**Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal**

***Sustainable Development in Pacific small island developing States: The role of regional cooperation***

# Side Event: 80th session of the Commission

# *26 April, 12:45-13:45 GMT+7*

# *Meeting Room H, United Nations Conference Centre*

**Zoom Link:** [**https://zoom.us/j/97271723307**](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fzoom.us%2Fj%2F97271723307&data=05%7C02%7Cbasu%40un.org%7Ccebae0dd90ff4afff28008dc5a0f0f93%7C0f9e35db544f4f60bdcc5ea416e6dc70%7C0%7C0%7C638484267931839017%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=M8w6dH%2BwkvUwVkJ89t%2FABblC%2Bxbna3VypOH%2Buc%2B0unY%3D&reserved=0)

# Organizer(s)

ESCAP

# Co-organizer(s)

PIFS

# Registration

To attend the side event, all registrants must also register on Indico to attend the 80th Session by April 12 using the link here: <https://indico.un.org/event/1007591/>

Please register using the option “Registration for Others (Side events, Exhibition, etc.)” Those who do not register on Indico will not be able to access the United Nations Conference Center.

# Background

The Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal is published twice a year as a policy-oriented journal to stimulate and enrich research in the formulation of policy in the Asia-Pacific region towards the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Journal has focused its scope and objectives on delivering the commitment of ESCAP to the Countries in Special Situations, comprising the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, to capacity development and to the promotion of policy dialogues.

The latest issue (Vol. 31, No. 1, May 2024) of the Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal, has a specific theme, “***Special theme: Sustainable development challenges in the Paci­fic small island developing States: The role of regional cooperation***”, which takes stock of the achievements of Pacific small island developing States and the challenges ahead to inform the next 10-year action agenda.

The Journal articles focus on countries in special situations, such as Pacific small island developing States, and their engagement to promote regional cooperation for sustainable development. The papers in this issue discuss a wide range of challenges confronting the Pacific small island developing States and the policy implications of these challenges, providing a bridge between academic researchers and policymakers, which is one of the key objectives of the Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal.

In the upcoming Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), 27-30 May 2024 in Antigua and Barbuda, there are opportunities for the Pacific SIDS to underscore the importance of promoting regional cooperation to build resilient economies and sustainable development. Furthermore, this 80th session of the Commission is an important platform to reflect on the regional cooperation and its implications for the socio-economic prosperity and climate action in the Asia-Pacific SIDS.

This side event will feature key issues, findings and recommendations from select analytical papers of the current issue of the Journal which will serve as a basis to provoke further discussion, policy dialogue and knowledge exchange among policymakers, academics, researchers and development practitioners on sustainable development issues in the region.

Please download the Special Issue of the Journal at [Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal](https://www.unescap.org/knowledge-products-series/asia-pacific-sustainable-development-journal)

# Draft Programme

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| Time  (60 min) | Description |
| 5 min | **Welcome remarks**   * **Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana**, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP, and the *Chief Editor of the APSD Journal* |
| 12 min | **Overview Presentation**   * **Professor Ms. Rukmani Gounder,** Massey University, New Zealand, and the Guest Editor of the Special Pacific theme of the *APSD Journal 2024* |
| 3 min | **Special Remarks**   * **H.E. Mr. Henry Puna, Secretary-General**, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) |
| 20 min | **Panel discussion:** Key concepts and policy priorities   * **H.E. Ms. Fekitamoeloa Útoikamanu**, Minister for Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications and Chair of the 79th Commission session * **H.E. Ms. Lenora Qereqeretabua**, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fiji * **Mr. Koney Samuel**, Secretary, Department of National Planning and Monitoring, Papua New Guinea * **Ms. Roleen Ronny**, Microeconomist, Ministry of Finance, Palau   **Moderator**: **Mr. Sudip Ranjan Basu,** Deputy Head, ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific |
| 15 min | **Open discussion**   * Interventions from audience |
| 5 min | **Closing remarks**   * **Professor Mr. Anis Chowdhury**, Adjunct Professor, Western Sydney University, Australia; and the Managing Editor of the *APSD Journal* |