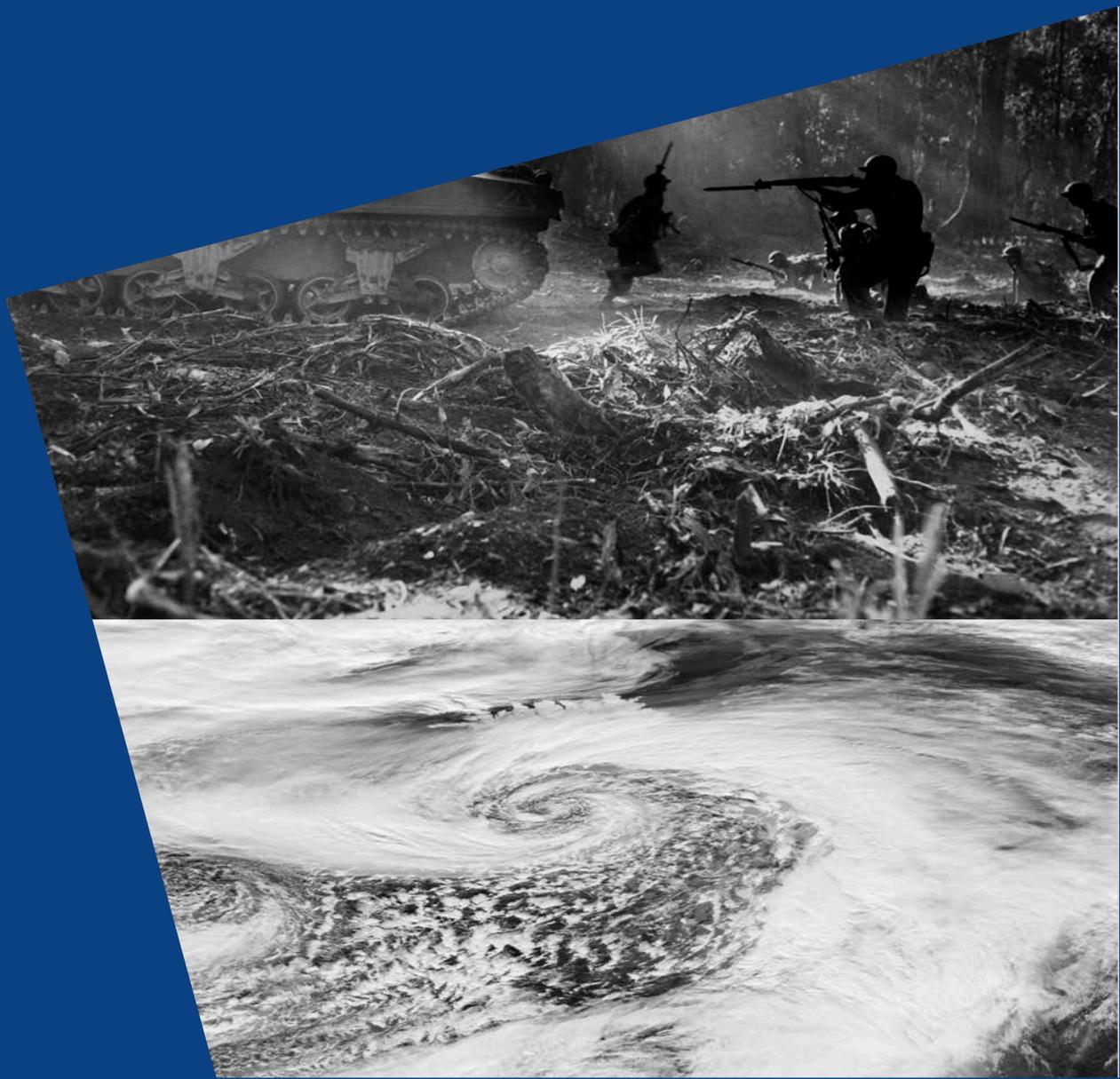




THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Environmental Peacebuilding: Prospects for the Asia-Pacific Region

17-18 November 2021



Conference overview

The confluence of drastic environmental change, fragility and conflict in the Asia-Pacific region demands a rethinking of existing approaches to development, security, and peacebuilding. The region is home to the conflicts in Afghanistan and Myanmar, ongoing tension between India and Pakistan, and rising tensions between China and its neighbours. Eleven countries in the Asia-Pacific are classified as Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations, eight of which are low-lying island states. Climate change-induced sea-level rise, increased intensity and frequency of disasters, and ocean warming present profound challenges for this region. In combination with mining, water scarcity and soil erosion, they can exacerbate fragility and potentially feed into violent conflict. Furthermore, fragility limits adaptive capacities, that is, the abilities of communities to prepare for and cope with environmental stress and disasters.

