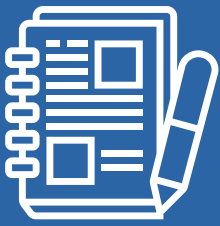




Toolkit for Pacific Journalists Reporting on Corruption



Developed for the Pacific Anti-Corruption Journalists Network (PACJN) by PACJN member and Kiribati journalist, Rimon Rimon, June 2023





INTRODUCTION

Gathering in Tarawa, Kiribati in 2020, Pacific leaders acknowledged by developing the Teieniwa Vision that they must “commit to Pacific Unity Against Corruption, recognising that all of our progress and aspirations for a peaceful, harmonious and prosperous Pacific cannot be realised unless we address corruption.”¹

Corruption undermines democracy and the rule of law, leads to violations of human rights, distorts markets, erodes the quality of life and allows organized crime, terrorism and other threats to human security to flourish.

At the beginning of this millennium, the issue of corruption was rarely addressed in official circles, especially in the Pacific.

Remarkably, by the year 2005, after a culmination of long and difficult negotiations, first at the technical and gradually at the political level, the United Nations had positioned corruption to now be on the agenda of world’s nations with efforts to prevent and combat corruption now an obligation under international law nearly in every country.

All 14 Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are now signatories to this obligation. As a collective effort, the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) endorsed the Teieniwa Vision in 2021 as the guiding roadmap for the Pacific’s unity against corruption.

Corruption – or the risk of corruption – impacts all sectors of society, therefore, the participation of all sectors of society is essential in preventing and combatting corruption.

¹ Teieniwa Vision: https://www.unodc.org/roseap/uploads/archive/documents/pacific/2021/Teieniwa_Vision_PUAC_post_LEADERS.FINAL.pdf

For the media, and in particular investigative journalists, their role is a crucial one in exposing corruption to public scrutiny, giving a voice to those at risk from the misuse of power and fighting against impunity.

This important role for the media is encapsulated in the work of the Pacific Anti-Corruption Journalists Network (PACJN), set up in 2019 by the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA) in partnership with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to ensure Pacific journalists are more sustainably trained and prepared and have ownership of their engagement in integrity and anti-corruption reporting.

This toolkit is part of PACJN's efforts to support Pacific journalists to engage effectively with the UN Convention on Corruption (UNCAC), the Special Session of the General Assembly against Corruption (UNGASS) and the Teieniwa Vision.

In addition to providing an overview of the respective bodies and agreements/declarations as mentioned above, this toolkit will also provide tips on how journalists can effectively keep track of Pacific Governments' commitments and their implementation of UNCAC and Teieniwa Vision.

Lastly, two case studies will be presented to showcase how an investigation story on corruption can be bolstered by referencing UNCAC/Teieniwa commitments.

Overall, this toolkit is intended to help Pacific journalists create better-informed, impactful journalism when they address corruption and major investigations in their home countries and regionally. At a technical level, journalists will have a better understanding of the Pacific's adopted roadmap on anti-corruption, the Teieniwa Vision, and its intersection with UNCAC and UNGASS political declaration.



Teieniwa is the Kiribati word for sail (ie) and canoe (waa), reflected in both the shape of the reclaimed land where the Kiribati Parliament venue for the Pacific Unity Against Corruption Conference is built and the symbol in the Conference logo for this Conference. A sailing canoe is a common form of transport in the Pacific. It was adopted as the Conference logo to symbolise a sailing canoe in the vast Pacific Ocean that separates and makes our individual countries isolated, as the only traditional means to unite the Blue Pacific in the fight against corruption. It also symbolises that a long journey of a sailing canoe in open waters will encounter both tranquility and stormy weather at times, and that is what is expected to happen in the fight against corruption; it is not easy nor short-term, but it is a journey that requires collaborative efforts of all sectors of society.

A. Overview

1. Teieniwa Vision

Within global efforts on corruption, Teieniwa Vision, stands as the leading guiding document for Pacific governments to collectively work together in the prevention of and fight against corruption.

In February 2020, an inaugural Pacific Leaders Regional Anti-Corruption conference hosted in Kiribati saw the birth of Teieniwa Vision, a document of declaration of intentions and commitments encompassing integrity, right to information and good governance for Pacific countries.

In recognition that all progress and aspirations for a peaceful, harmonious, and prosperous Pacific cannot be realised unless corruption is first addressed, the Teieniwa Vision was later adopted by the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) in February 2021 – becoming the official regional collective effort and commitment against corruption.

As the custodian of the UNCAC and partner with the Kiribati Government in organising the original Leaders Regional Anti-Corruption conference in 2020, the UN office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is collaborating with PIF in 2022-23 to assist Pacific countries implement their Teieniwa commitments.

As a regional framework on addressing corruption, the Teieniwa Vision, at **Annex 1**, aims at establishing a network on anti-corruption in the Pacific region with countries sharing experiences, lessons learned and best practices in their collective efforts to curb corruption. Additionally, it also recognizes the importance of strong leadership and building political will to stand united against corruption. All of these complement the requirements, expectations and work of global anti-corruption efforts as stipulated in UNCAC as well as the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16².

² **Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16 or Global Goal 16)** is about “peace, justice and strong institutions.” One of the 17 [Sustainable Development Goals](#) established by the [United Nations](#) in 2015, the official wording is: “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for [sustainable development](#), provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”.¹¹ The Goal has 12 targets to be achieved by 2030.

Key commitments made by Pacific Leaders in Teieniwa Vision relevant to the role of the media include:

- i. Support the need to protect genuine whistle blowers; and for an independent civil society and responsible media to be involved in national and regional anti-corruption efforts;
- ii. Support the right to information; and
- iii. Develop and review our National Anti-Corruption Strategies and policies and implementation arrangements, including within our national plans, and through a participatory process which includes our civil society, youth, private sector, Parliamentarians, media and other stakeholders.

At the 2021 2nd Pacific Media CEOs Summit convened in the Solomon Islands, the PIF Secretary General Mr. Henry Puna (who was an original signatory to the Teieniwa Vision in Kiribati as the then Prime Minister of Cook Islands) highlighted to the summit the importance for Pacific governments and communities to ensure the integrity and anti-corruption priorities identified in Teieniwa Vision are implemented.

Secretary General Puna told executive leaders of the regional Pacific media: “You are well aware that the moment where the signatures are done, and Leaders walk away is the point at which the real work begins”, referring to the Teieniwa Vision, challenging Pacific media workers to not confine their scope of work on just keeping the Pacific people informed, but to keep them engaged as well.

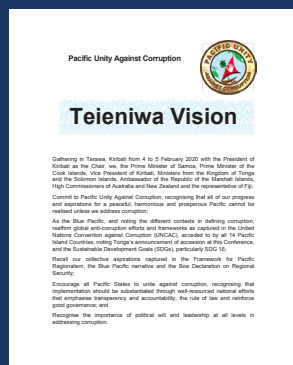
The Call to Action that Secretary General Puna made to Pacific media CEOs is: “Please, keep them engaged. Keep them talking – long after you leave them, about the decisions and issues already shaping their lives, and our common one Blue Pacific future.”

The onus on the Pacific media now is to hold the spotlight on corruption and integrity - as part of a collective effort to implement the Teieniwa Vision - providing an opportunity to apply values for transparency, strong governance and clear rules for reporting, ‘on ourselves and on each other’ as well as holding our Pacific governments accountable to the priorities they committed to in the Teieniwa Vision.

Secretary General Puna told Pacific Media CEOs that: “Being an anti-corruption partner is a long game—and just like the image of Teieniwa, a journey in resilience.” (You can read the full script of the PIF SG Puna’s statement on Teieniwa Vision [here](#).)

