operator training welcomed the session and shared with the participants training modules that SUEZ has already developed for WAF operational staff training.

Meanwhile, the session saw discussions on the importance of an international approach to address regional priorities and developing local capacity. Discussions were also held on the critical role of the private sector as well as the approach to building a multi-lateral and interdisciplinary centre.

The brainstorming session included Deputy Deans of the [University of New South Wales](#) (UNSW) – [UNSW Faculty of Engineering](#), Prof Rita Henderson and Prof Maurice Pagnucco, [The University of the South Pacific](#)’s Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research & Innovation Professor Gurmeet Singh, the [Fiji National University](#)’s Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor Research & Innovation, Professor Paul Iji, and the [Pacific-Community-SPC](#)’s Water Security & Governance Coordinator, Dave Hebblethwaite, water and wastewater operators and consultants from SUEZ as well as Prof. Dave White, the Associate Vice President, Knowledge Enterprise Director, Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation, [Arizona State University](#), who attended virtually.



PRIF-PWWA Strengthening Asset Management Program for Pacific Water Sector 2023

On October 06th, the technical staff from the Water Authority of Fiji were awarded certificates for successfully completing an Asset Management training which was facilitated by the [Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility - PRIF](#) (PRIF)

WAF Chairman, Mr. Savenaca Seniloli said that having effective asset management is crucial to achieving an efficient operation and improving WAF's service delivery. "Our assets, such as water treatment plants, distribution networks, and storage facilities, are critical components of our service delivery infrastructure. Therefore, we need to manage them carefully to ensure that they remain serviceable, efficient, and effective in their function to reduce repair and maintenance costs," said Mr. Seniloli. Also, in attendance at the certificate presentation ceremony was the ADB Regional Director Mr Aaron Batten, and CEO Pacific Water and Wastewater Association Ms Lusia Sefo-Leau and the Executive Management of the Water Authority of Fiji.



WAF CEO, Dr Amit Chanan congratulated the staff and thanked them for their commitment and diligence in completing the training.

"This is a critical area and getting asset management right will ensure that WAF becomes an efficient and effective organisation in its operations" Dr Chanan expressed.

ADB Regional Director, Mr. Aaron Batten acknowledged the [Pacific Water and Wastewater Association](#) (PWWA) for implementing the asset training course.

"If you look at Fiji's commitment toward water, it actually stands out, Fiji actually enshrines access to safe drinking water and sanitation in its constitution – it is one of the few countries in the Pacific or even in the region to have done that. When it comes to meeting these ambitions, I think Fiji too around the region has made very commendable progress in accessing water and sanitation services to its people, it has one of the most effective and broadest coverages of its networks across many countries," said Mr Batten.

Mr. Seniloli also acknowledged that the training was made possible with funding support from the [Asian Development Bank](#), [ADB in the Pacific](#), the [European Investment Bank](#) (EIB) and facilitated by the [Pacific Water and Wastewater Association](#) (PWWA).





Samoa Water Authority

(source SWA)

PRIF-PWWA Strengthening Asset Management Program for Pacific Water Sector 2023

In collaboration with [Pacific Water and Wastewater Association](#), the PRIF Asset Management Team worked with the [Samoa Water Authority](#) trainees to apply the skills learned during the training phase in 3 key areas (i) an asset maturity assessment; (ii) a review of the asset registers, and (iii) an asset management improvement plan.

Samoa Water Authority achieved -

- 1. Water Utility with the highest average test score of the PRIF-PWWA Strengthening Asset Management Program for the Pacific Water Sector 2023***
- 2. Second Water Utility to achieve 100% of the Digital badges of the PRIF-PWWA Strengthening Asset Management Program for the Pacific Water Sector 2023***
- 3. For supporting the first Cohort for PRIF-PWWA Strengthening Asset Management Program for the Pacific Water Sector 2023***

And Congratulations for completing the Asset Management Course -

Top with the third highest average test score of 99% - NATHANIEL FAU

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT-

1. Fuimaono Dominic Faatoialemanu Schwalger
2. Hellene Wallwork
3. Gilbert Mauga
4. Nathaniel Fau
5. Sharon Lesa
6. Tafeamaalii Philip Kerslake

We would also like to take this time to show our appreciation to the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility and the [Pacific Water and Wastewater Association](#) for coordinating this course for the betterment of our SWA Employees.





Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Samoa

(source MNRE)

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector School Awareness Program

On day two of the “National Environment Week” by the Ministry of Natural, Resources and Environment. The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector in association with the Water, Sanitation Sector Coordination Division organized an awareness program campaign nationwide for all 8 Colleges in Upolu. Schools who took part in this awareness campaign were Avella College, Leififi College, Samoa College, Anoamaá College, Faleata College, Saint Joseph College, Papauta Girls College and Vaimauga College.

This awareness program highlights on clean water, proper sanitation, and good hygiene practices and essential components of a healthy and prosperous society. There were many individuals, especially in the unprivileged communities, lack access to these necessities. To address these critical issues, schools can play a pivotal role in raising awareness and initiating action in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector (WASH) sector. The program was held at the Taumeasina Island Resort with opening remarks delivered by the acting ACEO of the Water Sanitation Sector Coordination Division, Ms. Perise Kerslake. This awareness program was made possible in the sense, through clear communication means, include traditional and social media, as well as direct communications such as workshops, presentations, stakeholders and implementing agencies.

Sanitation:

This campaign was aimed to raise awareness on the work of MNRE through the Water Sanitation Sector Coordination Division with its closed collaboration with stakeholders and implementing agencies encourages proper sanitation facilities, including toilets and waste disposal system, are crucial for maintaining a socioeconomic and hygiene environment. Inadequate sanitation not only poses health risks but also affects the dignity and safety of individuals. Schools can promote the construction and maintenance of safe and private sanitation facilities, ensuring that student have access to secure restrooms.

Hygiene:

The Water Sanitation Sector Coordination Division also raised awareness for good hygiene practices, such as hand washing with soap, can significantly avoid the spread of diseases. Students can share the importance of hygiene and how to incorporate these practices into their daily routines. This education not only benefits the students but also extend to their families and communities, creating a ripple effect to improved hygiene.

Education:

This however aims at Schools as they are natural hub for learning and knowledge distribution. Integrating the WASH awareness into the curriculum can empower students with the information and skills they need to make informed decisions about their health and well-being. This education can cover topics like the water shedding, water cycle, water purification, sanitation systems, and the importance of proper hygiene.

Schools can serve as to advocate for WASH initiatives with their communities. Students can engage in awareness campaign, organize fundraisers, or partners with implementing agencies to support WASH project. This hand on experience not only educates students but also fosters a sense of responsibility and community involvement.

Through consistent education and encouragement, schools in Samoa can facilitate behavior change in student and by extension, their families, and communities. Teaching good hygiene habits and promoting water and sanitation and conservation and can have lasting impact on public health.

The following Implementing agencies presented on their role/ responsibility under the WASH Sector:

1. Samoa Water Authority by Mr. Va'aoao Samuelu Puleiata (Water Supply)
2. Samoa Independent Water Schemes Association by Mr. Asiata Viveita Semu (Water Supply)
3. Ministry of Health by Ms. Hinoma Tapu (Drinking Water Quality)
4. Ministry of Works, Transport, and Infrastructure by Mr. David Elisara (PUMA)
5. Land Transport Authority by Mr. Etiseli Fauatea (Flood Mitigation and Drainage)
6. Water and Sanitation Coordination Division, MNRE by Mr. Anton Tofa (Sector Governance and Orientation)
7. Waste Management Division, MNRE by Ms. Fiasosoitamalii Siaoosi (Sanitation)
8. Renewable Energy Division, MNRE by Mr. Tone Enosa (Sanitation)





(source Pacific Resilient Partnership)

The PRM brings together all stakeholders in the Pacific resilience space to elevate and demonstrate Pacific-led actions that inspire genuine learning and connection through diverse and inclusive approaches across the Pacific and global stage.

