

Pacific Data Hub

SPC's Pacific Data Community of Practice
presents

The role of Data in today's Digital Economy

17 JUNE, 2022

8.30 am (UTC +11)

Join our panel of experts for a talanoa on Pacific Data and the Digital Economy.

The Talanoa will address questions such as: How is data powering the digital economy, what are the gaps and how can the Pacific Region benefit from emerging opportunities in the digital world?

Join us Online:

https://spc.zoom.us/webinar/register/9216541299563/WN_-PXpP7YZS2mjUR-NOW0NTg



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Linda Folia
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**Ms. Scarlett
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**Hamish
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**Dr Andrea
Giacomelli**
Pacific Islands
Forum Secretariat



Denis Grofils
Pacific
Community (SPC)



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



UNITED NATIONS
UNCTAD

SPEAKERS

Linda Folia: She is the Manager of the National Financial Inclusion Unit with Central Bank of Solomon Island. She attained her Masters in Applied Finance and Masters in Commerce (MAppl Fin, MCom) from the University of Wollongong in 2015. Her career with the Central Bank of Solomon Islands began in 2000 as an analyst in the Financial System Regulation Department (FSRD). Before she was appointed Manager Financial Inclusion in January 2017, she held various positions within FSRD as Manager Supervision and Acting Chief Manager. During the term with FSRD, she was a member of the Anti-money Laundering Technical Expert Group (AMLTEG). On appointment as Manager Financial Inclusion, she assisted the implementation of the Solomon Islands National Financial Inclusion Strategy 2 (2016-2020) and contributed to the development of Solomon Islands NFIS3 (2021-2025) and the development of National Women Financial Inclusion Policy (2022 – 2026). The financial inclusion role is a journey towards an inclusive financial sector embracing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Scarlett Fondeur: Worked since 2003 with UNCTAD's E-Commerce and Digital Economy Branch, which produces the Digital Economy Report. Every two years, this UNCTAD flagship report examines how the digital economy contributes to sustainable international trade and development. As part of the Digital Economy Policy Research Section, Ms. Fondeur helps countries develop statistics on these issues with a view to improving the evidence base for digital economy policy. This includes the development of methodology and reference material such as the UNCTAD Manual for the Production of Statistics on the Digital Economy, and technical assistance through training and advisory services to developing countries. Ms. Fondeur also coordinates UNCTAD's Working Group of Experts on Measuring Electronic Commerce and the Digital Economy, and the collection of official statistics on the use of ICT in business, on the ICT sector, and on the international trade of ICT goods and services. Ms. Fondeur is a graduate of Economics from the Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC) in the Dominican Republic and has a Master's degree in International Relations from the University of East Anglia in the United Kingdom.

Denis Grofils: He is an advisor in statistical information systems for the Statistics for Development Division of the Pacific Community (SPC). Involved in the Pacific Data Hub programme, he is currently leading the implementation the PDH .STAT statistical database as the one-stop shop for official statistics about the Pacific region. With a background in business administration and computer science and field-level expertise in statistics and audit, Denis has been supporting national and international organizations in modernizing their information production processes for more than 15 years. His professional interests include information standardisation and metadata-driven approaches, with a strong focus on efficiency gains in agencies supporting data-driven policy making.

Dr Andrea Giacomelli works as Aid-for-Trade and Trade Policy Advisor at the Permanent Delegation of the Pacific Islands Forum to the United Nations, World Trade Organization, and Other International Organizations in Geneva. In his role, Andrea promotes the establishment of regional initiatives in the priority areas of the Pacific Aid-for-Trade Strategy and assists Forum Island Countries, individually and collectively, to make better use of Aid-for-Trade opportunities. Before joining the Geneva Delegation, Andrea worked as a consultant for Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in Suva, a Trade Advisor for the Vanuatu Ministry of Tourism, Trade, Commerce and Vanuatu Business, and an Economist and Policy Advisor for Government of the United Kingdom.

Viraaj Kantilal Lad is a CEO/ Executive Director. He completed his Degree in Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Accounting and Financial Management & Information Systems (Double Majors). In April, 2004 he joined his family business as Operations Manager. To further enhance his knowledge in business management he undertook and completed Master of Business Administration (MBA) studies on a part time basis while working. He now serves as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and manages the daily affairs of the Company based at the Head Office in Ba. He also serves as Executive Director and Company Secretary for Bhikhabhai Group of Companies. He oversees sales & marketing, business operations, finance, human resources, legal, risk management and assists the Board in preparing strategic & succession planning. Under his leadership since joining, total revenue earned and gross profit margin had doubled with number of employees growth by 3 folds. He is married with 3 children, has a keen interest in yoga, meditation, community projects/events and enjoys time with his family.