The Teieniwa Vision, contextualised for the Pacific, is built on the principles and provisions provided in our next topic – United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

The Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) in its 2023 Insights from Supreme Audit Institutions – Report 4: How effective are Pacific SAIs in supporting good governance, accountability, transparency, and integrity in a changing world?³, notes the importance of Teieniwa Vision as a regional roadmap, and states that: “Joint efforts between governments, businesses, civil society, community, youth groups, media, and individuals to champion integrity, increase public awareness, and promote zero tolerance for corruption and the misuse of public funds will strengthen the effectiveness of the work of SAIs.” This also reinforces the importance of Pacific journalists building relationships with their SAIs and monitoring SAI reports. PACJN is undertaking training in a number of countries to enable journalists and SAIs to have better briefings and follow-up on SAI reports and integrity recommendations. PASAI notes⁴, “SAIs reported that what is reported on in the media is a key source of information to help them find out what issues are of importance to the public. Of the SAIs we surveyed, 43% have direct contact with the media in publicizing audit findings. Two SAIs (Samoa and Tonga) reported that they provide training to the media on the interpretation and use of audit reports. This is an effective way to assist the media to understand how to interpret the technical aspects of audit findings.



1.1 Investigative story ideas on corruption

Think of Teieniwa Vision as your badge of investigation! And every time you approach a compelling story on corruption; you can use it to the authorities as a mark of duty you are pursuing.

The core 14 clauses of Teieniwa (see Annex 2 – “Teieniwa-in-Brief” for a quick reference to the clauses) are a ‘Call to Action’ that all our Pacific leaders have pledged to fulfill... so use it to bolster your next story in the fight against corruption.

It’s important to always bear in mind that the ultimate goal is for Teieniwa Vision to be implemented across our region - to prevent and combat corruption, and our role as Pacific journalists to hold our leaders or governments accountable to their promises, will greatly assist this commitment.

To help you get started on reporting corruption, below is a list of potential story ideas - that correlate to the commitments made in Teieniwa - that you can raise with your national Governments /Leaders / Ministers’ offices. These could initiate a stand-alone story on a government policy, or they could make your initial story on a local corrupt practice / integrity story stronger with a follow-up:



Story Idea #1 – Are our National Anti-Corruption strategies and/or governance policies fit for purpose?

Asking the question, how is our country prioritising our Teieniwa Vision commitment: “We resolve to develop and review our National Anti-Corruption Strategies and policies and implementation arrangements, including within our national plans, through a participatory process which includes our civil society, youth, private sector, Parliamentarians, media and other stakeholders” will help you to broaden your next story on corruption.

For example, in Kiribati, the National Anti-Corruption Strategy was developed in 2017 as part of the Government of Kiribati’s efforts to implement Teieniwa. In its submission to the UN Intersessional meeting of the UNCAC on preparation of UNGASS

³ [Accountability and Transparency Reports — PASAI](#)

⁴ Ibid, page 36

in June 2020, the Kiribati government reported to have achieved overall progress of 80 percent in implementing activities outlined in their national anti-corruption strategy. The government also developed the National Public Service Code of Conduct, as a preventive measure, aiming to prevent public servants from committing corrupt misconduct, and to maintain a high standard of integrity among public servants.

While acknowledging that there is only a small number of mainstream or independent journalists working in recent years in Kiribati, there is little evidence of major investigative stories being published or broadcast on any media platforms. For journalists in Kiribati, paying a visit to the Anti-Corruption Office or Commission may be the first step on a story about corruption, using Teieniwa as the umbrella to examine the cause of a corrupt practice, couched around Kiribati's progress on implementing their commitments made in Teieniwa. It can be argued there is a need for self-examination by media and government to ascertain why, despite rudimentary reporting of some corrupt practices and occasional charges, there have been no substantial follow up stories to address if weak systems or lack of oversight contributed to the corrupt practices being able to occur.



Story Idea #2 – Incorporate how lack of documents or information that should be public has enabled a corrupt practice to go unchecked or only be discovered too late. Right to Information is a fundamental human right that keeps governments alert, responsive and honest.

How is the nation prioritising our Teieniwa Vision commitment: “We recognise and support the Right To Information,”?

The Right to Information (RTI) is a powerful anti-corruption tool that gives all persons the right to access information held by public bodies.

RTI laws are commonly referred to as Freedom of Information (FOI) or Access to Information (ATI). As of January 2019, 125 countries have adopted such laws indicating key benefits derived from RTI which include: increased detection of corruption; greater transparency in the provision and access to social services and opportunities; enhanced public sector efficiency; as well as the strengthening of media

reporting, through easier access to more accurate and accessible government information. (Learn more about RTI, the key benefits derived from it and its status in the Pacific [here](#).)

In our region, only four (4) Pacific Island Countries (PICs) – Cook Islands, Fiji (not yet in force), Palau and Vanuatu - have formally adopted RTI laws to date.

It is anticipated that seven (7) more PICs may adopt RTI laws in the near future. They are the Federated States of Micronesia that recently developed and is currently reviewing a draft FOI law; the Solomon Islands that has similarly developed a draft FOI policy and law; Papua New Guinea that in 2016 committed to the adoption of an RTI law and a national action plan under the auspices of the Open Government Partnership; Kiribati that developed an RTI strategy in 2014; Tonga that has had an Information Disclosure Policy since 2012; Nauru that proposed to appoint an Ombudsman to have oversight of the development of an RTI regime in 2009; and Samoa that is reported to be actively considering the adoption of an RTI law.

In the Teieniwa Vision, our Pacific leaders have recognised and pledged to support RTI and whistleblower protection, and for the inclusion of the media and civil society in all efforts. A potential story that could be pursued here is on tracking the progress of RTI implementation in your country and identifying absences or inadequacies of key provisions in the RTI law that requires government's attention or why delay on developing and implementing a Whistleblower Act in your respective country is being prolonged. If you are reporting on a corrupt practice that went undetected for many years, you could argue that if whistleblower protection was in place, a colleague of the perpetrator may have felt safe to report suspicions of corrupt activity much sooner.

Often a positive story can make the integrity argument even stronger – in Palau, PACJN journalist and Island Times editor Leilani Reklai used a comprehensive Public Auditor report to illustrate exactly how procurement mistakes led to corruption problems during the COVID period.⁵ An investigation into allegations of improper and fraudulent US Covid relief assistance distribution took place. Allegations and complaints that

⁵ [Public Auditor releases WIOA audit report: - Island Times](#)

funds from US COVID relief have not been distributed appropriately led to investigations from the Office of Special Prosecutor and Public Auditor. Good journalism was able to condense a comprehensive Public Auditor Report, with six major recommendations, into a readable, concise local story for Palau citizens. Strong Island Times story 26.5.23 by Leilani Reklai (PACJN member) on Public Auditor's report. Making the original Public Auditor's report fully available, without redaction, enabled the media – and through them the community – fully aware of the issue and better able to put prevention procedures in place.



Story Idea #3 – Strengthening Good Practices in Public Finance Management – their absence is a real story

A Fiji Broadcasting Commission [article](#) published in August 2020 identified significant corruption risks in the health sector in Fiji.

The article reported on a former worker with the Fiji Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Services who admitted to engaging in corrupt practices and who was later convicted in a Suva court. The former worker was charged by the Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption with one count each of Obtaining a Financial Advantage and General Dishonesty – Causing a Loss in June 2020 to the Fiji Health Ministry.

The former pharmaceutical worker pleaded guilty to both charges, admitting that she received revenue and issued receipts from a Ministry of Health receipt book without entering the details into the Revenue Collector's Cash Analysis Book.

