

A Collective Effort

Our Pacific Wave Forum held in Auckland, New Zealand, from 6 to 8 August 2018, was a success and it would not have been possible without the Pacific Cooperation Foundation team who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the programme ran seamlessly. I would also like to acknowledge the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), who we partnered with, and to all the representatives from the Pacific Private Sector organisations.

We thank you for your attendance and value your presence and input. Our conference was centred on the Pacific concept of 'Talanoa'. We heard the stories, ideas and challenges that our region continues to battle – NCDs and Climate Change.

From a private sector perspective, we can no longer rely on government to tackle these issues on their own. It is our responsibility to be good employers and good citizens in our communities. I am confident that once our private sector works collectively with government, they can make that change that we greatly seek.

The collective discussions in the duration of the conference resulted in collective actions. These are now drafted in a statement that will be presented at the Private Sector Dialogue with Forum Leaders next month on 4 September 2018 in Nauru, keeping in mind the pertinent theme: "Building a Strong Blue Pacific – Our People, Our Islands, Our Will".

The Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) was represented by Mrs Carolyn Ernst, Women's Group Councillor of VCCI Council, at the Pacific Wave Forum 2018 in Auckland.