



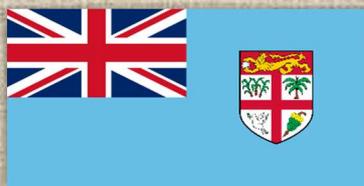
# STAR 2017

## The Pacific Islands Science, Technology and Resources Network Conference

### SECOND CIRCULAR and CALL FOR PAPERS

STAR 2017 is now confirmed for 26 - 29 June 2017. The conference will be held in Nadi, Fiji, at the Tanoa International Hotel.

The conference will be co-sponsored by the Government of Fiji and the Geoscience Division of the Pacific Community (SPC). The conference is also supported by the Circum-Pacific Council.



### Conference Theme

The overall theme of STAR 2017 will be:

#### “Geosciences and Sustainable Environmental Resources in the Pacific Islands Region”

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) and the region:

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

**Ocean Geoscience:** This theme will investigate the resource potential and environmental and social monitoring and management issues that relate to the EEZs of PSIDS, 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, and the environment of the ocean floor.

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

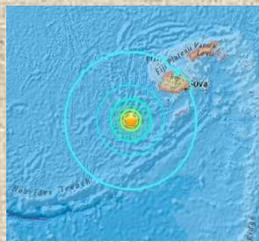
**Land Use and Infrastructure Development on Pacific Islands:** This theme will concentrate on the terrestrial, coastal, and nearshore areas and is expected to include examples of on-shore resources, soils, agriculture and the application of GIS and Remote Sensing to the on-shore, coastal and nearshore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

However, papers 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 2017** Programme where possible.

### Special Sessions

Several special sessions on topical issues in the region have been proposed.

#### ***“Earthquake and Tsunami Risk in the Pacific Region”***



The past few years have seen a number of seismic and tsunami events occur in the SW Pacific region. For example, recent events in the Solomon Islands, Fiji and New Zealand have caused considerable losses and tested the emergency management processes within the affected countries. Papers in this session will explore the science behind the events, their effects on local communities and the processes that were implemented to manage the response and recovery process.



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#### ***“Resource Development in Pacific Nations”***

The development of national resources in Pacific countries is important due to the scarcity of the commodities. Some work has been done in a number of sectors to develop these resources with varying degrees of success. Papers in this session will explore the mechanisms that have been investigated and implemented as well as what resources are available to assist in the development of national resource sustainability.



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### **STAR Web Site**

The **STAR** web site has been developed and includes all information including circulars, conference programs. Important updates will also be provided on a regular basis. It also includes details from previous sessions. The web site can be accessed via the following link:



## **STAR 2017 Timetable**

A detailed conference program will be available on registration, however, a tentative outline of planned events is provided below for your information:

Friday	28 April	Early-bird registrations and abstract submissions close
Sunday	25 June	
	Afternoon	Registrations
	Evening	Icebreaker Reception (hosted by the Government of Fiji)
Monday	26 June	
	Morning	Registrations, Official Opening and STAR Sessions
	Afternoon	STAR Sessions
	Evening	Working Group Meetings
Tuesday	27 June	
	Morning	STAR Sessions
	Afternoon	STAR Sessions
	Evening	Working Group Meetings
Wednesday	28 June	STAR Field Trip
Thursday	29 June	
	Morning	STAR Sessions
	Afternoon	STAR Sessions conclude, STAR Business Meeting and Closing Session
	Evening	Conference Reception (hosted by Geoscience Division of SPC)

## **Abstract Submission**

Delegates intending to participate in **STAR 2017** are hereby invited to submit abstracts and an indication of whether it will be an oral presentation or a poster. Full details should be provided on the attached registration form.

Abstracts should be limited to 300 words and provided in MS-Word format. A graphic file (jpg format) may be included in the abstract, but it must be less than 1 Mb.

Submit abstracts via email to:

[starconference2017@gmail.com](mailto:starconference2017@gmail.com)

Early submission is strongly encouraged with a deadline of 28 April 2017.

## **Conference Format**

Oral and Poster presentation sessions will be available during **STAR 2017**. However, there will be limited opportunities for oral presentations; therefore more than one poster per participant will be permitted.

Projection facilities will be available for presentations. It is planned that daily sessions will be held during the hours 09:00 – 12:00 and 14:00 – 17:00; over two days of the three-day event. Depending on the number of papers submitted, multiple sessions may be conducted.

Display boards will be available for presentation of posters. Posters may be displayed for the entire conference period.