As a result of the former pharmaceutical worker's misconduct, she admitted to obtaining over \$4,000 in addition to causing a loss to the Ministry of the same amount.

The right question to ask here is – has the Fiji government considered requesting assistance to undertake a corruption risk assessment and progressed its Teieniwa Vision commitment: "We commit to further strengthen good practices in public finance management and to conduct corruption risk assessments in vulnerable sectors."?

Approaching the Ministry of Health and asking what corruption risk assessment methods have

they employed and what strengthening of their procurement and receipt/record systems have been carried out are relevant tacks for a follow-up story on this procurement issue. This could help ascertain that measures are put in place to ensure such an offense can be avoided in future - an excellent starting point for an investigative corruption story.



Story Idea #4 – Money Laundering gives oxygen to Organised Crime

Acquiring illegal money – otherwise known as 'dirty money' – and hiding its origin so it becomes legal money, is a process known as money laundering.

People who conduct money laundering are typically drug traffickers, embezzlers, corrupt politicians and public officials, mobsters, terrorists, and con artists, who have an intent to hide their proceeds of crime or are aiming to further a criminal enterprise.

Money laundering takes three stages to convert 'dirty money' into 'clean money': the first being Placement, where you put the dirty money into a clean institution like a bank; the second stage is Layering, where the money is sent through various transactions involving numerous accounts to hide its track and origin and; lastly the Integration of that (dirty) money into the mainstream economy where it could be used in a legitimate way.

Such activities have a corrosive, corrupting effect on society and the economic system as a whole. They generate financial flows that involve the diversion of resources away from economically and socially-productive uses – and these diversions can have negative impacts on the financial sector and the overall stability of the society.

Anti-money laundering (AML) is a topic on its own ([read more here](#)) and the regulations and laws developed to counter money laundering, when effectively implemented, help combat corruption.

A country's efforts in developing sound laws and regulations and implementing and enforcing them resonates with our Pacific government's Teieniwa Vision commitment: "We reaffirm our commitment to combat money-laundering and its facilitators and the enabling environment in our region."

Finding out the status of AML laws and regulations (or their absence) in your country is one way you



could start an investigative corruption story. Paying close attention on the link between corruption and money laundering and the need to have preventive and investigative systems that are effectively implemented, is crucial in countering money laundering and thus corruption.

In a PNG Post Courier [article](#) published in August of 2022, the Bank of Papua New Guinea was reported to have filed 5000 money-laundering cases, but no single prosecution has been made. The bank's Financial Analysis and Supervision Unit (FASU) currently does not have prosecution powers and therefore refers these cases to the law enforcing agencies, the Police, to enforce. To compound the financial institution's limitation in powers, PNG's reported shortage of Police manpower to investigate the reported cases furthers the risk for money laundering, and corruption, to thrive.

A good follow-up to this money laundering / corruption story is investigating whether appropriate prosecution powers for financial institutions is required and is being legislated and that areas needing additional support, like recruiting more Police officers trained to investigate money laundering cases, is well resourced by the government.



Story Idea #5 – Ethics and Code of Conduct

The [Vanuatu Daily Post](#) reported in January 2023, the arrest (and bail) of the founder of the Vanuatu

People's Investment and Equity Fund (VPIEF) facing embezzlement charges. As a result, the government ordered an investigation into VPIEF for collecting funds from citizens of Vanuatu with promises for better returns, and its failure to pay these returns to their members.

While Police investigations on the case have concluded and the founder of VPIEF is yet to be prosecuted, it is evident that work is required in strengthening integrity and ethical principles within Vanuatu's social and financial institutions.

The importance of strengthening integrity and ethical principles is in line with the Pacific Leaders' commitments in Teieniwa as follows: "We commit to governing in an accountable manner wherein all Leaders, persons with authority, Cabinets, Parliamentarians [...] adhere to their Leadership Codes and/or codes of conduct;"

A good follow-up to this story would review existing policies and guidelines on Ethics and Code of Conduct and to ask what changes have been made to avoid breaches of such nature or that people in positions of authority and financial advantage adhere to their leadership codes and/or codes of conduct. Are leaders complying with assets declarations and conflict of interest declarations? Are these declarations and compliance reports being made public? Are there real penalties for non-compliance or is their absence leading to the non-compliance?

2. United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

At the regional level, we have the Teieniwa Vision guiding Pacific governments in their efforts against corruption but at the international stage, the overarching framework on the fight against corruption is embodied in the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)⁶, adopted in October of 2003 and entered into force in December of 2005.

It is important that we know some key information about UNCAC so that we can understand the underlying principles governing our fight against corruption.

UNCAC is the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. UNCAC's far-reaching approach and many mandatory provisions makes it a unique tool for addressing a global problem that is corruption.

The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the convention pursuant to a decision issued in 2003 which stipulated the following 3 main issues:

- i. Declaring December 9 as International Anti-Corruption Day
- ii. Entrusting the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), based in Vienna, Austria, as the custodian of the convention and as the Secretariat of its Conference of States Parties
- iii. Convening a political conference in Merida, Mexico for States to sign UNCAC

As of February 2023, there are 189 States Parties to the convention, which includes all 14 Pacific Island Countries (PICs). To check the signature, ratification and implementation status of your country, go to this link here. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/country-profile/index.html>

The convention includes four essential stages: corruption prevention; corruption detection; prosecuting perpetrators and finally; freezing and reserving all revenues resulting from corruption.

⁶ <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/uncac.html>

The following stipulated areas provide the basis for assessing and reviewing the progress of Member State implementing UNCAC:

1. Taking preventive measures (Chapter II)
2. Criminalization and Law enforcement (Chapter III)
3. International cooperation (Chapter IV)
4. Asset recovery (Chapter V)
5. Technical assistance and information exchange (Chapter VI)

In recognition that corruption is an always evolving crime without being limited to a definition, the convention addresses many different forms of corruption, such as bribery, trading in influence, abuse of functions, and various acts of corruption in the private sector.

The development and enforcement of this treaty is a notable feat given its global coverage and the scope of its provisions related to corruption, which address both preventive and punitive measures.

Despite the convention's comprehensiveness, as a treaty adopted by 189 diverse nations, there are some components which are mandatory and others, which may be more controversial in some countries, which are aspirational. There are several areas which are best addressed in context with respective local legal frameworks, as national sovereignty is paramount in most legal treaties. While UNCAC does attest that "...the prevention and eradication of corruption is a responsibility of all States and that they must cooperate with one another, with the support and involvement of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, if their efforts in this area are to be effective" some anti-corruption advocates argue for provisions that would compel States to more transparently meet their obligations. As an entry point, journalists can cite their respective local laws and if they are being breached by an elected official, for example, then that provides good grounds for a closer look – an investigation!

UNCAC also addresses the cross-border nature of corruption by accounting for the need for international cooperation and conditions related to the return of stolen assets. Notably, the convention also underscores the importance of

the role civil society organizations play with regard to accountability and monitoring of processes related to asset return in order to ensure access to information for citizens.

Article 10 of the Convention is specifically on Public Reporting. It is a requirement under UNCAC that governments “take such measures as may be necessary to enhance transparency in its public administration, including with regard to its organization, functioning and decision-making processes, where appropriate”.

Implemented by integrity entities such as the Ombudsman, Auditor-General, Anti-Corruption Agencies, Leadership Commissions, Government anti-corruption offices, Attorney-General and parliamentary oversight Public Accounts and Select Anti-Corruption Committees, these include publishing public information which may include periodic reports on risks of corruption in public administration.

