



AGENDA

2022 Forum

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE

**MARCH 22 & 23 @ 1-3 PM HAWAII /
MARCH 23 & 24 @ 8-10 AM JAPAN/PALAU,
11 AM-1 PM FIJI**

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<https://www.pichtr.org/pacific-islands-climate-collaborative/>

Background Overview

The objective of the [Pacific Islands Climate Collaborative](#) is to promote collaboration between the US, Japan and partners in Pacific Island Countries by coordinating, planning and executing clean energy and climate adaptation/resilience projects. Target Pacific Island Countries include Fiji, Tonga, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia.

The 2022 Pacific Islands Climate Collaborative Forum is being held virtually through Zoom and aims to engage relevant stakeholders in meaningful, action-oriented conversations that will result in networking and collaboration toward the development of joint clean energy and climate adaptation/resilience projects in the Pacific Island Countries.

This 2022 Forum will span over two days, March 22 & 23 at 1-3 PM Hawaii (March 23 & 24 at 8-10 AM Japan/Palau, 11 AM - 1 PM Fiji). A detailed agenda and the bios and contact information of speakers are below.

Agenda

Moderator: Veronica Rocha, PICHTR Adviser

Day 1: March 22 @ 1-3 PM Hawaii / March 23 @ 8-10 AM Japan, Palau, 11-1 PM Fiji

Session 1: Pacific Island Countries Clean Energy and Climate Adaptation/Resilience Needs and Opportunities (March 22 @ 1-2 PM Hawaii / March 23 @ 8-9 AM Japan/Palau, 11 AM-12 PM Fiji)

Goal: To understand Pacific Island Countries' needs and opportunities concerning the development of clean energy and climate resilience. Also, to begin discussions on related solutions, specifically, how could US and Japanese entities help Pacific Island Countries deploy clean energy and climate resilience projects?

- Welcome remarks (5 min)
 - Speaker: Veronica Rocha, PICHTR Adviser
- Special remarks (5 min)
 - Speaker: Noriyuki Shikata, Cabinet Secretary for Public Affairs, Prime Minister's Office of Japan
- Background on the Pacific Islands Climate Collaborative (5 min)
 - Speaker: Naoki Nagai, PICHTR Adviser
- The Pacific Community - SPC - Clean energy needs in Pacific Island Countries (10 min)
 - Speaker: Akuila Tawake, Deputy Director - Georesources and Energy Programme at GEM Division
- Mana Pacific - Clean energy needs in Pacific Island Countries and Moana Pledge (10 min)
 - Speaker: John Miller, President, Board Director, and Co-Founder
 - Speaker: Samantha Frick, Business Development Operations Director
- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) (10 min) - Climate resilience needs of Pacific Island Countries
 - Speaker: Rupeni Mario, Project Development and Implementation Specialist
- The Sasakawa Peace Foundation - Coastal resilience assessment in Pacific Island Countries (10 min)
 - Speaker: Miko Maekawa, Senior Research Fellow at the Ocean Policy Research Institute
- Q&A (10 min)
 - Moderator: Veronica Rocha

[5 min break]

Session 2: Available U.S., Japanese and Other Support Measures and Opportunities for International Collaboration (March 22 @ 2-3 PM Hawaii / March 23 @ 9-10AM Japan/Palau, 12-1PM Fiji)

Goal: To provide participants an opportunity to learn about currently available funding sources and other support measures for companies/entities that are able to perform projects in Pacific Island Countries.

- Introduction (5 min)
 - Speaker: Naoki Nagai, PICHTR Adviser
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan - Pacific Islands aid from Japanese government and Japan-US Clean Energy Partnership (JUCEP) framework (10 min)
 - Speaker: Yasuyuki Okazaki, Director, Second North America Division, North American Affairs Bureau
- US State Department - Pacific aide from US government (10 min)
 - Speaker: Jonah Neuman, Energy Officer - Japan, Korea, & Maritime SE Asia, Office of Energy Diplomacy (EDP), Bureau of Energy Resources (ENR)
- Green Climate Fund (GCF) - Existing clean energy and climate adaptation/resilience funding mechanisms in support of South Pacific Island Countries (10 min)
 - Speaker: Ms. Carol Litwin, Senior Renewable Energy Specialist
- Q&A (10 min)
 - Moderator: Veronica Rocha
- Closing remarks for day 1 and reminder about day 2 (5 min)
 - Speaker: Veronica Rocha, PICHTR Adviser

Day 2: March 23 @ 1-3 PM Hawaii / March 24 @ 8-10 AM Japan, Palau, 11-1 PM Fiji

Moderator: Veronica Rocha, PICHTR Adviser

Session 3: Climate Solutions EXPO - An international panel of industry and academia representatives with readily deployable clean energy and climate adaptation/resilience solutions (March 23 @ 1-3 PM Hawaii / March 24 @ 8-10 AM Japan/Palau, 11-1 PM Fiji)

Goal: To showcase companies/entities that are able to perform projects in Pacific Island Countries.