Climate change and environmental stress are increasingly being described as a ‘threat-multiplier’, causing under-development, violent conflict and migration. Climate-fragility-conflict linkages will also have pervasive effects on inequality. Women, and especially marginalised women, who are already discriminated against in terms of resource ownership and are rendered most vulnerable by conflict, are predicted to be further marginalised as resource competition grows. Climate action, mostly conducted without considerations for conflict dynamics, already contributes to local-level conflict in the Asia-Pacific. This demonstrates the urgent need to incorporate environmental and climate considerations into peacebuilding efforts, and to design climate action measures in a conflict-sensitive way.

Environmental peacebuilding recognises these insights and simultaneously provides a more positive and forward-looking alternative to environmental-conflict narratives. Environmental peacebuilding points towards positive feedback effects between sustainable environmental management, the realisation of mutual benefits, increased trust and understanding, better livelihoods, and enhanced capacity to manage conflicts for a more peaceful society. As such, environmental peacebuilding offers a framework for systemic and constructive approaches to facilitating peace and sustainability in the Asia-Pacific. Facing fragility and tremendous environmental challenges, but also building on longstanding and rich experiences of conflict transformation, reconciliation and environmental management, the Asia-Pacific has much to contribute and gain from this discussion.

The Initiative for Peacebuilding at The University of Melbourne—in collaboration with key actors in environmental peacebuilding CDA Collaborative Learning Projects, the Environmental Peacebuilding Association and Murdoch University—is convening a diverse set of scholars, practitioners, civil society and government actors to discuss the potential for environmental peacebuilding for the Asia-Pacific region. The conference organisers include Dr Tobias Ide, Dr Siad Darwish, Dr Tania Miletic, Professor John Langmore and Dr Nathan Bond.

The conference website is accessible at: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/5a7i>



Programme Day I: Conceptual and Empirical Foundations

Date: 17 November 2021 **Time:** 2pm – 6pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time

Venue: Virtual

Registration: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/5a7i>

13:45 – 14:00 **Joining the Conference**

14:00 – 14:15 **John Langmore and Tania Miletic** – The University of Melbourne
Welcome and Introductions

14:15 – 14:45 **Tobias Ide** – Murdoch University
Keynote: Environmental Peacebuilding in a Changing Climate

14:45 – 14:55 **Q&A**

14:55 – 15:00 **Break**

15:00 – 15:15 **Rodd Myers, Cecilia Luttrell, Micah R. Fisher, Rahayu Harjanthi, Mary Menton** – The Dala Institute; Centre for International Forestry Research; The East-West Centre
The Climate Security—Climate Change Mitigation Nexus in Forests

15:15 – 15:30 **Dhanasree Jayaram** – Manipal Academy of Higher Education
'Environmental Geopolitics' of the Hindu Kush-Himalaya Region: Environment-Security Nexus and the Military

15:30 – 15:45 **Bilal Aslam** – University of Wisconsin-Madison
Hydro-Diplomacy and the Prospects of Environmental Peacebuilding Between Pakistan and India

15:45 – 16:00 **Sanjay Barbora** – Tata Institute of Social Sciences and The University of Melbourne
High Ground: Sociological reflections on colonialism, conflicts, and environmental justice in South Asia's eastern frontier

16:00 – 16:15 **Q&A**

16:15 – 16:30 **Break**

16:30 – 16:45 **Robert Aisi** – Former PNG Ambassador to the United Nations
The Nexus Between Climate Change and Security-Challenges and Consequences: A Pacific Perspective

