

Australian Council for International Development

2019 Conference
Wrap-Up



AUSTRALIAN
COUNCIL
FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

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ACFID would like to acknowledge and thank the Bedegal and Gadigal people who are the traditional custodians of the land on which the 2019 ACFID Conference was held. We express special thanks to Aunty Lola Ryan for delivering the Welcome to Country.

This document, including address and panel discussion summaries, is authored solely by ACFID. Please refer to the speaker video recordings for exact words used.

THE 2019 ACFID CONFERENCE WAS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY





A Message from the ACFID Conference Organisers

On behalf of the Australian Council for International Development, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who made this year's Conference possible.



The energy, enthusiasm, and innovative ideas brought from every speaker and delegate, along with engaged and supportive sponsors, helped to make this event a great success.

In a time of divisive politics, the prevalence of open conflicts, surges of populism, restrictions on civil society and urgent environmental imperatives - NGOs are facing a changed development landscape. In addition, funding methods for development are fluctuating and shifting, with donors looking for alternative ways to deliver impact. Social innovation and alternative business structures are on the increase and young people are looking for ways to make their own mark on the future world they will be faced with. We know that as a sector, we need to listen carefully to the already changed ecosystem which has brought forth new actors and new rules.

We were delighted to see nearly 400 attendees from over 170 organisations gathered at The Roundhouse at the University of New South Wales in Sydney this year. As a group, we heard from 86 speakers, including 10 international speakers. The energy, enthusiasm, and innovative ideas brought from every speaker and delegate, along with engaged and supportive sponsors, helped to make this event a great success.

Therefore, our theme this year was 'Beyond Aid: Championing Sustainable Development Cooperation'. The goal was a conference that provided not only insights, but actionable strategies to guide organisations in increasingly shifting and contested spaces.

We invite you to explore the highlights from this year's conference and engage with the additional learning opportunities within.

We provided space for delegates to pause, listen and take a look at the bigger picture - engaging with diverse perspectives from countries we operate in, as well as voices outside the sector. And with these insights, we then encouraged delegates to consider them in the context of their own programming, partnerships and organisations.

We look forward to welcoming you to the 2020 ACFID Conference, to be held on October 28-29 in Melbourne. [Sign-up to ACFID's weekly Sector News](#) to keep up-to-date with preparations for next year.



Raewyn Lans
Membership and Stakeholder
Engagement Lead



Moti Goode
Corporate Partnerships
Lead



Aina Studer
Data and Operations
Lead



Rebecca Hamilton
Policy and Advocacy
Advisor



Jessica Smith
Learning and Innovation
Lead



Bridi Rice
Director of Policy and
Advocacy



Jocelyn Condon
Director of Development
Effectiveness

Delegates are welcomed to the Roundhouse on the morning of Day One, collecting their lanyards and reusable cups. Across the two days, over 800 disposable cups were prevented from going to landfill.

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES



A delegate takes a photo of the main stage as the Conference begins.

INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE

Rt Hon Enele Sopoaga



The Right Honourable Enele Sopoaga is the former Prime Minister of Tuvalu, governing from 2013-2019 after being elected to parliament in 2010. He has been an outspoken advocate for climate change action both within the Pacific and globally. As the leader of one of the smallest Pacific nations, his career and voice in world politics has been dominated by his and his people's experience on the frontlines of climate change.

The Right Honourable Enele Sopoaga was this year's keynote speaker, and his address focussed largely on the climate crisis - with a particular emphasis on what he regarded as Australia's failure to engage critically, empathetically or strategically with other Pacific Island leaders.

Tuvalu was the site of this year's Pacific Island Forum (PIF) between all Pacific leaders, envisaged as a space in which the leaders could discuss the future direction of the Pacific and the current issues faced by member regions. Mr Sopoaga reflected on this event, particularly in light of the backlash that was felt throughout the Pacific in regards to Australia's action on the issue.

He had viewed the hosting of the Forum as an opportunity to display the vulnerability faced by Pacific nations and champion action from other leaders as they joined together as a family. Mr Sopoaga expressed his great disappointment that Australia's actions reflected a different attitude. To the \$500 million package announced by Australia, he said that Australia could 'keep their money', emphasising that it was nothing when compared to the damage to the livelihood of the Pacific.

Mr Sopoaga called on Australia, New Zealand and other Pacific and global leaders to do more to combat climate change.

One audience member asked with whom Mr Sopoaga thought Australia should engage with in transitioning Australia's fossil fuel pollution output. The former Prime Minister emphasised that this was a crucial question



We need to recognise that climate change is the single greatest threat to the safety and security of Pacific Island peoples. We need to recognise the urgency.

as Australia is deeply economically dependent on this industry - but that Australia needs to engage with the renewables sector much more rigorously, offering the same sort of subsidies for renewable energy consumption that they do for fossil fuels. Additionally, he said that increased funding for research behind renewables, and a commitment to lowering domestic greenhouse gas emissions, was integral.

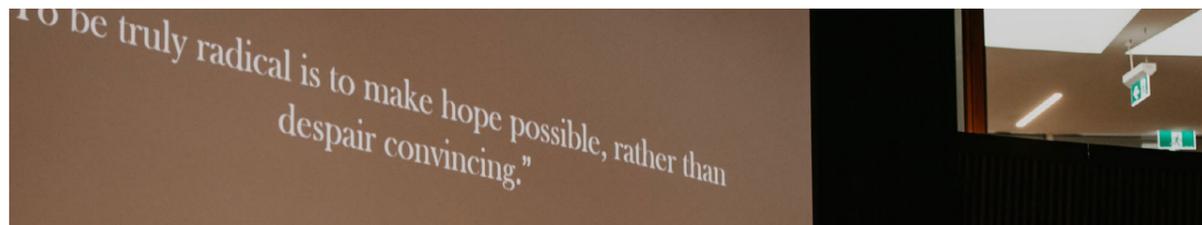
WATCH THE FULL ADDRESS



youtu.be/L8tlyzhrHMo

For media coverage on this address, including video and podcast interviews, see page 47.

Damon Gameau



Damon Gameau is an Australian actor and director. His new film, *2040*, is an innovative feature documentary that explores what the future would look like by the year 2040 if we embraced the best solutions already available to us to improve our planet.



True leadership is happening at the local level. It's happening in businesses, in communities, at schools, it's happening with the elderly, and it's happening with millions of children around the world that aren't going to stop. They're on a mission. And that's what gives me the most hope.

Damon Gameau closed off Day One of the Conference with a strong message of hope. The *2040* writer and director explained that the project was born when he was attempting to explain climate change to his young daughter. Rather than speak about the terrifying rate at which this is happening, he sought instead to see what solutions are already underway.

Mr Gameau took the audience through some of the innovations people around the world have developed to create a greener planet. He ended by discussing ways people can take action themselves through his grassroots social change movement, 'What's your 2040?'

WATCH THE FULL ADDRESS



youtu.be/bg9N7U79054

WATCH THE FILM

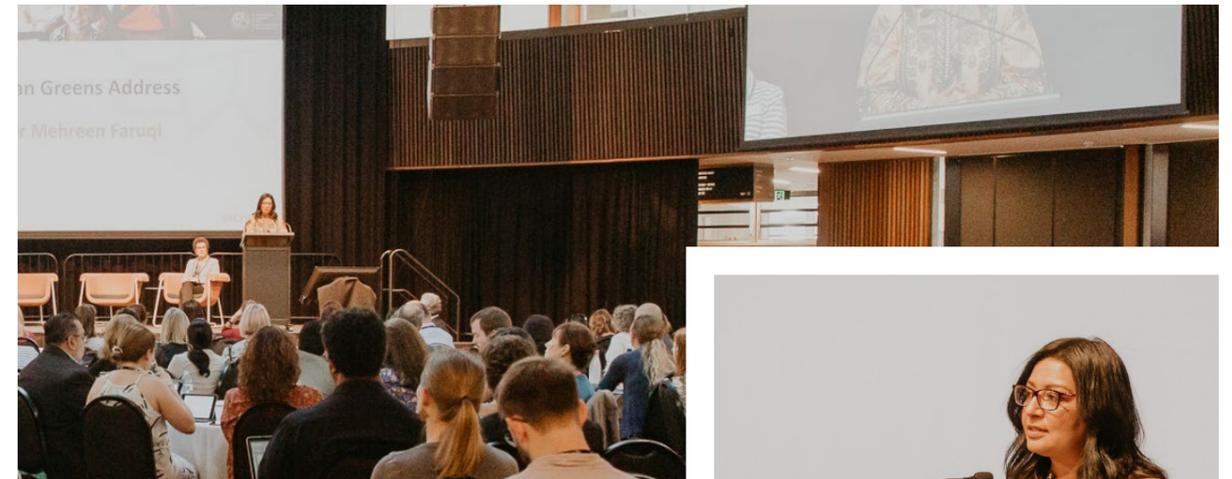


youtu.be/dfzqXFrEX9M

LEARN MORE AND CONNECT

Take action at whatsyour2040.com
Follow Damon on Twitter via [@damongameau](https://twitter.com/damongameau)

Senator Mehreen Faruqi



Dr Mehreen Faruqi is the Greens' senator for New South Wales. She is a civil and environmental engineer and life-long activist for social and environmental justice. She is the Australian Greens' spokesperson for International Aid and Development.



Senator Faruqi's speech touched on many of the key topics of concern in international development and of pertinence to the sector, such as inequality, climate change and questions of national interest.



Australia must look beyond its borders, not as a nation hungry for resources and cheap goods, not as a nation suspicious or fearful of others and not as an ally of a war machine - but as a friend of people who are fighting oppression, marginalisation and injustices, wherever they may be.

Senator Faruqi highlighted climate change and rampant capitalism as key obstacles in creating a world free from injustice. The Senator emphasised the need to devote the time and effort to work alongside and empower first nations people while also calling on the reimagining of international aid not as charity but as justice. In this way, development should not be seen as a means to advance national interests but rather as an opportunity to right the wrongs of the past.

The Senator took aim at the continual slashing of the development budget, noting that aid accounts for 1 per cent of the budget while DFAT has been the department

to receive 25 per cent of all recent budget cuts, with the 2019 budget seeing the sixth year of international development cuts.