- Introduction, including summary of prior day and backdrop for EXPO (5 min)
 - Speaker: Naoki Nagai
- TEPCO – Solutions for managing island grid stability given a high level of intermittent renewable energy resources (10 min)
 - Speaker: Yuki Nomoto, Power Energy Engineer, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) (Seconded from TEPCO)
- Hitachi Zosen Inova - Novel waste-to-energy solution for islands (10 min)
 - Speaker: Lex Heslin, Senior Project Developer

- Hawaii Natural Energy Institute (HNEI) - Innovations and end-to-end renewable energy solutions for islands (10 min)
 - Speaker: Marc Matsuura, Senior Smart Grid Program Manager
- Q&A with TEPCO, Hitachi Zosen, and HNEI (15 min)
- [5 minute break]
- Jacobs - Engineering, design and environmental solutions for renewable energy development in remote islands (10 min)
 - Speaker: Andrew Bedford, Global Director, Advisory and Energy Transition
- SunSpec Alliance - Standards for interoperability of distributed energy (10 min)
 - Speaker: Tom Tansy, Chairman
- Terraformation - Resilience and reforestation starting with seeds (10 min)
 - Speaker: Brandon Jirō Hayashi, Business Development Manager for the Pacific
- Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University (OIST) - eDNA barcoding and application for future coral reef preservation (10 min)
 - Nori Satoh, Professor, Marine Genomics Unit
- Q&A with Jacobs, SunSpec, Terraformation, and OIST (15 min)
 - Moderator: Veronica Rocha
- Closing remarks (5 min)
 - Speaker: Veronica Rocha, PICHTR Adviser



Speaker Bios and Contact Information

PICHTR Advisers

	<p>Veronica Rocha, Founder & Principal, Essential Leap</p> <p>Recognized as a “40 under 40 Top Business Leader” and “Woman Who Means Business” by Pacific Business News, Veronica is a clean energy and climate adaptation consultant with a decade of experience working in Hawaii across the private, public and nonprofit sectors in multiple industries. Prior to founding Essential Leap, Veronica served as the Renewable Energy Branch Manager at the Hawaii State Energy Office where she led efforts to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2045. This included working on the development of over 10 laws and representing HSEO in over 10 regulatory proceedings on topics such as utility and distributed energy resources, community based renewable energy, grid modernization, microgrids, electrification of transportation, tax incentives, and GHG reductions. She also led the implementation of the Hawaii Renewable Fuels Production Tax Credit. Veronica has a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University.</p> <p>veronica.rocha@essentialleap.com +1 (831) 840-7954</p>
	<p>Naoki Nagai</p> <p>Naoki Nagai is an advisor to the Pacific International Center for High Technology Research (PICHTR), a non-profit in Hawaii, where he provides technical analysis and organizational development support. He works on a wide range of projects involving energy, climate change, and equitable 5G/broadband projects across the Pacific region. He started his career at McKinsey and Company’s Tokyo Office as a management consultant, and advised top management in social, financial and technology sectors. He later founded a translation agency specializing in presentations and returned to the United States with his wife and children, settling in Hawaii. He also founded Quintessence LLC to develop and license trading algorithms to investment funds in the US and Japan. Naoki was born and raised in Japan, attended United World College Atlantic in the UK as a high school student, and graduated from Harvard University with honors in Applied Mathematics. He publishes his improvisation music on Spotify and Apple Music. He is an active member of the US-Japan Council.</p> <p>naokinagai@quintsec.com +1 (808) 269-9884</p>

Day 1: March 22 @ 1-3 PM Hawaii / March 23 @ 8-10 AM Japan, Palau, 11-1 PM Fiji

Session 1: Pacific Island Nations Clean Energy and Climate Adaptation/Resilience Needs and Opportunities

