

SICCI joins  
10th World  
Chamber  
Congress



GPPOL, KPSI  
host field trip  
on Rhino  
Beetle threat



Sumitomo  
withdrawal, a  
setback to the  
Industry



Private Sector  
meets with  
visiting ADB  
President



Issue: 04

# 2017 BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Prime Minister Hon. Manasseh Sogavare delivers the Prime Minister's Award 2016 to Kokonut Pacific Solomon Islands (KPSI) last year. Pictured is Wilson Kikolo receiving on behalf of KPSI. Photo: Torn Parachute

# IT'S ON AGAIN!

BEAs return Sat 4 Nov

Welcome to the Chamber's  
Monthly Newsletter!

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2017

# Government commended for Tax Review

Tuesday 5 September 2017

The Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI) has commended the Solomon Islands Government for commencing work to undertake a tax review consultation that involves a wide scope of stakeholders including private sector groups.

SICCI as the peak body representing the private sector has always advocated for tax reform and the review is a step in the right direction.

"Our tax system is too reliant on a single commodity and imposes high tax burden on businesses and individuals, thereby restrictive growth prospects for individuals and the economy," says SICCI CEO Dennis Meone.

"The review is welcoming and would pave the direction for changes to the tax system."

SICCI welcomes the appointment of a Tax Review Consultative Committee (TRCC) and the inclusion of the private sector, statutory bodies and Civil Society Organization (CSO) and other interest groups in the consultative committee.

SICCI Chair, Jay Bartlett commends the government for its vision and for being inclusive in its approach.

"The involvement of the private sector and other stakeholders reinforces the willingness of the government through the Ministry of Finance to collaborate with important stakeholders in working together and explore policy solutions that are tailored to our context," says Mr Bartlett.

According to a Tax Review discussion paper by MoFT, the current tax structure in Solomon Islands constrains economic growth and limits the pace of development.

"The current tax system imposes a very high tax burden when compared to other Pacific countries (with tax revenue accounting for 32 per cent of GDP in 2016) and the structure of the tax system is outdated, inefficient, complex, expensive to administer and anti-competitive.

"The tax system imposes high compliance costs on taxpayers and encourages unproductive tax avoidance and evasion activities.

"Moreover, it does not actively support growth - for example, it does not systematically support exports and instead relies upon distortionary exemptions for exporting industries."

A comprehensive tax review will examine problems with the current system and seek solutions to deliver a tax system that will promote economic growth.

"This will be a fair, simple and broad-based tax system, which ensures everyone who is liable to pay tax, pays the correct amount," says the report.

The tax review will be undertaken in a staged approach over three years.

Stage 1: Review of Tax Administration Arrangements and Consumption Taxes

Stage 2: Review of Income Tax

Stage 3: Other Taxes

The varying sectors involved would be subjected to consult and forward their proposal to the Tax Review committee who can submit recommendations directly MoFT.

SICCI will hold its consultation with the business community this Thursday 7th September at the Heritage Park Hotel.

## SICCI congratulates Solomon Airlines new Tarawa-Honiara-Brisbane route



SICCI Chair Jay Bartlett (second left) was among delegates in the inaugural flight to Tarawa, Kiribati.

Wednesday 30 August 2017

The Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI) congratulates Solomon Airlines for establishing its newest flight route to Kiribati, marking the start of a weekly flight plan between

Honiara, Brisbane and Tarawa.

Solomon Airlines made its inaugural flight to Tarawa today. To mark the occasion, the flight carried a small delegation from Kiribati who arrived prior, Government officials from the tourism

sector, private sector representatives and executives of the flag carrier.

SICCI Chair Jay Bartlett, who was among the travelling delegates, said the establishment of the Tarawa route is a historic milestone for Solomon Airlines and will have a diverse impact on both the private sector and the country's tourism sector - serving as a gateway to Australia and Kiribati.

"The Chamber on behalf of the private sector congratulates the achievement of Solomon Airlines and looks forward to its ongoing schedule," said Mr Bartlett.

The Brisbane-Honiara-Tarawa link was signed by Solomon Airlines and Air Kiribati in March this year.

