

Session Concept / Planning Resume



Ocean-Climate Nexus

Title:

Addressing the Triple Planetary Crisis through
Zero Waste in Big Ocean States: Synergies for
Climate, Ocean, and Biodiversity

When & Where

Thursday · 8 October 2026

10:15 AM – 11:00 AM

Convention 2 · Crowne Plaza Fiji Nadi Bay

organized by

Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI)
The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

About this session

The world is facing a Triple Planetary Crisis of climate change, marine pollution, and biodiversity loss. Big Ocean States such as Pacific island countries are on the front lines of these interconnected challenges, but they also show why resource-circulation systems must be designed around real capabilities. This session asks how Big Ocean States can organize those capabilities: what is already operating locally, what needs to be built at home, what dependencies make systems vulnerable, what countries can share regionally, and how materials and capabilities can connect across industries.

Zero Waste is the direction of travel, but climate benefit cannot be assumed. Resource-circulation pathways need to be tested for environmental performance, legal compliance, lifecycle emissions, commercial viability, and whether they avoid shifting burdens elsewhere. Japan and Pacific partners bring practical experience to this discussion, including local resource recovery in Palau, waste-sector climate commitments in Fiji, CORVI-based risk insights, regional cooperation through Pacific institutions, and an illustrative cross-industry example from Japan. The aim is not to promote one project, one technology, or one route. It is to build a shared policy discussion on capability design for Big Ocean States.

Addressing the Triple Planetary Crisis through Zero Waste in Big Ocean States

Synergies for Climate, Ocean, and Biodiversity

DATE · TIME

Thursday, 8 October 2026

10:15–11:00 · 45 minutes, one discussion

VENUE

Convention 2, Crowne Plaza

Fiji Nadi Bay · Nadi, Fiji

HOSTED BY

OPRI / SPF

WHY BIG OCEAN STATES MATTER

Pacific island countries are Big Ocean States. They look after vast ocean areas, and what works for them helps shape how shared capabilities can be organized across the region.

TRIPLE PLANETARY CRISIS

CLIMATE CHANGE

Rising seas, warmer oceans, changing seasons and stronger storms.

MARINE POLLUTION

Plastics, debris and waste in the sea, including micro-plastics.

BIODIVERSITY LOSS

Growing pressure on ecosystems, fisheries and food supply.

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR COP31

NDC IMPLEMENTATION

Palau and Fiji NDCs already set waste-sector targets and wider commitments.

RESOURCE CIRCULATION AS CLIMATE IMPLEMENTATION

Resource and waste systems can support mitigation — but climate benefit must be demonstrated, not assumed.

PACIFIC LEADERSHIP

Pacific countries lead on stewardship, biodiversity and cooperation.

A PACIFIC CLIMATE IMPLEMENTATION QUESTION

Shared capability design for Big Ocean States

No island country needs to replicate every capability. The question is what can operate locally, what must be built first, what dependencies make systems vulnerable, what countries should share regionally, and where cross-industry connections can add value.

The aim is to organize options into systems that keep working under climate stress — with climate, ocean and biodiversity benefits demonstrated, not assumed.

THREE CAPABILITY MOVES

LEVEL 01 · AT HOME

OPERATE & BUILD

Operate what works locally. Build what is needed next. Trace what the system depends on.

LEVEL 02 · ACROSS COUNTRIES

SHARE REGIONALLY

Share capabilities where scale, cost, markets, technical capacity or risk make national replication difficult.

LEVEL 03 · ACROSS INDUSTRIES

CONNECT RESPONSIBLY

Connect materials and capabilities where another industrial use is workable, viable and responsible.

One discussion, not a series of project talks.

Five speakers, one moderator, 45 minutes, one overarching session question. The moderator keeps the discussion moving.

SHARED SESSION QUESTION

How should Big Ocean States organize capabilities — operated locally, built at home, shared regionally, or connected across industries — while tracing dependencies and demonstrating climate benefit?