	<p>Samantha Frick, Business Development Operations Director, Mana Pacific</p> <p>Samantha has a decade of experience in the renewable energy, mobility, agriculture and energy access industries. She specializes in working with early-stage and startup enterprises that bring transformational models to nascent, underserved, and often risky markets. Samantha has extensive practical experience in the field developing and implementing renewable energy systems internationally in commercial & industrial, micro-grid, and nano-grid markets and developing pioneering electric vehicle charging infrastructure programs. She has a track record of writing winning proposals and building partnerships with U.S. and international government agencies, humanitarian aid groups, utilities, regulators, and commercial businesses to meet shared sustainable development goals that benefit people and the planet. Samantha founded Turtle Island Solutions to collaborate with islanders around shared island resiliency and energy access goals. Previously, Samantha served as Account Executive at ChargePoint, the largest electric vehicle charging network provider in the US, and Director of Energy Access Business Development for ZeroBase Energy, a micro-grid and hybrid power systems integrator.</p> <p>Samantha.Frick@ManaPacific.com +1 (906) 440-4139</p>
	<p>Akuila Tawake, Deputy Director - Georesources and Energy Programme at GEM Division, The Pacific Community - SPC</p> <p>With a total of more than 24 years of professional experience largely in the mining industry, Akuila has served many Pacific Island Countries (PICs) in the last 18 years. Between 2011 and 2017, Akuila held the positions of Team Leader for the Pacific Regional Deep Sea Minerals Project and Head of the Geo-surveys and Geo-resources Sector at SPC. Prior to joining SPC, he held the positions of Senior Adviser – Aggregates Geology at the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) for more than 7 years, and Exploration / Mine / Project Geologist in three mining projects in Fiji for another 7 years. He graduated with a MSc in Geology from the University of Wollongong, Australia.</p> <p>akuilat@spc.int</p>



Miko Maekawa, Senior Research Fellow at the Ocean Policy Research Institute, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Prior to joining the SPF, Miko-san worked at several organizations including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2000-2007), University of Tokyo as Assistant Professor with the "Wisdom of Water" (Suntory) Corporate Sponsored Research Program (2012) and the Graduate School of Human Sciences at Osaka University as Lecturer (2013). During her assignment at UNDP, Ms. Maekawa has managed a wide range of environmental projects on climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and environmental mainstreaming.

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Rupeni Mario, Project Development and Implementation Specialist, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)


Rupeni has over two decades of environment and climate change related work experience across 22 Pacific Island countries. He has worked in intergovernmental organizations on sustainable development, policy, renewable energy, energy efficiency, climate change, capacity building, and programme-project management, development and implementation. Rupeni is currently based in Samoa at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) as a Specialist assisting member countries access climate finance to progress their respective climate ambitions. Rupeni is also a current member of the Climate LinkUp Expert Panel, <https://climatelinkup.com/expert-panel/>. He has a BSc in Mathematics and Physics, and certificates in Project Management and Development, Strategic Management, Planning and Leadership, and Electrical and Mechanical Engineering.

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John Miller, President, Board Director, Co-Founder, Mana Pacific

John has 25 years energy & microgrid industry experience in the Pacific, in isolated, and in high-risk regions. John is skilled in strategic planning, transformative business models, international business & logistics, entrepreneurship, and utility project development and financing. John was mentored by Utu Abe Malae who was Executive Director of the American Samoa Power Authority, working to combat critical environmental challenges in American Samoa and greater Polynesia. He is a graduate of the coveted and demanding Naval Nuclear Engineering Program and US Navy Dive School, as well as a Certified NABCEP Solar PV Installation Professional. However, some of his greatest accomplishments include forging strong relationships

	<p>with industry leaders such as Canadian Solar, Recurrent Energy, Samsung SDI/SunGrow, SunPower, Engie, and Johnson Controls, and developing and completing high-profile projects for the US Department of Interior, US EPA, and the American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA). His micro-grid designs and approaches have been previously selected by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) as the best proposal and solution for resiliency for some of the most complex, remote, and isolated microgrids in the United States and its territories.</p> <p>john.miller@manapacific.com +1 (808) 375-9852</p>
	<p>Noriyuki Shikata, Cabinet Secretary for Public Affairs, Prime Minister's Office of Japan</p> <p>Noriyuki “Nori” SHIKATA was appointed as Cabinet Secretary for Public Affairs under Prime Minister Fumio KISHIDA in October 2021. Most recently, he was Assistant Minister/Director General, Economic Affairs Bureau of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) (2020-21). His other prior positions include: Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan in China (2017-19); Deputy Director General, Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, MOFA(2016-17); Political Minister, Embassy of Japan in the U.K.(2012-14); Director of Global Communications, Prime Minister’s Office(2010-12), Director of respectively, Economic Treaties, Second North America (Japan-U.S. economic issues), International Press, and Status of U.S. Forces Agreement Divisions. He has also been a Visiting Professor at Kyoto University’s Graduate School of Law/Public Policy (Japan’s diplomacy), and Associate, Program on U.S.-Japan Relations, Harvard University. He holds a B.A. in Law from Kyoto University and Master of Public Policy (MPP) from Harvard Kennedy School of Government. He is a winner of the Gold Standard Award for Political Communications 2011. His Twitter handle is: @norishikata.</p>