16:45 – 17:00 **Florian Krampe, Dahlia Simangan** – Stockholm International Peace Research Institute; Hiroshima University
Peace and Sustainability in the Anthropocene

17:00 – 17:10 **Q&A**

17:10 – 18:00 **Roundtable on Australia, Climate, Peace and Security** with **Robert Glasser** (Australian Strategic Policy Institute), **Anthony Burke** (University of New South Wales), and **Emma Dawson** (Per Capita)

Programme Day II: Local Insights and Practice

Date: 18 November 2021 **Time:** 10am – 4pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time

Venue: Virtual

Registration: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/5a7i>

09:45 – 10:00 **Joining the Conference**

10:00 – 10:10 **John Langmore and Tania Miletic** – The University of Melbourne
Welcome and Introductions

10:10 – 10:25 **Siad Darwish** – The University of Melbourne/CDA Collaborative Learning
Environmental Peacebuilding Practice: Past, Present, and Future

10:25 – 10:40 **Volker Boege** – University of Queensland
Climate change-induced human mobility, conflict and peacebuilding in the Pacific

10:40 – 10:55 **Ria Shibata and John Campbell** – University of Otago; University of Waikato
Climate Change and Identity in the Pacific: Migration and Urban Insecurity

10:55 – 11:10 **Laurence L. Delina, Rufa Cagoco-Guiam, Jon Gaviola, Homer Pagkalinawan**
Weather extremes and conflict emergence in the Philippine Bangsamoro: some preliminary findings

11:10 – 11:25 **Q&A**

11:25 – 11:45 **Break**

11:45 – 12:00 **Kate Higgins** – Conciliation Resources
Climate Change and Conflict Risks in the Pacific

12:00 – 12:15 **Sahana Bose** – Assam University
Climate Refugees and the Environmental Peace Building Process: The case for Maldives

12:15 – 12:30 **Rodelio Ambangan** – Southern Christian College
Inclusive Peace Process? Indigenous Peoples Experience with the Bangsamoro and Government of the Philippines

12:30 – 12:45 **Greshma Pious Raju**
Project Ecopeace Teen Café

12:45 – 13:00 **Q&A**

13:00 – 13:15 **Break**

13:15 – 13:30 **Ann Sanson** – The University of Melbourne
Reflections from Australian Experiences

13:30 – 13:40 **Tobias Ide** – Murdoch University
Distillation and close

14:00 – 16:00 **Special Panel Event – Solomon ‘Tok Stori’: Environmental conflict and peacebuilding**
Hosted by Solomon Islands National University (SINU) and the Initiative for Peacebuilding.

Panel moderator: Dr Anouk Ride, Affiliate Researcher at ANU and at Initiative for Peacebuilding, University of Melbourne and Social Scientist at WorldFish. **SINU Panellists:** Dr Jack Maebuta (Pro Vice Chancellor); Dr David Gegeo (Director, Office of Research and Postgraduate Studies); Dr Transform Aqorau (Visiting Professor of Ocean Studies); Mary Tahu (Senior Lecturer); Dr Lincy Penderverana (Head of Geography Department).

Abstracts

The Climate Security—Climate Change Mitigation Nexus in Forests

Rodd Myers (The Dala Institute; CIFOR), Cecilia Luttrell (The Dala Institute), Micah R. Fisher (The Dala Institute; The East-West Center), Rahayu Harjanthi (The Dala Institute), and Mary Menton (The Dala Institute)

Climate change is widely recognised as a global threat to security, with ‘security’ defined as the state of being free from danger or threat. Security depends on a wide range of social, cultural, economic, environmental and political factors that are highly dynamic. The idea that climate change exacerbates insecurity is increasingly recognised in academia, policy and development circles. However, a common understanding of mechanisms and impact pathways between mitigation responses to climate change and security or insecurity is still lacking. In this study, we reviewed 1147 literature items and focussed on those that best-addressed climate change mitigation initiatives (CCMIs) and security across the globe bringing lessons of relevance to forests in Asia. Our findings reveal six pathways influencing the security outcomes underwritten by a common theme of commodification and marketization of nature. The pathways are (1) tenure & access issues related to carbon, (2) new forms of global to local interaction around CCMIs - new actors, agendas and accountabilities, (3) shifting state relations in CCMIs, (4) the nature of the distribution of costs and benefits in CCMIs, (5) the nature of stakeholder engagement around CCMIs, and (6) attention to conflict resolution in the design of CCMIs. Our findings and recommendations point to the need to better understand the different ways in which actors understand nature and the governance processes that affect the extent to which forests are sustainably managed.