On underlying causes of inequality, the Senator explained that the inherent North-South extraction of the capitalist system and the lasting effects of colonialism created a global environment and system where the location that you are born in is the single greatest influencing factor of a person's success, rather than ability. Drawing into this, she stated that colonialism had been morphed into extractive industries and to combat this, aid delivery 'should also be a decolonising process'. To end, the Senator turned to climate change, mentioning that it was the least responsible nations who were enduring the most harm. She suggested that Australia must 'look beyond their borders [and] provide climate reparations'.

WATCH THE FULL ADDRESS



youtu.be/pzTR1_vpXzl

CONNECT

Follow Senator Faruqi on Twitter via [@MehreenFaruqi](https://twitter.com/MehreenFaruqi)

Pat Conroy MP



Pat Conroy MP is the Federal Member for Shortland. He is Labor's Shadow Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Shadow Minister Assisting for Climate Change, and for Defence.

Pat Conroy MP began his address by reiterating Labor's commitment to international development, explaining that this is a key responsibility of the government. Following the 'Beyond Aid' theme of the conference, Mr Conroy proposed three ways for both government and non-government actors to respond to these trends, that go beyond traditional aid.

The first was around the pressure on ODA budgets and the domestic political arena. Mr Conroy argued that the need to increase Australia's development presence in the Pacific, as part of the Prime Minister's Pacific Step-Up, can now only be accommodated by cutting development assistance for other countries in our region. He stated:

'Australia's assistance to the Pacific is coming at the expense of cuts in Australia's contribution to multilateral institutions and assistance to middle income countries.'

To reverse this and see real government action in this space, Mr Conroy suggested that political action from electorates is essential. After all, hundreds of thousands of Australians are regular supporters of aid organisations, he said.

The second way to respond to emerging trends is the place of the private sector in financing international development. Growing philanthropic donors, impact investing, blended finance, and more, are emerging to expand this space in development.



Development tackles the root causes of insecurity and instability, helping prevent conflicts before they emerge by promoting opportunity and hope for the future, especially for young people and women and for marginalised members of society.

The third area Mr Conroy discussed was the nexus between development and defence, with climate change being a striking example of policy intersectionality. Mr Conroy argued that greater awareness by policymakers of the security benefits that can flow from development may give the sector greater traction in obtaining the resources and attracting the political support it needs.

WATCH THE FULL ADDRESS

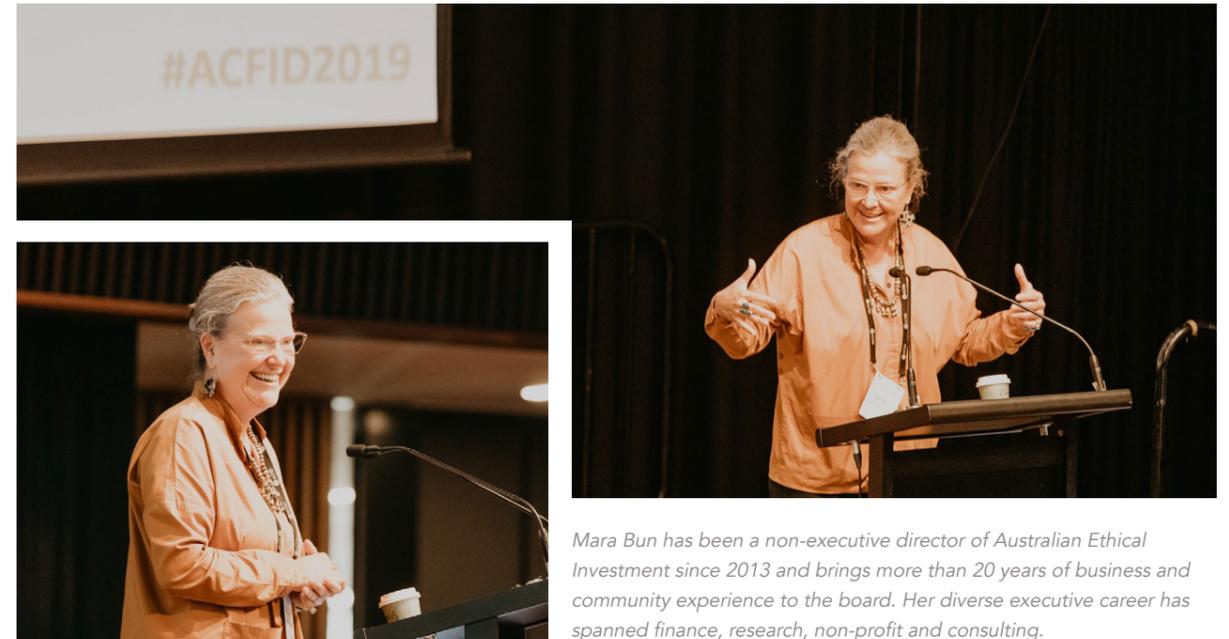


youtu.be/Ls4ZiiCrRkk

CONNECT

Follow Pat Conroy MP on Twitter via [@PatConroy1](https://twitter.com/PatConroy1)

Mara Bun



Mara Bun has been a non-executive director of Australian Ethical Investment since 2013 and brings more than 20 years of business and community experience to the board. Her diverse executive career has spanned finance, research, non-profit and consulting.

Mara Bun delivered ACFID Conference 2019 sponsor's address, representing Australian Ethical Investment. Australian Ethical Investment were this year's platinum sponsor, giving Ms Bun the opportunity to give one of the conference's opening addresses in which she covered various factors that influence international development such as democracy, capitalism and climate change.

Ms Bun began by discussing instances of global social inequality, highlighting how a \$0.06 (AUD) transport fare increase in Chile had led to deadly rioting in the nation, reflecting the highly disparate distribution of wealth. Ms Bun discussed issues of global food insecurity and the changing climate as primary concerns, stating that 'we are creating an unliveable planet' which is being compounded by trends towards more populist governments that 'look to a past that can't be replicated in the future'. Ms Bun offered an avenue of solution that firmly entrenched the power and ability to create change in the individual.

Ms Bun detailed how Australian Ethical Investment represents this approach, as they are a super fund dedicated to the investment of their clients and partner's money into Australian enterprises that are principled. Ms Bun described how the company tracks the SDG impact of the products and services that they invest in, engage in wide range of vocal advocacy and actively attempt to decarbonise their portfolio, tracking towards net zero emissions. Through Australian Ethical's investment in Australian companies and causes, they also take on a

donor role in which they advocate for further ethical implementation or campaign alongside their members over external ethical issues.

Ms Bun provided some examples of Australian Ethical's investments - including Sundrop, a circular ecology farm, Love Mercy, targeting poverty in Uganda, and Refugees Welcome Australia, an NGO dedicated to connecting Australian's with spare rooms to refugees in need of housing.

Ms Bun's ended by emphasising that in a capitalist society, principled approaches are still viable and should be encouraged.

WATCH THE FULL ADDRESS



youtu.be/-h3_vCdOhPY

LEARN MORE

Read more about Australian Ethical Investment on page 54.

KEYNOTE PANELS





Above: Panelists with moderator, Catherine Graue.
 Middle (L-R): Serena Sasingian, Amena Yauvoli.
 Bottom (L-R): Reverend James Bhagwan, Siale Ilolahia.



First we Listen: In Conversation with Pacific Leaders

Moderated by Catherine Graue, host of ABC Radio's Pacific Beat, the first panel of the Conference provided a platform to Ambassador Amena Yauvoli, Director General of the Melanesian Spearhead Group; Siale Ilolahia, Executive Director of PIANGO; Reverend James Bhagwan, General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches; and Serena Sasingian, CEO of Digicel Foundation PNG.

In line with the 'Beyond Aid' theme of the conference, each panel member had the opportunity to address the gathered delegates before panel discussion ensued. Ambassador Yauvoli used the opportunity to highlight the importance of committing to the SDGs as a framework to measure change, citing the first (poverty), thirteenth (climate change) and seventeenth (partnership) goals as being key markers. He drew upon his own experience with the Melanesian Spearhead Group to advocate for a fundamental need for political stability in the region, stating that 'we need to mobilise [and] we need to work together'.

Listening isn't about listening to our cries and our problems, but also listening to our innovations, our solutions.

Reverend James Bhagwan

Ms Ilolahia took the Australian government to task, warning of the consequences of looking down on the people of the Pacific as being lower than themselves. Additionally, she criticised the seasonal workers schemes as being conducive to labour shortages in origin countries, while also criticising the infrastructure focus of Australia in relation to combatting climate change.

Reverend Bhagwan focussed on Pacific concepts of the household being contrary to how economists view the household, noting the more expansive way it is used in the Pacific. Additionally, the Reverend highlighted the ecological issues faced by the Pacific, calling for more sustainable practices to be employed.

Ms Sasingian's address echoed the earlier notes of the Ambassador as she described how stability in PNG benefits the rest of the Pacific. She also underscored the need to invest in the future, particularly regarding



I'm quite fed up with talk about building capacity with no funding, [or] programs to back it up.

Serena Sasingian

increasing literacy and numeracy rates in PNG, as well as decreasing class size, as 58 per cent of the PNG population is under 25.

The challenges they sought to confront were not new but it became a pertinent part of the panel that how we approach these challenges needs to change. An overarching agreement between the leaders was that the future will be youth-led, something in which the leaders all expressed their pride and optimism - especially about the advocacy produced by young people.

WATCH THE FULL PANEL DISCUSSION



youtu.be/fyOPK350ydk

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pacificconferenceofchurches.org

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piango.org

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digicelfoundation.org

Follow on Twitter via [@DigicelPNGFdn](https://twitter.com/DigicelPNGFdn)

abc.net.au/radio-australia/programs/pacificbeat

Follow on Twitter via [@CatherineGraue](https://twitter.com/CatherineGraue)

Clarity or Chaos? Development Cooperation in a Time of Contestation

Moderated by ACFID's own Director of Policy and Advocacy, Bridi Rice, this panel featured Anthea Mulakala, Senior Director for International Development Cooperation at The Asia Foundation; Melissa Conley Tyler, Director at Asia Link Diplomacy; and Richard McGregor, Senior Fellow of the Lowy Institute.

The intent was to provide a space in which panellists could discuss their own views of how principled development initiatives can operate in the increasingly contested geopolitical sphere and the growing emphasis on national interest discourse. Ms Rice's introduction framed the discussion, as she explained that the government's aid program was becoming increasingly focused on delivering short-term national interest outcomes in a period of heightened political rivalry.



