FONO 2026

Pacific Public Service Leaders' Conference

Chad er a Beluu
People. Capability. Leadership.



Hosted by the Republic of Palau, supported by the Public Service Fale

9–13 November 2026
Palau Pacific Resort
Koror, Republic of Palau



Malakal Island and Koror, Palau.



FONO 2026
Pacific Public Service Leaders' Conference

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Welcome from the Chair

Alii and warm Pacific greetings. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Palau and the Palau Bureau of Human Resources, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to Fono 2026: Pacific Public Service Leaders' Conference.

This year holds special significance for Palau as we have the privilege of hosting and chairing the Fono on behalf of the Micronesia sub-region. We are honoured to welcome Public Service Commissioners, senior officials, partners, and colleagues from across our Blue Pacific to Koror and to share with you the culture, hospitality, and leadership traditions of Palau.

The theme of this year's Conference, **Chad er a Beluu – People. Capability. Leadership.**, reflects our belief that strong public services begin with people. Our capability as institutions and our effectiveness as leaders are ultimately shaped by our ability to invest in our workforce, support one another, and work together in service of our communities.

The challenges facing Pacific public services are significant and increasingly shared. Workforce pressures, technological change, leadership succession, integrity, and the delivery of regional priorities require thoughtful leadership and practical solutions. No country faces these challenges alone. Through the Pacific Public Service Leaders' Group, we have a unique opportunity to draw on the collective knowledge, experience, and wisdom of our region.

Fono 2026 has been designed to build on the priorities agreed by Leaders in Fiji in 2025 and provide space for meaningful dialogue, reflection, and learning. We hope the discussions throughout the week strengthen existing relationships, create new connections, and inspire practical actions that support public services across the Pacific.

As Chair, my hope is that delegates leave Palau not only with new ideas and insights, but also with a renewed sense of collective purpose and confidence in the contribution that Pacific public services make to the wellbeing, resilience, and future of our region.

Thank you for making the journey to Palau. We wish you a productive and rewarding week and look forward to sharing this experience with you.

Terralyn Nabeyama
Director, Bureau of Human Resources
Republic of Palau
Chair, Fono 2026: Pacific Public Service Leaders' Conference



Welcome from the Deputy Commissioner

Kia ora and warm Pacific greetings. On behalf of the Public Service Fale, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Fono 2026: Pacific Public Service Leaders' Conference.

I would like to acknowledge the Government of the Republic of Palau, Terralyn Nabeyama, and the team at the Palau Bureau of Human Resources for their leadership in hosting and chairing this year's Fono. I am grateful for their partnership and commitment in bringing Pacific public service leaders together in Palau.

The Fono provides a unique opportunity for Pacific Public Service Leaders to convene, share experiences and insights and strengthen the relationships that support you throughout the year. It is also an important forum for collective dialogue on the opportunities and challenges facing public services across our region.

Fono 2026 will explore practical approaches to tackle the issues facing Public Service Leaders. You will see a focus on the fundamentals of organisational leadership and system stewardship – people, systems and culture. We take deep dives on strengthening leadership, building organisational cultures of high integrity, and the role of technology in optimising workforce planning and human resource systems. The programme also examines Pacific regionalism and aligning Pacific public sector priorities with the regional architecture.

Strong public services play a vital role in shaping the future of the Pacific. They provide the leadership, institutions, and capability required to deliver national priorities, support communities, and advance the vision of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. Across our region, leaders are navigating complex environments, while continuing to deliver for the people they serve.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to strengthening public services across the Pacific. I wish you all a productive and rewarding week of connection, reflection and insight.