The 2023 Pacific Resilience meeting is an opportunity to share stories of strength and resilience from our People. It is about showcasing the strength, adaptability, and sustainability of the Pacific communities and ecosystems in the face of adversity. It is also acknowledging that building our resilience for a secure future should be through proactive measures, collaboration, and the preservation of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge.

This year, the Pacific Resilience Meeting (PRM 2023) theme is about: ***Our People, Our Strength: Securing Our Pacific Future.***

The theme emphasises how all people of the Pacific are at the centre of building resilience, highlighting Pacific rights and local action. The term “securing” refers to taking solid steps from endurance to planting us firmly as a region with a secure and unified future. The PRM 2023 is a platform that will unpack resilience issues including overcoming challenges, transitioning from enduring to resilience through sustainable, transformative local efforts, as well as exploring how resilience is already embedded within us Pacific citizens, underpinned by traditional knowledge, and coming to build together as a region.

The meeting shared stories of strength and resilience; highlighting the long-term strength, adaptability, and sustainability of Pacific communities and ecosystems in the face of adversity. Building resilience to secure the future of the region through proactive measures, collaboration, and the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage and knowledge was the core of discussions at PRM 2023.

This year the Water Centre collaborated with UNICEF, Pacific-Community-SPC and the [Pacific Water and Wastewater Association](#) (PWWA) to highlight the importance of water to Pacific resilience.

PWWA CEO Pitou Lau Sefo Leau & Development Project Coordinator Misileti Masoe Satuala, attended virtually and were also given the opportunity to present.



ADB in the Pacific

(source ADB)

The Pacific WASH Webinars, hosted by the [Asian Development Bank](#) and [Pacific Water and Wastewater Association](#) (PWWA) held its next series of webinars in October to mark Global Handwashing Day. Dozens joined the webinar, including 25 attendees from 7 Pacific countries, for the panel discussion on the role of water utilities in scaling up water services and supporting hand hygiene in the Pacific.

Pacific WASH
WEBINARS



Celebrating Global Handwashing Day with water utilities in the Pacific

RECORDING AVAILABLE

Watch the recording of the Pacific WASH Webinar -
celebrating Global Handwashing Day with water utilities hosted
18 October 2023.



Panellists

Honik Klap
General Manager, Government
and Community Relations
Water Papua New Guinea



Kencho Namgyal
Chief of WASH - Pacific
UNICEF



Bronwyn Powell - Facilitator
Team Leader and WASH
Advisor
Asian Development Bank





EVENT DETAILS

**Harnessing Digital Technologies
to Improve Water Utility
Performance**
29 November 2023

Speakers

Aaron Condon
Water Treatment Specialist
Osmoflo

Anastasia Carolina
Senior Project Officer
Asian Development Bank

Edkarl Galing - Facilitator
Urban Development Specialist
Asian Development Bank

Event recording and resources available
[here](#).



Image 1: Ebeye shift operators troubleshoot via remote support with Osmoflo control center in Adelaide (Source: Osmoflo)

Digital technology is revolutionizing the way we manage water, offering opportunities to improve water security and resilience for water utilities around the world. This webinar explored the pivotal role digital technologies are playing for water utilities from planning and disaster recovery, through to real-time remote monitoring.

Webinar Overview

Utilities across the Asia-Pacific are searching for solutions to the water crisis. Digital tools and platforms provide excellent opportunities to improve water security, build resilience and enhance the management of water.

