



# STAR 2017

## The Pacific Islands Science, Technology and Resources Conference

### FIRST CIRCULAR and CALL FOR PAPERS

STAR 2017 is now confirmed for 26 - 29 June 2017. The conference will be held in Nadi, Fiji, at the Tanoa International Hotel.

#### *Conference Theme*

The overall theme of STAR 2017 will be:

#### **“Geosciences and Sustainable Environmental Resources in the Pacific Islands Region”**

Although the conference theme is broad, sessions will focus on the following four areas of prime importance to the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) and the region:

**Resources for Pacific Communities:** This theme will draw together topical resource issues. Resources will include issues relating to geological resources (minerals, metals, aggregates, construction minerals, oil, gas, novel hydrocarbons), geothermal energy, water, solar and biological resources.

**Ocean Geoscience:** This theme will investigate the resource potential and environmental and social monitoring and management issues that relate to the EEZs of PSIDS, including ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC), marine spatial planning, maritime boundaries, wave and tidal energy, Law of the Sea, ocean policy, ocean-atmospheric interactions, tsunami generation and propagation, ocean tectonics, oceanic surveys, and the environment of the ocean floor.

**Science of Natural Hazards and Risks to Pacific Communities:** This theme will investigate the underlying science and technological aspects that provide PSIDS with the basis for the reduction of risk from natural hazards, including earthquakes and tsunamis, volcanoes and adaptation to climate change.

**Land Use and Infrastructure Development on Pacific Islands:** This theme will concentrate on the terrestrial, coastal, and nearshore areas and is expected to include examples of on-shore resources, soils, agriculture and the application of GIS and Remote Sensing to the on-shore, coastal and nearshore environment.

However, issues on **any** topic related to the overall conference theme or the Pacific region in general will also be welcome and will be included in the STAR 2017 Programme where possible.

STAR 2017 draws attention to opportunities that can be realised from the new global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2016-2030 in particular SDG14 on oceans that will further developed in New York in June 2017 and will also focus on



the implementation on the Paris Agreement on Climate Change that provides a new focus for PSIDS, who will need to develop targets that can be measured and tracked that are based upon good scientific principles and data and for which progress can be reported every 3 years.

### **Abstract Submission**

Delegates intending to participate in **STAR 2017** are hereby invited to submit titles of papers and abstracts under the focus areas and an indication of whether it will be an oral presentation or a poster paper. Abstracts should be limited to 300 words.

Abstracts can be submitted via email to [starconference2017@gmail.com](mailto:starconference2017@gmail.com). Early submission is strongly encouraged with a deadline of 28 April 2017.

### **Conference Format**

Oral and Poster presentation sessions will be available during **STAR 2017**. However, there will be limited opportunities for oral presentations; therefore more than one poster per participant will be permitted.

PowerPoint projection facilities will be available for presentations. Daily sessions will be held during the hours 09:00 – 12:00 and 14:00 – 17:00; over three days of the four-day event.

**Working Groups** under the four focal areas (or others depending on interest) will be convened during **STAR 2017** to facilitate discussion of specialist topics and issues important to the region.

**A One-day Field Trip** will also be planned for **STAR 2017**. Details will be announced in the Second Circular.

### **Conference Publications**

A **STAR 2017** Abstracts Volume will be provided to all delegates as part of the registration pack.

### **Second Circular**

The **STAR 2017** Second Circular that will provide full details for the conference will include: registration arrangements, information on accommodation and the field trip and a provisional programme will be forwarded in February 2017.

The STAR 2017 Steering Committee look forward to your participation in the conference.

Malakai Finau  
STAR Chair

23 December 2016

*[The island motifs used here is a collage of island designs that are representative of the Pacific Region. Individual motifs are based on various popular island designs. Images have been downloaded from the "Tapa Cloths from the Pacific and Artwork" website: [www.tapapacifica.com](http://www.tapapacifica.com), accessed 10 November 2016. The use of the images are gratefully acknowledged.]*