

Pacific Resilience Partnership Webinar

Theme: “Expect the Unexpected: The Rainy-Day-Saving Approach”

27th October 2020

1.00 – 2.00pm Fiji Local Time

Panel Profiles

Audrey Aumua (Moderator)



Dr Aumua is of Fijian descent, and since from the beginning of 2016 has served as the Deputy Director General (Suva) of the Pacific Community. She was the World Health Organisation (WHO) Resident Representative, based in Honiara, Solomon Islands, where she was responsible for the technical and strategic leadership to the government, as well as diplomatic representation for the organisation in Solomon Islands.

In her current role, Dr Aumua has responsibility for the Suva based operations of SPC and the technical oversight of programming and strategic development for the organisation. She has oversight of key development areas such land resources management, energy, maritime, disaster management, Geo resources management as well as the human and social development agenda of SPC. Dr Aumua has extensive experience in research, policy development and management in the sustainable development in the Pacific region both in the NGO and Government sector and the UN system.

Prior to her WHO appointment, Dr Aumua held appointments with the University of Queensland and Curtin University in Western Australia. Dr Aumua holds qualifications from the University of Auckland, in English, teaching and business, and completed a Master of Public Policy from Massey University and a PhD from Curtin University. Her PhD thesis was on international public policy reforms in the Pacific region.



John Plevin is a Financial Sector Specialist working with Crisis and Disaster Risk Finance global team at the World Bank. John works in countries across the world to develop financial protection programs for governments, businesses and vulnerable households. Prior to joining the World Bank, John worked for the UK Government, advising Ministries and developing programs for the financial management of risk. Prior to this he worked in the UK financial sector in insurance and banking. John is a Fellow of the UK Institute and Faculty of Actuaries and holds a First-Class degree in Mathematics from the University of Edinburgh.



Samuel Ieremia is the Assistant CEO Economic Policy & Planning Division, Ministry of Finance, Samoa. Before this, Samuel was the Finance and Administration Manager at the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa (SROS) after he had served as the Assistant Commissioner to the Samoa Fire and Emergency Services Authority. Samuel's extensive experience in the public finance sector coupled with his experience in the emergency services sector is reflected in his leadership of disaster risk financing matters for Samoa, who is also currently one of the leading countries in disaster risk financing in the region. Samuel holds a degree in Commerce, Accounting and Information Systems from the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.



Daniel Lund is a Special Adviser on climate change issues based within Fiji's Ministry of Economy. He is currently coordinating the development of Fiji's Climate Change Bill. Daniel previously led the development of Fiji's recent National Climate Change Policy (2018-2030) upon which aspects of the new climate change legislation is modelled. Daniel is also involved with supporting the development of new innovative climate and disaster risk financing instruments in Fiji working in partnership with the Fijian Government and the World Resources Institute.

Daniel has worked on climate and disaster risk management issues in the Pacific region for the last 12 years. He has consulted for a range of international organisations and governments and served as Adviser for the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Head of Pacific regional affairs for the UK Government, and Vice President of the Fiji Red Cross Society. Daniel has conducted extensive research on adaptive management issues in the Pacific and has a particular interest in the use of foresight tools to support decision-making in climate vulnerable contexts. Daniel holds a Masters in Carbon Management and Innovation from the University of Edinburgh.



Aholotu Palu is the CEO of the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company (PCRIC). Aholotu has 25 years of experience in the economic management, finance and development sectors as reflected by his various roles in the region and nationally. Prior to PCRIC, Aholotu was the GIZ Climate Finance and Public Finance Management Advisor at the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, providing strategic advice in the area of the nexus between Public Finance Management and Climate Change Finance for Pacific islands. He was also the former Chief Secretary and Secretary to Cabinet (Interim) for the Government of Tonga, Acting Chief Executive Officer and Head of Aid

Management for the Tonga Ministry of Finance and National Planning in Nuku'alofa. Aholotu is committed to enhancing accessible and affordable climate and disaster-related financial solutions for Pacific Island countries.



Litea Biukoto is the Team Leader Disaster Risk Reduction for the Disaster Community Risk Program in the Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division at the Pacific Community (SPC). Prior to this Litea was SPC's Pacific Resilience Program Manager and Senior Advisor Risk Reduction. Litea was instrumental in the implementation of the initial phase of the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment Finance Initiative that led to the development of the Pacific Risk Information System. As a technical lead expert of risk assessment in the region, Litea is also on the Technical Expert Group on Comprehensive Risk Management that reports to the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage, under the UNFCCC secretariat. Litea holds a degree in neuroscience from the University of Otago and a postgraduate diploma in marine

science from the University of South Pacific.