The partnership is followed up from an Air Service Agreement (ASA) and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the Solomon Islands Government and the Republic of Kiribati in November 2016.

It is understood that under this ASA, Solomon Airlines and Air Kiribati, in collaboration with each country's Civil Aviation Authorities, will promote the aviation sector, as well as initiatives stimulating both countries' social and economic development.

# SICCI joins World Chambers Congress in Sydney

Tuesday 19 September 2017

The Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI) is among international private sector representatives at the 10th World Chambers Congress 2017 currently underway in Sydney this week.

SICCI Chair Jay Bartlett and CEO Dennis Meone joined global business leaders on invitation by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) rubbing shoulders with over 1,000 delegates from 127 countries.

The summit opened today Tuesday 19th September and will proceed through the next two days with both informal and formal occasions to give private sector representatives the opportunity to develop networks.

Featuring renowned speakers from all over the world, the Congress delegates benefit from first-hand knowledge and diverse perspectives on a broad



SICCI Chair Jay Bartlett, right, and SICCI CEO Dennis Meone at the 10th World Chambers Congress currently underway in Sydney, Australia.

number of pertinent topics slated for discussion during the event's extensive three-day program, according to organisers ICC.

"The Congress brings to us invaluable opportunities to extend our relationship with other private sector organisations, an event where we can exchange our experiences, challenges and find mutual objectives," said Mr Bartlett speaking from Sydney.

"SICCI will use this opportunity to extend our relationship with the international business community and explore

ways where Solomon Islands businesses can benefit from."

The World Chambers Congress is the only international forum for chamber leaders and professionals to share best-practices, exchange insights, develop networks and address the latest business issues affecting private sector communities.

The Congress is held every two years.

The 10th World Chambers Congress is co-organised by ICC, World Chambers Federation (WCF) and the Sydney Business Chamber.



## Not a member? Want to join? It just got easier.

Sign up online by visiting our newly re-launched website on [www.solomonchamber.com.sb](http://www.solomonchamber.com.sb)

New looks, better feel ...awesome features!

Check our news updates, newsletter subscription, about us info, members portal, downloads section, and search for tenders function!



Visit our office located at the Hyndai Mall,  
First Floor, Suit 223 to collect an  
application form.

For Membership enquiries contact  
Neil Nuia on phone 39542 or email  
[services@solomonchamber.com.sb](mailto:services@solomonchamber.com.sb)

## 2017 Business Excellence Awards returns with new award categories

Thursday 21 September 2017

In its 4th consecutive year the Business Excellence Awards returns on Saturday 4th November at the Coral Sea Resort and Casino from 6:00pm.

Now a fixed event in the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) annual calendar, the Business Excellence Awards (BEA) continues to grow and in 2017 a record amount of nominations were received, with over 60 businesses from a diverse range of industries entering to win one of the 16 plaques awarded over the various categories.

The 2017 BEA will be an entertaining and exciting event aimed at celebrating, acknowledging and honoring the success and contribution of local business to the community and is a celebration of all that is best in Solomon Islands business and it defines the standard for good practice in business.

Looking to again increase entrant numbers and to reach the wider business community, in particular smaller businesses, SICCI has revamped the award categories and have added a number of new categories to the list in 2017.

This year 10 businesses and/or individuals will be honored at the award ceremony in the following categories: Entrepreneur of the Year, Large Business of the Year, Medium Business of the Year, Small Business of the Year, New Business of the Year, Business Contribution to the Community Award, Innovation & Technology Award, Special Awards, Agribusiness of the Year, Tourism Business of the Year and the Prime Minister's Business Excellence Award. A selected panel of independent experts will again judge the awards.

SICCI is pleased to be once again be partnering with the Solomon Islands Government to host this event with this year's theme being "Unity in Leadership". Leadership remains critical in our journey and quest for growth and economic development and the recent signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the government and the private sector reaffirms the ongoing need for partnership, collaboration and unity in leadership between these two important sectors. Equally important, the theme reflects the pressing need for us as a country to unite at all levels of society to work together

towards our common goals involving our stakeholders in the process.