THE 45 MINUTES

0:00–2:00	Dr. Santosh Rauniyar	FRAME	Set the shared question.
2:00–7:00	Hon. Steven Victor	OPERATE	What is already working locally in Palau — and where does national capacity reach its limit?
7:00–12:00	Hon. Maciu Nalumisa	BUILD	What needs to be built first in Fiji to turn waste-sector climate commitments into practical resource-circulation systems?
12:00–16:00	Dr. Miko Maekawa	TRACE DEPENDENCIES	What does that system depend on, and where is it vulnerable?
16:00–21:00	Mr. Anthony Talouli	SHARE	What waste management functions should be shared regionally rather than replicated nationally?
21:00–26:00	Dr. Tomo Shioiri	CONNECT	How can materials and capabilities connect across industries?
26:00–38:00	Cross-discussion		3 questions · 2 respondents each · 45–60 seconds
38:00–42:00	Audience Q&A · up to two questions · one respondent each		
42:00–45:00	Dr. Santosh Rauniyar · SYNTHESIZE · local · regional · cross-industry connection		

DISCUSSION FORMAT

— One discussion, not a series of project talks.

WHAT WE WILL NOT ASSUME

- No endorsement of a project, budget, receiver or shipping arrangement is requested.
- Climate, ocean and biodiversity benefits must be demonstrated, not assumed.

SPEAKER BRIEFING – Moderator

NAME & ROLE Open → guide → test → synthesize

Dr. Santosh Rauniyar Senior Research Fellow · OPRI / SPF · Moderator

0:00–2:00 · OPEN

Open the room

- Set the one shared question. Do not present your own research.
- Hand straight to Minister Victor and bring the room back to that question whenever it drifts.

26:00–42:00 · TEST & Q&A

Cross-discussion · 26:00–38:00

Three questions; two named respondents per question. Aim for 45–60 seconds each. No additional response round.

Audience Q&A · 38:00–42:00

Max two questions. Questions: up to 30 seconds; answers: up to 60 sec. No extra panel responses or questions.

42:00–45:00 · CLOSE

Close with two takeaways

- Start the close at 42:00, whatever questions remain.
- Two takeaways: act now within each country; connect capabilities at the right scale.

OPEN — SUGGESTED WORDS

No island country needs to replicate every capability. The question is how Big Ocean States organize capabilities: what can operate locally, what must be built at home, what dependencies make systems vulnerable, what countries can share regionally, and where cross-industry connections can add value. We then need to test whether that mix delivers a real climate benefit without shifting pollution or ecosystem burdens elsewhere.

THEN PUT THE QUESTION

How should Big Ocean States organize capabilities — operated locally, built at home, shared regionally, or connected across industries — while tracing dependencies and demonstrating climate benefit?

CROSS-DISCUSSION

Q1 · Moderator → (1) Minister Maciu Nalumisa, (2) Mr. Kushaal Raj
 “What capabilities should be developed within each country, and what do they depend on to keep working under climate stress?”

Q2 · Moderator → (1) Minister Steven Victor, (2) Mr. Anthony Talouli
 “What should countries share regionally?”

Q3 · Moderator → (1) Dr. Tomo Shioiri, (2) Mr. Anthony Talouli
 “How can cross-industry connections be made responsibly?”

BRIDGES BETWEEN OPENING CONTRIBUTIONS**VICTOR - NALUMISA**

Palau shows what is already operating locally — and where national capacity reaches its limit. Minister Nalumisa, what needs to be built first in Fiji to turn waste-sector climate commitments into practical resource-circulation systems?

NALUMISA – MAEKAWA

Minister Nalumisa has outlined what needs to be built. Dr. Maekawa, what dependencies and vulnerabilities should we trace so those systems keep working under climate stress?

MAEKAWA – TALOULI

Once those dependencies are visible, the next question is what should not be carried by one country alone. Mr. Talouli, what waste management functions should be shared regionally rather than replicated nationally?