Session 2: Available U.S. and Japanese and Other Support Measures and Opportunities for International Collaboration

	<p>Carol Litwin, Senior Renewable Energy Specialist, Green Climate Fund</p> <p>Carol brings over 25 years of operational experience in the energy sector and working with power utilities and energy regulators in emerging countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Eastern Europe. She has worked across the power sector value chain and has key expertise in project finance, utility performance and reform and the distribution and transmission subsectors. Carol has led both private and public sector energy transactions and guarantee operations and has a long track record of working with senior levels of government, utilities and regulators. She held senior energy positions with the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, and the African Development Bank. At the African Development Bank she led the restructuring of the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa focused on supporting small and medium sized renewable energy investments across the Africa region. Carol spent about 5 years covering the energy sectors in the Pacific during the mid-2000's, where she spent considerable time working with the power utilities in Samoa and Fiji, and she also brings experience from working with power utilities and private sector in the Caribbean. Carol joined GCF in November 2021 to support transition of the energy sectors across GCF member countries globally. Carol holds a Phil. Lic in economics from the University of Gothenburg in Sweden.</p>
	<p>Jonah Neuman, Energy Officer - Japan, Korea, & Maritime SE Asia, Office of Energy Diplomacy (EDP), Bureau of Energy Resources (ENR), US Department of State</p> <p>Jonah Neuman is the Energy Officer for Japan, the Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Brunei in the State Department's Bureau of Energy Resources. He is the US Government's lead action officer managing the Japan-U.S. Clean Energy Partnership, which aims to advance decarbonization and clean energy investment in Indonesia. Previously, Jonah worked in the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research as an intelligence analyst covering the Eastern Mediterranean and Southern Europe. Prior to that he served overseas in London and northern Mexico. Prior to joining the State Department, Jonah developed and managed residential and commercial real estate in New York City. He also worked as a management consultant for Booz Allen & Hamilton advising companies in Thailand, Indonesia, and Japan on business strategy.</p>

	<p>Jonah received an MBA from Columbia University and a BA from Williams College in Asian Studies. He speaks Mandarin Chinese and Spanish.</p> <p>NeumanJA@state.gov</p>
	<p>Yasuyuki Okazaki, Director, Second North America Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Japan</p> <p>Yasuyuki is Director of Second North America Division, North American Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. His previous posts within the ministry include Director, Public Diplomacy Strategy Division, Minister's Secretariat, Executive Assistant to Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, Principal Deputy Director, Aid Policy and Management Division, Delegation of Japan to the OECD, Principal Deputy Director, Japan-US Security Treaty Division, Deputy Director, Second Africa Division, and Embassy of Japan in the Philippines. He graduated from the University of Tokyo, Department of Law.</p> <p>chiho.nemoto@mofa.go.jp</p>

Day 2: March 23 @ 1-3 PM Hawaii / March 24 @ 8-10 AM Japan, Palau, 11-1 PM Fiji

Session 3: Climate Solutions EXPO - An international panel of industry and academia representatives with readily deployable clean energy and climate adaptation/resilience solutions

