



# Nauru Bulletin

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## ADB provides \$15m additional grant for Nauru port

Nauru signed an additional \$15 million grant provided by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to transform its century-old boat harbour into a modern, efficient, climate-resilient international port, 10 May.

Finance Minister Martin Hunt signed the \$15m grant agreement and Nauru Maritime and Port Authority (NMPA) Deputy CEO Operations Wanganeen Emiu signed the project agreement which the Government of Nauru is investing \$200,000.

The funding will cover key areas of climate change resilience, sustainability, and additional costs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Once completed, the new facility will be Nauru's first fully functioning international port and is expected to boost port operations significantly.



*Finance Minister Martin Hunt and Nauru ports deputy CEO Wanganeen Emiu sign additional grant*

Overall, the government has received in U.S dollars, \$21.3 million in grant financing from ADB and co-financing grants of \$26.91 million from the Green Climate Fund and the equivalent of \$14.08 million from the Government of Australia.

The Nauru government agreed to support

financing of \$14.3 million in cash and the equivalent of \$3 million in in-kind contributions.

These total an estimated US\$79.59 million for the port civil works.

Additionally, the ADB has supported up to \$1.5 million from 2020-21 for reforms to strengthen capacity and establish the necessary processes and procedures within the NMPA, while Australia is co-financing a grant equivalent to \$2.61 million delivered through the port project.

The signing was attended by an ADB team on island led by Senior Project Officer (Infrastructure) Pivithuru Indrawansa, and Senior Country Officer John Limen and joining by video link from Manila were ADB Director General for the Pacific Leah Gutierrez and Regional Director of its Pacific Liaison and Coordination Office (PLCO) Lotte Schou-Zibell •

## Nauru achieves highest vaccine coverage yet

Nauru has reached nearly full coverage for COVID-19 vaccinations across the country with adults and teens.

The latest statistics released by the Ministry of Health, Friday 13 May, of the 1,626 registered children in the age group 12 to 18 years, 108 per cent have received their first dose and 95 per cent have received the second dose.

Of the 7,814 adults, 99 per cent are fully vaccinated with two doses while 86 per cent have received their third, or booster shot.

The number of people in the two categories are based on registered names in national records while the actual number of people receiving the vaccination includes Nauruans who have not yet registered and foreigners who are employed locally.

Nauru recorded its first case of COVID-19 on 1 April 2022 in a traveller from Brisbane while in hotel quarantine.

To date, there have been seven recorded cases but four have recovered while three remain active.

Nauru's COVID-19 Taskforce and Public Health maintain the government's capture and contain strategy which begins days prior to boarding a flight to Nauru.

Regular weekly flights to and from Brisbane transport passengers and cargo under strict COVID protocols.

Passengers travelling to Nauru are asked to voluntarily enter pre-travel safe accommodation in Brisbane for a specified number of days, presently for 24 hours, before a flight to Nauru.

COVID testing using the rapid antigen tests and PCR are performed from the day prior to entering the Brisbane safe accommodation, during quarantine and at airport check in.

The safe accommodation is set up by the Nauru COVID-19 Taskforce and overseen by the Nauru Consulate-General office in Brisbane.

Incoming passengers undergo COVID testing during the five days quarantine in Nauru •

## Japan donates third ambulance

Nauru hospital receives new ambulance donated by the Government of Japan, 25 April.

The ambulance is the third in the fleet and its addition will further increase the hospital's capacity to respond to medical emergencies.

Deputy Minister for Health and Medical Services Pyon Deiyee says Nauru will benefit much from the donation.

“This ambulance and its equipment will greatly enhance our emergency services and will be life saving for Nauru.”



*(L-R) Deputy Minister for Health Pyon Deiyee, Health Minister Isabella Dageago and PAD director Samuel Grundler are grateful for the additional ambulance donated by Japan*

The donation of the ambulance is implemented through the Japan Grassroots Grants Assistance Projects (GGP) Scheme. Since 2006, Japan supported and funded 20 GGP projects for Nauru amounting to more than USD \$1.9 million.

Planning and Aid Division (PAD) director, Samuel Grundler handed over the ambulance in place of Japan's Ambassador to Nauru Kawakami Fumihiro who is unable to travel to Nauru due to on-going COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Mr Grundler said Ambassador Fumihiro is honoured to have been able to assist Nauru through the donation.