The ADB Pacific WASH Technical Assistance (REG TA-6551), in association with the Pacific Water and Wastewater Association (PWWA), hosted the final Pacific Webinar for 2023 in November to explore how digital technologies can improve water utility planning and management of water. The webinar focused on real-world digitization success stories – Osmoflo shared how they are providing real-time remote monitoring of a desalination plant on the island of Ebeye, Marshall Islands. While ADB presented on the digitalization strategy being adopted by Indonesia to support disaster recovery planning and help water utilities to build back better. The event was attended by 28 participants, including 11 from 4 Pacific countries.



WASH

The webinar explored several key topics:

- Emerging examples of innovation and digitalization in the region
- The need for agility within the water and wastewater sector to adapt and transform in the digital space
- The human side of digitization and the need for local expertise and collaboration to enhance digital solutions and outcomes.

Digitization in the Pacific

Harnessing digital innovations and solutions has the potential to improve the quality of planning processes, reduce operational costs and enhance system efficiencies to ensure the sustainable management of water for all. It is recognized that there is a need to come up with innovative solutions to ensure Pacific utilities and communities are not left behind. While there are challenges in terms of affordability, accessibility and sustainability, there are opportunities to adopt agile digital approaches that will support the extension, and improve the quality, of services. To increase the adoption of technology, water utilities must be able to assess the most appropriate tools and strategies that suit the size of their operations and staff capacities. A phased and well planned approach to adopting digital solutions is needed to ensure success.

Case Study: Indonesia

Following a tsunami and earthquake in Palu in 2018, Indonesia is focused on 'building back better' and using digital technology to ensure planning and development reflect actual conditions. Indonesia is facing an urbanization challenge common to many cities and regions across the world. Growing populations are creating higher demand on water and sanitation systems. In Palu, the Asian Development Bank is financing the Emergency Assistance for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction project aimed at supporting the post-construction phase of Palu following the 2018 tsunami and earthquake.

The core concept of the project is to 'build back better' and develop a source-to-tap system for the 1.4 million people affected by the disaster. Using digital technologies for planning and development, the project has made use of digital tools to collect satellite data for critical infrastructure reconstruction, ground movements, and to develop a geospatial monitoring and evaluation platform (GeoPortal). Using various data and methodologies the team is able to monitor and capture the actual conditions for planning and development.

Case Study: Republic of Marshall Islands

Situated in the Marshall Islands, Ebeye Island stands as one of the most isolated locations on Earth. Digitization of the Island's water treatment facilities is supporting water security and ensuring a stable and reliable water supply for the community. Given the remote nature of Ebeye, achieving operational reliability demanded a unique approach by Osmoflo. The company crafted a sustainable model that leveraged its 24/7 manned control center in Adelaide. The model enables real-time, remote-controlled monitoring of the water treatment facility. The supply of 24/7 support has emerged as a key tool for the Ebeye operations, with the Ebeye team leading operations and Osmoflo assisting and troubleshooting where needed. While a digitized plant can efficiently signal the need for management and maintenance issues like a cartridge filter change, the human touch remains invaluable. Nothing can replace a local night shift operator in Ebeye expressing uncertainty or the Control Centre guiding a team member through a live-stream filter change. The human side of digitization adds a layer of expertise and collaboration.

Digitalizing for water security and resilience

Accelerating the adoption of appropriate digital technologies and innovations will aid water utilities in mainstreaming water security and resilience. Digital technologies are an important component to promote and achieve safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030.

ADB recognizes the need to use technology to spur change in Asia and the Pacific, particularly to support the priority of addressing water and sanitation issues.

Strategy 2030 commits to proactively seek ways to promote the use of advanced technologies across its operations and provide capacity building support to Developing Member Countries (DMCs).