Tania Ott
Deputy Commissioner
Public Service Fale

Delegates

Republic of Palau and Chair of the 2026 Fono: Pacific Public Service Leaders' Conference

Ms Terralyn Nabeyama
Director, Bureau of Human Resources Republic of Palau

MICRONESIA

Federated States of Micronesia

Ms Brenda Kerman
Assistant Director, FSM Personnel Office

Ms Laura Joel
Personnel Specialist, FSM Personnel Office

Kiribati

Ms Ritite Tekiau
Secretary, Public Service Office

Ms Wanro Ngutu
Deputy Secretary, Public Service Office

Ms Riiti Uriam
Director, Public Service Office

Naoero

Ms Leona Waidabu
Chief Secretary, Department of the Chief Secretary

Mr Giedo Garabwan
Secretary for Corporate Service, Department of the Chief Secretary

Ms Charlei Deiye
Senior Personal Assistant, Department of the Chief Secretary

Republic of the Marshall Islands

Mr Jendrikdrik Paul
Chairman, Public Service Commission

Ms Annaruth Reiher-Samuel
Commissioner, Public Service Commission

Mr Joseph Tibon
Deputy Commissioner, Public Service Commission

POLYNESIA

Cook Islands

Ms Myra Patai
Chief Executive Officer, Office of the Public Service Commissioner

Ms Mary Strickland
Head of Agencies Relationship Coordinator, Office of the Public Service Commissioner

Niue

Ms Emi Hipa
Commissioner, Public Service Commission

Ms Suefane Touna
Secretariat Director, Public Service Commission

Samoa

Mr Nonu Lemauga Saleimoa Vaai
Chairman, Public Service Commission

Mr Kolone Tikeri
Secretary, Public Service Commission

Tokelau

Ms Saliloimanatu Margraff
HR Manager, Public Service Commission

Ms Margaret Pedro
Manager – Public Service Arrangement and Research, Public Service Commission

Tonga

Ms Taiatu Ataata
Chairperson, Public Service Commission

Mr Franz Tuuhetoka
Chief Executive Officer, Public Service Commission

Ms Mele Paea Latu
Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Public Service Commission

Tuvalu

Ms Aoga Kofe
Chairperson, Public Service Commission

Ms Mila Tulimanu
Commissioner, Public Service Commission

Ms Sunema Simati
Deputy Secretary, Public Service Commission

Ms Sulina Matamotu
Recruitment Adviser, Public Service Commission

MELANESIA

Fiji

Mr Luke Rokovada
Chairman, Public Service Commission

Mr Pita Tagicakirewa
Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Civil Service

Ms Reshmi Mala
Head – Executive Support & Secretariat, Public Service Commission

New Caledonia

Ms Séverine Bonnardel
Director, Human Resources & Civil Service Department

Mr Rodolphe Ponsard
Head of Recruitment, Human Resources & Civil Service Department

Papua New Guinea

Mr Vele Ravugamini
Deputy Secretary, Department of Personnel Management

Ms Valerie Malai
Senior Database Administrator, Department of Personnel Management

Solomon Islands

Mr Milner Tozaka
Chair, Public Service Commission

Mr Luke Cheka
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Service

Mr David Suirara
Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Public Service

Vanuatu

Mr Meto K Nganga
Chair, Public Service Commission

Mr Stephane Bong
Deputy Secretary, Public Service Commission

SECRETARIAT: PUBLIC SERVICE FALE

Ms Tania Ott
Deputy Commissioner

Ms Lise Leaupepe
Principal Advisor

Mr Teanuanua Nicole
Manager

Mr Dermot Lavelle
Advisor

FONO OBSERVERS

Australian Public Service Commission

Ms Jo Talbot
First Assistant Commissioner – Workplace Reform and Diversity

Ms Bronwyn Armstrong,
Assistant Director – International

Dr Ayeesha Abbasi
Assistant Director – Australian Public Service Centre of Excellence for Workforce Planning

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade – New Zealand

Ms Hannah van Voorthuysen
Unit Manager: Governance and Inclusion Development People and Planet Division



Traditional bai house displayed at the Belau National Museum, Koror, Palau.



Fono 2026 theme
Chad er a Beluu – People. Capability. Leadership.