“The Government of Japan has supported Nauru in various fields, especially towards the health care sector as one of the priority fields.”

Minister Isabella Dageago and staff from the department of health were also in attendance. Pastor Ruth Garabwan delivered a prayer dedicating the ambulance into service •

### *Safety First!*

*\* Drive safely*

*\* Be considerate with other motorists*

*\* Wear your helmet*

*\* Have your drivers' licence ready for police inspection*

*\* Have a designated driver if you plan to consume alcohol*

*\* Don't drive if you're underaged*

*\* Be responsible and keep your fellow motorists safe*

*God bless Nauru!*

## Rupasinghe appointed magistrate



*Rupasinghe is the second resident magistrate*

The second resident magistrate, Nadimale Rupasinghe, was sworn in to office by Justice Minister Maverick Eoe for a three-year term, 22 April.

Mr Rupasinghe served as resident magistrate in the Fiji Magistrate Court for three years until 2016 and as an attorney in the Sri Lankan courts until his Nauru appointment.

The oath ceremony was attended by acting CJ Mohammed Shafiuallah Khan, Registrar Ronald Prakash and Mrs Rupasinghe •

GOVERNMENT OF NAURU

Protect yourself and those around you:

- Get vaccinated as soon as it's your turn and follow local guidance on vaccination.
- Practise social distancing of at least 1.5 metres from others, even if they don't appear to be sick. Avoid crowds and close contact.
- Clean your hands frequently with alcohol-based hand rub (sanitiser) or wash with soap and water.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Dispose of used tissues immediately and clean hands regularly.
- If you're worried about COVID or flu-like symptoms, testing is available at the ROH Hospital.
- You will be required to wear a mask when visiting the hospital. One will be provided for you on arrival.



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## Region's acute water challenges addressed at Japan summit

President Lionel Aingimea says Nauru's access to safe water supply is a priority that's clearly articulated in the national sustainably development strategy at the fourth water summit in Japan, 23 April.

The President delivered his pre-recorded statement addressing the acute challenges facing the region on water issues in the context of climate change.

"For Nauru, access to reliable, safe, affordable, secure, and sustainable water supply is a priority and a means to meeting socio-economic development needs.

"However, we are beset by a number of challenges inherent of small island developing states which has been further exacerbated by climate change and the onset of the pandemic," President Aingimea said.

The Nauru Government recognises the need to align national quality of current supplies with internationally recommended standards.

"Most of Nauru's ground water has been contaminated due to mining, ineffective sewerage systems, burial sites and dumping of commercial and household wastes.

"Frequent, unpredictable, and prolonged droughts coupled with lack of proper rainwater storage facilities compound water scarcity issues," the President said.

Nauru has made inroads to addressing its water issues. A solar powered reverse osmosis plant has improved the supply of water which is delivered to households and businesses on water trucks.

However, the government recognise that despite these efforts, there is still a need to increase capacity for water storage in the absence of natural reservoirs.

"Additionally, there is a need to upgrade infrastructure, increase efficiency, secure the benefits of renewable energy, and develop and implement sustainable water management policies," President Aingimea said.

The summit held in Kumamoto City, Japan, was attended by high-level delegates including heads of states and representatives from international organisations in the Asia-Pacific region.

Under the theme of "Water for Sustainable Development –Best Practices and the Next Generation-", the outcomes of the 4th APWS discussions are expected to make a great contribution to lead the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The summit recognises the socio-economic impacts on countries



*The outcomes of the 4th APWS discussions are expected to make a contribution to lead the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals*

caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and how it is hindering progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Delegates discussed transformation from the pandemic towards a quality-oriented society that is resilient, sustainable, and inclusive.

"This can be achieved by strengthening action for water sustainability. This transformation should proceed through multi-stakeholder partnership with open, transparent, participatory, and collaborative processes," the Declaration states.

Delegates recognise that water problems are inextricably linked to food security and energy security, and as such agree to accelerate efforts for water security by improving governance, closing the financial gap, and appealing to the science and technology community to provide context, specific innovations for resolving water problems, respecting the natural environment, geographical features, and historical backgrounds of the local community.