As the US retreats from multilateralism, China, India and others have stepped in, and stepped up.

Anthea Mulakala

Mr McGregor provided a brief history of the Indo-Pacific region, with a particular reference to Asia post WW2 as an 'economic success, but a political failure'. Furthering this, he discussed the continuing or unresolved conflicts such as the Korean civil war, conflict between China and Taiwan and Sino-Japanese tensions. He also touched on the importance of the United States in the region and the vacuum that their withdrawal has created. In terms of Australia, Mr McGregor asked whether the nation's relationship with China is one of interdependency or one of reliance as 40 per cent of Australia's exports go to China.

Ms Conley Tyler utilised the waning US power to question Australia's own defensive capability as they have benefited from having a strong ally in the region, whether United Kingdom or United States, throughout the nation's contemporary history. In light of China's growing power, she emphasised the role that development cooperation has as a form of 'soft power' within diplomacy, and which can be used to solidify the relationships Australia has in the region. On ways in which Australian civil society could



We are now at our lowest point ever for investing in diplomacy and development.

Melissa Conley Tyler

appeal to the Australian government, Ms Conley Tyler advised the use of resilience paradigms and language that appealed to the national interest or broader foreign policy interests.

Ms Mulakala echoed the sentiments on China's growing power, but also used them as an example of certain development aspects that China utilises well. She promoted infrastructure as being a key means for development, while also highlighting the way in which China advocates and creates multilateral institutions to deliver development, while also demonstrating leadership in reaching the SDGs. However, Ms Mulakala warned against fuelling debt in smaller nations.

WATCH THE FULL PANEL DISCUSSION



youtu.be/LIpE0Hf399U

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asiafoundation.org

Follow on Twitter via [@AntheaMulakala](https://twitter.com/AntheaMulakala)

asialink.unimelb.edu.au

Follow on Twitter via [@MConleytyler](https://twitter.com/MConleytyler)

lowyinstitute.org

Follow on Twitter via [@mcgregorrichard](https://twitter.com/mcgregorrichard)

acfid.asn.au

Follow on Twitter via [@bridirice](https://twitter.com/bridirice)



Above (L-R): Richard McGregor, Anthea Mulakala, Bridi Rice, Melissa Conley Tyler. Middle (L-R): Melissa Conley Tyler, Richard McGregor. Bottom (L-R): Anthea Mulakala, Bridi Rice.



Top (L-R): Davaajargal Batdorj, Aqueel Khan, Bronwyn Spencer, Teela Reid, Josie Pagani. Middle (L-R): Davaajargal Batdorj, Aqueel Khan. Bottom (L-R): Teela Reid, Bronwyn Spencer.

Josie Pagani
Dr Aqueel Khan
Davaajargal Batdorj
Teela Reid
Bronwyn Spencer

stralianethical

#ACFID2019



Enabling Civil Society

Chaired by Josie Pagani, Director of the Council for International Development (CID) in New Zealand, this panel featured Dr Aqueel Khan, Director of Association for Stimulating Know-How; Davaajargal Batjordi, Director of Programs and Cooperation, Mongolian Red Cross; Teela Reid, Wiradjuri and Wailwan lawyer and activist, and Bronwyn Spencer from Uniting World - who was our People's Choice Panellist.

The purpose of this panel was to explore the various avenues in which civil society can better engage with each other, their work, and the governments and organisations that they encounter. To begin, Dr Khan proposed that the knowledge and resources that development institutions were utilising was not reaching the bottom of the human pyramid. He emphasised that development organisations must build from the bottom up, investing in the individual as the first point of contact.

Ms Pagani identified that this process of sharing - not just resources, but knowledge with the bottom of the pyramid - is a key tenet of capacity building. Ms Spencer furthered this point by extolling the shortcomings of contemporary capacity building that only seeks to extend capacity in one direction. She emphasised that capacity building must be undertaken by partners as well, and is different to template forms of training.

The Uluru Statement captured the cultural authority of the nation. If they walk away from it, they're denying the cultural authority of the land.

Teela Reid

The panel also discussed ways in which civil society can successfully engage the political sphere, especially in the often turbulent climate that is Australian politics. Ms Reid discussed the need (and difficulty) of bringing politics back to the centre, establishing the common ground between the ideologies rather than appealing to a particular extreme and alienating the other side. Ms Reid placed an importance on maintaining a cohesive indigenous voice while shifting the political power structures, and that movements had to come from the people themselves.

Localisation proved to be a key topic of this panel. The



I think we need to stop talking and speaking for the voiceless. I think [instead] we need to pass the mic. We need to reflect on the colonial underpinnings of our sector - and that's the place to start.

Bronwyn Spencer

panellists agreed that the definition of localisation was problematic in that it can be interpreted in ways that may lead to less effective aid being delivered. They also agreed that the strategic vision of aid delivery has to be firm, self-determined and invoking the partnership ideals and of true development cooperation.

The panelists disagreed with the idea that the expansion of previously centralised or foreign organisations into local areas constituted localisation. Instead, the panelists emphasised that holistic, participatory methods were needed and localisation should begin with engaging existing local community organisations.

Ultimately, this panel provided important insight into how civil society can better engage in development by emphasising the participatory elements of development cooperation.

WATCH THE FULL PANEL DISCUSSION



youtu.be/cQ0WVDIXIcs

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ifrc.org

askindia.org

Follow on Twitter via [@ASK_Newsfeed](https://twitter.com/ASK_Newsfeed)

unitingworld.org.au

cid.org.nz

Follow on Twitter via [@josiepagani](https://twitter.com/josiepagani)

IGNITE SESSIONS

This year ACFID introduced Ignite sessions to our national conference. The sessions created the opportunity for speakers to deliver fast-paced TED-style talks.

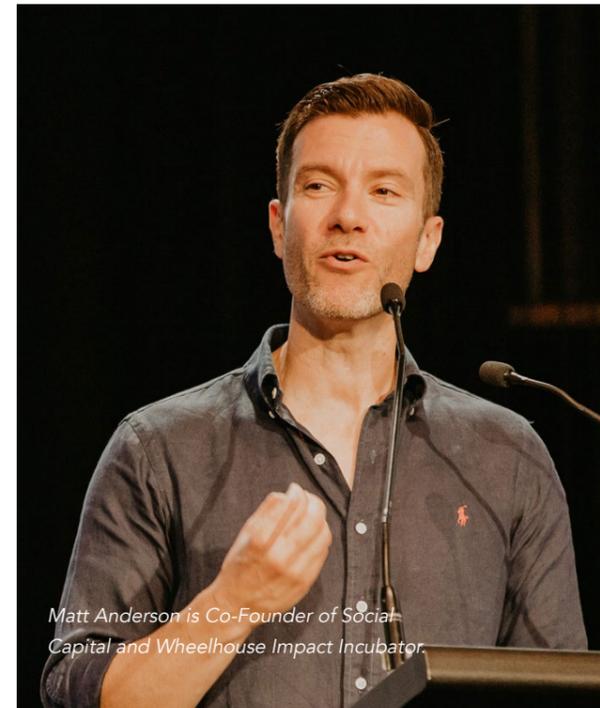
VER

SOCIALCAPITA



IGNITE SPEAKER AND SESSION HOST

Matt Anderson



Mr Anderson presented the latest in the world of purpose-driven start-ups, social innovation and the social impact and entrepreneur space, where 'social', 'environmental' and 'commercial' imperatives are closely intertwined.

His session looked at the opportunity available in this space, illustrated through real-world examples, and explored practical steps that leaders can take in their own organisations.

WATCH THE FULL TALK



youtu.be/wOZPgRaLxIA

LEARN MORE

socialcapitalcity.com

IGNITE SPEAKER

Jack Manning Bancroft

AIME Mentoring started with mentors for 25 Indigenous kids, and today it reaches over 25,000. Having proven an ability to shift the imbalance of power locally, Mr Manning Bancroft discussed scaling capabilities, plus the next challenge being undertaken - tackling global inequality. AIME is now focussing on their 'Imagination Curriculum and Mentoring'.

Jack Manning Bancroft is the CEO of AIME Mentoring.



WATCH THE FULL TALK



youtu.be/1r0K7Nvt8dQ

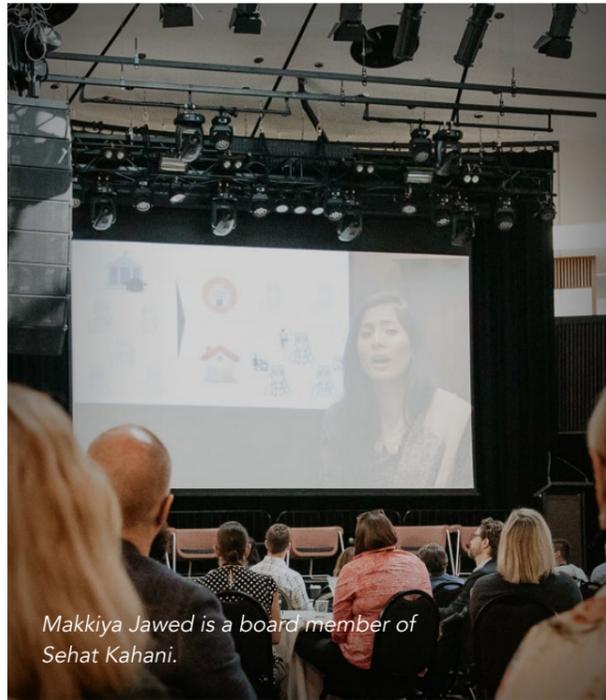
LEARN MORE

Join the AIME Mentoring Friends list [here](#).

Read about their \$1M global research partnership opportunity [here](#).

IGNITE SPEAKER

Makkiya Jawed



Makkiya Jawed is a board member of Sehat Kahani.

Ms Jawed presented the lessons from Sehat Kahani, a telemedicine platform. In a country where 81 in every 1000 children under the age of five die every year, healthcare provision in Pakistan is at a critical juncture. Yet while the healthcare gap continues to grow with an expanding population, she explained, the taboo of female employment in many households remains strong – leaving a huge number of female doctors unable to assist - which is where Sehat Kahani was developed.

