

Information for Pacific 2020 Roundtable Participants

Background

The *Pacific 2020* will be published in late 2005 and will assess the long term development challenges in the Pacific, PNG and East Timor and provide practical policy options to improve economic growth through reform in key productive and cross-cutting sectors. The report does not set out to provide a detailed analysis of conventional economic policy prescriptions. Instead, it will focus on areas that – although they may have been the subject of much research and analysis – have received scant attention in terms of practical policy options. These nine areas are:

Productive Sectors

Agriculture
Fisheries
Forestry
Tourism
Mining and Petroleum

Cross Cutting Sectors

Land
Political Governance
Employment and Labour Markets
Private Sector

A follow-up conference aimed at generating debate around the policy options raised in the report will be held in March 2006. Participants at the conference will include representatives of regional governments at minister/senior official levels, regional organisations, donors, the private sector and civil society.

Objectives

1. *Pacific 2020* will examine practical policy options for stimulating sustainable and widely shared economic growth in specific selected areas where there is no clear and practical policy path.
2. The report will be aimed at stimulating policy debate and policy action among decision makers at a national and regional level by means of the *Pacific 2020* conference and other regional forums.

Guiding Principles

1. *Pacific 2020* will be a short, easily digestible report targeted at, and designed for, decision makers in government, business, civil society and the donor community.
2. *Pacific 2020* will remain practically focused on key policy prescriptions and be forward looking over the next 15 years.
3. *Pacific 2020* will focus on promoting those aspects of sustainable and widely-shared economic growth that have achieved insufficient practical policy attention in the past. In doing so, it will explain clearly why other key areas that affect economic growth have been left out.
4. *Pacific 2020* will complement other relevant initiatives such as the Pacific Plan and the Australian Government White Paper on the Australian Aid Program.

The Report

The Pacific 2020 report will comprise 13 chapters. The first three introductory chapters will look at: the overall framework of issues affecting economic growth in the region; past economic performance and economic projections to 2020; and, the existing consensus on the economic agenda. These three introductory chapters will not be part of the roundtable process.

The following nine chapters will cover each of the productive and cross-cutting sectors listed above. These nine chapters, which form the backbone of the report, will be developed primarily through nine separate roundtables that each will bring together practitioners and experts in the nine key productive and cross-cutting sectors.

The Roundtables

Roundtables will be convened to stimulate discussion among experts in the field about practical policy options to address each issue as it relates to economic growth and poverty reduction in the Pacific, PNG and East Timor. Roundtable participants will be broadly representative of the key stakeholders for each topic. These discussions will be based on an "input paper" prepared by an expert in each key substantive area. Input papers will be circulated to roundtable participants, together with an agenda 2 weeks before the roundtable meeting. Each roundtable will be guided by a professional facilitator to ensure that the discussion remains focussed and productive. Authors will make a presentation of their input paper to the roundtable and participate in the day's discussion. It is expected that the roundtables will develop practical policy options that can be further developed in the output paper. Roundtable outcomes will be consolidated into an "output paper" based on the outcomes of the roundtable. The output paper will explore ways of responding to the challenges and opportunities discussed in the roundtable and be considered by the Pacific 2020 Steering Group for inclusion in the final Pacific 2020 report at a meeting in September 2005.

Scope

General:

The following issues will be addressed in each roundtable discussion:

- With a continuation of current policies from national governments, regional organisations and donors in the region, how would the sub-sector look in 2020? Specifically, what contribution would the sub-sector be making to the goals of promoting economic growth and reducing poverty?
- What are the key constraints to improving this situation?
 - Roundtable participants will be asked to make an assessment/comment from their experience and knowledge of the sector
- What are the main policy changes and investments that are required to address these constraints?

- Using their knowledge and experience of developments in the region and internationally, roundtable participants will be asked to highlight relevant examples. The discussion will draw on lessons learned and ways that these can be refined to enhance their relevance in the Pacific, PNG and East Timor
- What are the opportunities to apply these policies and investments around the region, and what are likely to be the main implementation challenges?
 - Roundtable participants will provide a perspective on both challenges and opportunities based on their and/or their organisation's role in the region. Their experience and judgement about identifying priorities and practical ways forward will be important.

Checklist:

The following checklist of issues has been developed to guide roundtable discussions to cross-cutting issues that may relate to the topic they are addressing. Roundtable participants are encouraged to discuss the relationship between their topic and those checklist issues that might be relevant to it. Only highly relevant checklist issues that directly impact on the topic should be considered and discussed at roundtables. These will be flagged in the input paper.

The checklist includes:

1. Environmental considerations
2. Gender
3. Private sector
4. Human resources development
5. Donor coherence
6. HIV/AIDS
7. Lessons learned (positive and negative)
8. Implications for small island states.

Agenda and timing

Roundtable participants will be contacted by input paper authors and/or the meeting facilitator prior to the meeting to discuss issues to be covered. Roundtable participants will also have an opportunity to provide input to the agenda. The draft agenda and input paper will be circulated to roundtable participants at least 2 weeks before the meeting. Roundtables will commence at 9am and conclude at 5pm on the day of the meeting. Refreshments and lunch will be provided on the day. Dates and locations of roundtables will be notified as soon as possible.