Chosen by the Republic of Palau as host and Chair of Fono 2026, the theme Chad er a Beluu: People. Capability. Leadership recognises the essential role that people, capability, and leadership play in building strong and effective public services.

Two months prior to Fono 2026, Pacific Leaders gathered in Palau for the 55th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting under the theme **Building Economies: Life. Action. Unity.** Their discussions focused on the region's future prosperity, resilience, and development aspirations. Fono 2026 builds on that conversation from a public service perspective. If the region's ambitions are to be realised, there must be capable people, effective institutions, and strong leadership to translate vision into action. Public services in all jurisdictions are responsible for turning policy into implementation, commitments into outcomes, and regional aspirations into tangible benefits for Pacific communities.

The Fono 2026 theme reflects an important proposition: for economies to thrive, we must support the people who contribute to the outcome. The capability of our workforces, the strength of our institutions, and the quality of our leadership will ultimately determine our ability to achieve national priorities and advance regional commitments such as the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*.

Throughout the Fono week, leaders will explore how Pacific public services can continue to strengthen people, build capability, and exercise leadership in ways that support both national development and regional priorities. Underpinning these discussions is the principle of collective leadership, recognising that many of the challenges and opportunities facing Pacific public services are shared, and that greater progress can be achieved when leaders are supported to engage with and learn from one another.

Fono 2026 Programme

About the programme

Fono 2026 is grounded in the collective priorities[1] endorsed by Pacific Public Service Leaders at Fono 2025. Throughout 2026, these priorities were explored through the Pacific Public Service Leaders' Group's (PPSLG) sub-regional meeting series across Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia and the Fono 2026 registration process. The outcome is a PPSLG led programme, that reflects the experiences, perspectives, and priorities shared by its members.

[1] Pacific regionalism and the Pacific public sector, collective leadership, integrity and ethics, digital adoption and Artificial Intelligence, and workforce planning and Human Resources.

The Programme

Session Overviews

The following sessions reflect the priorities identified by the Pacific Public Service Leaders' Group and the discussions held throughout 2026. Together, they provide an opportunity for leaders to share experiences, explore practical responses to common challenges, and consider how Pacific public services can continue to strengthen outcomes for the people and communities they serve.

Monday 9 November | Pacific Regionalism: Collective Leadership and the role of public services

Session Overview

Pacific regionalism enables countries to address shared challenges, agree priorities, and advance collective aspirations for the Blue Pacific. As host of Fono 2026 and Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, Palau will set the scene with reflections on regional leadership and the outcomes of the 55th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting. Delegates will consider how public service leaders can turn regional commitments into practical action, strengthen cooperation, and use the Fono to learn from one another.

Speaker	Intended Outcomes
Representative of the Pacific Islands Forum Chair	• Gain insight into the key outcomes and priorities emerging from Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting 55. • Reflect on the role of Public Service Leaders and public servants in supporting regional priorities. • Consider the value of regional cooperation in addressing shared public service challenges. • Better understand the role of collective leadership in advancing regional priorities and aspirations.

Monday 9 November | Fono Session: Secretariat and Governance

Session Overview

Fono 2026 provides an opportunity for Pacific Public Service Leaders to review and reflect on progress made during 2026, confirm priorities for the years ahead, and strengthen collective direction across Pacific workforce development efforts.

Chair	Intended Outcomes
Terralyn Nabeyama Director Bureau of Human Resources Palau With the support of the Public Service Fale Secretariat	• Shared understanding of progress since Fono 2025. • Strategic direction for the Public Service Fale and the Pacific Public Service Leaders' Group. • Agreement on priorities and areas for collective action. • Key messages and actions to inform the Fono 2026 Outcomes Statement.

Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 November | Country Updates

Session Overview

This session provides an opportunity for each country to provide an update on key developments for their public service agencies since Fono 2025, and emerging priorities for 2027. By hearing directly from one another, delegates will gain insight into emerging trends and priorities across the region and identify opportunities for collaboration and ongoing dialogue throughout the Conference.

Speakers	Intended Outcomes
A representative from each of the 16 member countries	• Gain insight into developments and priorities across Pacific public services. • Share experiences, challenges, and lessons learned since Fono 2025, identifying common issues and opportunities across the region. • Strengthen peer learning and connections across the Pacific Public Service Leaders' Group for 2027.

Tuesday 10 November | Sustaining Leadership: Wellbeing and resilience in public service leadership

Session Overview

Pacific Public Service Leaders carry significant responsibilities, guiding their organisations through continuous change, competing priorities, and high expectations while also supporting the wellbeing of their people. This session provides an opportunity for Commissioners to reflect on their own wellbeing, and the practices that help sustain effective leadership over time. Through expert insights and peer discussion, delegates will share experiences, strengthen connections, and explore how they can support themselves and one another while stewarding high-performing public services.

Speaker	Intended Outcomes
Dr Sylvia Wally Clinical Psychiatrist Division of Behavioural Health Ministry of Health and Human Services Palau	• Reflect on the connected pressures of leading public service systems in Pacific contexts. • Build self-awareness and identify practical steps that support high functioning leadership, strong relationships and sustained wellbeing. • Strengthen trusted peer connections and identify ways to support leadership wellbeing and resilience between Fono Conferences.

Tuesday 10 November | Leadership Conversations

Session Overview

Following on from the wellbeing session, delegates will take part in facilitated leadership conversations with their peers. Participants will split into two groups, Chairs and Commissioners, and Senior Leaders and Officials, to discuss the key challenges they are facing in their respective roles, share experiences, insights and practical knowledge, and support peer problem-solving on common issues and opportunities across the sector.

Facilitators	Intended Outcomes
Terralyn Nabeyama Director, Bureau of Human Resources, Palau **Tania Ott** Deputy Commissioner New Zealand Public Service Commission **Jo Talbot** First Assistant Commissioner Australian Public Service Commission	• Reflect on and share leadership pressures and wellbeing from different leadership perspectives. • Share practical approaches for sustaining effective leadership through challenge and change. • Strengthen peer connections and support between leaders. • Identify ways leaders can continue to support one another beyond the Fono.

Wednesday 11 November | How digital and AI are shaping the public service

Session Overview

This session will explore how digital technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) can help improve business processes and service delivery across Pacific public services. Delegates will consider the opportunities, risks and leadership implications of digital transformation, including how Pacific values and people-centred approaches can remain at the heart of change.

Speakers	Intended Outcomes
Pedro Ramirez (co-facilitator) Digital Strategy Practitioner The Government Digital Delivery Agency New Zealand **Ativalu Lemuelu** (co-facilitator) Manager Agency Partnerships The Government Digital Delivery Agency New Zealand **Luke Rokovada** Chair Fiji Public Service Commission **Vele Ravugamini** Deputy Secretary Department of Personnel Management Papua New Guinea **Jo Talbot** First Assistant Commissioner Australia Public Service Commission	• Define digital transformation, AI and generative AI, and understand their relevance and opportunities for Pacific public services. • Identify opportunities to use digital and AI-enabled solutions to improve business processes and service delivery while maintaining Pacific values and people-centred approaches. • Recognise the risks associated with digital transformation and explore approaches to managing and mitigating them. • Explore opportunities for regional collaboration, knowledge sharing and collective action to support digital transformation and AI adoption.

Wednesday 11 November | Integrity in Practice: Navigating competing expectations in Pacific public services

Session Overview

This session considers how integrity principles are applied in the complex realities of public service leadership. It focuses on challenges that can be particularly significant across the Pacific, including navigating political expectations, addressing actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest, and managing gift giving. In the context of small administrations and closely connected communities, the session highlights the importance of sound judgement, clear policies, and consistent practices in maintaining impartiality, strengthening ethical decision-making, and safeguarding public confidence.

