

STAR 2017

The Pacific Islands Science, Technology and Resources Network Conference

THIRD CIRCULAR

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

The conference will be co-sponsored by the Government of Fiji and the Geoscience Division of the Pacific Community (SPC), Standard Concrete Industries (Fiji) and XINFA Mines (Fiji). 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, papers have been submitted that address the following areas:

- Geo-resources of the Pacific Region (Special session);
- Cyclones and Coastal Hazards;
- Volcanic Hazards in the Pacific;
- Deep-sea Minerals;
- Hydrogeology;
- Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing; and
- Miscellaneous Topics.

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:

Sunday 25 June	Afternoon Evening	Registrations Icebreaker Reception (hosted by the Government of Fiji)
Monday 26 June	Morning Afternoon	Registrations Official Opening STAR Sessions STAR Sessions Working Group Meetings
Tuesday 27 June	Morning Afternoon	STAR Sessions STAR Sessions Working Group Meetings
Wednesday 28 June	All Day	Field Trip – Geo-resources of the Nadi area
Thursday 29 June	Morning Afternoon Evening	STAR Sessions STAR Sessions STAR Annual General Meeting Informal Drinks

Conference Format

Oral and Poster presentation sessions will be offered during **STAR 2017**.

Projection facilities will be available for presentations. Presenters should plan for a presentation of 15 mins with 5 mins for questions.

Multiple sessions will not 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 with the proposed program will be provided to all delegates as part of the registration.

A STAR 2017 Field Trip Guide will be provided to all delegates that register for the field trip.

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;

Geo-resources; and

Seabed Minerals.

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

Conference Field Trip

An intra-conference field trip will be offered on **Wednesday 28 June**. The field trip will focus on Western Viti Levu, looking specifically at the Nadi Basin and adjacent areas visiting sites with geological significance, specifically geo-resource development. Sites that will be visited will include:



- The Lion One Tuvatu gold prospect. The first stop is to the base camp where the Tuvatu mine is being developed. An adit sunk into the side of the hill with some 1600 m of underground development currently exists. Above the mine entrance a site was recently cleared for further drilling. In this clearing, outcrop and mineralisation can be viewed. On the site there is a boulder that has reportedly been assayed at 175g/tAu. An impressive view of the surrounding terrain can also be seen from this site. Currently geotech work is ongoing for the mining plant site
- Geological features of the Nasasa Creek that exhibit examples of pillow lavas, breccia/sediment contacts, anticline structures as well as several quarry sites where mining of various commodities have been conducted.
- Several quarries in the Momi area will be visited to assess their geo-resource potential.
- A lunch stop will be made at Natadola beach where you will be able to have a swim. Facilities will be available at the Yatule Resort conveniently located on the main beach.
- The final stop of the day will be at Nabou. This will include a visit to the new 12 MW Biomass fuel power plant the first of its kind in Fiji. This plant has been built by GIMCO Co.Ltd a Korean company with a business area that focus on Biomass power plant, community energy systems and renewable energy



Due to transport limitations, there will a **maximum of 40 participants** at a cost of **\$FJD100.00 per person** which will include a packed lunch and refreshments. Payments for the field trip will be taken at the time registration.

The buses will **depart from the Tanoa at 7:30am sharp**. Buses will return to the hotel at approx. 5:00pm.

All participants are requested to wear durable covered foot-ware. A hat, sunscreen, swimmers and a towel are also recommended.

Accommodation

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



Accommodation bookings will be an individual responsibility using the attached booking form. However, please include a copy of your accommodation request with your registration details. Hotel details can be found through their website:

[Tanoa International](http://www.tanoahotel.com)

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 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. It departs from the Marina at 08:30 returning at about 17:45 at approx \$FJ230 (adult) and \$FJ120 (child 5-15 yrs) (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