WATCH THE FULL TALK



youtu.be/qBA5q9elfK8

LEARN MORE

sehatkahani.com

IGNITE SPEAKER

Dermot O’Gorman



Dermot O’Gorman is the CEO of WWF Australia.

Mr O’Gorman discussed how his organisation, WWF Australia, developed *Panda Labs*, an innovation program that creates innovative approaches to modern problems, all of which can be scaled globally. This award-winning program uses new technology, such as blockchain, data science, and digital communication channels to help countries extract greater value from precious natural resources.

WATCH THE FULL TALK



youtu.be/HQdGLq4xzKA

LEARN MORE

wwf.org.au/get-involved/panda-labs

IGNITE SPEAKER

Ant Moorhouse

During his session, Mr Moorhouse discussed the incoming wave of technology entrepreneurs, who are ‘fuelled by a new purpose of impact investment’, and how this can assist our sector’s organisations.

WATCH THE FULL TALK



youtu.be/vltWDqr05IY

LEARN MORE

Do you have a solution for some of the world’s environmental or social issues? Read about and register for the EarthTech challenge [here](#). Explore opportunities for partnering with EarthTech by contacting [Lewis Best](#), Director of Impact.



Ant Moorhouse is co-founder of EarthTech.



Delegate Q&A

During the IGNITE Sessions, delegates were able to ask questions of the speakers through the Conference app. After the sessions, the ACFID team posed a selection of questions to the speakers.

MATT ANDERSON



youtu.be/a6jjQDDmuNc

MAKKIYA JAWED



youtu.be/KkAa4fxE2BQ

ANT MOORHOUSE



youtu.be/1rfu3HB11w

DERMOT O’GORMAN



youtu.be/FtgCPATxkNA

CONCURRENT SESSIONS



When disability rights movements lead: rethinking approaches to sustainable development

Is the sector harnessing the innovation and unique perspectives the disability movement brings to the decision-making table on rights, humanitarian action and development?

This session challenged the status quo and explored how disability movements are providing mechanisms for those most affected by poverty and marginalisation to be at the centre of creating change within their communities, countries and globally.

SPEAKERS

Dwi Ariyani
Program Officer for Indonesia, Disability Rights Fund / Disability Rights Advocacy Fund

Angeline Chand
Team Leader of Programs, Pacific Disability Forum

Damian Griffis
CEO, First Peoples Disability Network

Samantha French (moderator)
Senior Policy Officer, People with Disabilities Australia



Great insights – thank you for sharing and reinforcing the importance of DPO partnerships and leadership.

Participant feedback

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www.addc.org.au

www.DisabilityRightsFund.org

www.drafund.org

www.PacificDisability.org

www.fpdn.org.au

www.pwd.org.au

BECOME A MEMBER OF ADDC

www.addc.org.au/get-involved

READ ON

Read the Pacific Disability Forum 2018 Monitoring Report [here](#).

Not-for-profits and managing contractors: can they work together for greater impact?

In the context of the changing global environment that is witness to the rise of masculine authoritarianism and divisive identity politics, climate change, income inequality, and reduced civil society space and aid spending, this session explored how the Australian Government, NGOs and Managing Contractors can work together to leverage their considerable experience, networks and expertise for greater development advocacy and to improve each other's practice.

SPEAKERS

Paul Bird CEO, *Australian Volunteers International*

Richard Moore, *Partner and Principal Strategist, Positive Influence*

Marc Purcell (moderator), *CEO, Australian Council for International Development*

Dr Bernadette Whitelum, *CEO and Director, Whitelum Group*



LEARN MORE

Stay up-to-date with news from the International Development Contractors' Community (IDCC) at www.idcc.org.au/news

Getting smarter about cross-border payments

Organisations now have the option to reliably fund international programs and partners in local currency versus hard currency. By choosing to execute their international payments in local currency, organisations can participate in the conversion process and attain competitively priced end-to-end transparency and control of funds. This concurrent session focussed on common pitfalls that organisations encounter, how to identify hidden costs and what to look for when choosing a payment provider.

SPEAKER

Thiago Vieira, *Senior Vice President – Global Payments, INTL FCStone*



INTL FCStone removes uncertainty from overseas transfers.

Thiago Vieira, INTL FCStone

LEARN MORE

Learn more about cross-border payments with the INTL FCStone webinar, 'Using Payments Technology to your Advantage'

That youth session: making way for young people's leadership

Should Australian-based NGOs stand with or stand behind youth-led grassroots change? This roundtable session explored the importance of genuine youth leadership in enacting sustainable systemic change, and how the sector establishment can make way for better supporting youth-led grassroots movements.

SPEAKERS

Christine Deng, *Head of International Engagement, Oaktree*

Kieu Gavin, *Director of Political Engagement, Oaktree*

Marfiano Manuel, *Executive Volunteer, Hatutan Youth Group (Timor Leste)*



Should organisations stand with or behind bigger organisations? Our organisation [Hatutan Youth] can stand with, but it's good for bigger organisations to stand back and give us the space. We are being supported but at the same time we're not being controlled, which is important. First step for donors and partners – step back and give the youth a chance to play around in the space and to be able to feel valued.

Marfiano Manuel, Hatutan Youth



Young people deserve a place at the table. Why aren't things changing faster?

Christine Deng, Oaktree



LEARN MORE

Read about the powerful work of Hatutan Youth at www.facebook.com/HatutanYouth

Impact investing for development: panacea, pitfalls and practical insights

Accessing the private investing market could unlock billions of dollars of capital and expertise into achieving better development outcomes. This session shared first-hand insights into moving beyond traditional models of aid financing, explored the business models that are needed to attract private investment, and discussed what might be needed to drive real change.

SPEAKERS

Kirsten Armstrong, *Director of Innovation and Knowledge, The Fred Hollows Foundation*

Misha Coleman (moderator), *Executive Director, Global Health Alliance Australia*

Craig Fitzgerald, *Partnerships Specialist – Asia and the Pacific Islands, Impact Investing Exchange*

Kristy Graham, *Assistant Secretary, Development Finance Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)*

Stephen Jan, *Head of Health Economics, Health System Sciences at the George Institute for Global Health*



If you really want to solve a problem like ending blindness you need to look outside the regular grant-sized funding and think bigger. That's the only way to get it done.

Kirsten Armstrong, The Fred Hollows Foundation

LEARN MORE

Read the market analysis developed by the session organisers: [Impact Investing and the Australian INGO Market \(PDF\)](#)

Explore the work of DFAT's innovationXchange with their Frontier Brokers at www.iXc.dfat.gov.au/projects/frontier-brokers

Bridging worlds: the challenges and benefits of utilising for-purpose businesses as funding engines for Adara's INGO

Adara has two very different parts with one united purpose – serving communities in extreme poverty. In this session, Adara outlined their journey building a respected INGO in parallel with two corporate advisory businesses that financially secure the organisation. Delegates learnt how the unusual business model came to be and how it impacts Adara's work with remote communities in huge need.

SPEAKERS

Ilana Atlas, *Chair, Coca-Cola Amatil Ltd and Non-Executive Director, ANZ Banking Group Ltd*

Rosie Gallagher, *Partnerships Manager, Adara Development*

Cat O'Donovan, *Corporate Advisory Director, Adara Partners*

LEARN MORE

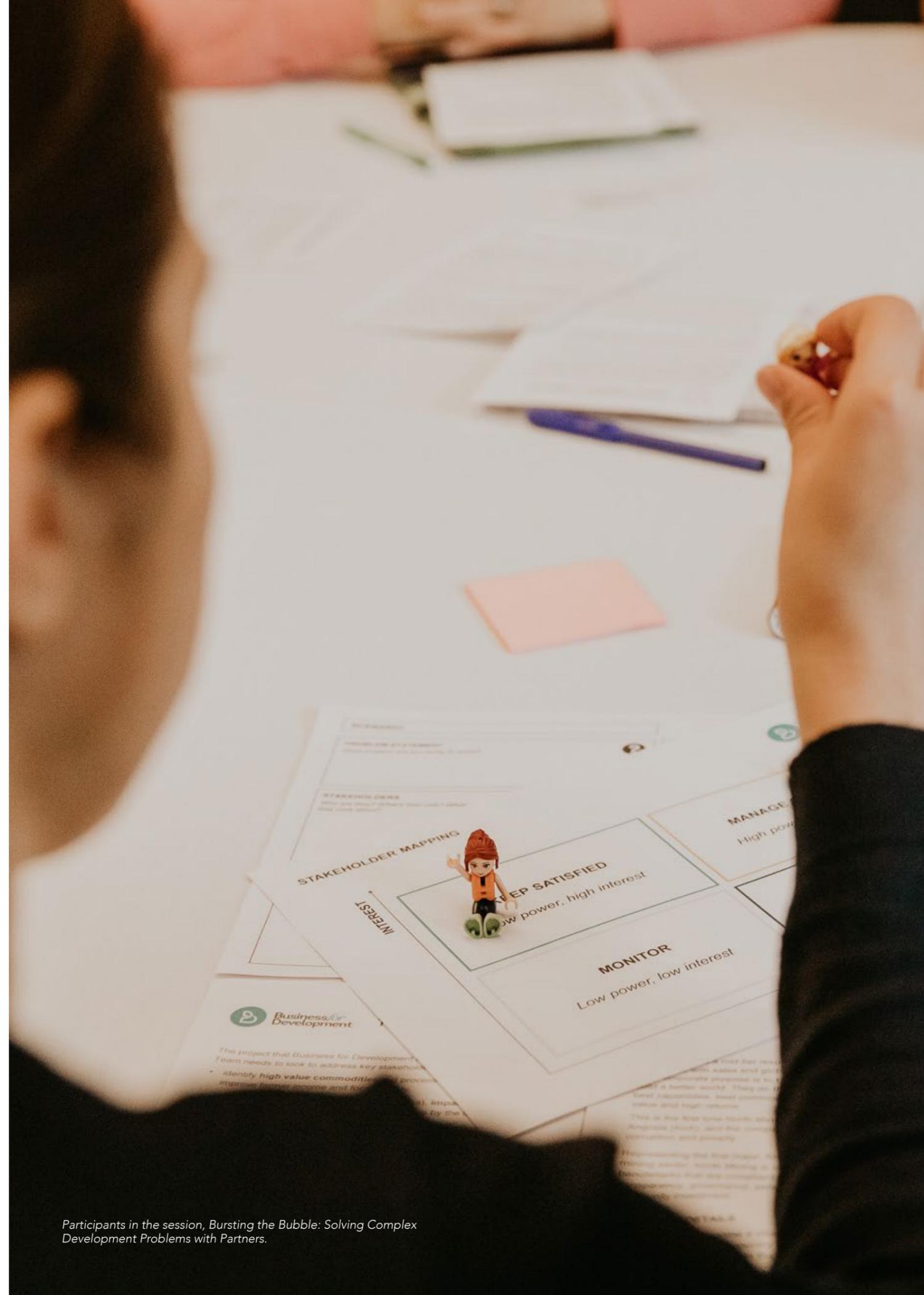
Learn about how the Adara businesses work at www.AdaraGroup.org/about-adara-businesses

If you're interested in how your organisation can use the power of business to create innovative funding models for change, get in touch via info@adarapartners.org and +61 2 9395 2800



Thought-provoking on what can be possible in this sector.