The highly esteemed Business Excellence Awards recognizes and rewards the exceptional work and the results gained by the trail blazers in the Solomon Islands business domain, in the face of an ever-increasing competitive market.

Continuing the search, the 2017 Business Excellence Awards will seek out the leading lights of the business industry, looking for those whose creativity, commitment, experience and strong leadership has helped them achieve success in an increasingly challenging corporate climate.

In addition to an engaging award ceremony, you can once again expect an entertaining evening with performances by local entertainers.

Nominations are now open, and SICCI is calling on all businesses to enter all categories and compete for up to two awards. The Prime Minister's Business

Excellence Award will be the only category your business cannot enter.

To nominate your business or another brilliant business you know of please contact the SICCI office on 39542 and speak with Ernest Ta'asi or email [services@solomonchamber.com.sb](mailto:services@solomonchamber.com.sb)

Nominations close Friday 20th October 2017.

Applications can also be downloaded from our website [www.solomonchamber.com.sb](http://www.solomonchamber.com.sb)

Tickets to the Business Excellence Awards are on sale now for:

Members

- SME: \$ 500 per person
- Other: \$600 per person

Non-Members

- \$750 per person

Corporates

- \$1,300 per person

All tickets can be purchased through the SICCI office by calling 39542.

## Businesses urged to apply for Awards

Thursday 28 September

As nominations open for the biggest awards event of the Private Sector, businesses are called on to enter nominations that are open until Friday 20th October 2017.

The Business Excellence Awards (BEA) 2017 is set to take place at the Coral Sea Resort on Saturday 4th November with the theme "Unity in Leadership".

Organisers of the prestigious awards ceremony Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI), are encouraging businesses or entrepreneurs to nominate their business by completing a nomination form which is available online at [www.solomonchamber.com.sb](http://www.solomonchamber.com.sb)

The awards are open to all businesses or organisations in the country.

SICCI CEO Dennis Meone says, "The BEA is our biggest event that takes place every November with an aim to bring together the private sector and government to celebrate all that is best in Solomon Islands business and it defines the standard for good practice in business. We are encouraging people or the public to nominate businesses or organisations who deserve to be recognised for their achievements or contribution to our communities."

Last year's BEA recorded the highest number of nominations with over 60

businesses competing for the honours.

This year SICCI is introducing three new categories to recognise and encourage businesses in the agriculture and tourism sectors and also innovating businesses who use technology to advance their business. The newly added awards are Tourism Business of the Year, Agribusiness of the Year and an Innovation and Technology Award.

Candidates can nominate for up to two awards in the following categories; Entrepreneur of the Year (open for men and women), Large Business of the Year (more than 50 employees), Medium Business of the Year (10 – 50 employees), Small Business of the Year (less than 10 employees), New Business of the Year (within three years of establishment), Business Contribution to the Community, Innovation & Technology Award, Tourism Business of the Year and Agribusiness of the Year.

The ultimate award of the ceremony, the Prime Minister's Business Excellence Award is the only award that is not open for nominations but will be selected by an independent panel of judges.

Tickets to the Business Excellence Awards are on sale now.

SICCI would like to thank BEA 2017 sponsors so far RICOH Solomons, Solomon Star, Island Sun and Sullivans and Solomon Breweries.

# Sumitomo withdrawal a setback to the industry

Monday 14 August 2017

The Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI) has expressed regret over the withdrawal of Japanese nickel mining giant Sumitomo Metal Mining, and called for improvement to the regulatory policies for incoming investors and businesses.

SICCI Chair Jay Bartlett said it is unfortunate and regretful for a major international investor such as SMM to leave the Solomon Islands after spending most of its time and resources in the courts.

Mr Bartlett stressed the importance of a transparent legislative and regulatory framework for all investors and business to avoid another loss of a potential contributor to the economy.

Retaining Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is just as important, if not more important, than attracting FDI, he added. He said SMM's withdrawal is a huge loss for the country especially at a critical time when we need to broaden our narrow economic base and look at alternative growth in other sectors to replace the logging sector. Unfortunately, unclear regulatory systems are disincentives for prospective investments and the departure of SMM is a classic example for us to learn from.



