



PACIFIC COOPERATION FOUNDATION

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Connecting business, people and organisations

Largest solar array in the Pacific completed

The Apia Sports Complex is one of the main beneficiaries of the biggest solar energy installations in the Pacific, thanks to significant investment by the New Zealand government following the Pacific Energy Summit held in March 2013, which PCF helped to deliver. NZ Foreign Minister Murray McCully welcomed the completion of the Apia racecourse solar array in Samoa at the launch on the opening day of the SIDS (Small Island Developing States) conference on 1 September 2014.

"The 2.2 Megawatt photovoltaic array at the Apia Sports Complex will provide the highest electrical output from a single installation in the South Pacific," says Mr McCully.

"Along with two other solar projects in Samoa it is expected meet a total of 4.5 per cent of the total energy demand in Samoa and supply approximately 4,400 households. In total New Zealand has contributed over \$7.5 million towards these three projects.

Like many small Pacific nations, high fuel bills and the high environmental costs of relying on fossil fuels has hindered the economic aspirations of Samoa.

PCF Chairman Peter Kiely says it's another significant step to help businesses in Samoa.

"The energy sources Pacific island nations like Samoa have relied on and their impact are significant," he says.

"Cleaner, more affordable energy will go a long way to help not only homes but the growing number of aspiring business people across the region."

Minister McCully was particularly pleased construction was completed in time for the SIDS Conference, providing Samoa an opportunity to showcase the progress they are making in developing renewable energy generation.

"Clean, efficient, affordable and reliable energy services are vital to sustainable economic development. This project is just one of several major solar energy developments under way in the Pacific following the 2013 Pacific Energy Summit in Auckland".

Over 600 people attended the 2013 Summit, including leaders from Pacific nations, regional and international organisations, private sector companies, and nongovernment organisations.

Development partners included co-hosts New Zealand and the EU; co-sponsors Australia, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the World Bank Group (WB); and the European Investment Bank (EIB), Japan, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

PCF helped to deliver the Energy Investment Showcase part of the Summit and Pacific countries presented 79 projects at the showcase. The Summit exceeded expectations: partners and donors responded with a funding envelope of NZ\$635 million. This includes NZ\$255 million in grant funding and NZ\$380 million in concessional loans sufficient to support over 40 of the proposed projects by the end of 2015.

Minister McCully added that "More than 50 projects are being implemented as a result of the commitments made at the Summit. Collectively these projects are moving the Pacific closer towards 50 per cent renewable electricity."

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