



Responding to climate change in partnership with our Pacific Island neighbours

Patrons: Mrs Bonita Mabo and Most Rev Bishop Peter Ingham

Former President of Kiribati to visit Australia in October

In October the Pacific Calling Partnership will be hosting His Excellency Anote Tong in Australia.





Mr Tong will be in Australia from the 15th of October to the 25th of October and will be visiting Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. During that time the Pacific Calling Partnership are arranging meetings with politicians and community leaders. We are also arranging some public meetings and press interviews.

Mr Tong, who was president of Kiribati from 2003 to 2013, is among the most prominent advocates for urgent global action on climate change. Former President Tong's country, the Pacific island nation of Kiribati, is one of the first places to confront sea level rise and other devastating real-life consequences of climate change.

Mr Tong is a strong voice for the Pacific and has been campaigning for climate justice for his people and those of the Pacific for many years. Bringing his voice to Australia is especially important in the current circumstances where Australians are engaged in a debate about the continued mining and use of coal. The Pacific Calling Partnership is bringing Mr Tong to Australia in an effort to change the terms of the climate change debate in this country.

During his visit, Mr Tong will have the opportunity to present his case to the people of Australia at various forums. His aim is to convince the Australian people and Australian politicians that the future of Kiribati is dependent on bold action from countries such as Australia. According to the United Nations, the low lying island nations of the Pacific are facing an "existential threat" from rising sea levels. The latest research actually suggests that they may become "uninhabitable" beyond mid-century. Mr Tong has highlighted the possible need for his people to seek a place of safety in the extreme of having to migrate. In this eventuality he has reiterated that he is seeking migration with dignity for his people. Mr Tong considers it is a moral imperative for Australia to do as much as it can to help. These

islands have been looking to Australia for many years for leadership. PCP considers that are falling down in that duty.

Mr Tong's visit will follow the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on 1.5C. and will come ahead of the Climate Vulnerable Summit in late November and COP24 in December. In the lead up to a Federal election, it would be very timely to highlight the impacts of climate change in the Pacific, the leadership of Pacific peoples in driving solutions, and the need for Australia to play a role.

The PCP aims to transmit the voice of the Pacific to as wide an audience as possible in Australia. PCP's Vincent Sicari has said, "*Their problem will become our problem soon enough. The implications for Australian foreign policy are immense as the in-roads of Chinese diplomacy in the Pacific is already showing. The Pacific knows what Australia is doing in terms of climate change policy and they are concerned, and very disappointed, even angry.*"

While Australia has made some efforts to curb its greenhouse gases, the perception of Australia in the Pacific is of a nation exporting vast amounts of coal which will inevitably produce carbon dioxide, the primary greenhouse gas. The clear message for Mr Tong has for Australia is that its economy should not be the sole priority when the very existence of nations like Kiribati and Tuvalu hangs in the balance.

Over the coming weeks the PCP will be publishing details of the events that Mr Tong will be attending should you wish to participate. Some of the events already scheduled to put in your diary are:

- Sydney Ideas, public talk at Sydney University, October 24th 6:00pm
- Inter-congregational Voice, address at Good Samaritan Offices, Glebe, Oct 25th 5:30pm.

Contact: Vincent Sicari 0413707271

Pacific Leaders Stand their Ground at Pacific Islands Forum



Vincent Sicari, speaking on behalf of the Pacific Calling Partnership said that Australia's role at the Pacific Island Forum (PIF) was disappointing.

In the lead up to the PIF, Prime Minister of Samoa Mr Tuilaepa Sailele told the Lowy Institute in Sydney, "Any leader of any country who believes that there is no climate change, I think he ought to be taken to mental confinement. He is utterly stupid. And I say the same thing to any leader here."

He further explained, "We all know the problem, we all know the solutions, and all that is left would be some political courage, some political guts, to tell people of your country there is a certainty of disaster."