‘Environmental Geopolitics’ of the Hindu Kush-Himalaya Region: Environment-Security Nexus and the Military

Dhanasree Jayaram (Manipal Academy of Higher Education)

The Hindu Kush-Himalaya (HKH) region (consisting of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan) is an eco-geographical region that transcends political boundaries, but shares ecosystems (including rich biodiversity and rivers), cultures, and even notions of security. Apart from the well-established fact that this region is highly ecologically and climatically fragile, it is also one of the most heavily militarised regions in the world, owing largely to the contested political boundaries. Hence, geopolitically too, the HKH region is extremely volatile. However, a large part of the debates surrounding the geopolitics of the region leaves out environmental and climate factors that are quite overtly intertwined with security at various levels – human, national, military, and so on. Territorial concerns tend to predominate over the dangers posed by rising temperatures, glacial retreat, and environmental disruptions such as glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF), landslides, avalanches, water scarcity, etc. The mismatch between the construct of nation-states and complex ecological phenomena are best reflected in the way in which the HKH is being governed by the concerned stakeholders. The security ramifications of environmental change invariably impinge upon the region’s militaries. Hence, the need for integration of environmental and climate factors into military planning and strategy is increasingly being realised at the policy level. Against this background, the paper contends that there is a need to analyse how and in what ways climate and environmental change interacts with geopolitics in the HKH region. The effects of these changes on the existing conflicts, such as between India and Pakistan, and India and China, are yet to be understood completely. The paper specifically focusses on the military as a security actor in the HKH setting, and whether it has a role beyond traditional war-fighting, considering that it is deployed in massive numbers in the region – occupying large tracts of ecologically fragile lands and acting as ‘security’ (traditional and non-traditional) providers to the region’s populations. The paper explores the potential for security sector transformation and environmental peacebuilding, with an eye on the agency of the military. The paper draws upon “environmental geopolitics” (based on human-

environment interactions) to delineate various aspects of environmental risk and security, using a place-specific context (yet with broader security implications). In the HKH setting, the concept of ‘militarized borderlands’ is important to the debates surrounding “environmental geopolitics”, as the lines between military and civilian sectors are increasingly blurred by the broader role played by the militaries, guided by geopolitical factors. Hence, the military is considered a stakeholder, even as other actors (example: International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development) engage in understanding and addressing cross-border environmental risks that are often termed as peacebuilding initiatives too. The paper attempts at analysing these interactions using two cases – Siachen glacier (India and Pakistan), and Eastern Ladakh (India and China) – and discourse analysis. It draws upon data and views gathered through interviews of security personnel and policymakers, and researchers (particularly with an experience of conducting fieldwork in the borderlands), literature review (both peer-reviewed and grey), reports (newspapers, etc.) and a survey of government documents.

Hydro-Diplomacy and the Prospects of Environmental Peacebuilding Between Pakistan and India

Bilal Aslam (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Pakistan and India share a history of animosity on many issues including transboundary water sharing. India, being an upper riparian in the Indus basin has a comparative advantage over Pakistan and in recent times has started building a series of dams on the western rivers which Pakistan considers a violation of Indus Water Treaty (IWT) signed in 1960 that limits India’s consumptive rights of the western rivers. It has resulted into increased tensions between Pakistan and India but the mutual vulnerabilities like the water scarcity have yet again brought in a possibility of the ‘compulsive-cooperation’ around shared water resources. This growing water scarcity is creating ‘interdependency’ that necessitates cooperation for mutually beneficial solutions for both Pakistan and India. The Indus Water Treaty (IWT) in this regard ensures sustained cooperation on transboundary water sharing and sets the parameters for the hydro-diplomacy between Pakistan and India which also has the spillover effect for settlement of outstanding disputes between the two neighbouring states of South Asia, thus paving the way for the regional peace and integration. The paper reviews the literature on hydro-diplomacy and incorporates the discourse analysis to analyze the efficacy of the principles of cooperation laid down in Indus Water Treaty (IWT) and evaluates the possibilities of the future of environmental peacebuilding between Pakistan and India.

