

6th September, Apia, Samoa

Partnerships for a Blue Pacific – an exploration of the role and contribution of Civil Society

PROFILES OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY PANELISTS

KAISARINA SALESA

Ms. Kaisarina Salesa is the Programme Coordinator for the Samoa National Youth Council Inc. since early 2015. Since joining the SNYC team, Kaisarina has been active in leading the strengthening of the institutional capacity of the organisation. Under her leadership, SNYC was formally inducted into the Pacific Youth Council and won the elections for Samoa to Chair the Pacific Youth Council. She has also co - written, published and launched SNYC's first ever evidence based position statement the Tracer Youth Employment Survey Report.



Kaisarina started her civil service as a law clerk in the Office of the Attorney General – Civil Litigation division immediately after graduation and was one of the youngest junior lawyers to assist and work on the Commissions of Inquiry into the Freedom of Religion Constitutional right. She then moved to the Samoa Law Reform Commission and became one of its pioneering legal analysts in establishing the law reform and building its credibility and networks across the different work sectors.

Kaisarina has been a youth advocate since 2008 in promoting recognition for the rights of young women. She is also a passionate advocate for the mainstreaming of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights into Samoa's education curriculum. A member of the Pacific Young Women's Leadership Alliance, the youth representative on the Women's Advisory Group under the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development as well as the former President for the Rotaract Club of Apia. She enjoys the occasional glass or bottle of wine and is an avid reader of urban fantasy novels. She has one son and is looking to increase the number 😊.

Kaisarina holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of the South Pacific – School of Law in Vanuatu. Is admitted to Samoa's Roll of Barristers and Solicitors and is a member of the Samoa Law Society.

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MAINA TALIA



Mr. Maina Talia is just a simple Islander from Tuvalu married with two children. Talia is a theological trained person working for Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu (EKT) as a climate change officer since 2011 until June 2017. In his tenure of work, he coordinated the construction of the EKT theological statement “Dancing with God in the rainbow” which addresses various social issues confronted by Tuvaluans.

However, apart from his paid job, Talia committed most of his time to Tuvalu Climate Action Network (TuCAN) where he serves as the Secretary for many years. Hence, in 2011 he was appointed the National Focal point in Tuvalu for the Pacific Indigenous Network (PIN). He also serves as a Board of Directors for the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network (PICAN). In his capacity as the climate change officer during his time with the EKT and currently for TuCAN, his work specifically focuses on climate Justice and Theology.

He has attended several United Nations trainings in New York on Indigenous Rights including a one-month Fellowship program organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva on Indigenous/ Human Rights. He was also part of the Tuvalu Government delegation to the Conference of the Parties (COP) 18 in Doha, COP21 in Paris and will also be attending COP23 in Bonn this coming November. He has published few articles in “Theologies and Cultures” an academic Journal published by the Formosa Christianity and Culture Research Centre in Taiwan.

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Mr. Mori Mori – Chuuk Youth Council (CYC)



Mr. Mori Mori is the President of Chuuk Youth Council an umbrella youth NGO in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia. Alongside his role as a youth volunteer, he previously worked as an English and social studies teacher at a high school in Chuuk. He is currently a staff of the International Organization for Migration mission in Micronesia since

2014. Mori attended the College of Micronesia and proceeded to Ritsumeikan University in Japan prior to his return to his home state. His drive has been and is always in youth development. Activities such as organizing and hosting youth leadership conferences, community awareness, youth health, women empowerment campaigns and partnerships have also been his work in his role as a youth leader in Chuuk. His dream is to develop strength in his youth coalition and establishing partnerships with local, national and regional NGO's to empower youth in the Pacific.

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ISIKELI VULAVOU



Isikeli Vulavou is the Executive Director of the Pacific Sexual Diversity Network. The PSDN network consists of Pacific islanders with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and or expressions (PIDSOGIE) has continued to grow over the years with regional and international partners. Currently Isikeli services affiliates from 13 Pacific island countries and advocates for increased political commitment to PIDSOGIE. Reform of discriminatory laws and government policies, greater sensitivity towards PIDSOGIE by law enforcement agencies, and reduction of institutional and social stigma and discrimination.

I used to work as the National Programme Associate for the UNFPA PSRO. I now head two organisations. One is Fiji-based and promotes LGBTIQ Rights and Equality, Social Justice, Health & Wellbeing here in Fiji while the second one does work in similar areas in the Pacific and it is called the Pacific Sexual and Gender Diversity Network.

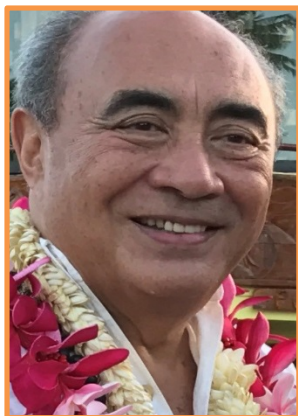
My areas of specialization are programming for LGBTI Rights and Equality and HIV prevention. The PSGDN covers 13 PICs where we have members which includes American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. I identify as gender queer and OK with all pronouns s/he/they and her/him/their.

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PROFILES OF FACILITATORS

Lelei TuiSamoa LeLaulu



A development entrepreneur working at the confluences of sustainable tourism, climate change, renewable energy, governance, and food security, Lelei LeLaulu advises the World Bank on ocean conservation and serves on the Advisory Panel for Business and Sustainability of the International Finance Corporation. An author of the World Bank book on its role post 2025, he advises the Pacific Oceans Commissioner as well as governments in the Caribbean.

Lelei, a member of the High Level Group Reviewing the 10-year Strategy of the Asian Development Bank, is Chairman of the Earth Council Alliance and chair of the Leadership Council of the Leadership Group of George Washington University Business School, and moderated several international meetings including the inaugural session of the Specialist Subcommittee on Regionalism in Suva, the CROP retreat in Noumea, PIFS retreat, Conceptualization of the Blue Guardians for the World Bank and the first Pacific Islands Summit with the US President in Honolulu.

Taholo Kami



Taholo Kami was the first Regional Director for IUCN Oceania Regional Office (ORO) based in Suva, Fiji Islands. He held the position since the office began operation in 2007. His role involves providing strategic direction to IUCN Oceania's five thematic programmes; Species, Water, Energy, Marine and Environmental Law as well as managing the establishment of a strong and effective presence of IUCN in the region with countries, members and partners.

Taholo is a Tongan national but spent most of his childhood in Papua New Guinea and holds an Accounting degree, an MBA in Marketing and has particular expertise in information management strategies in the Pacific Islands context. He has worked as an accountant and internal auditor in Tonga.

He has international work experience with UNDP initializing and establishing the Small Island Developing States Network (SIDSnet) from New York. Worked as a trainer within the region on small business and network management. An internet pioneer in the region and has consulted on national ICT strategies and once ran the busiest networking internet websites in the Pacific.

A self-described “innovator and strategist”, Taholo has a strong biodiversity conservation commitment and is currently the Chair of the Roundtable for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands.