

Global Employers' Climate Action Forum 2018

The Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation (FCEF), as the current President of the Marrakech Business Action for Climate Network (MBA4C), hosted the **Global Employers' Climate Action Forum (GECAF)** on 25th July 2018 at the Holiday Inn, Suva, Fiji. The overarching theme for the day-long event was "Resilient Businesses and Communities" and offered an avenue for stakeholders to synergise towards a common *green* future. Proceedings included four plenary sessions and one workshop-style breakout session for all participants.

Speakers in the first plenary touched on disaster resilience and lowering carbon emissions with new technologies while speakers in the second dealt with the need to scale up private sector climate finance. The third plenary discussed opportunities in climate insurance and building resilient businesses. Discussions here focussed on better methods of assessing climate risks and fostering enduring partnerships that can help break vulnerable parties out of a constant state of disaster recovery from climate change induced disasters. The fourth plenary centred on Green/Blue Economies and focused on issues that are affecting oceans and the need for social and economic sustainability.

The final aspect of the GECAF were breakout sessions on scaling up private sector finance; opportunities in climate insurance to build resilient businesses; linkages between green/blue economy, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Nationally Determine Contributions (NDCs) in the Pacific (NDCs embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.); solutions to building a sustainable blue economy in Pacific island countries; recommendations in providing a supportive policy/regulatory environment for the Green/Blue economy and Green Entrepreneurship. Following discussions, presentations were made from each of the groups with two outcomes and recommendations.

In order to help offset the carbon emissions from the delegates flying from overseas, the FCEF initiated a Tree Planting Programme in collaboration with the Fiji COP23 Presidency Secretariat at the My Suva Park in Nasese, Suva.

The Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) and its standing committee the Vanuatu Business Resilience Committee (VBRC) were represented by Mr Shaun Gilchrist,

VCCI Councillor for Manufacturing, who was a panellist on the fourth plenary session on Driving a Green/ Blue Economies.

For more information, you can get the full Outcome Document of the meeting which is available on The Pacific Green Business Centre website on <http://greenbusiness.solutions/about-us/> by clicking on <http://greenbusiness.solutions/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/GECAF-Outcome-Document.pdf>