

Concept Note

Pacific Islands Entrepreneurship Expo

30-31 August 2023, Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva, Fiji

Background - Multistakeholder Roundtable

In January 2023, UNCDF convened an inaugural “Entrepreneurship Roundtable” with key representatives from international development organizations that are active in the space of entrepreneurship¹. The objective of the roundtable is to share information, coordinate programming and leverage each organizations’ key strengths and networks.

It is a result of this (ongoing) roundtable to jointly host a 2-day Pacific Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Expo in Suva, Fiji in August 2023, to bring together key stakeholders and programming in the space and to discuss further opportunities to develop the ecosystem.

Pacific Islands Entrepreneurship Expo

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) globally are responsible for between 60 to 70 per cent of all jobs and 50 per cent of GDP. Entrepreneurs in the Pacific are not only vital to the economy through supporting inclusive, resilient and sustainable livelihoods, entrepreneurs are problem-solvers who drive innovation and push the boundaries of the status quo.

Entrepreneurs in the Pacific play an important role to play in addressing the UN Sustainable Development Goals, addressing issues such as unemployment and ‘brain drain’, while driving innovation and private sector development.

In an effort to elevate and increase the visibility of start-ups and entrepreneurs in the region, this 2-day event includes an expo area where relevant organizations can open their booths. This can include growth-ready startups, “graduates” from partners’ previous incubation or acceleration programmes, as well as relevant authorities or public bodies that exist to support MSMEs and startups.

Knowledge-sharing and learning will be facilitated through panel sessions and interactive workshops targeted to support the growth of entrepreneurs through practical skills and information-sharing.

¹ UNCDF, UNDP, GGGI, YGAP, GOOD RETURN, ILO.

Event objectives

The key objectives of this joint effort include:

- ▶ Raising public awareness in the region that entrepreneurship is a viable and aspirational career choice, particularly for youth and women.
- ▶ Improving visibility and access to finance for growth-ready startups and entrepreneurs by convening key decision-makers, financiers and investors in the region.
- ▶ Showcasing innovations and business plans to investors and other interested stakeholders.
- ▶ Providing a networking opportunity to connect enterprises with investors/financiers and like-minded businesses.
- ▶ Encouraging policymakers to address barriers to ease of doing business and entrepreneurship.
- ▶ Providing practical tools and information to upskill entrepreneurs & aspiring entrepreneurs.
- ▶ Demonstrating the high level of regional cooperation between roundtable development partners and their commitment to contribute to coherent and meaningful impact in the region.


Participants

The Event will invite participants from a range of stakeholders working in or interested in entrepreneurship and innovation, including participants from implementing partners programs, business stakeholders/investors in the region, government representatives (from Fiji), inter/national organizations and other interested entrepreneurs and budding entrepreneurs.

Expected numbers of participants is approximately 100 pax across the 2 days. Due to limited spaces available for the program, the in-person event is available only for invited guests and those who register. Online participants from the region will be able to attend panel sessions via digital platforms such as Zoom or Facebook Live for certain sessions. There will be expo booths on display from selected entrepreneurs and organizations.

Agenda


PACIFIC ISLANDS
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
EXP



9:00 - 10:00 AM	OPENING REMARKS	
10:00 - 10:30 AM	MORNING TEA	
10.30 - 12.30 PM	PANEL: EMPOWERING WOMEN IN GREEN INNOVATION (GGGI)	WORKSHOP: NAILING THE BUSINESS MODEL CANVAS (1/2)
12.30 - 1.30 PM	NETWORKING LUNCH	
1.30 - 3.00 PM	WORKSHOP: ACCESS TO FINANCE (HOW DIGITAL PAYMENTS HELP) (UNCDF)	WORKSHOP: NAILING THE BUSINESS MODEL CANVAS (2/2)
3.00 - 3.30 PM	AFTERNOON TEA	
3.30 - 5:00 PM	PANEL: FROM THE INVESTOR'S EYE - RESOURCE MOBILIZATION OPPORTUNITIES (UNDP & UNCDF)	WORKSHOP: DIGITAL MARKETING FOR ENTREPRENEURS (YGAP)
5.15 PM	DAY 1 CLOSURE	

30 AUGUST
DAY 1

PACIFIC ISLANDS
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
EXP



9:00 - 10:00 AM	DEMO DAY: PACIFIC GREENPRENEURS ACCELERATOR REGIONAL PITCH FINALS (GGGI)	
10:30 - 11:00 AM	MORNING TEA	
11.00 - 12.30 PM	DEMO DAY: WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT (GGGI)	BUILDING PRIVATE SECTOR RESILIENCE: EMERGING APPROACHES (ILO)
12.30 - 1.30 PM	NETWORKING LUNCH	
1.30 - 3.00 PM	PARTNERSHIP FUSION: BLENDING STRENGTHS FOR IMPACT (BAF)	INCUBATE BETTER: DRIVING EFFECTIVE, INCLUSIVE & SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS SUPPORT (YGAP)
3.00 - 3.30 PM	AFTERNOON TEA	
3.30 - 4:45 PM	FINANCING FINESSE: THE X-FACTOR FOR INVESTOR READINESS (ADB)	NETWORKING: FORGING PASIFIKA PARTNERSHIPS (YGAP)
4.45 PM	CLOSING REMARKS	
5.00 - 6.30 PM	HAPPY HOUR	

31 AUGUST
DAY 2