Speakers	Intended Outcomes
Meto Nganga Chair Vanuatu Public Service Commission **Ritite Tekiau** Secretary Kiribati Public Service Office **Taiatu Ataata** Chair Tonga Public Service Commission	• Reflect on the practical challenges Public Service Leaders face in applying integrity principles in complex and competing circumstances. • Explore how Pacific public services are responding to issues relating to political expectations, gift giving, and conflicts of interest. • Identify practical approaches that support impartiality, public confidence, and integrity in public service decision-making.

Thursday 12 November | Workforce Planning: Leading for a capable future workforce

Session Overview

Workforce planning is increasingly recognised as a critical leadership and stewardship responsibility for Public Service Leaders. As Pacific public services face changing workforce demographics, labour mobility pressures, skills shortages, and increasing demands for public services, leaders must be able to anticipate future workforce needs and plan accordingly. Building on discussions from the 2026 Pacific Workforce Planning Conference in Brisbane, Australia this session explores the role of Commissioners and senior leaders in championing workforce planning and creating the conditions for long-term workforce capability, sustainability, and resilience.

Speakers	Intended Outcomes
Australian Public Service Commission Samoa Public Service Commission	• Recognise workforce planning as a strategic leadership and stewardship responsibility, rather than solely a human resources function. • Better understand the workforce risks facing Pacific public services. • Reflect on the role of Public Service Leaders in championing workforce planning and elevating it as a strategic priority within government. • Consider how regional workforce planning tools and country experiences can support workforce planning efforts within their own jurisdictions.

Thursday 12 November | Labour Mobility and the Pacific public service workforce

Session Overview

Labour mobility continues to create significant opportunities for Pacific countries, while also presenting challenges for workforce sustainability and public service capability. Public Service Leaders are increasingly navigating the impacts of workforce movement across critical sectors, including challenges to recruitment and retention, skill shortages, and workforce planning. Building on the preceding Workforce Planning session, this discussion explores one of the most significant workforce challenges facing Pacific public services and considers how Public Service Commissions and Public Service Leaders can influence labour mobility discussions and workforce decisions to help sustain public service capability.

Speaker	Intended Outcomes
Dr Alisi Wenonahlita Kautoke Head of the PACER Plus Implementation Unit	• Build a clearer picture of how labour mobility is affecting Pacific public services. • Identify the main workforce pressures, needs and priorities shared by delegates. • Recognise the role of Public Service Leaders in influencing labour mobility discussions and workforce decisions. • Establish clear actions for future collaboration to address identified issues and priorities.

Thursday 12 November | Consideration of Outcomes Statement

Session Overview

The Fono 2026 Outcomes Statement captures the key messages, priorities, and actions emerging from discussions throughout the week. This session provides an opportunity for Leaders to reflect on the major themes raised during the Conference, identify areas of shared interest, and consider how these should shape future priorities of the Pacific Public Service Leaders' Group and the Public Service Fale. Through discussion and agreement, Leaders will collectively set the direction for the year ahead and reaffirm their shared commitment to strengthening public services across the Pacific.

Chair	Intended Outcomes
Terralyn Nabeyama Director Bureau of Human Resources Palau With the support of the Public Service Fale Secretariat	• Reach understanding of the key themes emerging from Fono 2026. • Agreement on priorities and actions for the year ahead. • Endorsement of the Fono 2026 Outcomes Statement.

Guest Speakers

Fono 2026 is supported by a range of guest speakers who bring expertise, leadership experience, and perspectives from across the Pacific and beyond. Through presentations, facilitated discussions, and practical case studies, these contributors will help enrich conversations and support Leaders to explore the opportunities and challenges shaping public services today.