TALOULI – SHIOIRI

If materials and capabilities also need to connect across industries, what must be assessed before that connection is treated as responsible? Dr. Shioiri, what does it take to make a cross-industry connection work?

CLOSE — SUGGESTED WORDS

Let me leave you with two takeaways. First, act now within each country by advancing practical waste-sector actions that can contribute to GHG reduction. Second, where one country cannot sustain a capability alone, connect capabilities at the right scale — regionally and, where appropriate, with responsible external partners and across industries. Local action first, but not local only. And climate, ocean and biodiversity benefits must be demonstrated, not assumed.

Moderator Brief

CLOSING SYNTHESIS — TWO TAKEAWAYS

1. ACT NOW WITHIN EACH COUNTRY

Advance practical waste-sector actions that can contribute to GHG reduction: collection, separation, organic-waste diversion, landfill methane action, resource recovery and better measurement.

2. CONNECT CAPABILITIES AT THE RIGHT SCALE SCALE

For resource-circulation functions that one country cannot sustain alone, connect capabilities regionally and, where appropriate, with responsible external partners and cross-industry uses.

Local action first, but not local only.

Climate, ocean and biodiversity benefits must be demonstrated, not assumed.

SPEAKER BRIEFING – Operate

8 OCTOBER 2026

NAME & ROLE

Hon. Steven Victor

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment, Republic of Palau

Approximately 5 minutes (2:00–7:00)

SESSION FOCUS

OPERATE:

What is already working locally in Palau — and where does national capacity reach its limit?

MAIN QUESTION

What is already working locally in Palau — and where does national capacity reach its limit?

POSSIBLE POINTS TO COVER

WHAT IS ALREADY WORKING LOCALLY

Koror State is already putting Local First into practice through plastic and glass recycling, resource recovery and local operation. This shows what can be done locally rather than simply sending material to landfill.

WHERE LOCAL OPERATION REACHES ITS LIMIT

After collection, some materials or volumes may be difficult to keep in circulation domestically because of market size, specialised capacity, processing options or cost.

WHAT IS NEEDED BEYOND THE LOCAL SYSTEM

The question is how regional or other specialised capabilities can complement — not replace — what Palau can already operate locally.

HOW OPRI / SPF WILL SUPPORT

SLIDES, IF HELPFUL

OPRI / SPF will prepare any slides that may be useful, in consultation with Mr. Katsuo Fuji, Consultant to the Solid Waste Management Office of the Koror State Government.

A POLICY-LEVEL PERSPECTIVE WOULD BE ESPECIALLY VALUABLE

A policy-level perspective would be especially valuable. Detailed technical or operational explanation is not expected in the five-minute intervention.

SHARED SESSION FRAMING

Palau can show what already works locally — and, through that experience, where local capacity reaches its limit.

CROSS-DISCUSSION · QUESTION FROM MODERATOR

Q2 · Moderator → (1) Minister Steven Victor, (2) Mr. Anthony Talouli
“What should countries share regionally?”

SCOPE OF THE DISCUSSION

- No position or endorsement is sought on any specific budget, destination, receiver company, shipping arrangement or future demonstration project.
- Climate, ocean and biodiversity benefits must be demonstrated, not assumed.

NAME & ROLE

Hon. Maciu Nalumisa

Minister for Housing and Local Government · Republic of Fiji

Approximately 5 minutes (7:00–12:00)

SESSION FOCUS

BUILD:

What needs to be built first in Fiji to turn waste-sector climate commitments into practical resource-circulation systems?

MAIN QUESTION

What needs to be built first in Fiji to turn waste-sector climate commitments into practical resource-circulation systems under island-state constraints?

POLICY CONTEXT

FIJI NDC 3.0

Fiji NDC 3.0 points to waste-sector mitigation through landfill methane action, organic-waste diversion, a National Solid Waste Management Strategy and a container-deposit scheme. The question is what domestic capabilities Fiji can build first, while using cooperation for capabilities that are harder to sustain nationally. Background context only.

