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AUSTRALIA Pacific
Security College

Welcome to the Australia Pacific Security College Newsletter

We are pleased to bring you the inaugural Australia Pacific Security College (PSC) newsletter. In an effort to keep communication lines open with our stakeholders, you can expect to receive this brief update on PSC workings each quarter.

Director's Reflections

It's been a busy few months, but we have enjoyed our discussions with many of you and benefited from your insights on regional security issues. For the last 4 months, my team and I have spent most of our time out in the region consulting with Pacific island government officials and regional agencies about priorities for capacity building on security issues. We are crafting our 2020 work plan to reflect the voices of the many who have engaged with us.

The expanded security agenda, defined by PIF leaders, inclusive of climate, human, resource and national security issues, is being incorporated into security policy with many eager to share regional knowledge and build professional networks. During our visits, there has been a lot of enthusiasm for building skill sets that can shape the security agenda to the Pacific context, including capabilities relevant to strategic analysis, diplomacy, multi-stakeholder engagement, and collaborative planning.

We are now tailoring our educational products to country and regional agency requests, and developing a technical assistance register to meet high priority needs. It's been very rewarding to see productive learning partnerships and collaborative education initiatives emerging from our regional dialogues.

We look forward to working with Pacific colleagues in 2020, and hopefully open up new opportunities to collaborate on the broad suite of security issues.

From the whole team at PSC, we wish everyone a wonderful Christmas break with family and friends and look forward to working together in the New Year.



Professor Meg Keen, Director.



Initiating Dialogues and Partnerships

From day one, our Leadership Team has travelled extensively in the region; to Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Samoa and New Zealand. In the coming months, we will travel to other Forum Island countries to seek greater insights on security priorities and opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing.

When in countries, we are holding high-level consultations, roundtables and workshops to gain insights into capacity building needs. Some of the organisations with whom we have met include:

- national public service departments
- police and defence forces
- regional universities
- regional and CROP agencies
- UN and multilateral agencies servicing the Pacific.

It has also been our pleasure to meet with the Pacific Island diplomatic community in Canberra, Australian Government agencies in the region, and participants of the Pacific Fusion Centre training program.

Canberra Launch

Our November launch in Canberra was a fantastic opportunity to introduce PSC to our future partners and collaborators, as well as to the broader Pacific, academic and diplomatic communities.

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supporters of our work join us, including: our Pacific Islands diplomatic community; ANU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian Schmidt; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Secretary, Ms Frances Adamson; and Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Dame Meg Taylor.

We also held a smaller update event in Suva to coincide with the Pacific Island Forum Sub-Committee on Regional Security meeting. This event was hosted by Australian High Commissioner, HE Mr John Feakes, at his Suva residence and was well attended by many government and NGO representatives involved in Pacific security from the region, and from Fiji-based agencies.



Inaugural Public Lecture: Dr Manu Tupou-Roosen

This quarter, we held our inaugural public lecture presented by Forum Fisheries Agency Director-General, Dr Manu Tupou-Roosen.

Dr Tupou-Roosen welcomed the creation of PSC as an education institution. She remarked that Pacific island countries are increasingly seeking external partnerships that empower Pacific Islanders to tackle regional security challenges.

“Cooperation is the fuel for the FFA’s engine, including both cooperation between Pacific Island members, and additionally with other countries and partner organisations, including the new PSC.”



Regional Workshops

In the spirit of having the Pacific set the agenda of PSC, we convened four priority setting workshops across the region:

- a half-day dialogue in Suva involving representatives from the FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security;
- half-day dialogues in Honiara and Apia involving government representatives; and,
- a two-day workshop with the Fiji Government to affirm how their National Security Strategy responds to the Boe Declaration and discuss Whole of Government capabilities and governance requirements.

We have also collaborated with regional and educational partners on the training for the Pacific Fusion Centre and the PNG Women in National Security workshops.

The value of our emerging partnerships is reflected in the following message received:

I came away after the session content and confident that together we can address some immediate and critical training needs that can essentially enhance capacity for our mid & senior staff in their work formulating defence and security policies.



Get in touch!

PSC is an initiative that resonates with the 'Blue Pacific' narrative with its commitment to collective action and collaboration. We recognise the importance of regional connectivity and the need for dialogue, knowledge sharing and collaboration in an increasingly crowded Pacific. Through bespoke courses and technical assistance, we will create opportunities for further learning and the exchange and development of ideas to advance the security agenda of the Pacific islands.

If you have suggestions for workshops and training, or scope for future collaborations, please get in contact.

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