The UNCAC Review process also provides an opportunity for journalists to not only report on UNCAC issues in their own country but to ensure that the voice and needs of the media are incorporated into UNCAC Reviews, as illustrated most recently below by media in Palau through PACJN member and Tia Belau Newspaper editor Kambes Kesolai.⁷

See section B for further information on the UNCAC review mechanism.

3. UNGASS - Special session of the General Assembly against corruption

The year 2021 was branded as a landmark year for the fight against corruption. Despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic taking its toll on the global society, Member States’ commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation was steadfast.

On 2 – 4 June of that year, the UN General Assembly Special Session on corruption (UNGASS) was convened in New York, in which Member States converged virtually to chart the course for fighting corruption in the coming years.

Ahead of the meeting, the Secretariat invited Member States to provide contributions on the structure and substance of the draft political declaration for UNGASS.

Kiribati and Tonga were the only two UNCAC member states from the region (including Australia and New Zealand) who provided contributions. In their submissions, both countries highlighted ‘Teieniwa Vision’ as the Pacific’s leading framework (to implement and review UNCAC) in the fight against corruption. Submissions from [Kiribati](#) and [Tonga](#) are available on the UNGASS website.

A notable outcome of that Special Session, that Pacific media workers can take up with their respective governments to continually hold them to account on their integrity commitments, is the adoption of a concise and action-oriented political declaration.

The political declaration, adopted in consensus, is a blueprint for how Member States should deal with corruption in the coming decades.

The then presiding President of the United Nations General Assembly, Volkan Bozkir, told the Special Session that “these recent efforts demonstrate Member States’ understanding that in order to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we must end corruption.”

The political will and commitment demonstrated by Member States in this Special Session underscores urgency and provides Pacific journalists with an opportunity to follow-up with their respective governments on how serious they are about implementing and reviewing UNCAC in the fight against corruption.

The UN Special Session political declaration can be viewed [here](#).

⁷ [Palau anti-corruption commitments identified for implementation – Tia Belau Newspaper](#)

B. Tracking the progress of Pacific governments' implementation and review of UNCAC

The implementation and review of UNCAC is a parallel process to the implementation and review of Teieniwa Vision commitments as they complement each other, the former on an international good practice level - setting a framework for the latter at the regional and national levels.

The UNCAC CoSP meeting in Doha in 2009 saw Member States adopt a review mechanism to assist States parties to effectively implement the Convention. The Implementation Review Mechanism (IRM) is comprised of three bodies:

- i. Conference of States Parties (with all UNCAC signatory governments represented).
- ii. The Implementation Review Group (IRG)
- iii. Secretariat (UNODC)

Each State party is reviewed by two peers - one from the same regional group - which are selected by a drawing of lots at the beginning of each year of the review cycle. The functioning and the performance of the IRM is guided and overseen by the [Implementation Review Group \(IRG\)](#), an open-ended intergovernmental group of States parties which is a subsidiary body of the CoSP and was created together with the IRM in Resolution 3/1.

The first cycle of the Review Mechanism started in 2010 and covers the chapters of the Convention on Criminalization and Law Enforcement (Chapter III) and International cooperation (Chapter IV). The second cycle, which was launched in November 2015, covers the Chapters II and V on Preventive measures and Asset recovery.

The review will look into domestic bribery, foreign bribery, embezzlement, money laundering, liability of companies, whistleblower protection, mutual legal assistance among many other relevant issues of concern.

The review is undertaken in three phases and within a strict six-month schedule:

Phase I - Self-Assessment: UNODC informs the state party that it is under review. The state party identifies a focal point to coordinate the country's participation in the review and then fills out a standardised [self-assessment checklist](#).

Phase II – Peer Review: Two reviewer countries – [decided by lots](#) – provide [experts](#) to form an expert review team. The team conducts a desk review of the completed self-assessment checklist. It may require further information from the focal point and direct dialogue through conference calls, or a country visit if agreed by the country reviewed.

Phase III – Country Review Report and Executive Summary: With the assistance of UNODC, the expert review team prepares a [country review report](#) (80–300 pages) and an [executive summary](#) of this report (7-12 pages). The country review report and executive summary are sent to the focal point for approval. In cases of disagreement, the reviewers and the contact point engage in dialogue to arrive at a consensual final report. The executive summary, once finalised upon agreement, is translated into the six official languages of the United Nations and made available as a document of the Implementation Review Group.

The end-product of this review process is an Executive Summary – which is usually published and, a Full Country Report which can be published at the discretion of the State party. You can do a country search on your [nation here](#).

Fortunately, many Pacific governments have chosen to publish their Country Reports in full, eg Vanuatu⁸

⁸ https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/CountryVisitFinalReports/2016_09_14_Vanuatu_Final_Country_Report.pdf

and Palau in 2019⁹ and their latest review in July 2022.¹⁰

In monitoring your government's implementation and review progress, the respective UNCAC country focal point is a 'go-to-person' who Pacific journalists should engage with.

In the Convention's text, States are called upon to be transparent in their fight against corruption. One way of doing so is by following the UNCAC review process' recommendations to publish all of the key documents: the executive summary, the self-assessment checklist and the full country report, related to reviewing implementation of the UNCAC in the specific country. Public access to such information would reflect a true commitment by States to the transparency principles enshrined in the UNCAC.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) also developed a resource tool for Governments and Journalists, entitled [Reporting on Corruption](#). The official launch of the Tool took place during the 5th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (COSP5), held from 25 to 29 November 2013 in Panama City. In its eight chapters the tool covers a wide range of subjects, including the protection of the anonymity of sources, the right of access to information, and self-regulatory measures. It offers information and experiences provided by States parties, and highlights various international standards, case-law and recommendations from international experts.

The tool is designed to examine and highlight good practices—both in the journalism profession and in legislation promoting broader freedoms of opinion and expression—that can support United Nations Member States in their anti-corruption efforts. Nothing in its contents should be understood as limiting or preventing States parties and other relevant stakeholders to go beyond the standard of the Convention in their efforts to promote its purposes, specifically in the area of prevention of corruption, including integrity, accountability and proper management of public affairs and public property.

⁹ https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/CountryVisitFinalReports/2022_07_18_Palau_Cycle_II_Country_Report_EN.pdf

¹⁰ <https://www.unodc.org/roseap/pacific/2022/08/palau-anti-corruption/story.html>

For Pacific journalists reporting on corruption and tracking their respective government's implementation of Teieniwa and review of its UNCAC commitments, this tool will be handy.

So, what is the status on your respective government's implementation and review of its UNCAC commitments? Let's have a look at some Pacific Island countries and their review process. Papua New Guinea (PNG) underwent its first review cycle of its UNCAC implementation back in 2012 – reviewing the implementation of Chapters III and IV (Criminalisation and Law Enforcement and International Cooperation respectively). In May of 2022, PNG conducted its second review cycle on the implementations of Chapters II and V (Preventive Measures and Asset Recovery respectively) and leading the peer review process for PNG are Burundi and Kyrgyzstan.

PNG's 'The National' newspaper [reported](#) on the review on May 13, 2022 where Annika Wythes, the UNODC Regional Anti-Corruption Adviser – Southeast Asia and the Pacific, was cited saying: "The UNCAC review process enables PNG, which ratified UNCAC in 2007, to participate in a peer process to benchmark what has been achieved and what still needs to be done to strengthen anti-corruption in the country,"

In the northern Pacific, the Republic of Palau who ratified UNCAC in 2009, and underwent review in 2014 and 2019 recently identified anti-corruption commitments that require implementation. The commitments were assessed during a national review follow-up consultation process held in August 2022, which included representatives of Palau's Government and ministries including immigration, police and financial integrity agencies, the Public Auditor, Office of the Special Prosecutor, the Senate, Palau Chamber of Commerce, media, Belau Association of NGOs, banks and small businesses.