A nickel mining site in Isabel Province.  
PHOTO: SUPPLIED

"What message does the closure bring to potential investors? The Chamber views Sumitomo's withdrawal a loss and an opportunity missed for the economy," said the Chair.

"This has cost potentially hundreds of jobs for many Solomon Islanders and the loss of benefits for resource owners."

Mr Bartlett said furthermore many local businesses and service providers are

going to be affected.

The Chamber acknowledges SMM's decision to leave based on the plunge of bauxite pricing, however, also noting the implications of the 6 years long legal battle for nickel mining rights at Isabel Province.

SICCI is concerned and pleads to relevant government authorities to ensure internal regulatory systems are robust, credible and encourages FDI inflows.

## SICCI and MWYCFA signs Grant Agreement to establish Young Entrepreneurs Council

Monday 21 August 2017

A Young Entrepreneurs Council (YEC) will soon be set up under the auspice of the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) after the signing of a Grant Agreement between SICCI and the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) on Monday 22nd August at the Heritage Park.

The agreement was signed by SICCI Chair, Jay Bartlett and the Permanent Secretary (Supervising) of MWYCFA, Justus Denni.

The ceremony was attended by senior government officials, members of the SICCI Board and successful young entrepreneurs.

Through the Grant Agreement, MWYCFA will provide funds amounting to \$200,000 to meet the cost of setting up the council.

SICCI will also provide additional resources including support services.

In his official remarks, SICCI Chair Mr Bartlett commended the leadership and commitment of the Government



Andre Tipoki (right) a director at the Ministry for Women, Youth and Children Affairs hands over the signed grant agreement to SICCI Chair Jay Bartlett.

through MWYCFA for having foresight to collaborate and invest in a Young Entrepreneurs Council through the provision of funds for its establishment.

The Chair also highlighted the importance of the council: "The Young Entrepreneurs Council will provide a platform for our young and talented youth and aspiring young leaders to access services to transform innovative ideas into successful business opportunities".

"In looking forward to the future, it is vital that young people be part of that

vision and YEC is one of many ways we can engage our young people," says Mr Bartlett.

The Supervising Permanent Secretary of MWYCFA, Justus Denni who signs on behalf of the Ministry also acknowledged the importance of YEC especially in the context of the emerging issues and challenges young people are faced with, noting that YEC will play a critical role in supporting talented entrepreneurs becoming successful.

According to SICCI CEO, Dennis Meone, the signing of the grant agreement continues to demonstrate the true spirit of collaboration between government and the private sector.

"We can achieve so much if we work in partnership and explore innovative ways and the signing is a first step towards operationalizing the Young Entrepreneurs Council," says Meone.

YEC is expected to be formally launched late in the year and will be a representative body and voice for young entrepreneurs including providing support services such as business mentoring, coaching and trainings.

# GPPOL, KPSI and Chamber holds field



The Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle shown during the tour.

Wednesday 30 August, 2017

The Guadalcanal Plains Palm Oil Limited (GPPOL) with the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI) and Kokonut Pacific Solomon Islands (KPSI), will host a field trip today in efforts to boost up the fight against the alarming spread of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle.

Stakeholders from the government and different sectors will join a tour at GPPOL'S Ngalimbiu Plantation and KPSI's operations at Henderson in a first-hand demonstration of the damaging effects of the Rhinoceros Beetle.

The tour will include delegates and representatives from businesses, government, donor partners and civil society

organizations. The purpose of the industry led initiative is to raise the profile of the current and potential impact of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle on the Oil Palm and Coconut Industries.

The field day will also provide an avenue for the dissemination of accurate information through the media to the public regarding this pest, including



Palm oil trees at the GPPOL farms are seriously damaged by the beetle's spread.

# trip on Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle



SICCI CEO Dennis Meone, KPSI Managing Director Bob Pollard and GPPOL General Manager Craig Gibsone discuss during the tour.

making a united stand for collaborative action to combat the beetle.