Small island states have repeatedly [called for a global moratorium on new coal mines](#). They see this as essential to bring about a reduction in emissions that will prevent global temperature increases to exceed 1.5°C over pre-industrial levels. These calls highlighted the widening gap between the attitude Australia is taking to action on climate change and the needs of our closest neighbours.

Australia's stand and its movements to water down our commitment to the Paris Agreement call into question the relationship between Australia and our traditional Pacific Island friends. This disconnect cast a pall over the Pacific Island Forum and led Pacific Island leaders to call on Australia to urgently strengthen its stand on climate change

Speaking about the urgent need for countries like Australia to deepen their commitments to action on climate change, Enele Sopoaga, the host of next year's Pacific Islands Forum said, "It has been a tradition to just note simply but this time we have appealed to Forum Leaders to endorse it so that we can walk the talk.

"I am very happy that the language has moved to further strengthen the call by Pacific Island Countries that climate change is the single greatest threat to the livelihoods of Pacific Island peoples. We are not simply calling but urging all major emitters to immediately implement their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in accordance with the Paris Agreement, "The main point there is to reach the 1.5 degrees Celsius. We now have the draft report of the IPCC on 1.5 degrees Celsius. If that cap is not going to be reached, there is going to be serious problems for countries like Tuvalu, probably going down by 2030.

"2030 is not far away because while our grandchildren will still be growing up, part of our islands, Kiribati and may be Nauru will be submerged based on those predictions." Mr Sopoaga said.

The strong stand taken by Pacific Island leaders in combatting Australia's efforts to water down the final statement, resulted in the Boe declaration being stronger than was feared it might be. According to the chair, Nauru President Baron Waqa, "The biggest victory for Pacific island nations is the 'reaffirmation by member countries, including Australia and New Zealand that

climate change remains the greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and well-being of the peoples of the Pacific.”

Sicari said, on conclusion of the forum, “Australia’s credibility with the Pacific was in the balance this week. The Pacific is a very important region for Australian foreign policy and we in PCP hope that Senator Marise Payne takes back to cabinet the messages that she heard at the forum.”

PRESS RELEASE

7 September 2018

#RISE FOR PACIFIC PAWA & #RISE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION CAMPAIGNS



Kiribati Climate Action Network and Kiribati Islands Corruption Kickers in partnership with the Pacific Climate Warriors, 350.org, and the UNPRAC is launching a Pledge signing ceremony on the Rise for Pacific Pawa and Rise for Anti-Corruption. The signing of the two pledges will take place on Saturday, 8th September 2018 commencing at 5 pm at the Bairiki Grounds.

Rise for Pacific Pawa is a global campaign and is being sponsored by 350.org and is calling ALL leaders to make a pledge by 2020 to transition to 100% renewable energy and to keep fossil fuel in the ground. The logo for the Pacific Pawa is centered around the Kikonang from Kiribati depicting the significance of the oldest wind energy symbol in the islands. This campaign aims to get 5000 signatures from the Pacific and is calling I-Kiribati to RISE UP NOW to the Pacific PAWA.

Rise for Anti-Corruption is also a global campaign sponsored by the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UNPRAC). In Kiribati, the symbol for corruption is te bitere so the local campaign is called Totokoa te Bitere. Each leader signing the pledge to stop corruption will receive the Totokoa te Bitere paperholder as a reminder that they have pledged to kill corruption in their institutions.

More than 20 years of global governments leading climate negotiations has not been nearly enough and 39 years of Kiribati as an independent country calls for all I-Kiribati to be united and to maintain high level of integrity in leadership. KiriCAN trusts that all Kiribati Leaders from government, private sectors and civil society will RISE UP to show true leadership.

KiriCAN represents more than forty community based organisations in Kiribati including

KICKERs, a youth group fighting against corruption. KiriCAN is working from the ground up to tell the world that Kiribati can lead the world in renewable energy transition and can provide a most credible leadership.

Please join the campaign and sign the petitions on Saturday, 8 Sept 2018 at 5 pm.

You could reach KiriCAN on telephone 730 20793 or email: kiriclimate2018@gmail.com.



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