Key issues, under the UNCAC Chapters II and IV (Preventive Measures and Asset Recovery respectively), identified in the consultation workshop and endorsed by participants included a need for whistleblower protection legislation, an umbrella National Anti-Corruption Strategy, and to re-establish the Office of the Ombudsman, as well as ensure the availability of necessary material resources and specialized staff, along with a

coordinated focus on implementation of existing integrity legislation.

Overall, Palau opted to make its entire UNCAC review report available to the public and open for discussion. Implementation of the review recommendations will assist Palau's integrity agencies to better prevent corruption and more efficiently stop corrupt practices which are eroding public confidence in institutions and channeling off much needed government resources.

Palau's [executive summary and its full UNCAC review report](#) can be both viewed on the UNODC website. Palau's Office of the Special Prosecutor launched a nation-wide research dialogue on how Palauans viewed national corruption, how they reported it and associated in-depth integrity

issues. A further Dialogue that same week in Palau in May 2023 around UNCAC and Teieniwa Vision implementation primarily focused on the need for a coordinated National Anti-Corruption Strategy. Inclusion of working journalists, the private sector and civil society in this dialogue ensured near saturation coverage in Palau's [print](#) / [radio](#) / [online media](#) of the Dialogues.

Now, what's your country's progress on its implementation of its UNCAC commitments?

Palau adopted good practice by including local Tia Belau journalist (and PACJN member) in the Review and encouraged him to write an independent story on the process.



Palau anti-corruption commitments identified for implementation

C. Teieniwa Toolkit (Case Studies)

This section outlines the Teieniwa Vision as a baseline to guide work in investigative reporting on corruption. *Annex 2* extracts key principles from the Teieniwa document, converting the Vision's paragraphs in order of the original document into clauses, to help Pacific journalists quickly grasp the substance of the vision.

Two case studies will be analysed against Teieniwa, with the hope to unpack the issues that reporters must learn to identify in this field of investigative journalism. The toolkit is designed to guide reporters in the fight against corruption and helps them benchmark against the guiding principles of Teieniwa Vision and the overarching UNCAC. It uses Teieniwa, which translates to "sail of the canoe".

In Kiribati (the venue for the inaugural Pacific Unity Against Corruption leaders' conference), canoe building is a skill passed down from ancestors. The canoe is not just a piece of architecture, it is a source of food and transportation. For times immemorial, the canoe's role has been the sustainer of life. In the context of this toolkit, the canoe is used as a metaphor for our democracy.

Before we put a magnifying lens on each of our case studies, it is important to realise that the canoe, as a craft, is a remarkable piece of architecture made up of essential parts or elements bound together to ensure it performs as an effective vessel in its journey within the vast Blue Pacific.

These essential parts or elements, that make up Te Wa (canoe) represents the principles and commitments and that keeping them bound together at every journey will ensure we reach the destination that we pursue, in this case to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen our democracy in our Blue Pacific continent.

The essential parts consist of a sail, the hull or canoe body, the outrigger and the steering paddle – and each have a different function or purpose. Similarly, the key commitments and declarations embodied in Teieniwa Vision.

Clauses 13 and 18¹¹ (see *Annex 2*) of Teieniwa are specific to the role of the media and empowers Pacific journalists to follow up with their respective governments on the implementation (and review) of policies and legislations outlined in the vision. Specifically, the Right to Information (RTI) laws and the inclusive participation of everyone in society and, the development and reviewing of national anti-corruption strategies within a participatory process at all levels of society.

When we analyse each case study below, try to constantly reflect to the image of the canoe (Te Wa) and the sail (Te le) and the strength or integrity of the canoe as a whole during a journey, is reflected in the principles of Teieniwa (a sailing canoe) and thus is a beacon to guide Pacific journalists when they report on corruption.

But before we can report on corruption, first – we must detect them and only then can we start to investigate them!

In anti-corruption work, Auditing and Reporting of Corruption, are key methods focused on detection but detection itself rarely happens without one thing: Transparency!

Methods and mechanisms of detecting and reporting on corruption - paying special attention to whistleblower systems and protections - is critical to have in our Pacific society today but equally critical is how that detected corruption is investigated/penalised/prosecuted so that it doesn't happen again in future or that proceeds from such corruption can be channeled back to their rightful owners.

In Teieniwa, these concepts and mechanisms are singled-out by our Pacific Leaders who sees the importance of having Right to Information (RTI) laws and the effectiveness of having Whistleblower legislations in place to ensure a transparent Pacific

¹¹ Key commitments made in Teieniwa Vision of relevance to the role of media include:

- support the need to protect genuine whistle-blowers; and for an independent civil society and responsible media to be involved in national and regional anti-corruption efforts;
- support the right to information; and
- develop and review our National Anti-Corruption Strategies and policies and implementation arrangements, including within our national plans, and through a participatory process which includes our civil society, youth, private sector, Parliamentarians, media and other stakeholders.

thrives - these are embodied in Clauses 13 and 18 of the Teieniwa!

An area of journalism that is best catered to effectively bring an impact in the fight against corruption is investigative journalism.

One, may have their own understanding of what investigative journalism is, just as many of the professional journalism groups across the globe have varying definitions of the profession. The right question to ask here, is not just on what investigative journalism is, but more importantly what it involves. Fundamentally – however the definition may vary – investigative reporting involves having a ‘system’ in place, goes through in-depth and objective researching and, that it is an original reporting.

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), “investigative journalism involves exposing to the public matters that are concealed—either deliberately by someone in a position of power, or accidentally, behind a chaotic mass of facts and circumstances that obscure understanding. It requires using both secret and open sources and documents.”

While this is not a toolkit on investigative journalism, the toolkit however, will share some tips and resources (See Annex 3– OCCRP is in the Pacific) that will help Pacific journalists get started on their first (or next) corruption story.

Case Study 1: Korean Doomsday Sect gets rich in Fiji with Government Help

This story is set in Fiji but originates from South Korea – an example that shows corruption is a cross-border issue and that investigative journalists working collaboratively and across borders is essential in the uncovering of this breaking and ongoing corruption story.

Two award-winning investigative journalism organizations – the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) and the Korean Centre for Investigative Journalists (KCIJ), collaborated to expose activities of the Grace Road Church - a Christian sect from South Korea that came to Fiji in 2013 and rapidly establishes itself as a flourishing business empire in just under a decade.

Key Fact: OCCRP is in the Pacific! Go to Annex 3 to learn more about OCCRP and how it can help you get started on your first or next investigative story on corruption in your respective Pacific Island home.

Grace Road’s rapid business success in Fiji is witnessed by the eyes of the Fijian public despite publicly known facts that the church and its leadership are controversial and ‘wanted’ by South Korean authorities for human rights allegations. The church gained international notoriety in July 2018 when its founder and leader, Reverend Shin Ok-ju, was arrested in South Korea and later convicted for “assault, child abuse, and imprisoning church members”.

Shocking footage showing Reverend Shin beating her followers and ordering them to beat one another has emerged, from former members of the church, as South Korean police investigate claims that she ran a cult in Fiji, forcing people to work without pay and endure violent rituals.

A South Korean court found Reverend Shin guilty on multiple criminal charges including violence, child abuse and fraud and is currently serving a 6-year sentence in a Korean prison. Five other church officials were also sentenced alongside Reverend Shin.

A week after Reverend Shin’s arrest, the South Korean authorities landed in Fiji in what eventually became a failed attempt to decapitate the Grace Road empire in Fiji. A joint police operation by South Korean and Fijian authorities, to crackdown on the sect’s operations in Fiji, saw 6 key officials from the church arrested and were to be deported and charged in South Korea for the roles they played in the cult. The detained South Korean nationals were however, released overnight, effectively evading deportation the following day - thanks to a court order issued from the Lautoka High Court.