[Read more here.](#)

Learning Snapshots

- Digital tools can support the planning and monitoring of water and wastewater projects, providing data and information critical to ensure actual conditions of land and resources is captured for planning.
- The human side of digital technology adoption remains invaluable – building capacity of utilities and team members to enhance their processes and management of water and wastewater through the use of technology will support the extension and improvement of services to communities.
- The digital reform is having a major impact on the water and wastewater sector. While there are challenges to adoption, there is recognition that digital technologies are an important component to promote and achieve safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030.
- The ADB is committed to not only helping utilities identify and adopt digital technologies that suit their needs, but to also build the capacities and know-how of utility staff to use these technologies, ensuring data is analyzed and used to support management decision-making.

Upcoming Events



Thank you for joining us, this was our last webinar for 2023.

To register your interest for future 2024 Webinars, please contact: llfernando@adb.org.

Past ADB Pacific WASH webinars can be accessed here: [Pacific WASH Webinars](#)

ADB continues to support government and water service providers in the region to build resilience, capacity and knowledge to manage threats in our changing world.



(source Water New Zealand)

This year it was held for the first time in the fabulous new Tākina Convention and Exhibition Centre in the heart of Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington. Water New Zealand attracted a record-breaking 1200-plus delegates and presented more than 100 thought leadership, keynote, and technical speakers along with 185 exhibition stands.

It was a jam-packed two and a half days, plus full day preconference workshop with plenty of discussion around the challenges and opportunities in water – innovation, the impact of climate change, resilience, Te Mana o te Wai, transformation, regulation, digital technology – to name just a few – along with the so many inspiring keynotes and thought leadership speakers.

PWWA CEO, Pitolau Lusua Sefo Leau attended on behalf of the Secretariat and its Board of Directors.

Next year's Conference will be back in Kirikiriroa Hamilton at Claudelands (25-27 September 2024).

WATER NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE 2023 (WATERMARKED)

17th October, 2023





MEDIA RELEASE

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Thursday 23 November 2023

SOLOMON WATER AND GOULBURN VALLEY WATER FORGE INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP TO ADDRESS CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY

Solomon Water is thrilled to be working with Goulburn Valley Water of Australia as part of the 'Partnerships for a Resilient and Climate Smart Water Sector' program, facilitated by the Australian Water Association and the Pacific Water and Wastewater Association.

The water utility partnership program, funded through the Australian Water Partnership by the Australian Government, encompasses three vital action areas:

- 1. Finding solutions for rising sea levels:** This initiative aims to reduce saltwater ingress at Noro water source on New Georgia Island, ensuring a sustainable source of freshwater for the region.
- 2. Reducing water loss from the water system in Honiara:** A pilot project will be launched in three district metered areas (DMAs) to combat water loss, which is a pressing issue for Solomon Water. This will improve the efficiency and sustainability of the water distribution system.
- 3. Strengthening the meter-to-cash process:** This initiative will map and identify areas for development within the same areas piloted in the NRW project - all towards streamlining and strengthening Solomon Water's billing and revenue collection processes.

Chief Operations Officer Scravin Tongi emphasized the value of this twinning program to Solomon Water's operations and business, stating, *"This partnership is a game-changer for us. It enables us to access international expertise and resources, which will significantly enhance our capacity to address the climate change and water-related challenges we face."*

Revenue and Debt Recovery Coordinator Lucy Bonunga expressed her appreciation of the twinning program, saying, *"Working with Goulburn Valley Water to reduce water loss in Honiara is a golden opportunity for us. Water loss is a significant concern for Solomon Water, and collaborating with our Australian counterparts will help us develop effective strategies to combat this issue head-on."*

The partnership program marks a significant step toward building a more resilient and climate-smart water sector in the Solomon Islands.

www.solomonwater.com.sb



MEDIA RELEASE

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Monica, Goulburn Valley Water lead for the meter to cash action area, said that the program presents unique prospects to create lasting solutions to mutual water sector issues, *"This has been an incredible opportunity to work together collaboratively, build relationships, share problems, and look at solutions to meet our shared vision of being able to provide safe and reliable water."*

