



FORUM ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEETING

1 -2 August 2024

INFORMATION PAPER 9: UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PACIFIC QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE PRINCIPLES

Purpose and Recommendations

Purpose

This paper provides an update to Forum Economic Ministers on progress to resource implementation of the Pacific Quality Infrastructure Principles by establishing an infrastructure advisor in the Secretariat. It also provides an update on broader engagement to raise awareness and secure support for the Principles among the Pacific’s infrastructure donors and partners.

Summary

Australia will provide funding for an Infrastructure Advisor for the Secretariat, seconded from the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility (PRIF).

A. Overview/Summary

In November 2023, Pacific Islands Forum Leaders approved the Pacific Quality Infrastructure Principles. The regionally-owned and inclusive initiative aims to lift the quality of infrastructure investment and development in line with Pacific-identified priorities.

2. The initiative responds to a critical need, as Forum Leaders noted last November, for greater regional focus and effort to support quality infrastructure in the region. As the region works to fill the infrastructure investment gap, estimated at USD3.3 billion per annum to 2030, there is need to ensure infrastructure maximises local employment and economic growth, protects the environment, people and livelihoods, and does not result in unsustainable debt or poor quality builds.

3. The initiative’s focus on local content, value for money, climate resilience, responsible borrowing and governance, social and environmental safeguards, inclusivity and private sector investment aligns with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. Its implementation will build on work of the PIF Secretariat, the Pacific Community (SPC), and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), including the Pacific Resilience Facility.

B. Discussion

4. PIF Leaders agreed in November that, contingent on resourcing, the PIF Secretariat develop options to support implementation of the initiative. Further to the update to the Pacific Economic Sub-Committee meeting in February 2024 (PIFS(24)PESC1.6), the Secretariat is working with the

Australian Government, the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on resourcing to support the Secretariat develop the implementation option.

5. The Australian Government has confirmed it will fund a dedicated infrastructure advisor to support Secretariat-led implementation of the initiative. The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has earmarked funding up to USD 580,000 through the PRIF for the advisor and implementation activities for 18-months. The advisor will be seconded to the Secretariat in accordance with the attached terms of reference (*Attachment 1*), which were developed and agreed by the Secretariat, PRIF, DFAT and ADB (as administrator of the PRIF). The advisor will be embedded in the Secretariat in Suva, Fiji. They will report to PIFS senior management under PIFS' Economic Policy Team of the Programmes and Initiatives. Engaging PRIF taps into its deep expertise in supporting the development and maintenance of critical infrastructure in the Pacific since 2008. It also helps ensure PRIF activities align with PIF priorities.

6. More broadly, building awareness and mobilising support from the Pacific's infrastructure donors and partners, including multilateral development banks, will be important to encourage alignment with the Pacific's own priorities, as articulated in the Principles Forum Members and the Secretariat have raised the initiative in bilateral and multilateral engagements, including with Japan through the 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM10).

7. Since December 2023, the Australian Government has raised the initiative in its bilateral and multilateral engagements, including with the ADB, World Bank, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and members of the Partners in the Blue Pacific (Australia, Canada, Japan, Germany, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, the United States). The Australian Government has encouraged key Pacific infrastructure partners to recognise the initiative publicly, including Quad Foreign Ministers (Australia, Japan, India, the United States).

8. On a practical level, PRIF has incorporated implementation of the initiative among its priorities under its Phase V workplan (2024-28). Australia and New Zealand have also worked with the ADB and the World Bank to operationalise aspects of the initiative through practical actions, including value-for-money procurement workshops in the Pacific and piloting a market-facing, consolidated infrastructure project pipeline.

C. Next steps

9. The Australian Government, the Secretariat, the ADB and PRIF expect to formalise arrangements to establish the infrastructure advisor position in coming weeks. Once formalised, the ADB and PRIF will commence the recruitment process and work with the Secretariat to develop a workplan for the advisor. This process is expected to be finalised within two months.

10. Engagement to secure broader infrastructure donor support and backing of the initiative will remain ongoing. There is need for greater coordination in ensuring the initiative is backed by key infrastructure donors and partners, with Forum Members and the Secretariat leading engagements at both the bilateral and regional levels. In support of regional priorities, the Secretariat welcomes Forum Members highlighting the initiative in their engagements with partners.

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
August 2024

ADB TA 10214-REG: Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility Coordination Office—For Quality, Climate, and Socioeconomic Resilient Infrastructure

Terms of Reference - Infrastructure Advisor

1. As the administrator of the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) The Asian Development Bank (ADB) intends to engage an Infrastructure Advisor to support Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) in Suva, Fiji in implementation of the Pacific Quality Infrastructure Principles (Attachment A). The position will be filled for an initial period of 12 months with possible extension up to 24 months beginning in mid-2024.