“The South Korean police said that the Fijian police had released the Grace Road members after a high-level meeting that included Fiji’s late immigration chief, the prime minister’s personal private secretary, the solicitor-general, and the country’s top prosecutor,” according to the OCCRP-KCIJ report published on 25 July 2022.

In its reporting of Reverend Shin's [arrest](#), The Guardian Australia stated that Christian-inspired cults, like the Grace Road Church, have mushroomed in South Korea where more than a quarter of the population are Protestants or Catholics. And when the South Korean authorities were told by the Fijian authorities to go home and that investigations on Grace Road will be continued by local authorities, they not only returned home empty-handed but the mission to bring down a cult, that has victimized its 400 adherents, dramatically failed and hangs in limbo to this day!

The contents of the court order served, that prevented the deportation of the six South Korean nationals, lists: agents, officials, employees, workmen, servants or any other person from the offices of Immigration Director, Fiji Police, Fiji Corrections Service, Airports Fiji Limited, Air Terminal Services, Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji, Korean Airlines, Fiji Airways, and the Government to not remove the Grace Road officials from Fiji.

In a Fiji Sun [article](#) that reported on the release of these six (6) South Korean nationals, it was revealed that they had ongoing working permits (investors visa) issued by the Fiji Immigration, justifying the interim court injunction to not remove them from Fiji.

Reports from the Fiji Sun and Radio NZ (RNZ) revealed that the intervention to release the arrested church officials and to stop their deportation came directly from the Attorney- General's Office.

After the failed attempt by South Korean authorities to crackdown on the Fiji-based cult – which was undertaken on the premise of Reverend Shin's conviction for human rights violations, investigations by OCCRP reached a turning point calling for a closer look at the intimate relations the sect was enjoying from the Fiji government.



Let's pause for a bit and ask the question, why did the 'cooperation' between South Korean authorities and their Fijian counterparts fail, even though both countries share mutual condemnation of corruption as signatories to UNCAC?

One of the central goals of UNCAC is to promote, facilitate and support international cooperation in the fight against corruption. Chapter IV of the convention provides a strong framework for States to engage in international cooperation, both at the informal and formal levels. This 'cooperation' is also articulated in our Teieniwa – clause 17 - calling on Pacific leaders to progress the region's fight against corruption through cooperation with regional mechanism, including with development partners.

This is an area where journalists in Fiji can look closer – how Fiji's implementation of the convention's Chapter IV can better facilitate a successful international cooperation in future; as well as ask the UNCAC custodian, UNODC, to provide support, where applicable.

OCCRP's Pacific Lead Editor, Aubrey Belford, told [RNZ Pacific](#) the core issue with Grace Road in Fiji was the perception it had been given the red carpet treatment by the government.

"They showed up in the country less than 10 years ago and in that time they have managed to build what is now one of the biggest business empires in the country," Belford said.

OCCRP investigations recorded a total of 54 business establishments of the church currently running in Fiji. 19 of these businesses were opened prior to 2018 while a staggering 35 businesses were opened post 2018, after Reverend Shin had already been arrested and convicted in South Korea. (Insert infographic on Grace Road businesses in Fiji)

A bombshell revelation from reporters working on the OCCRP/KCIJ investigation is the fact “that no one knew” that the Fiji Development Bank (FDB) was providing Grace Road millions of dollars in loans to finance its business aspirations.

“That support includes at least FJ\$8.5 million (US\$3.8 million) in loans from the Fiji Development Bank, a state-backed institution set up to develop the country’s economy, a joint investigation by OCCRP and the Korea Center for Investigative Journalism (KCIJ-Newstapa) has found.”

The FDB is established to develop the country’s economy by providing finance to local small and medium agricultural enterprises. But Grace Road, which established as a foreign investor in 2014, started getting FDB loans just a year after it began operations.

“The bank ultimately reports to Fiji’s second-most-powerful politician, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum. Often called the “Minister for Everything,” he is the second member of an unofficial governing tandem with the prime minister, serving as the country’s attorney general and holding several other ministerial portfolios.” the OCCRP report revealed.

Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of Fiji and leader of the Unity Fiji party Savenaca Narube said they had “watched with great concern” the friendly relations between the Bainimarama government and the sect.

“We have seen the rapid expansion of Grace Road into sectors that are reserved for the Fiji citizens and companies,” Narube told RNZ; meanwhile, the OCCRP reported “local businesses grumble privately that, while they struggle with onerous planning and approval processes, the sect’s businesses seem to sail through with ease!”



Let’s put a magnifying glass on Grace Road’s flourishing business empire.

What can we see under our magnifying glass?

In focus, we see the Fiji Development Bank (FDB) – a financial institution catered for local businesses that is giving out loans to Grace Road, a foreign investor in Fiji.

On top of the loans, Grace Road was also being awarded major government contracts without any clear details of how the church benefitted from the contracted projects, also putting in focus, the Fiji Procurement Office, and how their tender processes are conducted.

These violates good practices in Public Finance Management and calls for action to further strengthen it. Clause 15 of Teieniwa calls on our Pacific governments to strengthen their public finance management through good practices, ensuring that corruption risk assessments in vulnerable sectors or corrupt-prone institutions such as the FDB, are conducted or reviewed accordingly and periodically.

Still under our magnifying glass, a prominent feature that is visible in almost all of Grace Road’s controversial engagements, is the political figure in key executive positions calling the shots in what the OCCRP calls preferential treatment – giving Grace Road an advantage in the Fiji economy.

Talking about political figures and the powers they yield; we bring to attention clauses 6 and 11 of Teieniwa. When addressing corruption, political will and leadership should be recognised at all levels – particularly at the highest executive level. This is in clause 6. Complementing this is clause 11, where our Pacific leaders have committed to governance and accountability that is guided by Leadership Codes and/or Codes of Conduct applicable to all Leaders, Persons with authority, Cabinets, MPs and Public Servants.

Another compelling revelation is what the OCCRP called “serious shortcomings in the Fiji police investigation into the cult” where the Fiji police failed to investigate and charge the top leaders of the sect who were arrested almost five years ago on allegations of human rights abuses of its followers but were released soon after when a local court temporarily blocked their deportation.

When probed by OCCRP, Fiji authorities claim that they have not found enough evidence of alleged mistreatment of sect members still residing in Fiji.

“Look at the police docket. There’s simply not enough evidence... as a result, though the case against the sect members remains open, no charges have been filed,” Christopher Pryde – Fiji’s director of public prosecutions told OCCRP.

However, OCCRP and KCIJ were able to determine that Fijian police did speak to key victims who provided statements on alleged abuses.

According to South Korean police, in December 2018 the Fiji police sent a team of five officers to South Korea, who interviewed four alleged victims of Grace Road abuses. Reporters from OCCRP/ KCIJ were able to confirm the identity of three

of these people. All three were beaten by sect members who were later arrested and released in Fiji in August 2018, according to the conviction handed down in Reverend Shin’s trial. Grace Road’s second-in-command, Daniel Kim, also took part in the confiscation of one of the victims’ passports and restricted his movements while in Fiji, the South Korean court found.

OCCRP further substantiated in its report, how the Korean authorities including the alleged victims, have further collaborated by sharing information with their Fijian counterparts, confirming that the abuses of three of the victims mentioned above, happened on Fijian soil.

There have been numerous media reports published, mainly from the local Fiji media as well as RNZ, flagging Grace Road’s human rights abuse of its followers and the preferential treatment their businesses were receiving from their host country.