Agriculture is considered the backbone of the country's export revenue with almost 40,000 metric tonnes of palm oil valued at SBD\$250 million exported by GPPOL in 2016. Similarly, in 2016 Solomon Islands exported 16,057 metric tonnes of copra valued at SBD\$88 million.

"These two export industries are massive contributors to our economy and with the threat of the beetle the future of these industries hangs in the balance" said SICCI CEO Dennis Meone.

"Eighty percent of the rural people who are directly involved in coconut production will be affected, their livelihood will be affected so as their economic contribution."

"Imagine the effects it will have on farmers, families and communities that depend on coconut and palm oil to meet their basic needs and livelihood" the CEO added.

The Rhinoceros Beetle has spread as far as GPPOL in North East Guadalcanal, North West Guadalcanal, Malaita and Central Islands.

The beetle is a growing threat to the Coconut and Oil palm industry and has the potential to destroy and seriously hinder both industries if no action is taken.



A coconut tree stands in despair by the Beetle's infection.

SICCI understands that the Ministry of Agriculture is working on measures to counter the beetle outbreak, but it has



A pheromone trap at the GPPOL field set up to capture the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle

been slow and with needed assistance to make meaningful progress including involvement of the private sector.



# TIPS

## Small Business

with Chris Elphick of Learn.fast  
and SICCI

# Small businesses – high impact

A series of short practical articles on running successful and profitable small to medium size businesses. This short article introduces the next series on business development by Chris Elphick, Learnfast Pacific.



Imagine your business as a tree.

The weather/ climate in which the tree grows is our business environment.

The birds that nest in the tree are our customers.

Flowers and fruits that grow on the tree are our products and services.

The leaves represent our brand, our reputation and our presentation.

The branches reach out to customers – they are our selling mechanisms.

The trunk is the business owner.

Compost which is essential to help the tree grow represents all the resources we need – people, equipment, buildings, money etc.

The roots are our planning, our systems and processes

Seeds are our new ideas

The Earth is our market

The other trees around us are our competitors and or our collaborators

Finally, we need to be mindful of risks – fire and insects can destroy any tree!

During this new series of articles Chris Elphick looks at all the essential elements of successful businesses.

When you have read this article take some time out to look at your business using the tree as a model to help you.

Take a large sheet of paper and draw

a tree – use lots of colour and be creative! Start to identify the different elements as listed above and then for each element ask yourself the following questions:

What do we know about this element? What do we do well? What do we not do so well? What would we like to do in the future?

Make a note of your responses. This is one way of doing a complete review of your business. By using big images like the tree you can involve others – partners, family, staff, customers, suppliers – have fun and collect as many views as you can – write them all down then take a step back and reflect on your business. How strong is your tree? Are there any weak areas? What risks do you have to think about? Are you a tree standing on its own or are you part of a strong forest of protection?

This series will focus on each element of the business tree in turn and will provide you with useful tips on how to ensure your tree is as strong as it can possibly be.

**Coming next – small businesses – high impact part two – the weather/ climate – our business operating environment.**

*Chris Elphick is Director of Learn.fast Pacific, supporting the development of a range of businesses and organisations in Vanuatu, Fiji, Solomons and other Pacific countries. He is an experienced business mentor and has years of experience of working with Small & Medium Enterprises. Learnfast Pacific works in close association with business support organisations throughout the Pacific.*

*If you have a business issue for Chris to comment on please contact him at [chris@learnfastpacific.com](mailto:chris@learnfastpacific.com)*

# Our journey to improve the business environment - TAX



**John Kanai Ta'amora**  
Advocacy Officer

Dear Members,

Greetings from the Advocacy Desk. I trust you are well. Since the last update, there were some key development that have taken place.

## TAX

### Tax Reform Review

SICCI has two representatives in the Tax Reform Committee. The government, as you might know, is undergoing a Tax Reform Review. Early in September, the Tax Reform Review was launched. SICCI also has conducted a consultation session with its members to get their inputs and feedbacks concerning tax. In addition to this, the Advocacy Department had accepted a number of feedback emails concerning tax issues and recommendations concerning the Tax Review.