## **Conference Publications**

A **STAR 2017** Abstracts Volume will be provided to all delegates as part of the registration pack.



## Registration

Early-bird registration for **STAR 2017** is strongly encouraged with the deadline being 28 April 2017.

Registration fees for **STAR 2017** will be as follows:

- Delegate registrations received on/before 28 April 2017 FJD200.00
- Delegate registrations received after 28 April 2017 FJD250.00
- Pacific Island National Registrations FJD100.00
- Student Registrations (currently enrolled in a tertiary Institution) FJD50.00

Registration fees will include morning and afternoon teas as well as the Conference Receptions.

Registration fees must be paid in advance and must be deposited into the bank account for **STAR 2017** and a copy of the bank transfer included with your registration details. Please ensure that you include reference to the Budget Code when making the transfer and provide a copy of the confirmation of transfer with your registration. Bank account details are provided below:

Account Name: SPC Main A/C  
Account Number: 05360638  
Bank: ANZ  
Bank Address: ANZ House, Victoria Parade, Suva Fiji  
BSB: 010890  
SWIFT Number: ANZBFJFX (for use by overseas delegates)  
Budget Code: GDDA09XS – STAR Conference

A **STAR 2017** Registration Form is attached to this circular, please complete and return as soon as possible.

## Side Events

### STAR Working Groups

Working Groups under the four focal areas (or others depending on interest) will be convened during **STAR 2017** to facilitate discussion on specialist topics and issues important to the region. Working Group details will be provided in registration packs on arrival. Currently, it is planned that the following working groups will be convened:

Education;

Geothermal Resources; and

Seabed Minerals.

Participants wishing to recommend the conduct of a Working Group should indicate this on the registration form.

### Conference Field Trip

A one-day intra-conference field trip will be offered. The field trip will likely focus on Western Viti Levu, looking at the Nadi Basin and adjacent areas in which activities focusing on the geological features and resource development of the region. Further details including cost will be made available in due course and via the STAR web site.

## Immigration Requirements

As Fiji is a popular holiday destination entry is quite relaxed, however, visitors from most countries are issued with tourist visa on arrival. It is also advisable to check

with your travel agent to confirm visa requirements before you depart.

Visitors will need a valid passport with at least 6 months validity and a valid return ticket.

### **Accommodation**

The preferred **STAR 2017** accommodation provider is the Tanoa International Hotel, Votualevu Road, Nadi.



Accommodation bookings will be an individual responsibility for participants using the attached reservation form. However, please include a copy of your accommodation request with your registration details. Details of the Tanoa International Hotel can be found on their website through the following link:

[Tanoa International](#)

If you choose to select another accommodation option in the Nadi area it will be your individual responsibility to make your own accommodation arrangements at your selected hotel. Several hotels near the conference venue include:

**Novotel - Nadi:** Namaka Hill, Nadi. A short walk or taxi ride to the conference venue offers scenic views of the Nadi area looking north. Details can be found on their website on the following link:

[Novotel - Nadi](#)

**The Fiji Gateway - Nadi:** Queens Road, Nadi, opposite to the entrance to Nadi International Airport and a short taxi ride to the conference venue. Full details can be found on their website through the following link:

[The Fiji Gateway - Nadi](#)

**Tokatoka Resort - Nadi:** Queens Road, Nadi. Close to Nadi International Airport and a short taxi ride to the conference venue. Full details can be found on their website through the following link:

[Tokatoka Resort-Nadi](#)

Note that all hotels provide a free shuttle service to and from the airport. It is a good idea to provide flight details when making a booking.

### **Other Activities**

#### **Denarau Island Tourist Precinct**



Denarau Island is the largest integrated resort in the South Pacific region. It is located less than 10 kms from Nadi Town and is a short (15 min) taxi trip from the Tanoa International, and it boasts eight large resorts, stunning beaches an 18-hole championship

golf course and a restaurant and shopping precinct.



There are excellent restaurants at the marina, mostly sited right on the waterfront. There are menus to suit all tastes, with steakhouse dining alongside Indian and Asian cuisine cooked by local and imported chefs. Of course, excellent seafood is also a feature,



fresh caught and cooked in a range of styles, simple or fancy. Many restaurants are family friendly with kid's menus and children's tables, and the views of the busy marina make the sunset a popular time to enjoy a glass of something by the water, and watch the sun go down.

Various boat trips and cruises to the Yasawas and other island destinations can be arranged through the various companies that operate out of the marina.

