

ABOUT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SIDE EVENT

The University of the South Pacific's (USP) Side Event will focus on "Sustainable Development of SIDS through Genuine and Durable Partnerships" specifically in the area of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). ICTs are playing a fundamental transformative role in the development of economies and societies in small and large countries globally. ICTs play an especially critical role in sustainable development in context of the Small Island Development States (SIDS.) Economic development, health, education, communications, climate change etc. are some major areas where the role of ICTs is integrally linking knowledge economies to sustainable development. In the Pacific Islands region USP is a significant contributor to the development of ICT capabilities, specifically through enhancing connectivity and building of a Knowledge Hub (KH) in the region. This KH will contribute to the region's knowledge economies, especially in the areas of ICT infrastructure development, education, climate change and marine studies amongst other areas.

ICTs are universally acknowledged as powerful transformative tools for development essential to

social development and economic growth, and a critical support tool for the development of good governance. ICTs can also be effective vehicles for the maintenance of security, climate change and disaster resilience; and are therefore vital for sustainable development. The Pacific has challenges caused by large distances, small scale and scattered populations and markets, and a low level of investments in telecommunications and human resources. The development of ICTs can be accelerated by the selection of appropriate mechanisms for cooperation, market integration and provision of services on a regional basis to address human resource and telecommunications infrastructure needs.

USP as the lead in Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific's (CROP) ICT Working Group will lead this event with contributions from our partners the members of the University Consortium of Small Island States (UCSIS) and SPREP. By working together with the UCSIS and academics from the University, the session will explore on two main themes: ICT for Education and the Knowledge Hub.

MEET THE SPEAKERS



Professor Rajesh Chandra
Vice-Chancellor and President,
USP
BA GCEd MA S.Pac., PhD Br. Col



Dr Dilawar Grewal
Vice-President
Administration, USP
M.S., Ohio State University,
PhD Texas A&M University



Professor Elisabeth Holland
Director PACESD and Professor
in Climate Change, USP
BS, MSci, PhD Colorado State



Makelesi Gonelevu
Knowledge Management Officer,
CCD, SPREP
BSc USP, Masters in IT
(Professional) (MPIT), USQ.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Contact: Nilesh Wati, Programme and Acting Regional Engagement Officer, Development, Marketing, Communications and Alumni Office, The University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji, Tel: (+685) 7715091, Email: nilesh.wati@usp.ac.fj, **Website:** www.usp.ac.fj



SIDE EVENT ICT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Date: 4 September 2014
Time: 11:00am - 12:30pm
Venue: CR 1 Faleata Sports Complex,
Apia, Samoa

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

1 - 4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa

The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States will be held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa, to be preceded by activities related to the conference from 28 to 30 August 2014, also in Apia, Samoa. It will focus the world's attention on a group of countries that remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities.

The overarching theme of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States is "The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships".

The Conference will seek to achieve the following objectives:

- assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation;
- seek a renewed political commitment by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for further implementation;
- identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of SIDS and means of addressing them; and
- identify priorities for the sustainable development of SIDS to be considered in the elaboration of the post-2015 UN development agenda.

The United Nations General Assembly resolution called for "a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented political document."

About USP

The University of the South Pacific (USP) is the premier provider of tertiary education in the Pacific region and an international centre of excellence

for teaching, research consulting and training on all aspects of Pacific culture, environment and human resource development needs.

The University of the South Pacific (USP) is the premier provider of tertiary education in the Pacific region and an international centre of excellence for teaching, research consulting and training on all aspects of Pacific culture, environment and human resource development needs.

Established in 1968, USP is one of only two universities of its type in the world. It is jointly owned by the governments of 12 member countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Samoa. The University has campuses in all member countries. The main campus, Laucala, is in Fiji. The Alafua Campus in Samoa is where the School of Agriculture and Food Technology is situated, and the Emalus Campus in Vanuatu is the location for the School of Law.

The University also offers programmes through distance and flexible learning in a variety of modes and technologies throughout USP's 14 campuses.

The University of the South Pacific region spreads across 33 million square kilometres of ocean, an area more than three times the size of Europe. In contrast, the total land mass is about equal to the area of Denmark. Populations vary in size from Tokelau with 1600 people to Fiji with more than 800,000. The total population is about 1.3 million.

Because of its strategic position and facilities, USP attracts eminent scholars and staff from all over the world.

SIDE EVENT ICT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

- 11.00am** Welcome and opening remarks, Professor Rajesh Chandra, Vice-Chancellor and President, The University of the South Pacific
- 11.10am** Presentation Session 1: Knowledge Management by Dr Dilawar Grewal, Vice-President (Administration), USP.
- USP's regional approach to ICTs;
 - USP's accomplishments to date and future plans to develop a regionally based Knowledge Hub, especially in relation to Sustainable Development information; and
 - USP's plan to build its capability and capacity to leverage ICTs for generating, storing and sharing knowledge and knowledge artifacts in the Pacific.
- 11.25am** Presentation Session 2: ICT for Education by Dr. Dilawar Grewal for Dr Anjeela Jokhan, Dean, Faculty of Science, Technology and Environment
- Identifying the role of ICT tools in education, particularly addressing the issues of distance and digital divide;
 - Role of ICT in the sustainable development of SIDS with emphasis on the Pacific Region;
 - USP's strength in connecting its member countries and its potential to connect other PICs for the purpose of education, research and capacity building;
 - The delivery of education in the remote areas of SIDS is an acute challenge, given that the digital divide amongst SIDS is high; and
 - USP will demonstrate its contribution to its member countries in advancing education using ICTs (including the offering of programmes online), ICT learning tools, and improving connectivity to remote areas. Virtual Master's Programme on Sustainable Development.
- 11.35am** Presentation Session 3: UCSIS by Dr. David Smith (UWI)
- 11.40am** Presentation Session 4: Climate Change and Sustainable Development be an illustration of how ICT can be applied in the region to address pressing regional issues by Professor Elisabeth Holland, Professor and Director, PACESD
- USP will demonstrate its contribution to its member countries in advancing education using ICTs for post-graduate to TVET education, focused on building climate resilience and sustainability including the MSc in Sustainable Development.
 - Elaborate on climate change research and capacity building from communities to post-graduate education in a blue world
 - USP education and research activities including PSIDS partners in the region and beyond.
- 11.55am** Presentation Session 5: Climate Change Portal by Makelesi Gonelevu, SPREP
- 12.00pm** General Question and Answer Session
- 12.25pm** Closing remarks by Dr Dilawar Grewal, Vice-President (Administration)