## PAYE

As you already know, one of the 2017 Advocacy priorities is the Pay As You Earn Tax. The Advocacy Department had conducted a first survey. From the data collected a First-pass-analysis was done in collaboration with EASI members. Based on two options, the results indicate the following:

### Option 1: Reduce the PAYE tax bracket rates

By reducing the tax brackets for each income range, disposable income will increase. Analysis from data you have provided us shows that a 1% increase in disposable income will result in 2.3% increase in government revenue paid in other taxes. Or a 10% increase in disposable income will induce a 23% increase in government revenue. It implies that if disposable income increases, government revenue will increase more than two times the increase in the former.

### Option 2: Increase threshold of disposable income from \$15,080 to SBD\$30,000

Increasing the threshold to \$30,000



will benefit low income earners, which means taxing income AFTER \$30,000. Our analyses based on data supplied by members revealed that if the income threshold is raised to \$30,000 for an individual tax payer, government revenue will increase to around \$18,849 (through other taxes) per year, assuming all else equal. Based on the NPF data, there are roughly about 55,000 active employees in the country. Taking that into consideration, the government is estimated to collect around \$1,036,695,000 (i.e. 18,849 x 55,000) in a year. This is about 50 percent higher than what is currently collected.

### **PLP Private Sector Scan for Solomon Islands**

The Advocacy Department is working closely with Pacific Leadership Program to facilitate a Private Sector Scan

for Solomon Islands. Two researchers (external and internal) will be doing the scan. Members are contacted and informed on dates which they will be able to meet with the researchers for the consultations. We aim to start the consultations by 9th October 2017.

## Taiwan

### Taiwan Tour for Fu Tsu Construction Company

In August, the Advocacy Officer took a delegation from Taiwan Fu Tsu Construction Company to meet with some of our members. Their purpose was to look for suppliers, builders, architects, consultants to assist them in the construction of the National Stadium in preparation for the South Pacific Games 2023 hosted by the Solomon Islands.

# KNOW YOUR BOARD

## SICCI Board Members for 2017/2018



CHAIR

**Jay Bartlett**  
Director  
Hatanga Ltd



VICE  
CHAIR

**Katalaini Ziru**  
Managing Director  
Law Corporation Pty Ltd



TREASURER

**David Rupokets**  
Managing Director  
Capitol Construction



**Lilly Lomulo**  
Human Resources Manager  
Solomon Islands Tobacco Co. Ltd



**Toata Molea**  
Managing Director  
Didao Developmet Corporation



**David Quan**  
Managing Director  
Quan Chee Corporation Ltd



**Sebastian Ilala**  
Managing Director  
BJS Agencies Ltd



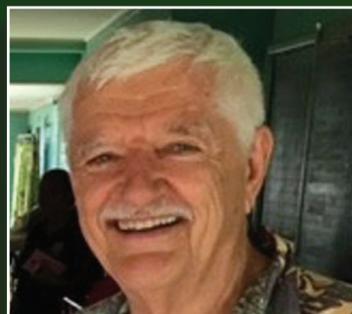
**Frank Wickham**  
General Manager  
National Fisheries Development



**Craig Gibsone**  
General Manager  
Guadalcanal Plains Palm Oil Ltd



**Samantha Maeke**  
National Coordinator  
PHAMA



**Sir Bruce Saunders**  
Managing Director  
AG & J Blums

# MEET THE SICCI TEAM



## **Dennis Meone**

*Chief Executive Officer*

Dennis is a young passionate Solomon Islander that wants to see the Solomon Islands economy grow and develop. He started with SICCI as the CEO in May 2016.

He sees the importance of the private sector and the government working in partnership, where both parties can discuss issues openly and explore policy solutions that can encourage private sector led growth through a conducive business environment.

Dennis holds a Master of Public Policy from Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) in New Zealand. Before he joined SICCI, Dennis worked at the Ministry of Finance & Treasury and later the Australian High Commission Office in Honiara.