The Fiji Government, however, seemed unfazed by the human rights controversy in which the Grace Road church was embroiled, as they remained ‘untouched’ with their businesses continuing to thrive to this day.



Let us take another pause and ponder on how the top church officials from Grace Road, who were arrested and then released back in 2018 and whom are still under international police warrants, still walk free in Fiji to this day?

It is quite noticeable in this case study that integrity concerns are rife throughout the OCCRP/KCIJ investigation on Grace Road in Fiji. It is a recurring feature in the report that key institutions and officials in direct engagements with the church, appear to have dishonored the integrity of their roles and the organizations that were setup to serve the people – consequently undermining specific provisions of the Fiji constitution and the overall governance of democracy.

From the FDB and the Fiji Procurement Office to the Fiji Immigration and Fiji Police – these are key institutions that play an important role in society and if well strengthened, can be instrumental in the prevention or detection of corruption.

Naturally, this takes us back to clause 10 of our Teieniwa which talks about Integrity-building as a ‘Whole-of-Society’ issue. This clause advocates such an approach focusing on Prevention, Public awareness and education, Transparency and Accountability, in all sectors i.e. public, private and civil society – implementing and strengthening clause 10 across all sectors can go a long way in the fight against corruption.

Finally, it is arguable that the Grace Road saga would have never made it to the headlines if it weren't for its human rights abuses – which is a principal issue underscoring corruption in this case study. It is really a marvel, as you will see below, that the Grace Road church has been able to come to Fiji and succeed – thriving in just a short span of time!

During its investigations, the OCCRP/KCIJ also found that Grace Road's move to Fiji in 2014 followed an earlier, disastrous, attempt by the church to set itself up in the United States, court documents show. This failed attempt happened in New York in the early 2010s and details of Reverend Shin's abuse of its members there were very disturbing. The church soon abandoned its American outpost and in September 2018, a [federal court in New York](#) ordered Grace Road church and Reverend Shin to pay US\$3.95 million in compensation to the estate of Chung - a South Korean who came under the church through his sister, a church devotee, who suffered both mentally and physically – and had his right leg amputated due to a restrictive measure imposed on him by Reverend Shin. The lawyer for Chung estate said “we've been trying to collect on this judgement (US\$3.95 million) in Fiji and we've been encountering lots of problems. Nobody essentially will take our case.”

Fiji is a member of the UN Human Rights Council and before becoming Prime Minister of Fiji, now PM Rabuka told RNZ in an interview that the then Bainimarama government should do more to investigate concerns about modern-day slavery in Fiji – referring to Grace Road's activities.

It wasn't until a proper, in-depth investigative reporting, published by OCCRP on 25 July 2022 that several impacts were observed that we will highlight below.

Five days after the report was published – the first impact observed came from the Fiji Opposition – which comprises three separate parties, each with their own respective leaders within the Fiji parliament. On 30 July, OCCRP observed that the Fiji Opposition has called for an official inquiry into the operations of Grace Road.

The call for scrutiny of the cult church was triggered after the bombshell revelation that Grace Road has used state loans to build its business empire in Fiji. The revelations ignited criticism of the government of Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama who has ruled the country since 2006. In 2022, Bainimarama lost power to a coalition government made up of the People's Alliance (PA), National Federation Party (NFP) and the Social and Democratic Liberal Party (SODELPA) led by Sitiveni Rabuka.

Rabuka said his People's Alliance would launch an investigation into the operations of Grace Road Church if the alliance formed a government after the 2022 election.

On 11 February 2023, Arieta Vakasukawaqa from the Fiji Times [reported](#) that Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka had ordered his lands minister and foreign

minister to reexamine the activities of the Grace Road Church during the rule of his predecessor, Frank Bainimarama.

Speaking to *The Fiji Times* Prime Minister Rabuka said the investigation into the religious organisation would also encompass discussions with the Korean government.

“Mr Rabuka was responding to allegations by investigative journalists in the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) and the Korea Center for Investigative Journalism (KCIJ-Newstapa) that the church received more than \$8.5 million in loans from the Fiji Development Bank– as reported by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation last year,” Vakasukawaqa further wrote in her 11 February article.

“I've directed my staff at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to find out if Grace Road Church is an organisation of good standing in the eyes of the Korean Government,” Rabuka told the Fiji Times.

“We cannot be poorly briefed about what other foreign nationals do in our country and we have to be sure that they have support and the blessings of their home countries.”

The ordering of an official Fiji investigation into Grace Roads led by the high ministerial level is not only a strong statement from the new government

that they are serious about fighting corruption, but it is an impact that will reverberate long into the Rabuka administration, as investigations gets underway, and a resolution with the South Korean authorities is anticipated once Fiji investigations on Grace Road are concluded. More is yet to unfold.

Seeing such impacts, as highlighted above, are testament that investigative journalism used in the fight against corruption, can bring change if that is what the people aspire.

While the investigative work by OCCRP and KCIJ on Grace Roads may appear as instrumental in bringing political change in Fiji, the truth of the matter is that these professional investigative organisations are specialised in only one thing – researching and uncovering information – information that only the people can use, to make change happen.

As you can see, this is not your typical newsroom story that a reporter would painstakingly work on before the day's publishing deadline. It takes weeks and many months and sometimes years, before a single investigative story can be published and this reflects on the nature of anti-corruption work, which is painstakingly long in duration, just like the art of investigative journalism and the resilience of our Pacific canoes.

And as the Pacific Islands Secretary General Henry Puna [told media executives](#) gathered in Honiara in 2021, “being an anti-corruption partner is a long game—and just like the image of Teieniwa, a journey in resilience.”

“I know many of your journalists agree to individual integrity and ethics standards in your newsrooms. But what of your business ethics and responsibilities to your workers? To your communities, and to your regional body? Holding up the spotlight for Integrity and anti-corruption provides an opportunity to apply those values for transparency, strong governance, and clear rules for reporting, on ourselves and on each other.” Secretary General Puna added.

As we wrap-up our look into this case study, we leave you with the following concluding remarks from Secretary General Puna:

“We have not seen a regional instrument that captures right to information and good governance commitments in such a clear and accessible way.

Thank you for working to keep the faith of the Teieniwa Vision. It needs to be better known. Take it to the countries that signed it and grow the conversations from there. Think about what the leaders wanted when they adopted this as their vision to unite against corruption. Set the standards for your own vision –as Leaders in Pacific media— of the Teieniwa legacy you will leave for tomorrows media leaders.”

Case Study 2: Murdered Papua New Guinea Ports Official Benefitted From Suspect Offshore Payments

We begin our second case study by looking at the 2021 Pandora Papers – which is a precursor to this investigation involving conflicts of interest, international bribery and off-shore accounts. The Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) collaborated with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) in this ongoing, [joint investigation](#), published in March 2023 – with a follow-up report published in May of the same year.

The Pandora Papers is a trove of leaked financial secrets (documents) exposing offshore interests and activities of the rich and powerful, along with their tax sheltering schemes.

Leaked to the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) and shared with media partners around the world, including OCCRP, the Pandora Papers includes 11.9 million files from 14 different companies hired by wealthy clients to create offshore structures and trusts in tax havens such as Panama, Dubai, Monaco, Switzerland, Samoa, the Cayman Islands and many others.

Key fact: Do you have a potentially corrupt activity to report on? Pitching a story idea for it to become a proper investigation with OCCRP is only a click away – see how in Annex 3. PACJN also offers regional and national grants with assistance for research and travel for local anti-corruption stories. Details will be announced periodically through PINA's website.

Exposed are the secret offshore affairs of 35 world leaders, including current and former presidents, prime ministers, and heads of states. The papers also revealed the secret finances of more than 300 other public officials such as government ministers, judges, mayors and military generals in more than 90 countries.