Additionally, delegates emphasise the importance of promoting education and capacity building for a new generation of water professionals to ensure, maintain, and improve a sound water cycle.

The outcomes of the summit will be communicated and shared at global water-related discussion processes, including the United Nations Conference for the Midterm Review of the Water Action Decade, to be held in March 2023 •



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## USP in top ten pc of impact ranking

The University of the South Pacific places in the top ten per cent in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact rankings.

His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea and former chancellor of the USP told the board and council members through a virtual meeting early May that “as a proud founding member of the USP, it gives us [Nauru] immense pleasure to congratulate USP on its ranking.”

“Being recognised by the world’s foremost ranking organisation is an outstanding achievement that makes us incredibly proud as people of Nauru and the Pacific.

“Considering our developing regional context, the admission into the global rankings sees USP placed amongst leading universities worldwide and is a tremendous achievement.

“This success builds on 2021’s outstanding result in the THE Global Rankings which saw the University ranked for the first time in the top 10 per cent worldwide,” President Aingimea said.

The Global ranking was for publications, citations and the excellence of research.

Prior to that USP ranked 11th against some of the top universities in the area of crisis management by the World Universities with Real Impact (WURI) 2021 global ranking, and provided the details of how it has responded to COVID-19 in 2020.

In a virtual thanksgiving presentation, 5 May, President Aingimea said the global ranking is a “great testament of the collective determination to shape the Pacific and the world.”

The President congratulates USP that despite the obstacles and challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and operating without grants from Fiji, the USP achieved three global rankings in two years.

“At council we are aware of the pressures and that is why this ranking is so welcome.

“Today is a day we all as a university community can celebrate, knowing that our collective efforts, resources and resilience in this great Pacific institution have been justly rewarded.

“The Republic of Nauru is committed to quality education for its people. Through the University of the South Pacific, our community is the beneficiary of the lustre that comes with such prominent global recognition.”

President Aingimea congratulated and expressed appreciation to the USP community leaders, member of the USP council, the Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Pal Ahluwalia, the senior management team, staff, students, alumni and USP stakeholders.

Prof. Ahluwalia says the rankings are “a reflection of the resilience and strength of our university and of our people and a real testament of what we have achieved and what we have the potential to achieve,” and proud “that we are committed to developing into a university of excellence.”

He says the Global rankings are about publications and citations and the excellence of research, while the Impact rankings are designed to show an institution’s research, outreach and its stewardship in delivering against United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).



“Rankings are really there to get external validation of what we are doing, what our strategy is; how we are serving our people and how we move forward... it’s about making sure that we are kept on our toes and that we continue to strive to do even better,” VCP Ahluwalia said.

Universities are invited to submit applications for the rankings. For overall rankings universities are required to submit data for at least four SDGs, one of which must be SDG 17 – Partnerships for Goals.

In its inaugural submission for the THE Impact Rankings, the USP submitted data for six SDGs in November 2021 for the 2022 rankings, as follows: SDG17: Partnership for the Goals; SDG 4: Quality Education; SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy; SDG 13: Climate Action; SDG 14: Life Below Water and SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

Under SDG 4, USP scored highly at over 80 on ‘Lifelong learning measures’, which highlights lifelong learning opportunities through the provision of public resources, public events, vocational training events, education outreach activities beyond campus, and the existence of policy to ensure access to lifelong learning.

Under SDG 7, USP scored high, over 70 on ‘Energy use density’, which is the energy used per floor space of university buildings in 2019.

Under SDG 13, USP scored 100 for ‘Environmental education measures’ that demonstrate activities around local education projects and collaborations on climate change reflecting the university’s actions locally, regionally and internationally.

USP scored 75 under SDG 14 for ‘Supporting aquatic ecosystems through action’ which includes work on maintaining ecosystems and their biodiversity and over 85 for ‘Local ecosystem maintenance’.

For ‘University Governance measures’, ‘Working with Government’, such as the provision of expert advice to Government and participation in Government research, and ‘Percentage of graduates in law and civil enforcement’ related courses under SDG 16, USP scored almost 80, 85 and over 75 respectively.