## **John Kanai Ta'amora**

*Advocacy Officer*

John Kanai is responsible for the Chamber's Advocacy Plan 2015-2019. Part of this role is to do researches that will help assist members of SICCI and the Solomon Islands Government in making better policies that are mutually benefiting. John Kanai was recruited in April 2017.

He recently completed his Master of Arts thesis in International Affairs in February 2017 on Solomon Islands Foreign Policy and the Impact of RAMSI and has a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Economics and Politics at the University of the South Pacific (USP) in Fiji.



## **John Paul Alasia**

*Export Industry Development Officer*

John Paul oversees the Chamber's agribusiness activities and the export industry and works closely with the Pacific Horticulture Agriculture Marketing Access (PHAMA). His role involves engaging with the five industry working groups Cocoa, Coconut, Horticulture, Sawn Timber and Seafood.

John joined SICCI in May 2017. He previously worked as a Livestock Field Officer at the Taiwan Technical Mission Farm at King George VI in East Honiara in 2016. He graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Agriculture Applied Science at the University of South Pacific, Samoa in 2014.



## **Shaun Konaga**

*Administrative Manager & Assistant Finance Officer*

Shaun manages the SICCI Office administration through reception, office and printing supplies, events management as well as assisting financial duties on salaries and finance records.

Before she came to SICCI she was an assistant administration officer with the events company Mac Group and made her potential known during Mac Group's preparation of the SICCI Business Excellence Awards in 2015.



## **Ernest Ta'asi**

*Media & Communications Officer*

Ernest drives the SICCI Communications Strategy. He maintains the Chamber's branding, design and graphic visibility, website administration, social media management and deals with the mainstream media contents. Ernest also manages the flow of information in the SICCI network.

He previously worked for Island Sun Newspaper since 2010 as a news reporter, photographer, graphic designer and became sub-editor before he joined the Chamber in August 2016.



## **Charles Persson**

*Advisor to CEO*

Charles works as the advisor to the CEO. His engagement with SICCI was previously on assignment with the Australian Volunteers International as a Business Analyst. The SICCI Board approved extending Charles' role with the Chamber and he will continue to support the team and advise the CEO in 2017/18.

His background includes working in the energy efficiency, renewable energy, and building and construction industries in project, operations and general management. He has a bachelor degree in civil engineering and a graduate diploma in strategic marketing.



## **Ruth Maetala**

*Coordinator, IFC-SICCI Gender Program*

Ruth will support delivery of the Pacific Investing in Women program, working closely with the IFC Gender Team in Sydney and the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce (SICCI).

Prior to joining the SICCI-IFC gender project in October 2016, Ruth worked with the Solomon Islands Government as Director of Research and Policy Unit of the Ministry of Women, Solomon Islands NGO Partnership Agreement (SINPA) as the coordinator and undertook tasks such as providing advice to member NGOs, Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (facilitate annual reflection workshops) and reporting to DFAT.



## **Iris Gemelai**

*Intern*

Iris works as a supporting staff mostly with the administration desk but also helps out with media filing and events support. She joined SICCI as an intern in mid-June 2017 through the Youth@Work internship (SPC program).

Iris is part Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands but grew up in the country. She did her secondary schooling at Selwyn College from 2008 – 2013 and later foundation studies at the University of South Pacific in Honiara. She is currently part of the Youth@Work Phase 11.



**SICCI**  
SOLOMON ISLANDS CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

# 2017 BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

*Unity in Leadership*

**SATURDAY 4TH NOVEMBER**

6PM |

**CORAL SEA RESORT AND CASINO**

DRESS CODE : ISLAND FORMAL

NEW AWARD CATEGORIES



## TICKETS ON SALE NOW

### MEMBERS:

SME ————— \$500

OTHER ————— \$600

NON-MEMBERS — \$750

CORPORATE ————— \$1,300

## NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

### AWARD CATEGORIES:

- PRIME MINISTER'S BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARD
- ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR
- LARGE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
- MEDIUM BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
- SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
- NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
- BUSINESS CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY AWARD
- INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY AWARD
- TOURISM BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
- AGRI BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

**TO NOMINATE YOUR BUSINESS OR BUY YOUR TICKETS**  
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