For Dan Wooley, Goulburn Valley Water lead for the water loss project, it was his first international experience. He had this to say about his experience, *"I cannot believe I have been so lucky to be involved in such an amazing program. It's been an eye-opening, mind-blowing, yet humbling experience. This has been a life-changing experience in so many ways. I would like to thank AWA and Solomon Water for this opportunity to work alongside the Solomon Water team, to build bonds with an international water utility, and work together to build a better, more sustainable future for everyone."*

Mark Mitchell, Goulburn Valley Water lead for the saline intrusion project on New Georgia Island, said the partnership program better positioned the Goulburn Valley Water team to provide advice and support that would respond to the challenges and barriers Solomon Water faced. *"This is a fantastic opportunity to work with like-minded peers facing similar climate change issues in a uniquely different environment. It broadened my understanding of the different challenges our partners in the Pacific Islands face."*

The Solomon Water and Goulburn Valley Water twinning partnership started in March 2023, and aims to create a long-term beneficial relationship between the two organisations.

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About Solomon Water

Solomon Water is a state-owned enterprise (SOE) established by the Solomon Islands Government in 1992 to provide municipal water and wastewater services in the country. Solomon Water currently serves over 17,000 customers in the capital city of Honiara and in key provincial centers, including Auki, Noro, and Tulagi.

Our vision: "Safe water for a healthy nation."

Our mission: "To provide reliable and safe water supply and sewerage services within our area of operations in Solomon Islands, while working in partnership with the community to plan, deliver, and operate infrastructure in a manner that seeks to minimize the social and environmental impacts of our activities."

PHOTOS



The Solomon Water Non Revenue Water Team with Goulburn Valley Water operations specialist Dan Wooley. Photo: AWA/Zac Rudge.

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Monica and Dan from Goulburn Valley Water joined the Solomon Water Revenue Team to identify challenges with water metering in the Honiara network. Photo: AWA/Zac Rudge.

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Moerk Water End of Year update 2023

(source Moerk Water)

With the end of the year fast approaching, Moerk Water Engineers have been busy finishing off projects for the healthcare and mining industries. However Moerk Water have also continued working on community water supply projects including supporting our existing installations. Here are a few things Moerk Water staff have been up to this month:

Commissioning of Kiru unit to Farming community in Central Province PNG

Early this month, Moerk Water's local partners in Papua New Guinea commissioned the Kiru two stage disinfection system with assistance from our Production and Service manager Andrew Smith. Robin, Kabie and Jack, unpacked and installed the roof mounted solar array, piped up the water distribution system and commissioned the plant. Although they had previous plumbing and electrical experience, this was a new type of water treatment system for them to install.

Following the installation, Andrew reflected on the experience with enthusiasm: "Collaborating with Robin, Kabie and Jack was a very positive experience. Their enthusiasm, diligence, eagerness to learn, and attention to detail before undertaking each task were remarkable. They did an outstanding job, and I wholeheartedly endorse them for future installations in Papua New Guinea". This project is another excellent example of Moerk Water's local training and servicing approach. By partnering with locals and training them to install and maintain systems, water treatment plants can be operated and maintained locally in a sustainable manner.



WWMDC Conference Wrap Up in Perth, Western Australia

At the start of December, Moerk Water attended the International Water Association – Conference on Water & Wastewater Management with special focus on developing countries. Moerk Water were exhibition sponsors for this event which brought together delegates from 43 countries and included researchers, government partners, utilities, private companies and stakeholders from all over the world. Across the three days of the exhibition, Moerk Water talked to delegates from different countries about renewably powered water treatment systems. On the first day of the conference, Dr Mat Francis, Moerk Water's Director of Water Chemistry, presented a technical talk learning from the failure of seawater desalination systems in the Pacific and how we can avoid making the same mistakes again. On the afternoon of the second day of the conference, Moerk welcomed more than 100 delegates to its factory in O'Connor. Moerk Water Engineers, as well as Moerk Water's Managing Director and General Manager, gave the attendees a tour of Moerk Water which included the history of the company and its goals for

the future. Moerk Water would like to thank everyone who helped make the conference such a success particularly the Local Executive and National committee members.