### The Yasawa Islands



For the more adventurous a day trip on the Yasawa Explorer will take in the beauty of the Yasawa Islands is highly recommended. It departs from the Marina at 08:30 returning at about 17:45 at about \$FJ205 for adults and \$FJ100 for children (prices subject to change).. Refreshments and snacks available for purchase on board. More details can be found

on the web site:

[The Yasawa Explorer](#)

### Nadi Town

If you prefer less expensive and a more traditional shopping environment, a visit to Nadi Town is worthwhile.

It is a short (about 15 mins) taxi trip from the Tanoa International. It is a bustling



regional centre that has considerable variety from souvenir shops, numerous clothing stores and many local cafes and restaurants. Many traditional stores are also located here. Nadi Town has undergone several severe floods in recent years but has bounced back very

quickly, very few effects of recent floods are noticeable when walking down the main street. Be sure to visit the temple at the southern end of the main street.



### Garden of the Sleeping Giant



If orchids are your favourite flowers, then *The Garden of the Sleeping Giant* is the place for you to visit.

It is a short (about 15 mins) taxi trip from the Tanoa International and is nestled in a small valley north of Nadi. View their extensive collection of beautiful orchids and other tropical plants and walk through the extensive tropical gardens that are highlighted by several lily-covered ponds. For more details visit their web site:

[Garden of the Sleeping Giant](#)

There are many other activities that can be enjoyed in the Nadi-Lautoka area or on the Coral Coast. For details please consult the numerous available travel web sites and the Tanoa International tour desk will be able to provide information should you require it.

The **STAR** Steering Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in **STAR 2017** and we hope that you enjoy the conference and the delights that Fiji has to offer while you are here.

Vinaka

Malakai Finau  
Permanent Secretary, Lands and Minerals  
Chair, STAR Steering Committee



*[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](http://www.tapapacifica.com), accessed 10 November 2016. The use of the images are gratefully acknowledged.]*



## STAR 2017 REGISTRATION FORM

### A. Registration Details

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	
<b>Telephone:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Fax:</b>	
<b>Organisation:</b>	

<b>I will be attending:</b>	
	STAR 2017 Conference (26, 27 & 29 June)
	Conference Field Trip (28 June)(payment to be provided at conference)
	Conference Registration and payment details attached

### Contributions

Title of Paper(s):	
Author(s):	
Institutional Affiliation(s):	
Presentation Mode:(Oral or Poster):	
Presenter(s):	
I am interested in participating in	Working Group(s)
I would be interested in assisting to establish a Working Group on the following topic:	

Please email completed registration forms to:

**STAR 2017** Steering Committee

Email: [starconference2017@gmail.com](mailto:starconference2017@gmail.com)

STAR Website: <http://gsd.spc.int/star/>



## ACCOMODATION RESERVATION FORM

### STAR CONFERENCE 26 - 29 June 2017

Reservations will be processed by completing this form

Tel: +679 672 0277 or Fax: +679 672 0191 or Email: [reservations@tanoahotels.com](mailto:reservations@tanoahotels.com)

Surname:		First Name:	
Arrival Date:		Departure Date:	
Arrival Flight Details:		Departure Flight Details:	
Number of Rooms:		Telephone:	
Email Address:		Facsimile:	

<b>Single Superior with Full Breakfast</b> <b>FJ\$185.00 per night</b>	<b>Single Executive with Full Breakfast</b> <b>FJ\$200.00 per night</b>
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Both options include wireless internet access

#### Terms & Conditions:

- The above rates are valid for Single Superior and Single Executive Rooms and are inclusive of all required government taxes. Any breakfast charges of (extra) person/s beyond the above rates will be charged at prevailing retail rates. For bookings to be confirmed, advance payment or a guarantee will be required.
- The Hotels check-in time is 2.00pm and checkout time 11am respectively. (Early Check-in and Late Check-out will be subject to room availability and surcharges.
- Any earlier arrival in the morning will be counted as a pre-registration and a full night accommodation rate is applicable
- Cancellation Policy:
  - Less than 7 days – One night room charge will be applied
  - No-Show or Cancellation on the arrival day – Full Charge for the whole duration will be levied
- Free courtesy transport is provided to and from the Nadi International Airport.

#### Credit Card Guarantee:

	VISA	MASTERCARD	AMEX
Credit Card Number:			
Expiry Date:			
Credit Card Holder Name:			
Signature:			

#### FOR HOTEL USE ONLY:

<b>BOOKING ID:</b>	<b>CONFIRMED</b>	<b>WAITLISTED</b>
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**Confirmation Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acknowledged By:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_