Dr Sylvia Wally



Clinical Psychiatrist
Division of Behavioural Health
Ministry of Health and Human Services

Speaking at:
Sustaining leadership: Wellbeing and resilience in public service leadership

Biography
Dr Sylvia M. Wally is a clinical psychiatrist with more than two decades of experience in mental health practice, programme leadership and workforce development across Palau and Micronesia. She has led Palau's Division of Behavioral Health and served as a consultant psychiatrist across the Federated States of Micronesia, guiding mental health and substance-use programmes, developing service standards and training local health workforces.

Her work includes child development, school and family support, clinical training, crisis response and community-based mental health. She established Palau's 24-hour crisis talk-line and has advanced culturally grounded approaches to wellbeing, resilience, trauma and addiction that connect clinical practice, traditional knowledge and public service.

Session contribution
Dr Wally will share practical insights on leadership wellbeing and resilience in Pacific public service contexts.

Pedro Ramirez



Digital Strategy Practitioner
The Government Digital Delivery Agency
New Zealand

Speaking at:
How digital and AI are shaping the public service

Biography
Pedro Ramirez is a public servant leading the New Zealand Public Service Artificial Intelligence Work Programme within the Government Digital Delivery Agency. With more than 25 years' experience, he has delivered large-scale initiatives of national significance and held senior roles including Chief Digital Officer and Deputy Chief Executive.

Session contribution
Pedro will facilitate discussions and draw on his experience to explore the opportunities that digital technologies and AI present for improving business processes, enhancing service delivery and driving innovation across the public sector.

Ativalu Lemuelu



Manager Agency Partnerships
The Government Digital Delivery Agency
New Zealand

Speaking at:
How digital and AI are shaping the public service

Biography
Ativalu Lemuelu is Manager Agency Partnerships with New Zealand's Government Digital Delivery Agency (GDDA), working across the public service to build trusted agency partnerships and advance a more joined-up digital government. With more than two decades of experience spanning government, technology, project management, business development and strategic relationship management, Ativalu has held senior relationship and agency-partnership roles across the New Zealand public sector. Their work focuses on helping agencies align to shared digital priorities, strengthen collaboration, reduce duplication and improve how people access public services.

Ativalu brings a strong Pacific and people-centred perspective to digital transformation, with a particular interest in working with Stakeholder to find practical and meaningful solutions exploring how digital services and AI can deliver practical public value while strengthening capability and inclusion. Their recent work has included supporting cross-government digital leadership, the Government Digital Graduate Programme, and public-sector initiatives relating to AI adoption and the Digital Target State.

Session contribution
Ativalu will co-facilitate the session, bringing insights from his work with New Zealand public service agencies on their digital needs and priorities, and the opportunities and challenges they are encountering as they adopt digital and AI solutions.

Jo Talbot



First Assistant Commissioner
Australian Public Service Commission

Speaking at:
How digital and AI are shaping the public service

Biography
Jo joined the Australian Public Service Commission in July 2023. She is responsible for people and corporate strategy, international, workplace relations, strengthening integrity and culture, and performance. In this role she is Australia's representative on the Public Governance Committee at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and on the Open Government Partnership (OGP), a multilateral initiative that aims to secure commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption and harness new technologies to strengthen governance.

Jo has held a range of senior corporate leadership roles across a number of departments including the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Department of Social Services, Department of Communications and the Arts, Department of Human Services, and Australian Customs Service. Jo holds an Arts degree with a major in Human Resources and a Graduate Certificate of Public Administration from the University of Canberra.

Session contribution
Jo will share how the Australian Public Service Commission is using digital tools and AI to support workforce readiness, including building AI capability, managing change, job design, and developing an AI-enabled workforce planning tool.