Feedback from session attendee



Participants in the session, *Bursting the Bubble: Solving Complex Development Problems with Partners.*

Bursting the bubble: solving complex development problems with partners

International development is full of change makers and action takers. But it's important to take the time to create robust ecosystems of partners to support programs, to avoid community reliance and to create lasting impact. This session explored how development organisations can burst the inward-looking bubble, creating more impactful partnerships with a commercial lens.

SPEAKERS

Stuart Anstee, *Principal (Biodiversity Consultant), Stuart Anstee & Associates (via video)*

Deb Doan, *Enterprise and Economic Empowerment Designer, Business for Development*

Karen James, *CEO, Business for Development (via video)*

Meg Kauthen, *Sustainability Designer, Business for Development*



LEARN MORE

Learn about B4D's work creating ecosystems of partners at www.BusinessForDevelopment.org/our-approach

Using embodied and cognitive approaches to foster resilient development

How can we encourage others to think and act in more resilient ways? This question served as the context for this fun and interactive workshop, which provided a 'taster' on how to apply embodied and cognitive learning approaches to support resilient development thinking and practice.

SPEAKERS

Mostofa Ali, *Acting Rural Manager, Oxfam in Bangladesh (via video)*

Elsa Carnaby, *Disaster Risk Reduction Program Advisor, Oxfam Australia*

Khalid Hossain, *Economic Justice Manager, Oxfam in Bangladesh (via video)*

Charlotte L. Sterrett, *Climate Change Program Advisor, Oxfam Australia*



LEARN MORE

Start your journey in transforming your thinking and practice to become more resilient! [Watch the powerful Resilient Development Video](#)

Are you interested in facilitating a new kind of learning journey? [Download the Resilient Development Learning Package for free](#)

The rollout of the Resilient Development Learning Package is happening now with learning events in Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Uganda and Indonesia. If your organisation is interested in hosting a learning event and being trained in the methodology contact charlottes@oxfam.org.au



The HOW matters: catalysing change from the ground up

This panel featured a range of development actors and activists with disabilities from across the region, sharing their experiences and perspectives in order to highlight lessons learned and reflect on the themes of shifting power, strengthening civil society, embracing human diversity and effective cross-sectoral partnerships.

This session also provided a practical introduction to Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) as an essential enabler of inclusive development.

SPEAKERS

Dwi Ariyani, *Program Officer for Indonesia, Disability Rights Fund / Disability Rights Advocacy Fund*

Angeline Chand, *Team Leader of Programs, Pacific Disability Forum*

Bhargavi Davar, *Convenor, Transforming Communities for Inclusion Asia/Pacific*

Christina Parasyn (moderator), *Disability Inclusion Advisor, CBM Australia*



You don't fix the individual. You fix the community.

Dr Bhargavi Davar, Transforming Communities for Inclusion Asia/Pacific

LEARN MORE

www.PacificDisability.org

www.tci-asia.org

[Bali Declaration 2018](#)

www.BapuTrust.com

www.DisabilityRightsFund.org

www.drafund.org

LEARN ABOUT COMMUNITY-BASED INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT (CBID) BY:

Exploring CBM Australia's CBID stories at www.cbm.org.au/cbid

Watching CBID videos by Collaborating 4 Inclusion at www.collaborating4inclusion.org

Downloading this poster resource on how CBID brings about change (PDF)

Protecting civilians: sustaining peace and development

This session explored the crucial links between conflict and poverty, peace and prosperity.

Lloyd Axworthy's call for "vigorous, comprehensive and sustained action" in 1999 formed the centre-point of this session as the expert group of panellists discussed 20 years of protecting civilians and the role and form that this may take in the future.



We need to shift our focus to what drives peace, because for too long we've only looked at what drives conflict.

Lisa Sharland, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

SPEAKERS

Beth Eggleston (moderator), *Co-Founder and Director, Humanitarian Advisory Group*

Dr Charles T. Hunt, *Vice Chancellor's Senior Research Fellow and ARC DECRA Fellow, Social & Global Studies Centre, RMIT*

Trilochan Bahadur Malla, *PhD candidate, School of Political Science and International Studies, University of QLD*

Lisa Sharland, *Head of International Program, Australian Strategic Policy Institute*

LEARN MORE

Read [Building a Culture of Protection](#), a UNOCHA paper marking 20 years of UN Security Council engagement on the protection of civilians

Challenging power: feminist practice beyond aid

From the Pacific Step Up, to the localisation agenda, to preventing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, power lies at the heart of all the biggest challenges facing our sector. This session explored the ways that NGOs are using feminist approaches to disrupt power in foreign affairs, international development, and within our own organisations.

SPEAKERS

Bettina Baldeschi, *CEO, International Women's Development Agency*

Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls, *Technical Advisor, Shifting the Power Coalition (via video)*

Gareth Beyers, *Policy & Government Relations Manager, Plan International Australia*

Michelle Higelin, *CEO, ActionAid Australia*

Dung Le Kim, *Country Director, CARE International in Vietnam (via video)*

Susanne Legena, *CEO, Plan International Australia*

Anu Mundkur (moderator), *Head of Gender Equality, CARE Australia*

Alice Ridge, *Research, Policy and Advocacy Advisor, International Women's Development Agency*

Sonia Sofat, *Director of Organising, Democracy in Colour*



LEARN MORE

Watch the video presentations by [Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls](#) and [Dung Le Kim](#)

Interested in understanding more about social power and power structures? [Read Srilatha Batliwala's 'All About Power' \(PDF\)](#)

For a deeper look at feminist foreign policy check out the new resources '[Feminist Foreign Policy: Key Principles & Accountability Mechanisms](#)' and '[From Rhetoric to Reality: Towards a Feminist Foreign Policy](#)' (PDF)

Learn about the Feminist Humanitarian Network at www.FeministHumanitarianNetwork.org

Women across the Pacific are leading emergency responses and taking power back into their own hands – [watch their stories in this video by the Shifting the Power Coalition](#)

Explore the latest research on [gender responsive alternatives to climate change](#)

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Think about how you can embed feminist principles in your organisation:

- Conduct a Gender Audit (visit the [ACFID Gender Audit Toolkit](#) to learn more)

- Join the ACFID Gender Equality Community of Practice by emailing rlans@acfid.asn.au

- Get Democracy in Colour to run a workshop at your organisation, or recruit one of their campaigning interns, via www.DemocracyInColour.org



As long as there remains inequality, then all women, all men, and all other sexes, should be feminists.

Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls, Shifting the Power Coalition



Feminist leadership is a process, not a destination.

Susanne Legena, Plan International Australia

Beyond shelter recovery to building capacity for self-recovery and resilience

An estimated 90 per cent of affected populations rebuild their housing without formal humanitarian assistance after a disaster. Presented by the ACFID Urban Community of Practice, this session explored strategies that have been effective at self-recovery for strengthening community resilience and sustainable development.

SPEAKERS

Chris Govers (moderator), *Head of International Programs, Habitat for Humanity Australia*

Masi Latianara, *Fiji National Director, Habitat for Humanity Fiji*

Dr Aaron Opdyke, *Lecturer in Humanitarian Engineering, Humanitarian Frontiers Lab, Sydney University*

Dr Mittul Vahanvati, *Lecturer in the School of Global, Urban and Social Studies, RMIT University*



Really great to have strong case studies from people on the ground.

Feedback from session attendee

LEARN MORE

Connect with the case study presenters: [Masi Latianara](#), [Dr Aaron Opdyke](#) and [Dr Mittul Vahanvati](#)

The Urban Community of Practice is a coalition of organisations and individuals engaged in international urban development humanitarian response, and who support sustainable and inclusive cities. If you're interested in joining the ACFID Urban Community of Practice, email rlans@acfid.asn.au

Research for All: guidance and tools for conducting disability inclusive research

Globally, 15 per cent of the world's population are estimated to have a disability, the majority of whom live in low- and middle-income countries. Yet people with disabilities have historically been excluded from development – and from development research. This session presented a resource providing user-friendly guidance and practical tools for conducting disability-inclusive research.

SPEAKERS

Karen Alexander, *Disability Inclusion Advisor, CBM Australia*

Lana Logam, *Technical Adviser, Nossal Institute for Global Health, Melbourne University*

Dr Philippa Smales, *Network and Partnerships Manager, RDI Network*

Laisa Vereti, *Planning, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Pacific Disability Forum (PDF)*



If you want meaningful work and meaningful impact, then consultation with DPOs needs to start at the beginning not half-way through. Meaningful starts at the design phase and continues right through to implementation.

Laisa Vereti, Pacific Disability Forum

LEARN MORE

www.PacificDisability.org

www.cbm.org.au

www.rdinetwork.org.au

<https://mispgh.unimelb.edu.au/centres-institutes/nossal-institute-for-global-health>

Joining forces to end violence against children (EVAC) in the Pacific and Timor-Leste

Child-centred development is often thought to be a highly contested and 'siloed' space, with child-focused agencies competing against one another in the pursuit of public and private funding. In this workshop, representatives from Australian EVAC Coalition member organisations discussed the value of taking a collaborative rather than competitive approach to promote sustainable development cooperation.