	<p>Andrew Bedford, Global Solutions Director - Energy Transition and Hydrogen, Jacobs</p> <p>With more than 20 years' experience in the energy, resource, and infrastructure sectors across 40 countries, Andrew specializes in strategic advisory, M&A, development and masterplanning of concepts incorporating breakthrough technologies, sustainable resource use as well as efficiency and decarbonization solutions. At Jacobs, Andrew works with multi-sector clients globally to help accelerate their energy transition journey, decarbonize supply chains and help them define and deliver on their net-zero commitments. He helps clients develop innovative integrated solutions across sectors including finance, renewables, hydrogen and hydrogen carriers such as LOHC & ammonia, up/ downstream oil and gas, LNG, diverse chemicals, petrochemicals, fertilizers, industrial integration of renewables, mining, and government services.</p> <p>Andrew.Bedford1@Jacobs.com +65 9853 8447</p>
	<p>Brandon Jirō Hayashi, Business Development and Partnerships, Pacific, Terraformation</p> <p>As the Business Development Manager for the Pacific with reforestation accelerator Terraformation, Brandon works alongside mission-driven experts in numerous fields such as forest ecology, carbon science, engineering, finance, communications, and business to empower the growing of one trillion trees by 2030 to sequester carbon dioxide emissions, increase biodiversity, restore natural ecosystems, and work hand-in-hand with local and indigenous stewards. Terraformation is keenly focused in 2022 on creating the first global, decentralized, sovereign seed bank network to elevate and help solve the critically low levels of native seed quality, diversity, and quantities.</p> <p>brandon@terraformation.com +1 (808) 673-6778</p>



Lex Heslin, Senior Project Developer, Hitachi Zosen

Lex Heslin is Senior Project Developer for Hitachi Zosen Inova (HZI) in the U.S. HZI designs, builds, finances, operates and owns large-scale anaerobic digestion (AD) and renewable gas facilities worldwide. HZI built its first AD plants in the U.S. in San Luis Obispo, CA (2019) and Escondido, CA (2021). The firm has several new projects in construction on the west and east coasts that will produce green electricity, renewable natural gas (RNG) and hydrogen. Mr. Heslin supports the rapid advancement of hydrogen pursuant to the conviction that deep global decarbonization requires a mix of both electron- and molecule-based solutions. Prior to HZI, Mr. Heslin spent 30 years in project finance, development and infrastructure investment. He started his career at Sanwa Bank in Tokyo, Japan, then joined Goldman, Sachs in structured finance before becoming President of Capital Holdings, LLC, an alternative investment manager in New York City. Mr. Heslin was also founder and CEO of Beautiful Earth Group, a green energy IPP investing in solar, wind and hydro power generation. He has advised leading institutional investors, private equity and governments in waste and energy. Mr. Heslin also chairs Enso Infrastructure, LLC, a green energy investment and development company.

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Marc Matsuura, Senior Smart Grid Program Manager Integrated Energy Systems, HNEI

Mr. Matsuura joined the Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute (HNEI), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, in 2013 as its Senior Smart Grid Program Manager. He is a founding member of HNEI's GridSTART (Grid System Technologies Advanced Research Team), a research team focused on energy transition enabling policy and regulation, advanced grid architectures, grid modernization technologies, and novel methods to achieve the reliable grid integration of RE resources, power system optimization and energy resilience goals. Prior to joining HNEI, he was with the Hawaiian Electric Company for 21 years. His career at Hawaiian Electric included positions of leadership in the areas of transmission and distribution (T&D) engineering, T&D standards and technical services, system operation, transmission planning, smart grid planning, and system integration. Marc is a licensed professional electrical engineer in Hawaii. He holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and an M.B.A. from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

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Yuki Nomoto, Power Energy Engineer, EBRD (Seconded from Tepco), TEPCO

Yuki Nomoto is a power engineer of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) where she has been recently seconded from Tokyo Electric and Power (TEPCO). At TEPCO she was a manager in the International Business Development division evaluating new business opportunities and investments outside of Japan. She was also Deputy Manager of Green & Innovation Group Business Innovation Task Force for TEPCO Holdings. Yuki holds a BA in Electrical Engineering from Tokyo University of Science.

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Nori Satoh, Marine Genomics Unit, OIST

Since joining OIST in 2009, his research group has sequenced genomes of corals in 2011, coral-symbiotic dinoflagellates in 2013, and crown-of-thorns starfish in 2017. The Marine Genomics Unit is now challenging the preservation of coral reefs using environmental DNA (eDNA) barcoding technique.

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Tom Tansy, Chairman, SunSpec Alliance

Tom Tansy is Chairman of the SunSpec Alliance where he leads the distributed energy industry's efforts to establish data and communication standards that enable seamless integration of solar PV and storage into the Smart Grid. Tom previously served as a board member for the Solar Energy Finance Association, as General Manager and Vice President of Business Development for Power-One (now part of ABB), VP of Business Development for Fat Spaniel, pioneering solar Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) provider and start up contributor of the electric vehicle manufacturer, Zero Motorcycles.

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