



STAR 2018

The Pacific Islands Science, Technology and Resources Network Conference

FIRST CIRCULAR and CALL FOR PAPERS

STAR 2018 is being planned for late-June or early-July 2018. The conference will be held in Suva, Fiji.

STAR 2018 will be dedicated to the memory of Peter Rodda who passed away on 12 October 2017. A special session will be convened to showcase Peter's geological work in Fiji.

Conference Theme

The overall theme of **STAR 2018** will be:

“Geoscience Development in the Pacific Islands – Planning for 2030”

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

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

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

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

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

However, issues on **any** topic related to the overall conference theme or the Pacific region in general will also be welcome and will be included in the **STAR 2018** Programme where possible.



STAR 2018 draws attention to opportunities that can be realised from the new global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2016-2030 in particular SDG14 on oceans that was further developed in New York in June 2017 and will also focus on the implementation on the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the outcomes for COP23 in November 2017, chaired by Fiji, that will provide a focus on adaptation and mitigation for PSIDS

Abstract Submission

Delegates intending to participate in **STAR 2018** are hereby invited to submit titles of papers and abstracts under the focus areas and an indication of whether it will be an oral presentation or a poster paper. Instructions to presenters will be provided on the STAR website:

<http://star.qsd.spc.int>

Abstracts should be submitted via email to starconference2018@gmail.com. Early submission is strongly encouraged with a deadline of 27 April 2018.

Conference Format

Oral and Poster presentation sessions will be available during **STAR 2018**. However, there will be limited opportunities for oral presentations; therefore more than one poster per participant will be permitted.

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

Working Groups under the four focal areas (or others depending on interest) will be convened during **STAR 2018** to facilitate discussion of specialist topics and issues important to the region.

A One-day Field Trip will also be planned for **STAR 2018**. Details will be announced in the Second Circular.

Conference Publications

A **STAR 2018** Abstracts Volume will be provided to all delegates as part of the registration pack.

Second Circular

The **STAR 2018** Second Circular that will provide full details for the conference will include: registration arrangements, information on accommodation and the field trip and a provisional programme will be forwarded in February 2018.

The **STAR 2018** Steering Committee look forward to your participation in the conference.

Malakai Finau
STAR Chair

20 December 2017

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