SPEAKERS

Gareth Beyers, *Policy & Government Relations Manager, Plan International Australia*

Dr Seforosa Carroll, *Theological Research & Church Partnerships, Pacific Uniting World*

Rebekah Kofoed, *Senior Child Protection Advisor, ChildFund Australia*

Kavitha Suthanthiraraj, *Policy and Advocacy Advisor, Save the Children Australia*

Andrew White, *Manager of Advocacy, World Vision Australia*



Great combination of perspectives and focus on overcoming real world challenges of EVAC.

Feedback from session attendee

LEARN MORE

Read [Unseen, Unsafe](#), the new report from the EVAC Coalition that uses five country-level case studies to bring together evidence, analysis and recommendations

[Read about the Pacific launches of Unseen, Unsafe](#)

Download [UnitingWorld's bible studies on Child Protection and Care](#) and find out about their [Gender Equality Theology](#)

The EVAC Coalition continue to work together to share the findings from [Unseen, Unsafe](#) and to design effective solutions in consultation with in-country partners and donors (particularly MFAT and DFAT) and showcased some of the possible programmatic interventions at the 2019 ANCP Reflection Day.

Confronting our own power: leadership and institutional change in INGOs

At the 2019 RDI Conference Srilatha Batliwala noted that championing sustainable development requires 'development agencies to confront and dismantle the deep structures of power within our own organisations...'. This session explored this statement with NGO leaders and researchers investigating INGOs' attempts to promote institutional change.

SPEAKERS

Chris Adams (moderator), *Senior Advisor, Outreach and Learning, Institute of Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University*

Glenn Bond, *Independent development consultant and PhD candidate, La Trobe University*

Caitlin Finlayson, *PhD candidate, La Trobe University*

Chris Roche, *Director and Professor of Practice, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University*

Peter Walton, *Director, International Programs, Australian Red Cross*

Rosie Wheen, *Chief Executive Officer, WaterAid Australia*

Angela Wilton, *Director of Partnerships, Oxfam New Zealand*



The journey of transformational change is related to culture, identity and values.

Angela Wilton, Oxfam New Zealand



LEARN MORE

Keep up-to-date on work in this area by the Institute for Human Security and Social Change at www.latrobe.edu.au/socialchange



TALANOAS

Talanoa is a traditional word used across the Pacific for an inclusive dialogue. Following plenary panel discussions, speakers moved into smaller groups to continue discussions with delegates.



Pacific Leaders

Reverend James Bhagwan, *General Secretary, Pacific Conference of Churches*

Siale Ilolahia, *Executive Director, PIANGO*

Amena Yauvoli, *Director General, Melanesian Spearhead Group*



You cannot talk about Pacific regionalism if you're not going to talk about Pacific solidarity. If you're not going to have the hard conversation with us like West Papua, then don't come for the easy ones.

Reverend James Bhagwan, Pacific Conference of Churches



Development Cooperation

Melissa Conley Tyler, *Director, AsiaLink Diplomacy*

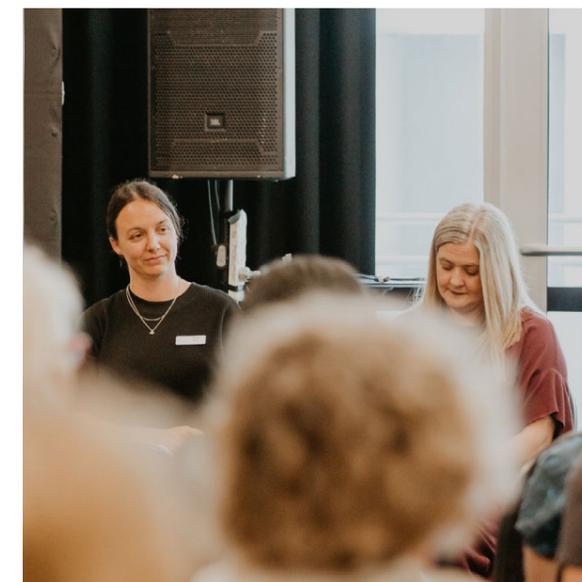
Anthea Mulakala, *Senior Director, The Asia Foundation*

Bridi Rice, *Director of Policy and Advocacy, ACFID*



I'm very hopeful that the sector can work out how to adapt, work out how to achieve the things you need to achieve in a new environment.

Melissa Conley Tyler, AsiaLink Diplomacy



Civil Society

Teela Reid, *Wiradjuri & Wailwan Lawyer and Activist*

Davaajargal Batdorj, *Mongolian Red Cross Society*

Dr Aqueel Khan, *Director, Association for Stimulating Know How*



It's not about capacity development of the partner organisation, it's about capacity development of the community.

Dr Aqueel Khan, Association for Stimulating Know How

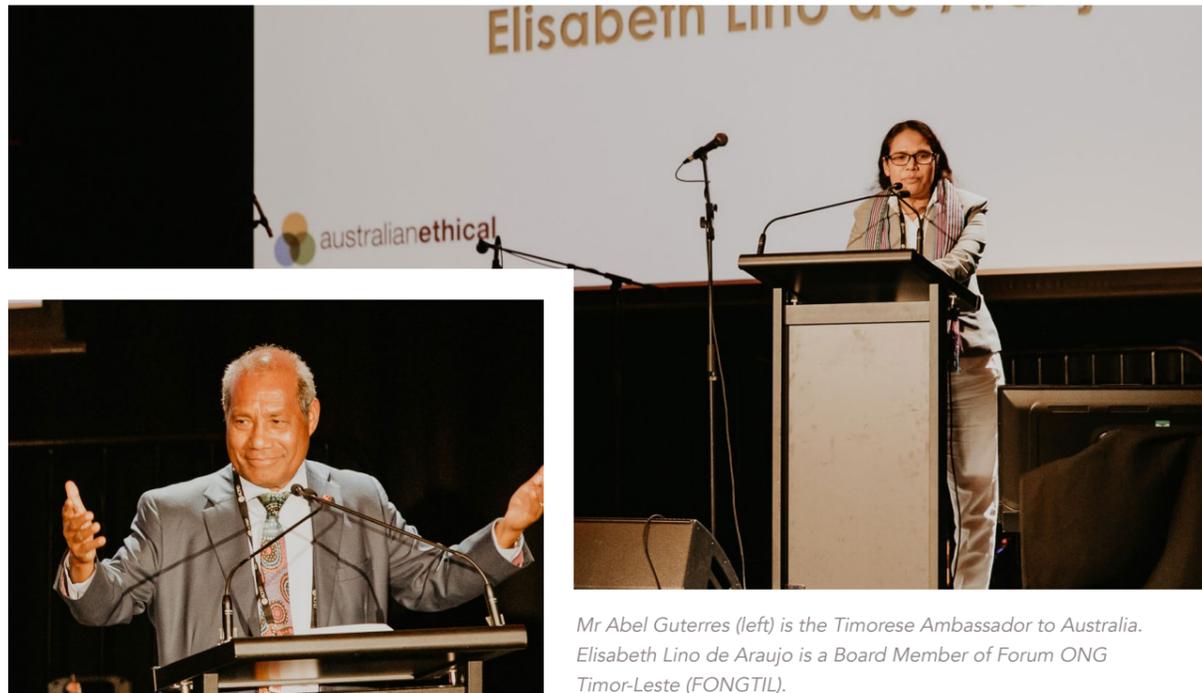


CONFERENCE DINNER

Entertainment for the night was provided by Bobby Alu. Listen to his [website](#), where you can also [purchase his album](#). Read interviews with him on [Double J](#) and [Pacific Mornings](#).



Commemorating the Timorese Referendum



Mr Abel Guterres (left) is the Timorese Ambassador to Australia. Elisabeth Lino de Araujo is a Board Member of Forum ONG Timor-Leste (FONGTIL).

The ACFID Conference dinner took place on the evening of the first day in UNSW's Roundhouse. Hosted by ACFID President Susan Pascoe AM, the dinner invited guests to commemorate and celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Timorese people gaining the right to self-determination and the beginning of their journey as an independent country.

ACFID invited those within member organisations who were involved in the struggle for independence to reflect on their experience and share memories of that time.

These reflections were coalesced into a video screened for the audience.

Timorese Ambassador to Australia, Mr Abel Guterres, joined for the evening to also reflect on that time, what the 20-year anniversary means to him, and the importance of a strong and protected civil society.

A special evening keynote was delivered by Elisabeth Lino de Araujo from Forum ONG Timor-Leste (FONGTIL). She reflected on the endurance and continuous strengthening of civil society in Timor-Leste.



ACFID Awards



Awardees (L-R): Matt Wade, Louise Kennerley, Nigel Spence, Veronica Koman.

Presented at the dinner, the ACFID Awards provide an important opportunity to recognise the achievements of those who have made an impact and difference to our sector over the last year.

The ACFID Media Award was the first presentation of the evening, and was awarded to Senior Economics Writer at the Sydney Morning Herald, Matt Wade, and photo-journalist Louise Kennerly for their piece 'Right on our doorstep': Papua New Guinea's health crises hit home'. The award recognised their respectful portrayal of patients, families, and healthcare workers in Papua New Guinea, and their use of personal stories to emphasise the gravity of the decline of the nation's health system.

The second presentation for the evening was the Outstanding Contribution to the Sector Award, given to Nigel Spence, Chief Executive Officer of ChildFund Australia. Mr Spence has been a committed, enthusiastic, and tireless advocate for children for over four decades. He has been instrumental in ensuring ChildFund's program focus has adapted to the changing needs of children, expanding beyond its original scope to respond to the critical issues of child protection, children's resilience, risk preparedness, and responses to conflicts and disasters. Mr Spence has also been a leading contributor to ChildFund's global network, the ChildFund Alliance.

The final award of the evening was the Sir Ron Wilson Human Rights Award. This was awarded to human rights lawyer and West Papua activist, Veronica Koman. Ms Koman has been instrumental in highlighting the ongoing human rights abuses committed by Indonesia in West Papua. During recent protests, Indonesia enforced a media blackout in which she became an instrumental source of updates concerning what action was taking place on the ground. Recently, Ms Koman was forced to flee Indonesia in response to threats against her safety, seeking asylum in Australia.

