

# Pacific Science, Technology and Resources Network (STAR)

## Constitution

(07 June 2017)

### I. Objectives of STAR

- a) To promote the development of Science and Technology within the Pacific region;
- b) To encourage, initiate, and coordinate the sharing of outcomes of research conducted in the Pacific region;
- c) To promote the dissemination and discussion of aspects of Pacific science and technology at various national, regional and international conferences, meetings and workshops, including the STAR Annual Conference;
- d) To arrange for the publication of the abstracts/papers presented at STAR conferences;
- e) To encourage the development of science and technology processes within the Pacific region that allow strong links to development issues.
- f) To form strong links with other science-based organisations within the region and globally.

### II. Administration of STAR

- a) STAR is a non-profit organisation duly established under the processes within the Government of the Republic of Fiji.
- b) STAR shall have an established and separate financial system, including a bank account, under the name of STAR Network.
- c) STAR will be facilitated by a Steering Committee, comprising of scientific professionals who have the ability to provide guidance to the group. The Chair of the Steering Committee shall be elected for a three-year (renewable) period by all those present at the Annual General Meeting. Members of the Steering Committee will be appointed by the Chair.
- d) An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be convened at the conclusion of each STAR Conference. An annual report will be prepared following the AGM to be tabled for acceptance at the next AGM
- e) The Steering Committee will meet at regular intervals during the year to progress STAR working arrangements and planning for the annual STAR Conference.

### III. Relationship to Regional and International Organisations

- a) STAR shall develop relationships with the various international science and technology organisations to ensure the objectives are met.

### IV. Membership of the STAR Network

- a) Anyone who has interests in Science and Technology in the Pacific can become a member of the STAR Network, and participate in STAR activities.
- b) Those wishing to become members of STAR Network may apply on-line through the STAR website.
- c) No annual fee is applicable for membership of the STAR Network but the Steering Committee reserves the right to review this in the future.
- d) All STAR members who attend the annual business meeting will be accorded voting rights under this constitution.
- e) No individual or officer shall be liable for any STAR debts.

### V. The STAR Annual Conference

- a) A STAR Conference shall be convened at a suitable venue during the period May- June on an annual basis. It is anticipated some funding will be available to assist Pacific Island Nationals to attend.
- b) The STAR Conference will provide the primary mechanism for the dissemination of the outcomes of scientific work conducted in the region.
- c) The STAR Conference will provide the venue for informal working groups to be convened to discuss topical issues relevant to the region.
- d) A series of pre-conference information circulars will be distributed to alert potential registrants of the STAR Conference details.
- e) Participants of the STAR Conference will register on-line through the STAR Website or by providing details via email to the organisers.
- f) Abstracts for papers to be presented will be provided at the time of registration as an Abstracts Volume. This volume will also include a proposed programme for the technical sessions of the conference.
- g) A Registration fee will be levied for attendance to cover the cost of the conduct of the Conference. The fee will reviewed annually and based on the level of the registrants professional background. The registration categories will include: Professional Scientist, Pacific Island Nationals and Students. An early-bird registration fee at a reduced rate will be offered to encourage early registrations.

- h) A fieldtrip will be arranged for interested registrants. Details will be provided in the pre-conference circulars.

## VI. STAR Awards

- a) In an effort to foster further development of science and technology in the Pacific Region a STAR award will be made to the author of the best paper presented at the Annual Conference by a Pacific Island Nationals undertaking full-time study.
- b) Nominations for STAR awards must be in writing by one member, and supported with a supporting letter from their academic advisor.
- c) Presentations given by a student at the STAR Conference will be judged by a panel established by the Chair of STAR

## VII. Alteration and Interpretation of this Constitution

- a) Any proposed alterations of this constitution must be in writing and put forward to and agreed to by a quorum at the next Annual General Meeting.

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