Finally, under the mandatory SDG 17, USP scored 100 per cent for ‘Relationships to support the goals’ reflecting USP’s relationships with regional NGOs and international collaborations for SDGs.

Over 18,000 universities are listed in the International handbook of universities, published annually in conjunction with UNESCO •

## Nauru showcased at Dubai Expo

Nauru’s participation at Dubai Expo 2020 was capped with the delegation’s warm welcome and words of thanks at the national day ceremony on 27 March.

Minister for Commerce, Industry & Environment, Climate Change, and Infrastructure, Rennier Gadabu delivered his address on behalf of the Nauru government at the ceremony commending the organisers and the expo’s theme, Connecting minds, creating the future, “appropriately captures the trail blazing leadership demonstrated by the UAE on urban sustainability.”

“Where some cities in the world might be known for a smattering of green buildings, Dubai decided to build an entire net zero community.”

The minister is referring to Dubai’s Sustainable City, a district showcasing impressive sustainable solutions to the world’s most pressing problems.

“It is a model for the rest of the developing world, which aspires to achieve a similar quality of life in an urban setting. It is a beacon that Nauru intends to follow as we embark on our own ambitious urban development project,” Minister Gadabu said.

The minister highlighted Nauru’s most ambitious project yet and the “best hope of navigating the challenges of the 21st century” - the Higher Ground Initiative (HGI).

HGI begins with migrating Nauru’s most vulnerable communities from low lying coastal areas to higher ground at what is known as Topside.

Topside is the site of Nauru’s rich phosphate but decades of extracting this precious resource rendered the land bare and without its once lush forest.

HGI would change that. Rehabilitation is underway to building a smart village by “connecting minds to create this future.”

Minister Gadabu reiterates that small island states, like Nauru, are not immune to and bear the brunt of the most pressing of global challenges including climate change, economic volatility, and political crises.

“In fact, a problem that starts as a ripple elsewhere can become a tidal wave by the time it reaches our shores.

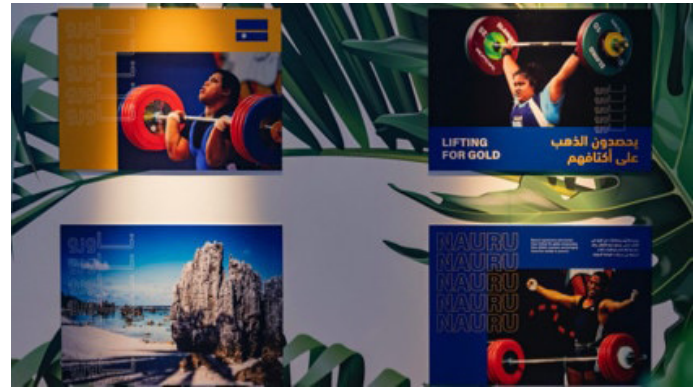
“We are the last link on every global supply chain. And when those supply chains break, as they have several times during the COVID-19 pandemic, our shelves quickly empty.

“Food and fuel – Nauru pays some of the highest prices in the world, and we are keenly aware that those prices are creeping up again as we speak.”

Dubai is inspiration for Nauru’s higher ground initiative.

“Gazing upon the gleaming skyline of Dubai, it is impossible not to feel a sense of awe. By connecting minds to create the future, a modern metropolis rose up from the desert.

“You will not see any steel and glass skyscrapers in Nauru’s smart village, but it will represent no less of an achievement for



*The Nauru Pavillion also displays and celebrates the athletic prowess of the island’s globe-trotting sports men and women*

our people.

“Building a more sustainable and resilient country is no longer just an aspirational goal. For my country, it is a national imperative.”

The Department of Internal Affairs took lead of the delegation’s presence in Dubai with cultural dance and presentation, with support from various departments and entities like the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, and Nauru Tourism.

The Nauru Pavilion featured a photographic display of Nauru crafted from tomano wood carvings, arts and craft, and a slideshow presentation of the memories of the war and relics; as well as traditional dance performances at the national day ceremony on 27 March.

Minister Gadabu said for Nauru to build and maintain the HGI, it needs strong partnerships to finance the project and the “UAE can be an instrumental partner in moving forward with our plans.” •



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