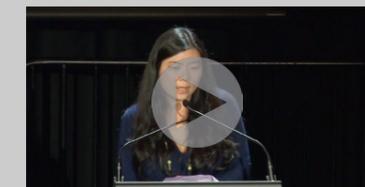
WATCH THE ACCEPTANCE SPEECHES



youtu.be/yQBpj_CzNE



youtu.be/Ywr48pl6AiU



youtu.be/0YQNY5FOnfQ

LEARN MORE AND CONNECT

Read the Media Award story: 'Right on our Doorstep': Papua New Guinea's health crisis hits home.

For media coverage on the awards, see page 47.

Follow the awardees on Twitter:

- [@MattWadeSMH](https://twitter.com/MattWadeSMH)
- [@kennerlylouise](https://twitter.com/kennerlylouise)
- [@NigelHSpence](https://twitter.com/NigelHSpence)
- [@VeronicaKoman](https://twitter.com/VeronicaKoman)

ACFID COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

ACFID holds an Annual General Meeting (AGM) at least once every financial year, which takes place at the Conference. This year, four resolutions were proposed and passed by the Council.



ACFID RESOLUTION 1/2019

Resolution on Western Sahara

MOVED BY:

Kate Lee, Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA

SECONDED BY:

Michelle Higelin, ActionAid

Members backed the first proposed resolution at the Annual General Meeting to support the right of the Saharawi people to self-determination and independence.

Annexed by Morocco in 1975, Western Sahara has been the subject of a territorial dispute between Morocco and its indigenous Saharawi people, led by the Polisario Front.

ACFID's members, Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA and ActionAid Australia, put forward the resolution at the AGM which was held during the ACFID National Conference in Sydney and received the support of the ACFID membership.

Following the passing of the resolution, Executive Officer of Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA, Kate Lee, said:

"Today's decision by ACFID members to support the resolution on Western Sahara is a strong signal from Australia's development community that the status quo is not acceptable.

"The violation of human rights and ongoing illegal occupation by the Moroccan regime must end, and a pathway to peace implemented.

"For too long the Saharawi have been denied their legal right to a referendum on self-determination, which was agreed to 28 years ago, yet is continuously obstructed by Morocco.

"The Australian community must do all we can to help free Africa's last colony."

LEARN MORE

[Read the full resolution](#) on the ACFID website.

Resolution on Climate Change

MOVED BY:

Dermot O’Gorman, WWF Australia
Susanne Legena, Plan International Australia
Lyn Morgain, Oxfam Australia

SECONDED BY:

Christian Nielsen, Live and Learn Environmental Education

Passing the second proposed resolution, members backed Pacific calls for Australia to cease thermal coal exports by 2030 whilst increasing Australia’s domestic climate ambition in-line with the Paris Agreement and refraining from using Kyoto ‘carryover’ credits.

The resolution – proposed by WWF Australia, Plan International Australia and Oxfam Australia – highlighted the imminent threats to the wellbeing, culture, security and sovereignty of Australia’s Pacific neighbours and called on the Australian Government to increase Australia’s national ambition, in line with the scale and pace of action necessary to help limit global warming to 1.5°C

Commenting on the resolution, ACFID CEO, Marc Purcell said:

“Australians have ranked climate change at the top of the list of threats to Australia’s interests. Our closest allies, like the UK, have appealed to Australian Ministers to create a more ambitious climate policy. The Chief of the Defence Force, General Campbell, has said climate change will have serious ramifications for regional security and how Australia responds will determine our future international relationships in the region.

“Most importantly, for the most vulnerable Pacific countries, this is a matter of survival.

“The Australian Government’s actions have simply been inadequate to the challenge at-hand. To achieve the Pacific ‘step-up’ Australia must stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Pacific peoples in responding to the climate crisis.”

Dermot O’Gorman, CEO of WWF Australia – who spoke in support of the resolution at the conference – said: “Today we have shown Pacific Island communities that Aussies are with them on their call for stronger climate action. Our Pacific island neighbours now know that their message is being heard.

“As Australians, we are committed to amplifying their voice.

“The Australian Government can’t continue to brush aside the concerns of Pacific Island nations as the chorus grows louder. Only by changing our domestic climate policy can Australia achieve the regional security we all desire”.

Oxfam Australia Chief Executive, Lyn Morgain - who seconded the resolution – said Pacific Island countries had long recognised climate change as the single greatest threat to the wellbeing, livelihoods and security of their peoples and there was an urgent need for Australia to step up to the defining challenge of our times.

“Pacific Island countries and communities are leading the fight for climate justice, shifting rapidly to clean energy, building the resilience of their communities, and holding the rest of the world - including Australia - to account,” Ms Morgain said.

“Meanwhile, the Australian Government’s extraordinary recklessness in the face of this crisis is undermining the future of our Pacific Island neighbours and risking the lives and prospects of communities everywhere.

“Oxfam joins all ACFID members in resolute support for the Pacific’s longstanding calls to action, in particular the need for a swift and just phasing out of fossil fuels. We must stop coal exports by 2030 at the latest, curb Australia’s rising emissions and work in partnership with our region to build clean, resilient economies of the future.”

LEARN MORE



Watch Dermot O’Gorman (WWF Australia), Lyn Morgain (Oxfam Australia), and Rt Hon Enele Sopoaga (Former Prime Minister of Tuvalu) speak to the resolution: youtu.be/foSDXcCu7Lo

Read the full resolution on the ACFID website.

Resolution on Disability-Inclusive Development in the Aid Program

MOVED BY:

Jane Edge, CBM Australia

SECONDED BY:

Kylie Mines, Motivation Australia

Passing the third proposed resolution, members encouraged the Australian Government to continue its work as a global leader in advancing disability inclusion in international development policy and practice.

The resolution seeks a commitment from the Australian Government for the creation of a third ‘Development for All’ strategy that will build on the success to date in the implementation of disability-inclusive development through the Australian development and humanitarian programs.

Jane Edge, CEO of CBM Australia said:

“Upholding the rights and ensuring the full inclusion of the world’s one billion people with disabilities is a moral imperative. When we talk about leaving no one behind, this has to include people with disabilities.

“People with disabilities in developing countries often face higher levels of discrimination, exclusion and violence than the rest of the population, alongside lower levels of food security, inclusion in livelihood activities and access to health care and education.

“Together, we can remove barriers and make a real difference for and with people with disabilities. Inclusive Australian aid and development helps to ensure we keep our commitment to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and leave no one behind.”

Kylie Mines, Founder and CEO of Motivation Australia said:

“The Australian Government has been a global leader in including people with disabilities in their aid program, however there is much work to be done and we cannot drop the ball now. They need to continue this work and commit to a third Development for All strategy.

“For over a decade the Australian Government has been driving momentum and change to include people with disabilities in all aid and development initiatives. While we commend this work, there is still much to be done and we cannot afford to stop now.

“Having a focus on people with disabilities has made very real and tangible differences in people’s lives from supporting women with disabilities to achieve financial independence, to facilitating access to much-needed assistive devices, and strengthening educational opportunities for students with disabilities. However, our job is not done and we need to continue to prioritise this work to ensure no one is left behind.”

LEARN MORE



Watch Jane Edge (CBM Australia) and Angeline Chand (Pacific Disability Forum) speak to the resolution: youtu.be/2DomUbeeNys

Read the full resolution on the ACFID website.

Resolution on the Role of ODA in Defending Civil Society Space

MOVED BY:

Mat Tinkler, Save the Children Australia

SECONDED BY:

Lyn Morgain, Oxfam Australia

Passing the fourth proposed resolution, members united to sound the alarm on the growing repression of peoples' rights and freedoms in Australia's region and have called for Australian foreign policy-makers to more vigorously address the disturbing trend.

NGOs agreed to press the Australian Government to strengthen Australia's foreign policy by "advancing the grounding values of political, economic and religious freedoms".

Speaking following the passing of the resolution, ACFID CEO, Marc Purcell said:

"For 13 consecutive years the world has seen a decline in political rights and civil liberties and the space for civil society has been attacked and curtailed.

"Global reports show only 4 per cent of the world's population now live in countries where freedoms of association, peaceful assembly and expression are respected.

"It is in Australia's region where some of the most egregious repression has occurred. Extrajudicial killings in the Philippines, human rights violations in Myanmar and the imprisonment of opposition leaders in Cambodia are the tip of the iceberg. This growing repression is a threat to Australia because it sets the scene for greater conflict and a more unstable region.

"Australia must act with its international partners, use its position on the UN Human Rights Council to champion universal human rights and call out violations."

Mat Tinkler, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Save the Children Australia, the NGO proposing the resolution said:

"Civil society organisations are central to a functioning democracy but we're increasingly seeing them silenced

by governments.

"Raising human rights concerns or being critical of government policy shouldn't put funding for vital services or humanitarian aid at risk.

"To achieve long-term, sustainable change, civil society organisations must have the ability to participate fully and advocate vigorously without fear of retribution."

Oxfam Australia Chief Executive, Lyn Morgain - who seconded the resolution - said it was crucial to a functioning democracy that non-government organisations were able to promote human rights, fundamental freedoms and good practice through advocacy.

"A vital test of any democracy is the ability of the people to express views that are not shared by the government.

"Without the ability to influence policy and social attitudes, Oxfam would simply not be able to deliver on its mission here and around the world."

"ACFID members are facing an increasingly restricted environment in many countries where we work, which challenges our ability to hold governments to account while providing critical services, such as healthcare, and humanitarian assistance," Ms Morgain said.

LEARN MORE



Watch Mat Tinkler (Save the Children Australia), Lyn Morgain (Oxfam Australia) and Siale Ilolahia (PIANGO) speak to the resolution: youtu.be/DESnuBZc6CI

[Read the full resolution](#) on the ACFID website.

MEDIA



Right: Rt Hon Enele Sopoaga speaks with Liam Fox on ABC The World. Watch the interview [here](#).