2. PRIF is a multi-partner coordination and technical assistance facility which supports infrastructure development in the Pacific through investment coordination, knowledge production and technical assistance. PRIF partners are the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Government of Australia, the Government of New Zealand, the United States of America, the World Bank Group (WB), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Union (EU), and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). PRIF member countries include the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. Papua New Guinea is an associate member country.

A. Background

3. Quality infrastructure is crucial to progress key pillars of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (the 2050 Strategy), including resource and economic development, climate change and disaster prevention, technology, and connectivity. But delivering quality infrastructure that advances these objectives and is tailored to Pacific needs is challenging. The Pacific faces significant gaps in infrastructure investment, with estimates of around USD3.3 billion per annum through to 2030. In filling those gaps, Forum Island Countries (FICs) are also at risk of infrastructure investment that leads to unsustainable debt, poor quality builds with higher maintenance costs, limited missed local employment and economic growth opportunities, and heightened environmental and social pressures.

4. The Pacific Quality Infrastructure Principles were agreed by Pacific Islands Forum leaders at their meeting in the Cook Islands in November 2023. The Principles aim to lift the quality of regional infrastructure investment and development in line with Pacific-identified priorities, and support the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, including economic growth, climate resilience and improved quality of life. It is comprised of seven principles focusing on local content; value for money; climate resilience; responsible borrowing and governance; social and environmental safeguards; inclusivity and private sector investment.

5. The Pacific Quality Infrastructure Principles provide a broad framework for supporting and guiding national approaches on infrastructure, informing policy and procurement practices and the ongoing development of standards and engagement with private sector and other stakeholders. The Principles provide high level 'regional' backing and helps align international support for Pacific governments seeking to ensure responsible public financial management, climate resilience, local content, appropriate environmental and social safeguards, and good governance for infrastructure assets, including in relation to ongoing maintenance. While FICs

are primarily responsible for implementation of the principles, at the regional level, the PQI Principles aim to bring greater coherence to regional activities on infrastructure development in the Pacific and help to strengthen collective accountability.

6. The Principles are high-level, multisectoral, and align strongly with the 2050 Strategy's thematic areas on Climate Change and Disasters, Resource and Economic Development, Technology and Connectivity. As a regional initiative, the principles built on the work that the PIF Secretariat, the Pacific Community (SPC), and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) lead, including the Pacific Resilience Facility. These agencies, and others (through the broader implementation of the 2050 Strategy), in turn have a role to play in supporting the implementation of the principles through assisting FICs, regional coordination, providing technical expertise and ensuring investment aligns with the Principles.

7. As part of their approval of the Principles, PIF leaders also agreed that, contingent to resourcing, PIFS would develop options to support implementation of the initiative. PIFS role will focus on leading Regional Collective Actions, including frameworks, systems, capabilities, advocacy and partnerships, consistent with the 2050 Strategy. PIFS will lead on coordination with FICs and agencies of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP), focusing alignment of national-led infrastructure planning and development, and support for advocacy and engagement with regional bodies and external stakeholders. The Infrastructure Advisor will support PIFS to deliver this ambition.

B. Objective and Purpose of the Assignment

8. The PRIF Infrastructure Advisor will bring infrastructure capacity and expertise to PIFS, including technical and policy capabilities, to assist PIFS execute its role in the implementation of the Principles. They will serve as the focal point within the PIFS on quality infrastructure to assist coordination at the regional level, including alignment of national-led infrastructure planning and development, and support for advocacy and engagement with regional bodies and external stakeholders.

9. The PRIF Infrastructure Advisor will bring to the PIFS a high degree of infrastructure development know-how, regional-specific expertise and established networks and relationships - through direct links to the infrastructure practitioners of the eight development partners of PRIF - which can be leveraged to support/advise FICs in implementing/applying the principles at the strategic and policy level. The position will provide for greater coordination of regional activity on infrastructure development (particularly in the context of the 2050 implementation plans), and further develop the working relationship between the PIFS and PRIF on infrastructure-related matters.

C. Scope of Services

10. The PRIF Infrastructure Advisor will be embedded in PIFS, based in Suva, Fiji. The advisor will report to PIFS senior management under PIFS' economic policy team of the Programmes and Initiatives, as well as the ADB designated project officer and PRIF Team Leader.