Dr Ayeesha Abbasi



Assistant Director
Australian Public Service Centre of Excellence for Workforce Planning

Speaking at:
Workforce Planning: Leading for a capable future workforce

Biography
Dr Ayeesha Abbasi leads the Strategic Foresights function of the APS Centre of Excellence for Workforce Planning within the Australian Public Service Commission. She brings over ten years of research experience and holds a PhD in management and organisational behaviour. Ayeesha has taught extensively on management fundamentals with a focus on evidence-based practice at the Australian National University. Since 2023, she has worked with public service leaders across the Pacific, Asia, and Europe to help strengthen evidence-based workforce management and planning. While at the OECD, Ayeesha led the first multi-country EU survey of central government public servants to deliver actionable insights.
Most recently she has lead the Commission's work of how Artificial Intelligence and other trends may shape the workforce of the APS and supported capability uplift in workforce futures.

Session contribution
Ayeesha Abbasi will support the facilitation of the Workforce Planning session, helping Leaders explore their role in championing workforce planning and drawing out practical insights from across the region.

Dr Alisi Wenonahlita Kautoke



Head of the PACER Plus Implementation Unit

Speaking at:
Labour mobility and the Pacific public service workforce

Biography
Dr Alisi Wenonahlita Kautoke is a Tongan trade and economic development professional with more than 20 years of experience in regional trade, labour mobility, investment, and economic development across the Pacific.

She joined the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus (PACER Plus) Implementation Unit in 2022 and most recently served as Labour Mobility Specialist and Adviser for Trade in Services and Movement of Natural Persons. Throughout her career, she has worked closely with Pacific governments, regional organisations, and development partners to strengthen regional economic integration and sustainable development. She was directly involved in negotiating the agreement and has since played a leading role in its implementation.

Session contribution
Dr Kautoke will provide regional insight into labour mobility, workforce pressures, and the implications for Pacific public service capability.



The bridge connecting Koror and Babeldaob islands, Palau, which was built by Japan in 2002.



Rock Islands Arch is one of Palau's most iconic natural landmarks, located in the Rock Islands Southern Lagoon of Koror.

Conference Timetable

	Sunday 8 Nov Optional events		Monday 9 Nov Scene setting		Tuesday 10 Nov Leadership
6.00am	Church service				
7.00am	Breakfast				
		8:45am	Delegates arrive and seated	**8:45am**	Daily recap + overview
9:00am	**Optional visit to Palau Capitol Buildings** 9:00am – 11:30am	**9:00am**	**Opening Ceremony** 9:00am to 9:30am **Venue**: Pristine Villa Stairs	**9:00am**	**Sustaining leadership: wellbeing and resilience in public service leadership** 9:00am – 11:00am **Venue**: Pristine Villa
		9:30am	**Leaders' photo and Morning tea** 9:30am – 10:00am Venue: Pristine Villa Patio		
		10:00am	**Pacific Regionalism, collective leadership and the role of public services** 10:00am – 11:00am Venue: Pristine Villa Patio		
		11:00am	Lunch **Venue**: Pristine Villa Patio	**11:00am**	Morning tea
11:30am	Lunch **Venue**: Coco Beach Resort			**11:30am**	**Leadership conversations** 11:30am – 1:00pm **Venue**: Pristine Villa
		12:00pm	**Fono Secretariat & Governance** 12:30pm – 2:00pm **Venue**: Pristine Villa		
1:00pm	Return to Koror			**1:00pm**	Lunch Venue: Pristine Villa Patio
2:00pm	Executive time	**2:00pm**	Afternoon tea	**2:00pm**	**Country updates** 2:00pm – 4:00pm **Venue**: Pristine Villa
		2:30pm	**Country updates** 2:30pm – 4:00pm **Venue**: Pristine Villa		
		4:00pm	Executive time	**4:00pm**	Afternoon Tea
				4:30pm	**Bilateral meetings**
		6:00pm	**Opening dinner** 6:00pm – 8:00pm **Venue**: Palau National Museum		