POSSIBLE POINTS TO COVER

FROM COMMITMENTS TO SYSTEMS

How NDC commitments can become practical systems — including methane action, organic-waste diversion, collection, separation, resource recovery and better measurement.

BUILD WHAT IS FEASIBLE AT HOME FIRST

Which domestic capabilities Fiji should prioritise now, given island-state constraints such as scale, geography, markets, infrastructure and implementation capacity.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS THE DELIVERY LEVEL

How national objectives become functioning local systems through municipal services, infrastructure, finance, data, private-sector participation and public engagement.

HAND-OFF TO DEPENDENCY TRACING

Before deciding which capabilities should be shared regionally, the next question is what those systems depend on — and where climate vulnerability could disrupt them.

SHARED SESSION FRAMING

For island countries, climate implementation is not about replicating every advanced system at once. It is about building the most essential domestic capabilities first, then using shared regional capabilities or, where appropriate, responsible cross-industry connections where national scale is limited.

SCOPE OF THE DISCUSSION

— A policy and implementation perspective from local government would be especially valuable. Detailed technical system design is not expected.
— No position or endorsement is sought on any specific project, technology, receiver, destination or shipping arrangement.

Climate benefit must be demonstrated, not assumed.
Where relevant, lifecycle assessment and appropriate measurement should test whether the full resource-circulation pathway actually reduces emissions.

CROSS-DISCUSSION · QUESTION FROM MODERATOR

Q1 · Moderator → (1) Minister Maciu Nalumisa, (2) Mr. Kushaal Raj

“What capabilities should be developed within each country, and what do they depend on to keep working under climate stress?”

SPEAKER BRIEFING – Trace dependencies

8 OCTOBER 2026

NAME & ROLE

Dr. Miko MaekawaSenior Research Fellow · OPRI /
SPF · SpeakerDependency-tracing contribution · approximately
4 minutes (12:00–16:00)**Mr. Kushaal Raj**Pacific Policy Lead · Conservation
International · Cross-Discussion Participant

Q1 respondent

SESSION FOCUS

TRACE DEPENDENCIES:
What does that system depend
on, and where is it vulnerable?

MAIN QUESTION

*What dependencies should be traced so resource-circulation systems can keep
working under climate stress?*

HOW TO EXPLAIN CORVI

IT IS

- CORVI helps show how climate vulnerability interacts with infrastructure, local services and economic resilience.
- The Fiji example is used to trace dependencies and vulnerabilities, not as a recycling assessment.

IT IS NOT

- It does not tell us which recycling or circular-economy solution to choose.
- It does not demonstrate emissions reductions or rank resource-circulation options.

WHAT TO COVER

FIJI CORVI IN BRIEF

Briefly introduce the Fiji CORVI work: what it helps assess and why it matters for climate-vulnerable island systems. Do not explain the full methodology.

ONE PRACTICAL INSIGHT

One short finding, in your own words, showing how climate vulnerability, infrastructure and local service delivery are connected.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR DEPENDENCIES

Which infrastructure, service and economic dependencies should be traced when resource-circulation systems are built to keep working under climate stress — and, where relevant, what related supply-chain dependencies should be checked separately.

HAND-OFF

- This contribution follows Minister Nalumisa's BUILD perspective.
- The hand-off is to Mr. Talouli: once dependencies are visible, the next question is what island countries should share regionally rather than replicate nationally.

CROSS-DISCUSSION · QUESTION FROM MODERATOR

Q1 · Moderator → (1) Minister Maciu Nalumisa, (2) Mr. Kushaal Raj**“What capabilities should be developed within each country, and what do they depend on to keep working under climate stress?”****KEEP TO ONE THREAD**

- A brief Fiji CORVI example is expected; do not present a detailed methodology, budget or project history.
- Do not speak for Pacific governments on whether they have adopted this framing.
- Avoid going sector by sector.