Tuvalu's former PM would 'never accept communist China' in Pacific

The World Exclusive by Pacific affairs reporter [Liam Fox](#)
Updated 23 Oct 2019, 12:23pm



Sopoaga's influence in the Pacific region is "disturbing". (ABC News)

INSIDE DEVELOPMENT | PACIFIC AID

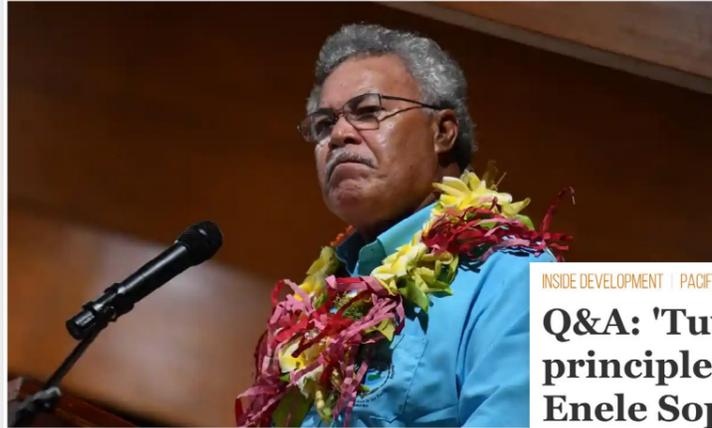
Q&A: 'Tuvalu will never sacrifice our principles for a few million': former PM Enele Sopoaga

By [Lisa Cornish](#) // 24 October 2019

Above: Lisa Cornish at Devex interviews Rt Hon Enele Sopoaga. Read the interview [here](#).

Former Tuvalu PM says he was 'stunned' by Scott Morrison's behaviour at Pacific Islands Forum

Enele Sopoaga says he was also 'insulted and deeply angry' at comments made by Australian deputy prime minister Michael McCormack



Above: Kate Lyons at the Guardian interviews Rt Hon Enele Sopoaga, and covers the climate change resolution passed at the ACFID AGM. Read the story [here](#).

Former Pacific leader slams Morrison over climate change



Andrew Tillett
Political Correspondent
Updated Oct 23, 2019 — 5:41pm, first published at 5:39pm

Canberra | A former Pacific Island leader has accused Scott Morrison of prioritising "making money" over "saving lives" through his ongs for the coal industry.

Tuvalu's former prime minister Enele Sopoaga warned that \$50 billion promised by the Morrison government under the "Pacific step-up" on climate change mitigation projects in the region was grossly compared with the damage being wrought by global warming.

Above: Andrew Tillett at the Australian Financial Review discusses Rt Hon Enele Sopoaga's speech delivered at the conference. Read the story [here](#).

The Right Honourable Enele Sopoaga - Former Prime Minister of Tuvalu, and Global Climate Leader

Welcome to Episode 50 of Good Will Hunters! I cannot believe we made it this far - I'm so proud of this show and so proud of us as a community. I had wondered who would be our guest on this episode. Read More



Above: Rt Hon Enele Sopoaga's speaks with Rachel Mason Nunn at the conference for the podcast, Good Will Hunters. Listen to the episode [here](#).

'Take the money and shut up': Ex-Tuvalu PM slams Morrison's climate bargaining



Above: Rt Hon Enele Sopoaga speaks with SBS. Watch the interview [here](#).

NGOs urge Australia to call out human rights violations

Global reports say just 4 per cent of the world's population live in countries that respect free expression and peaceful assembly

Above: Pro Bono Australia covers the civil society resolution passed by the ACFID Council - read the story [here](#).

Special Episode: ACFID Annual General Meeting Wrap-Up

Welcome to Episode 52 of Good Will Hunters. This is a special episode, summarising the four resolutions that were passed at the ACFID Annual General Meeting, held in late October in Sydney. I chat with the members who proposed the resolutions. Read More



Above: Rachel Mason Nunn from the Good Will Hunters podcast interviews members who proposed resolutions at the ACFID AGM. Listen to the episode [here](#).

INSIDE DEVELOPMENT | PACIFIC AID

Understanding Pacific needs: Insights from ACFID 2019 conference

By [Lisa Cornish](#) // 30 October 2019

Trade & Policy Economic Development PIANGO ACFID Australia East Asia and Pacific



A scene from the 2019 Australian Council for International Development conference held in Sydney. Photo by: ACFID

RELATED JOBS

Labor's Pat Conroy on aid and development

October 24, 2019 · Add Comment · by Pat Conroy · 14 min read



Left: Lisa Cornish at Devex discusses insights from the Conference, including highlights from the opening panel, 'In Conversation with Pacific Leaders'. Read there story [here](#).

Above: Pat Conroy MP, Shadow Minister for International Development and the Pacific, publishes his speech in DevPolicy. Read the speech [here](#).

Veronica Koman wins Australian human rights award for Papua activism

News Desk
The Jakarta Post

Above: The Jakarta Post discusses the awarding of the ACFID Sir Ron Wilson Human Rights Award to Veronica Koman. Read the story [here](#).

Veronica Koman receives Australian human rights award for West Papua activism

By [Tasha Wibawa](#)
Updated 24 Oct 2019, 7:39am



Veronica Koman
Human Rights Lawyer

NEWS | INDONESIA
Berita Dunia Indonesia Olahraga Majalah #TrenSosial Video Audio Galeri

Veronika Koman, penghargaan lembaga HAM Australia, dan status tersangka: 'Kalau bergaul dengan orang Papua, ketakutan hilang'

Callistasia Wijaya
Wartawan BBC News Indonesia
© 25 Oktober 2019

f t e Kirim



Above: BBC News Indonesia discusses the awarding of the ACFID Sir Ron Wilson Human Rights Award to Veronica Koman. Read the story [here](#).

Left: Veronica Koman speaks with the ABC on receiving the award from ACFID. Watch the video, and read the story, [here](#).

DELEGATE FEEDBACK AND TAKEAWAYS



Refreshed understanding and enthusiasm for what's happening in the sector.

Takeaway from Conference delegate



Inspiration, ideas and renewed and improved relationships. Stronger resolve to perform my work with creativity and energy.

Takeaways from Conference delegate



I really appreciate the efforts to make the conference greener. Venue and speakers were brilliant.

Feedback from Conference delegate



The focus on bringing in a range of voices to speak on the issues impacting them or their work was very important.

Feedback from Conference delegate



I will remember the quote, "We need to stop being the voice for the voiceless, and hand over the mic".

Takeaway from Conference delegate



Partner voices! This was the best ACFID Conference I've been too!

Feedback from Conference delegate



If we address climate justice we can address many of the issues we face worldwide.

Takeaway from Conference delegate



Australia - governments and INGOs - need to accelerate the transition of power to the countries where we work, to understand partnership and to actually demonstrate respect for our partners.

Takeaway from Conference delegate



Great sessions. Dynamic content. Need more heat, or contestation, as the group calls it! If we are to change we need a bit more discomfort and time for conversations and problem solving.

Feedback from Conference delegate



Three main points: listen better, collaborate more, and challenge traditional ways of doing business.

Takeaways from Conference delegate



The power of innovation and technology - and the need to move fast.

Takeaway from Conference delegate



The importance of building diversity on our board.

Takeaway from Conference delegate

EXHIBITORS



Australian Ethical Investment



Australian Ethical Investment is Australia's leading ethical super and investment manager. They are an investment manager with a difference: one that doesn't compromise returns for ethics or ethics for returns but achieves both to benefit people, planet and animals.

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up to 10 per cent of yearly profits (after tax and before bonuses) to charitable organisations and social impact initiatives through the Australian Ethical Foundation.

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ACMC's commitment to continued delivery of best-practice approaches to Civil-Military-Police engagement

by those involved in the strategic planning and delivery of conflict and disaster management activities.

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Visit the ACMC website at: www.acmc.gov.au

INTL FCSTONE



For over 30 years, INTL FCStone has been providing foreign exchange and treasury services to international aid and development organizations, UN agencies, NGOs, religious entities, government agencies, and financial institutions. They facilitate transactions to more than with 175 countries with particular expertise in exotic currencies and payments to our wonderful partner organisations throughout the world.

INTL FCStone work with several ACFID members supporting their international fund disbursement. They are long-time supporter of the ACFID Membership and the Conference.

LEARN MORE

Visit the INTL FCStone website at: www.intlfcstone.com

Board Effect



More than 2,750 leading organisations and over 180,000 users around the globe rely on BoardEffect to manage board-related information online and advance the work of their boards. Hospitals and healthcare systems, non-profit organisations, foundations, educational institutions, government entities and many others leverage BoardEffect to support the dynamic, nuanced, critically important work of their governing bodies.

BoardEffect generously raffled off an Apple Watch during the Conference – congratulations to Greg Thompson of Anglican Board of Mission Australia.

LEARN MORE

Visit the BoardEffect website at: www.boardeffect.com/au

OSKY Fundraise Digital



OSKY specialises in assisting organisations in integrating services through digital transformation. Having worked with many NFP organisations, OSKY understands the importance of reaching out to convey that vital awareness message, or that call to action to encourage people to support a worthy cause. OSKY is the creator of FundRaise Digital, a fun online platform that encourages people to raise funds as well as raising awareness for many charities.

OSKY generously announced two \$10,000 grants at the Conference - congratulations to Union Aid Abroad- APHEDA, and Quaker Service Australia.

LEARN MORE

Visit the OSKY website at:
osky.com.au

Whitelum Group



Whitelum Group is a professional consulting firm that specialises in international and community development.

They work with the Australian Government and other international donors, civil society, and private sector who want quality development to contribute to sustainable futures and empowered communities.

They are an industry leader in international development program design, adaptive project management,

monitoring, evaluation and learning, and providing strategic advice to find innovative solutions to development challenges.

LEARN MORE

Visit the Whitelum Group website at:
whitelumgroup.com

Campaign for Australian Aid



The Campaign for Australian Aid is a community of people determined to build a fair, sustainable, and peaceful world.

They are a community of Australian aid and development organisations, churches, community groups, businesses and citizens who speak out for a world where all people, regardless of gender, race, or place of birth, can live a free, happy and healthy life. They support a global

approach to action on poverty, inequality, and climate change and for an Australia that is a compassionate global citizen helping to create a fair, sustainable, and peaceful world.

LEARN MORE

Visit the Campaign for Australian Aid website at:
australianaid.org

RDI Network

The RDI Network is a network of practitioners, researchers and evaluators working in international development, offering a key cross-sector platform for shared learning and action in international development.

The Network exists to foster collaboration between Australian universities and NGOs in order to promote high quality and ethical development research, translated as evidence and applied to effective policy and practice.

LEARN MORE

Visit the RDI Network website at:
www.rdinetwork.org.au

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Cover photo: A Conference delegate takes a photo as the event begins.
Photo: ACFID.

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