Australian Asia Aid Conference 2023 Wrap Up

The 9th Annual Australasian Aid Conference was held at The Crawford School, Australian National University in Canberra from Tuesday 5th December to Thursday 7th December. The conference brings together practitioners, researchers and policy makers from the Aid and International Development (AID) sector. Our Director of International Business Development attended the conference to talk to delegates and share her practical experience working with local communities, governments, and aid organisations on the provision of water treatment systems.

The Hon. Professor Bisman Prasad, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Republic of Fiji, delivered an excellent opening address which included a statement very much in line with the Moerk Water approach *“If it’s not locally led, it’s not development”*. Another thought-provoking statement came from Julianne Leka-Maliaki of Tetra Tech, Inc. in response to Barbara’s question: What does *“Locally Led Development”* mean to you? Julianne’s response was *“It’s no better time than now. The geopolitics is pushing Australia and any other partner to think differently about the Indo-Pacific region, I speak closer to the Pacific region, I echo his words. It’s about the Pacific region interest, Australia and New Zealand are in the Pacific, we can’t separate that, we should be seen as a group, we need to be seen together”* Trust is important. *In the context of locally led you have to start to trust the locals to lead. To me, trust is fundamental. And this speaks to culture. What is the culture of an organization? I liked what Andrew Egan said from DFAT “There needs a paradigm shift...” I think it’s a great opportunity now, it comes down to trust. It’s a matter of trust.”*



We wish all our Pacific Family a very Merry Christmas and a successful and fruitful year in 2024. Looking forward to seeing you next year in the Cook Islands!

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PRESS RELEASE

December 13, 2023

Non-Revenue Water Reduction Project through JICA Technical Assistance a Success



On December 6, 2023 the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on the Project for Strengthening Capacity in Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Reduction in Palau convened for the last time to discuss and evaluate results of the Project. Stakeholders from the Koror State Government, Embassy of Japan, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Palau Office, JICA Headquarters and Palau Public Utilities Corporation attended the JCC meeting.


At the meeting, the Project Team were happy to report outcomes of the Project. One major achievement was the Pilot Project in Ngerbodel where 144 meters of waterlines and 19 water meters were replaced. At the beginning of the Pilot Project, the NRW ratio for this particular area was at 41.2% and dropped to 31.1% after completion. A success story that PPUC plans to replicate for the rest of the Koror-Airai service area.

Through the Project, several documents needed for implementation of NRW reduction activities were developed. Such documents include basic pipeline renewal plan for Koror-Airai Water Distribution System, pipeline renewal manual, leak detection manual, report of case studies/lessons learned, management and renewal plan for water meters and improvement plan of public water usage. All documents were presented at the JCC meeting and approved by CEO Frank Kyota.

CEO Kyota assured the JICA of PPUC's commitment to utilize the tools and knowledge gained through the Project in its effort towards NRW reduction. He expressed PPUC's appreciation to the Government and people of Japan for their relentless support especially for this specific technical assistance to enhance PPUC's capacity in reducing non-revenue water.

NRW reduction is not only an environmental imperative but also financially prudent. By minimizing water losses, PPUC aims to enhance its water distribution infrastructure resulting in better services, cost savings and improved financial sustainability. We encourage our stakeholders especially our valued consumers to join us in this vital mission to safeguard our precious water resources for generations to come.

Mission: To Provide Stable and Reliable Power, Clean and Safe Drinking Water and Efficient Waste Water Disposal with a Competent Workforce



*Mark your
calendar!*

The 15th Annual PWWA Conference 2024 set
to be held in the Cook Islands
Is now tentatively confirmed for the week of
9-13 September 2024.

Keep watching this SPACE!!



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