	Wednesday 11 Nov Capability	Thursday 12 Nov People	Friday 13 Nov Reflection
8:45am	Daily recap + overview	**8:45am** Daily recap + overview	**8:45am** Daily recap + overview
9:00am	**How digital and AI are shaping the public service** 9:00am – 11:00am **Venue**: Pristine Villa	**9:00am** **Workforce planning: Leading for a capable future workforce** 9:00 – 11:00am **Venue**: Pristine Villa	**9:00am** **Pacific Public Service Leaders' Group retreat/reflection session** Venue: Rock Islands
11:00am	Morning tea	**11:00am** Morning tea	
11:30am	**How digital and AI are shaping the public service continued** 11:30am – 1:00pm **Venue**: Pristine Villa	**11:30am** **Labour mobility and the Pacific public service workforce** 11:30am – 1:00pm **Venue**: Pristine Villa	**11:30am** **Rock Islands excursion** 11:30am - 4:00pm
1:00pm	Lunch Venue: Pristine Villa Patio	**1:00pm** Lunch Venue: Pristine Villa Patio	
2:00pm	**Integrity in Practice: Navigating competing expectations in Pacific public services** 2:00pm – 4:00pm **Venue**: Pristine Villa	**2:00pm** **Consideration of Outcomes Statement** 2:00pm – 3:30pm **Venue**: Pristine Villa	
		3:30pm Afternoon tea	
4:00pm	Afternoon tea	**4:00pm** **Bilateral meetings**	
4:30pm	**Bilateral meetings**		
		5:00pm Executive time	
6:00pm	**Mixer event** **Venue**: Beer Garden, PPR	**6:00pm** **Closing ceremony and dinner** **Venue**: Beachside BBQ area tent, PPR	

Discover Palau



The Republic of Palau is an island nation in the western Pacific Ocean and the proud host of Fono 2026. Comprising more than 300 islands, Palau is renowned for its rich cultural heritage, strong traditions of leadership and stewardship, and world-famous natural environment.

As delegates gather in Koror for Fono 2026, we invite you to learn more about the people, history, and culture of our host nation.

Palau at a glance

Capital	Ngerulmud
Largest population centre	Koror
Population	Approximately 18,000 people
Official languages	Palauan and English
Form of government	Presidential republic

Useful Palauan phrases

English	Palauan	Pronunciation
Hello/Welcome	Alii	ah-LEE
Thank you	Mesulang	meh-soo-LAHNG
Good morning	Ungil tutau	oong-EEL too-TAU
Goodbye	Mechikung	may-ee-KOONG

Practical Information

To help you make the most of your time in Palau, the following practical information has been provided for your convenience. Should you require any assistance during the Conference, please contact a member of the Fono Secretariat.

Venue and Accommodation

Palau Pacific Resort
Koror, Republic of Palau
Phone: +680 488 2600

Travel Essentials

Currency	United States Dollar (USD)
Time zone	Palau Standard Time (UTC +9)
Climate	Tropical, warm and humid year-round
Power supply	120V, 60Hz
Plug types	Type A and Type B
Language	Palauan and English

Emergency Services

The Belau National Hospital is within a 5-minute drive from the Palau Pacific Resort.

For any emergencies, call 911.

Fono 2026 WhatsApp Group

Delegates are encouraged to join the Fono 2026 WhatsApp group by scanning the QR code. The group will be used to share programme and logistical updates throughout the Fono and to support communication between delegates.

Meals

Breakfast
Breakfast is included in your room booking. Breakfast is provided in the restaurant at Palau Pacific Resort.

Lunch
Lunch is catered throughout the Conference and will be provided at the restaurant.

Dinner

Monday 9	Delegates are invited to join the host of the Fono for an opening dinner at the Palau National Museum.
Wednesday 11	Delegates are invited to a mixer event with light finger food.
Thursday 12	Delegates are invited to join the host of the Fono for the closing dinner at the Palau Pacific Resort.



Chad er a Beluu
People. Capability. Leadership.

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Pacific Public Service Leaders' Conference