POLICY CONTEXT

- Palau NDC 3.0 and Fiji NDC 3.0 are reference points only, not commitments made to this session.
- After this contribution, the discussion moves from tracing dependencies to what island countries should share regionally.

NAME

Mr. Anthony Talouli

Director, Waste Management and Pollution Control

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Approximately 5 minutes (16:00–21:00)

SESSION FOCUS

SHARE:

What waste management functions should be shared regionally rather than replicated nationally?

MAIN QUESTION

What waste management functions should be shared regionally rather than replicated nationally?

SHARED SESSION FRAMING

For Big Ocean States, the nexus is not only about interconnected problems. It is also about interconnected capabilities — what countries build at home and what they are better off sharing across the region.

POSSIBLE POINTS TO COVER

WHAT ONE COUNTRY SHOULD NOT CARRY ALONE

Which capabilities are difficult for one island country to sustain nationally because of scale, cost, markets, technical capacity, transport or risk.

WHAT COUNTRIES CAN SHARE REGIONALLY

Where regional cooperation can add value through shared standards, aggregation of volumes, transport coordination, data, technical capacity or access to responsible treatment.

CROSS-DISCUSSION · QUESTIONS FROM MODERATOR

Q2 · Moderator → (1) Minister Steven Victor, (2) Mr. Anthony Talouli
“What should countries share regionally?”

Q3 · Moderator → (1) Dr. Tomo Shioiri, (2) Mr. Anthony Talouli
“How can cross-industry connections be made responsibly?”

SCOPE OF THE DISCUSSION

- A regional cooperation and nexus-policy perspective would be especially valuable.
- No position is sought on any specific route, receiver or shipping arrangement.

HOW OPRI / SPF WILL SUPPORT

- OPRI / SPF can provide the supporting material used for this session.
- Follow-up with relevant SPREP colleagues can be arranged separately where useful.

SPEAKER BRIEFING – Connect

8 OCTOBER 2026

NAME & ROLE

Dr. Tomo Shioiri

Senior Research Fellow · OPRI / SPF

Cross-industry connection · approximately 5 minutes (21:00–26:00)

SESSION FOCUS

CONNECT:

How can materials and capabilities connect across industries?

MAIN QUESTION

What does it take to make a cross-industry connection work — technically, environmentally and as a business?

CONTRIBUTING TO THE SESSION

Connecting materials and capabilities across industries.

WHY CROSS-INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS MAY MATTER

Some materials may not have a productive use within one system but can become useful inputs for another industry. The question is not only whether a connection is technically possible, but whether it is responsible, viable and supported by the necessary business case.

AN ILLUSTRATIVE INDUSTRIAL CASE — WHAT IT SHOWS AND WHAT IT DOES NOT

WHAT THE JAPAN EXAMPLE SHOWS

A Hiroshima demonstration used oyster shells in steelmaking, replacing 25% of the quicklime in the tested input line, with an approximately 10% assessed supply-chain CO₂ reduction — one input line, not a whole mill.

WHAT IT DOES NOT SHOW

- It does not show a cut across a whole plant.
- It does not yet test whether shipping from Pacific countries would work.

CROSS-DISCUSSION · QUESTION FROM MODERATOR

Q3 · Moderator → (1) Dr. Tomo Shioiri, (2) Mr. Anthony Talouli
“How can cross-industry connections be made responsibly?”

HOW TO CLOSE — CHECKS BEFORE ANY CONNECTION

KEY CHECKS

Source separation · material quality · stable supply · verified receiver · legal compliance · shipping feasibility · cost · liability · commercial viability · management approval · stakeholder confidence · lifecycle assessment (LCA), including life-cycle CO₂ (LC-CO₂) · Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) where appropriate. Climate benefit must be demonstrated, not assumed.

WHAT TO AVOID

- Sending less to landfill does not automatically mean lower emissions. Waste is not reclassified as product to avoid controls.
- Any cross-border movement follows applicable law, including the Basel Convention where relevant.