Peace and Sustainability in the Anthropocene

Dahlia Simangan (Hiroshima University) and Florian Krampe (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute)

The Anthropocene, a new geological epoch in which human activity is shaping our global environment, has serious security implications. In this paper, we take a closer look at the consequences of the Anthropocene on peace and sustainability, especially in post-conflict contexts. The socio-ecological characteristics of post-conflict societies make them more vulnerable to environmental challenges, such as deforestation, land degradation, and resource scarcity. Drawing on examples from United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, we aim to contribute new insight that shows how international peacebuilding efforts recognize, reflect, and respond to these environmental challenges. We argue that a peacebuilding approach that is relevant to the Anthropocene needs to incorporate long-term ecological considerations. The Anthropocene demands an updating of existing peacebuilding frameworks, to meet the evolving peace requirements of post-conflict societies while at the same time tempering the human impact on the planet’s ecosystem.

Climate change-induced human mobility, conflict and peacebuilding in the Pacific

Volker Boege (Toda Peace Institute)

Climate change-induced mobility – in the form of migration, relocation and displacement – has become a major issue in the Pacific. Several Pacific Island Countries are particularly vulnerable to climate change due to their extreme exposure and their constrained options for in situ adaptation. Food, land and water security are under pressure. As a consequence, people relocate, often of necessity. Relocations of climate change-affected communities are already taking place, and ambitious relocation plans are being developed by donors and state agencies. Various types of migration, displacement and relocation are conflict-prone or lead to actual conflict in a range of forms. Conflicts between relocating and recipient communities are a case in point. Hence, climate change-induced mobility has to be of concern in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Drawing on cases from Bougainville (Papua New Guinea) and Fiji, I shall argue that in peacebuilding interventions that aim to address the nexus between climate change and mobility, attention needs to be paid to the complexity and hybridity of local contexts, and to dimensions that are all too often ignored or underestimated. These include relational, cultural and spiritual aspects, indigenous knowledge, and indigenous methods of climate change adaptation, conflict transformation and peacebuilding. Only when these aspects are taken into account can locally specific recommendations for conflict-sensitive and climate-sensitive policy and practice be developed. The presentation builds on research conducted in the context of the Toda Peace Institute's programme on 'Climate change, conflict and peace in the Pacific'.

Climate Change and Identity in the Pacific: Migration and Urban Insecurity

Ria Shibata (University of Otago) and John Campbell (University of Waikato)

Climate change is one of the key challenges facing humankind today. Toda Peace Institute's programme on "Climate Change, Land and Identity in the Pacific" explores the impacts of climate change in inducing various risks for conflict in and from the Pacific Islands on both internal migration within, and external migration from the Pacific Island Countries. One of the projects examines the historical migration of I-Kiribati to Aotearoa, New Zealand. Climate change affects the land which underpins the Pacific Islanders' core sense of identity and belonging. Pacific ontological identities are deeply linked with local geographical spaces. Climate-induced displacement and relocation from their homes can lead to social, political and psychological instability and major threat to their own identity. The project focusses on the I-Kiribati diaspora community in Aotearoa and their responses to climate change and threats to their identity and sense of 'security' which is closely connected to physical place.

Weather extremes and conflict emergence in the Philippine Bangsamoro: some preliminary findings

Laurence L. Delina (The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology), Rufa Cagoco-Guam, Jon Gaviola, and Homer Pagkalinawan

