

**53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting, Tonga  
26-30 August 2024.  
TRANSFORMATIVE RESILIENT PASIFIKI  
BUILD BETTER NOW**

**SIDE EVENT ON ACCELERATING THE ENERGY TRANSITION IN THE PACIFIC  
ISLANDS**

*Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> Aug, Tonga High School Rugby Field Theme Park Area #1,  
9.00am-10.00am*

**INTRODUCTION BY THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY**

- Excellencies
- Senior Government Officials
- Development Partners
- Representatives of sister CROP Agencies
- Representatives of Civil Society Organisations
- Ladies and gentlemen

Malo e lelei

It is an undeniable fact that we need a reliable, safe, clean and affordable energy system in order to develop socially and economically

Relating to this year's Forum's theme – We need a **Transformative** and **Resilient** energy system in order to **Build a Better** region.

It is for this very fact that the Forum Leaders in 2021 endorsed the Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific (FESRIP: 2021-2030) - a regional framework to help the PICTs address their own energy sector priorities with a strong emphasis on improved energy sector robustness and resilience to adverse climate change and natural disasters.

The FESRIP has the long-term goals of universal access to secure, robust, sustainable, and affordable electricity, transport fuel and household energy services that are resilient to climate change and natural disasters, increasingly supplied by renewable resources, with improved energy efficiency, and upgraded energy infrastructure and improved technologies.

SPC is the coordinator of the FESRIP implementation and the convenor of the Pacific Energy Ministers meeting where progress with the FESRIP are reported to.

The Pacific Energy Ministers met at Vanuatu last year and **agreed to prioritize** a people-centred approach to achieving a Just and Equitable Transition towards a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific.

At the Forum Leaders' meeting in Rarotonga last year, Leaders **aspired** to a Just and Equitable Transition to a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific acknowledging that the pathway is not immediate nor is it one-size fits all. The Leaders also **committed** to the transition away from coal, oil and gas in our energy systems.

Now, we all know that climate change is caused by the concentration of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the atmosphere

We all know too that most of the GHG emissions come from our energy systems – particularly the use of fossil fuel for power generation and transportation.

And we all appreciate the urgency by which we should deal with climate change in our region

At SPC, we have established a Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency or PCREEE here in Tonga to assist in accelerating the energy transition in our region. PCREEE is one of the 6 Centres of Excellence SPC is hosting to assist in the delivery on its Strategic Plan: 2022-2031 as well as the 2050 Regional Strategy. The other Centres are specialising in ocean science, data, genetic resources, non-communicable diseases and nationally determined contributions.

The PCREEE is into its 8<sup>th</sup> year now, thanks to the generous support of the government of Austria, the government of Norway, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and SIDS Dock. We also thank the government of NZ and the United Kingdom for their confidence and support to the PCREEE.

I understand this Side Event is to showcase two elements of the work of the PCREEE:

1. Capacity Building and building national competence on sustainable energy
2. Regulatory frameworks – strengthening the capacity of energy regulators in the region

Both are crucial ingredients for the decarbonisation of our region and for accelerating our transition to energy systems that is cleaner, safe, resilient and affordable too.

I look forward to some productive discussions and to hear from the experiences of our panellists.

Malo 'Aupito