11. The assignment is initially for a period of 12 months. The contract is subject to a performance evaluation review to be conducted at midpoint or annually. At the end of the first 12-month period, the contract may be extended, depending on performance and funding availability. The annual performance review shall be based on the achievement of assignment-specific

outputs on time and on budget. Any changes in stated outputs need to be approved by ADB and PIFS, in consultation with the PRIF Management committee (PMC) including the Australian government. In consultation with PIFS and the PRIF PMC, ADB reserves the right to terminate the contract: (i) if outputs are not achieved on time and at a quality level acceptable to ADB and PIFS; (ii) if services are no longer required; or (iii) for any other reasons in the interest of technical assistance. The pre-termination of the contract is subject to two weeks' notice.

12. The PRIF Infrastructure Advisor will be backed up by the PRIF CO and the PRIF infrastructure planning and management program. As appropriate, the Infrastructure Advisor would draw on PRIF technical support through PRIF CO meetings, development partner infrastructure working group activities and PRIF community of practice events to support and promote the implementation of the Principles.

D. Detailed Tasks and/or Expected Outcomes

13. The PRIF Infrastructure Advisor will:

- Provide advisory capability and expertise to the PIFS on infrastructure matters and the 2050 Strategy implementation plan, with particular focus on policy development in relation to the agreed Principles;
- Engage with Pacific member governments on national infrastructure planning, identifying areas of need and opportunities for partnership to build capacity to implement the principles;
- Establish close links between the PIFS, other CROP agencies, and the PRIF including its respective members' cooperation activities in FICs, to ensure coordinated regional activity in support of Pacific priorities identified through the principles;
- Produce a report on policy, regulatory and implementation gaps in ensuring quality infrastructure principles in Pacific Island Countries. Identify priority countries and sectors to focus.
- Support and reinforce national-led advocacy to the MDB's/donor agencies to ensure they operationalise the principles in their infrastructure investment and development processes and decisions, including on further reform of their procurement practices;
- Support FICs engagement with multilateral organizations and international infrastructure financiers to mobilize resources in line with the principles and support national development priorities;
- Manage and coordinate multiple TA relevant contracts and monitor the respective work programs and outputs of individual and teams of consultants;
- Participate in relevant PRIF working group meetings to advocate for implementation and mainstreaming of quality infrastructure principles.
- Other tasks as agreed with the Secretariat within the scope of this engagement.

E. Minimum Qualification Requirements

14. Experience and skills:

- A relevant tertiary degree in engineering, economics, public policy or an infrastructure-related field; post-graduate qualifications are desirable; or bachelor's degree qualifications with extensive immediately relevant experience may be considered in lieu of post-graduate level degree.

- Minimum ten years' demonstrated experience working in infrastructure development, financing and management.
- A working knowledge of the Pacific region, its regional institutions and its infrastructure sectors and strong expertise in infrastructure quality. Knowledge and expertise in key cross-cutting areas, including regional integration, private sector participation, gender and social inclusion, climate resilience and sustainable infrastructure management would be highly regarded.
- Strong stakeholder engagement, communication and interpersonal skills to facilitate strong working relationships with FICs, CROP agencies, PRIF development partners and other stakeholders in a multicultural environment.
- Experience in managing activities within a developing country context, ideally in the Pacific.
- Experience working with multilateral and bilateral development organizations, developing country governments and the private sector. Experience working with Pacific regional organisations and PRIF partners is desirable.
- Excellent oral and written communications skills in English.
- Ability to prepare clear and concise program reports and other written materials.
- Ability to work effectively with international and national staff in a multicultural environment.
- Experience in the Pacific working with Pacific member countries is highly desirable.

15. Language requirements

- Fluency in English is required (written and spoken), knowledge of languages spoken in the Pacific is desirable.

16. Procurement Requirements:

- The PRIF is fully administered by ADB and follows procurement procedures in accordance with ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and its associated staff instructions.
- Consultant payments will follow ADB disbursement procedures in line with ADB's Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook (2020, as amended from time to time).

17. Deliverables:

Deliverables	Estimated Submission Date	Type
Individual Workplan	31 July 2024 and thereafter 31 January every year	Report
Annual Reports (individual)	31 October every year	Report
Quarterly Reports (individual)	15 of the month of every quarter	Report
PRIF Annual Report – contribute to the PRIF Annual Report including updates on TA and knowledge products and publications	February every year	Report
PRIF Quarterly Reports – contribute to PRIF quarterly reports including updates to TA and knowledge products	Every quarter	Report
Knowledge products	After end of each TA assignment	Report

18. Schedule and Places of Assignment:

ATTACHMENT 1

City and Country	Working days	Est Start Date	Est End Date	Other Details
Field Office	200	01/07/2024	30/06/2025	Based in PIFS, Suva, Fiji from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 and intermittently in other PRIF/PIF member countries as needed
Home Office	20	01/07/2024	30/06/2025	Travelling to home office not covered
Total	220			

Continuous

Maximum Working Days/Week: 5 for Home office; 6 for Field