As climate change further intensifies to the level of an emergency in the Philippines, one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, many of the old drivers of conflict can resurface in the Bangsamoro region. An agriculture-dependent region, Bangsamoro is home to almost four million poor and marginalized people and was the site of decades-old struggle and violent conflicts. Despite concerns on the linkages between conflicts and weather extremes due to climate change, the existing literature still lacks robust and empirical evidence on these links. This paper presents some preliminary outputs of a research that seeks to close this gap by examining the relationships between intense precipitations and prolonged droughts with the emergence of recorded conflicts in the Bangsamoro between 1960 and 2020. Our conflict analysis emerging from conflict- and gender-sensitive semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions with key community actors in the Bangsamoro provided some evidence on the levels and histories of inequality, violence, and

demographic shifts that came along with extreme changes in weather conditions. We complemented these data with long-term climate and satellite data on the Bangsamoro region to understand the region's hydrological dynamics and land-use changes during the said period. We also identified some factors that increased the risk of violent conflicts beyond weather changes. These included an increase in food prices leading to local economic shocks, inconsistent political institutions, and low levels of economic development. To remedy future weather-induced conflicts, we propose developing a framework for mitigating their possible re-emergence.

Climate Change and Conflict Risks in the Pacific

Kate Higgins (Conciliation Resources)

This paper will be focused on conceptually exploring how environmental peacebuilding is being enacted in the Pacific through Conciliation Resources' long-standing partnerships with peacebuilders in Bougainville, Fiji and through long-standing work in this area.

Climate Refugees and the Environmental Peace Building Process: The case for Maldives

Sahana Bose (Assam University)

Maldives, the flattest country on earth and also one of the low emitters of the atmospheric green house gases has fallen in the grip of climate crisis. It is noted that there are possibilities of the growth of climate refugees in this island nation in near future, if the present trend of sea level rises and submergence of land persists. Although the United Nations does not recognize refugees created by environmental crisis under the United Nations Human Right Commissions, in future the chances of their recognition seems to be palpable. The Paris Agreement of 2016 aims to hold the increase in global mean surface air temperature to well below 2°C relative to preindustrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. Yet there is no clear picture of how a 1.5°C or 2°C world might look. This paper tries to address how this solid and legally binding Paris Agreement could really be helpful for Maldives to tackle the climate change problems. This effort to lower down the earth's surface air temperature from 20C to 1.50C has huge implications on Maldives. It may save the country from further increase in sea level rise and hold back its population. This paper also tries to analyses how Maldivians are self resilient to face climate change impact upon the implication of 1.50C target. Is it enough to stop the growth of climate refugees? A situation might arrive where the population of this country, lose its own territory, culture and sovereignty. This paper has a policy implication which throws light on how the countries in Asia-Pacific region should cooperate in making environmental peace building to combat climate change adversities.

Inclusive Peace Process? Indigenous Peoples Experience with the Bangsamoro and Government of the Philippines

Rodelio Ambangan (Southern Christian College)

The field of conflict transformation emphasizes the central importance of a more inclusive peace process. Given the long history of exclusion and marginalization of Indigenous Peoples in the Philippines, the imperative to have a voice in peace processes highlights the need for decolonization and strengthening Indigenous Political Structures (IPS). This study elicits the experiences of indigenous peoples through their indigenous political structure (IPS) in working for inclusive peace in Mindanao. This focused on three IPS of the tribe: the Teduray and Lambangian in the province of Maguindanao; Erumanen ne Menuvu; and Tinenanen/ Kulemanen tribe in the province of Cotabato. This action research used a qualitative case study method through Focus Group Discussion (FGD), semi-structured in-depth interviews (one-on-one), and participant observations with Indigenous leaders and IPS members. The study revealed that indigenous peoples' perspectives on inclusive peace center on nurturing healthy social, ecological, and spiritual relations and upholding Indigenous peoples' rights. The engagement in the peace process includes policy advocacy, capacity

building, alliance/network building, community education, and dialogue. Part of the essential lessons learned in the engagement is that exclusion, despite its negative impact, amplifies the voice of the survivors. The ways to improve the work for inclusive peace include Strengthening Indigenous Political Structure (IPS), continue the dialogue and enhance diplomatic relations and work for the legal recognition of the ownership over their ancestral domain. The study concludes that inclusive peace is the desired state of a society that needs to be worked with, not just by the indigenous peoples alone but by the whole system of the society. Inclusive peace is a vision and an ideology that promised a worry-free and comfortable society requiring strategic action and ensuring serious consideration of stakeholders' issues and actors in the peace negotiation process.

