

PACIFIC REGIONALISM

Australia's role

Subregional Groupings

Melanesian Spearhead Group

Partner

The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) was established in 1986 with a primary purpose to strive for the decolonisation and freedom of the Melanesian countries and territories still under colonial rule in the South Pacific.

Comprised of Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and the Front de Libération de Nationale Kanak et Socialiste of New Caledonia, the MSG's vision is a Melanesian community that is strong, integrated, enlightened, happy, prosperous, secure and caring.

Polynesian Leaders Group

No role

The Polynesian Leaders Group (PLG) was established in 2011 and includes Samoa, Tonga, French Polynesia, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Tokelau, Niue and Tuvalu. It has also hosted Māori delegations from New Zealand, as membership is not limited to nation-states, but open to any Polynesian society. Unlike the MSG, the PLG maintains a working relationship with the PIF and holds its meetings on the margins of PIF fora.

Micronesian President's Summit

No role

The Micronesian President's Summit was established in 2001 and involves leaders of Palau, Kiribati, Nauru, Marshall Islands (RMI) and Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) meeting annually to discuss Micronesian solidarity and security cooperation. A similar Micronesian Chief Executives Summit was initiated in 2003 and includes the presidents of Palau, FSM and RMI, as well as governors from the US territories of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Guam and the FSM states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap.

Parties to the Nauru Agreement

Partner

The Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) control the world's largest sustainable tuna purse seine fishery. PNA Members are FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu plus Tokelau.

Global leaders in tuna conservation and management, many PNA conservation measures are world firsts – such as high seas closures to fishing, controls on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs), protection for whale sharks and the 100% coverage of purse seine fishing vessels with observers.

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM

Member

Founded in 1971, the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) is the region's premier policy organisation, with 18 members. Its vision is for a resilient region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity. PIF works to achieve this by fostering cooperation between governments, collaboration with regional and international agencies, development partners and stakeholders and by representing the interests of its Members.

Multilateral Partnerships

Forum Dialogue Partners

Australia is a member of PIF

Forum Dialogue Partners are countries that strategically engage with the Pacific Islands Forum, contributing to discussions and initiatives aimed at regional development and security. The five founding partners were Canada, France, Japan, United Kingdom and the United States. Fifteen other countries, plus the European Union, are also now partners.

Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting

Member

Japan has hosted this summit-level meeting with all PIF members every three years since 1997.

Partners for the Blue Pacific

Member

Formed in 2022, Partners in the Blue Pacific (PBP) is an informal group aimed at boosting economic and diplomatic ties with Pacific Island countries. Its member states are Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the United States and United Kingdom, with partner countries South Korea, Canada and Germany. Its objective is to bring greater resources and practical, tangible results to Pacific priorities.

United Nations

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Involved through UN membership

The UNDRR Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific, based in Fiji, is part of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and works with governments, United Nations Country Teams, regional and international organisations and stakeholder groups, to protect people from disasters, build resilience and support sustainable development.

Non-Government

Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network

Allied member

Established in 1996, the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) is a voluntary network of countries and organisations dedicated to the promotion of public health surveillance and appropriate response to the health challenges of 22 Pacific Island countries and territories.

The first priorities of the PPHSN are communicable diseases, especially the outbreak-prone ones. Currently, the target diseases include: dengue, measles, rubella, influenza, leptospirosis, typhoid fever, cholera and HIV/STIs.

Pacific Conference of Churches

Australian member

Formed in 1961 by key Pacific church figures as the region was decolonising, church leaders from Dutch Papua in the West to Samoa in the East established this ecumenical organisation out of former mission churches. The PCC works closely with the Pacific Theological College which opened in 1966 and the South Pacific Association of Theological Schools, founded in 1969.

Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations

Member and Liaison Unit

The Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO) builds the capacity of NGOs and the civil society sector through giving the sector a collective voice in policy formulation.

PIANGO's primary role is to be a catalyst for collective action, to facilitate and support coalitions and alliances on issues of common concern, and to strengthen the influence and impact of NGO efforts in the region. The first PIANGO Council was held in August 1991 in Pago Pago, American Samoa.

Pacific Disability Forum

Funding partner

The Pacific Disability Forum is a constituency of 71 organisations of and for persons with disabilities and associate members across 22 Pacific Island countries and territories. Its mission is to ensure full inclusion and effective participation of persons with disabilities within their respective societies

Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation

Australian affiliate member

Established in 2005, the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO) has the mission to advocate for private sector-led economic growth and promote and inspire the flourishing of Pacific businesses.

Public Sector

Oceania Customs Organisation

Member

The Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) was established in August 1998 to promote efficiency and effectiveness in all aspects of Regional Customs Administrations. The OCO has a membership of 23 countries and territories, and its principal activity is assisting members align with customs international standards and best practice.

Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police

Member

Founded in Suva in 1970, the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP) brings together Pacific Police Chiefs to exchange information, and form regional agreements. It works continuously to build safer and more secure communities by improving policing.

Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions

Member

The Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) is the official association of supreme audit institutions (SAIs) in the Pacific region. PASAI promotes transparent, accountable, effective and efficient use of public sector resources in the Pacific. It contributes to that goal by helping its members SAIs improve the quality of public sector auditing in the Pacific to recognised high standards.

Pacific Immigration Development Community

Member

The Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC) was established in 1996 as a forum for regional official immigration agencies of the Pacific Region. PIDC enables heads of immigration agencies to discuss issues of mutual interest and to foster multilateral co-operation and mutual assistance aimed at strengthening members' territorial borders and the integrity of their entry systems.

Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network

Member

The Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network (PILON) is a network of senior law officers from 19 Pacific Island countries who work together to contribute to a safe and secure Pacific by advancing key law and justice issues.

The Network has held annual meetings since 1981, initially under the title of Pacific Islands Law Officers' Meeting (PILOM). In 2007, it established a permanent secretariat and formalised its organisational structure to identify and implement, and take action on, common law and justice issues common across the Pacific.

Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific

Indirect, via PIF membership

The Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) is a partnership of regional, intergovernmental agencies that support the commitment to regionalism and the principle objectives of sustainable development; inclusive and equitable economic growth; strengthened governance, legal, financial and administrative systems; and peace and security. It was established by PIF leaders in 1988 to improve cooperation, coordination and collaboration between Pacific intergovernmental organisations.

The Pacific Community

Member

The Pacific Community (SPC) supports sustainable development by applying a people-centred approach to science, research and technology across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Founded in 1947, its mission is to progress all Pacific peoples' rights and well-being through science and knowledge, centring Blue Pacific contexts and cultures. Covering more than 20 sectors, SPC focuses on knowledge and innovation in fisheries science, public health surveillance, geoscience and conservation of plant genetic resources for food security.

Forum Fisheries Agency

Member and donor partner

Since 1979, the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) has facilitated regional cooperation on fisheries policies. Based in Honiara, the FFA advises its 17 members on how best to manage, control and develop their sustainable offshore fisheries.

Pacific Tourism Organisation

No formal role

Established in 1983 the Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) assists in the development of regional tourism policy through research and statistics and prioritises sustainable tourism within its international marketing of region.

Pacific Power Association

Australian affiliates and allied members

Established in 1992, The Pacific Power Association (PPA) is an inter-governmental agency promoting to promote the direct cooperation of the Pacific Island power utilities in technical training, exchange of information, sharing of senior management and engineering expertise and other activities of benefit to the members.

Established in 1992, its objective is to improve the quality of power in the region through a cooperative effort among the utilities, private sector and regional aid donors. The PPA's members pool their resources and expertise for their common benefit, gain international representation and improve access to international power sector assistance programmes.

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Member

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) was established in 1993 by regional governments as is the regional organisation established by the Governments and Administrations of the Pacific charged with protecting and managing the environment and natural resources of the Pacific.

Its mandate is to promote cooperation within the Pacific region and provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations.

Pacific Aviation Safety Office

Associate member

Established in 2004, the Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO) provides aviation safety and security service for Member States in the Pacific. It is the sole international organisation responsible for regional regulatory aviation safety oversight for the 10 Pacific States which are signatories to the Pacific Islands Civil Aviation Safety and Security Treaty (Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu). Associate Members of PASO are Australia, Fiji and New Zealand. Government representatives from these nations make up the PASO Council.

Pacific Islands Development Program

No formal role

The Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP) was formed in 1980 with the founding mission to assist Pacific Islands' leaders to advance their collective efforts to achieve and sustain equitable social and economic development.

Housed in the East-West Center in Hawaii, it serves the states and peoples of the Pacific through innovative capacity building, exchange among regional leaders, and policy-relevant research on priority issues.

University of the South Pacific

Core funding partner

The University of the South Pacific (USP) is a dual sector University serving the Pacific region and only one of three regional universities of its kind in the world. Uniquely governed by its twelve member countries, USP is not only a higher education and research institution, but also a regional integration organisation that provides services within communally agreed regional mechanisms geared towards benefiting the lives of the Pacific people.

Pacific Security College

Funder

The Pacific Security College (PSC) is an independent educational institution funded by DFAT. Initially announced in the 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper, it was launched in November 2019.

Housed at the Australian National University to work in partnership with members of PIF, the PSC supports the implementation of the Boe Declaration through short courses, strategic advice, workshops and technical assistance. Consistent with the Boe Declaration and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, the PSC's work encompasses traditional and non-traditional security issues.