Project Ecopeace Teen Café

Greshma Pious Raju

Asian countries are becoming the hub of conflicts and climate change-related disasters. The number of children who lost their childhood is high, and they are the most affected population. It is essential to give hope, make them aware of the issues, encourage them to protect and restore the ecosystem, and lead a peaceful, just and sustainable lifestyle for a better tomorrow. For this, the project Ecopeace Teen Café is introduced as an experiment to find how environment conservation programs generate empathy and compassion in humans to develop peace within communities. This project is giving voice to young people by providing platforms to explore and act for the betterment of their society. The project Ecopeace teen cafe is a five-month online transformative education program inspired by the Earth Charter principles. The Earth Charter is a document that consists of sixteen principles recognised by UNESCO as an ethical framework for sustainable development. The main objective of this program is to educate young people on the importance of caring for the community, protecting the ecosystem and inspire them to take action to make this world a better place. Knowing and loving nature is the best way to love humans. The journey from community building to environmental protection is the best way to create peaceful coexistence in society. Children are the real change-makers who can influence others. This project is bringing behavioural changes in young people towards nature. Building values like caring for the community, showing compassion to the living community, respecting diversity, creating good connections with others, and establish peace and harmony in the community. A peaceful world is possible only when people living in harmony with nature.

Special Panel Event – Solomon ‘Tok Stori’: Environmental conflict and peacebuilding

Hosted by Solomon Islands National University and the Initiative for Peacebuilding

Solomon Islands possesses high levels of biodiversity, and cultural diversity, and much of its land and sea resources are under customary management by indigenous peoples. However, it is also under intense pressure from interested industry and government parties to develop extractive industries and other forms of foreign investment requiring access to natural resources. As a post-conflict, least developed country, Solomon Islands experience of conflict and peacebuilding holds some similarities with other locales in the Asia-Pacific but also different ways of seeing through the lenses of local indigenous epistemologies and practices.

This panel draws on knowledge of Solomon Islands academics from the Solomon Islands National University, each of them intricately involved with community analysis and action around their natural resources and environments, as researchers, practitioners and leaders in their communities. Through a focused discussion, locally known as “tok stori” the panellists will start with an analysis of the interactions of environment and conflict in their communities, and then point the way to options for local conflict transformation, and peacebuilding in contexts of biological and human diversity.

Speakers:

Dr Jack Maebuta, Pro Vice Chancellor, Solomon Islands National University (SINU). Dr Maebuta holds a PhD in Peace Studies from the University of New England NSW, Australia and has published a number of peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters in the areas of education and peacebuilding.

Dr David Gegeo, Director, Office of Research and Postgraduate Studies, SINU. Dr Gegeo attended university in the U.S.A. graduating with a Ph.D. in Political Science and Political Philosophy and taught at universities in the U.S.A, New Zealand and Fiji. His areas of specialization include but not limited to Indigenous Epistemology, Indigenous Philosophy, Ethics, De-colonization, Ethical/Sustainable Development, Solomon Islands and Pacific Island cultures, and Solomon Islands indigenous historiography.

Dr Transform Aqorau, Visiting Professor of Ocean Studies, SINU. Dr Aqorau is CEO, iTuna Intel, Founding Director, Pacific Catalyst and former CEO of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement Office. He has written many publications on sustainable development in the Pacific, including his most recent book *Fishing for Success: Lessons in Pacific Regionalism*.

Mary Tahu, Senior Lecturer, SINU. Mary is a researcher and practitioner who has been working on climate change and environmental projects for over ten years. She is undertaking a PhD at on mangrove biomass, decomposition and local traditional knowledge and lectures at SINU.

Dr Lincy Penderverana, Head of Geography Department, SINU. Dr Penderverana is a researcher and lecturer with a PhD from the Department of Pacific Affairs at Australian National University. His PhD thesis examines interactions between indigenous peoples, development and livelihood trajectories, and he has several other publications around these topics.

Panel Coordinator: Dr Anouk Ride, Affiliate Researcher at the Australian National University and Social Scientist at WorldFish. Dr Ride’s work includes analysis and participatory action research regarding causes and solutions to conflict, gender and social exclusion and violence in Pacific countries.