Also contained in the leaked [Pandora Papers](#), is compelling evidence alleging Australian ‘businessman-turned-government-consultant’ in Papua New Guinea (PNG), Mr. Don Matheson, played a central role in suspicious offshore payments made to senior port officials at the time they awarded major international contracts to operate the country’s biggest ports.

As a central figure in this case study, the investigations dug into the background of Don Matheson, and found that he is a “former owner of a financially troubled Australian soccer team, who moved into business in PNG after racking up hundreds of thousands of dollars in unpaid taxes and was found by a civil court to have misled his partners in a Queensland golf course. Matheson has since reinvented himself as a development consultant in PNG and has boasted of close ties to Prime Minister James Marape.”

This reinvention as a development consultant in PNG happened around 2010 and involved Matheson creating CSG International, a company he billed as a consulting service on major developments, including financing, planning, and construction.

From the beginning, PNG Ports was a major client. Since at least 2010, CSG International has done work for the port operator, such as redesigning and rebranding its offices and renovating its staff housing, the joint OCCRP/ABC investigations revealed.

It is believed that it is through this affiliation that Don Matheson became acquainted with senior officials from the PNG Port Corporations - Stanley Alphonse and Fego Kiniafa – developing a close friendship.

Amid investigations into the port officials, OCCRP/ABC reporters encountered tragedy in September 2022 when Fego Kiniafa, a key figure in the probe, was killed in a drinking brawl. Initially treated as an accident, OCCRP/ABC learned that PNG Police are now investigating the possibility that his murder

may have been premeditated and was possibly connected to his decisions as head of PNG Ports.

The PNG Ports Corporation, according to Prime Minister James Marape, is the best performing state-owned enterprise in the country, meaning it rakes in good revenue to the government, but according to Paul Barker from the Institute of National Affairs in PNG, “the PNG Ports, as is the case with the PNG state-owned enterprises in general, have a long track record of misappropriation [and] malpractice.”

Appointed CEO of the port in 2019, Kiniafa was faced with two immediate challenges the port was experiencing: The Chinese state firms contracted by PNG Ports Corporation to upgrade a port in Lae and to build a high-rise building called Noble Centre, had delivered subpar results. The Lae port upgrade was marred by delays and defective work and ended up costing more than double the project costs while the Nobel Centre stood tall but was empty, plagued by structural defects.

“Once in charge, Kiniafa moved to fix both botched projects. He refused to honor a deal for PNG Ports to purchase floorspace in the Noble Centre, and sought funding from Australia to redevelop both the Lae port and other facilities around the country,” The OCCRP/ABC report revealed.

Prior to becoming CEO, Kiniafa had negotiated what would become a more than A\$621 million proposal for Australia to fund the expansion of the country’s ports.

“It was a huge coup, and Kiniafa was enjoying his success,” the report revealed.

The gist of the OCCRP/ABC investigations in this case study, however, are the questionable payments made to the top Ports officials – Stanley Alphonse and Fego Kiniafa around the time a major contract was awarded to a multinational port operator, ICTSI, in 2017.

The discovery of these questionable payments by OCCRP/ABC reporters was made possible thanks to the previously leaked Pandora Papers. By early 2017, Matheson had engaged the services of Hong Kong-based Asiatic Trust, one of the 14 offshore company formation agents to have its files leaked in the Pandora Papers.

“Among the files, ABC and OCCRP reporters found a trove of letters, invoices, and bank records that detailed a money trail connecting Matheson, PNG Ports officials, and the multinational ports operator ICTSI.”

The investigations revealed that despite Matheson’s public business troubles in Australia, Asiatici took him on as a “low-risk” client. Matheson’s application was supported by a letter of recommendation from Kiniafa, who was then serving as PNG Ports’ chief commercial officer.

The joint investigators later found that Asiatici helped Matheson set up a Singapore company, Coral Seas Planning Consultants, as well as company accounts with Singapore-based OCBC Bank. Bank statements obtained by reporters show that Coral Seas Planning Consultants soon received a windfall. In June 2017, at least A\$643,000 in cash and check deposits from unknown sources had landed in the company’s accounts.

“Days later, it received the first of nearly \$4.3 million in wire transfers from the Manila-based ports operator, ICTSI. In total, seven payments labeled as “professional fees” or “consultation fees” were sent from ICTSI to Coral Seas Planning Consultants between June and December 2017 the records show,” OCCRP/ABC revealed.

The apparent payments in relation to Mr Kiniafa included fees for a champion Australian racehorse Matheson co-owned with Kiniafa, and \$20,000 for a chair for a dental clinic owned by Mr Kiniafa’s wife. There were purchases of 4WD vehicles labelled with Kiniafa’s name, and his wife confirmed they stayed for free in a Gold Coast holiday house owned by a Matheson-linked company.

“A few days after ICTSI’s final payment, Matheson’s Singapore company paid A\$30,000 (\$22,992) directly to a beneficiary listed as “STANLEY ALPHONSE” — the name of the chief of PNG Ports at the time.” OCCRP/ABC revealed.

Amid these payments, in 2017, ICTSI won lucrative 25-year contracts to operate PNG’s two biggest ports — giving the Manila-based global port managements company the right to charge shippers for freight handling. In return, the company estimates it will pay a total of A\$667 million in rent to PNG Ports.

Mr Kiniafa played a key role in coaxing massive funding from the Australian government to upgrade PNG’s ports network — and he was in charge of the program until his death.

Prime Minister Marape’s office declined to answer questions raised about the suspect offshore payments during the investigations, but when the joint report was published on 2 March 2023, Marape however, was quick to respond by ordering a series of official investigations into the port scandal and in the process appeared to have distanced himself from the Australian businessman, Matheson.

Mr Marape’s statement said he knew nothing about Mr Matheson’s chequered business background in Australia from the ABC/OCCRP reports, which included failing to pay taxes over the ill-fated North Queensland Fury A-League soccer venture.

“To set the record straight, I never knew Mr Matheson’s other backgrounds ... and am equally surprised as well,” Marape told OCCRP/ABC.

At the helm of the PNG investigations is a powerful politician, William Duma, who is Minister for State Enterprises. Duma was handpicked by Prime Minister Marape himself.

But in just under two months as investigations by the PNG authorities opened, the record was dramatically changed when OCCRP and ABC dropped a bombshell: that [Prime Minister James Marape had undisclosed ties with Don Matheson](#).

In this follow-up report published on 17 May 2023, OCCRP/ABC uncovered that documents and interviews showed Marape and Matheson appeared to have made introductions for each other to high-level political figures in both PNG and Australia.

In one instance, Marape introduced Matheson to a key government minister who helped Matheson pitch for business from a state company. That same minister, who was assigned by Marape to lead a government review of Matheson’s dealings, is none other than William Duma — the OCCRP/ABC revealed.

Duma wrote in an email that “the alleged notion of conflict of interest which you have assumed does not arise here,” referring to the revelations made by OCCRP/ABC that Marape, Matheson and Duma did have a personal relationship.

Investigations by PNG authorities have now evolved into an international probe – PNG Police said its investigations would be assisted by Interpol and Australian authorities.

Now, let's unpack what has transpired in this case study to better understand the alleged corruption involved, referencing our Teieniwa document, to see how we can report on corruption more effectively in our Pacific region.

Again, it is important to acknowledge that without the leaked Pandora Papers, this investigation perhaps could have never been detected.

This reflects on the importance of transparency in all sectors of society so that corruption does not thrive. While leaking and whistleblowing are not entirely similar things, their impact in revealing something that was otherwise intentionally hidden from the public eye is important in the detection of corruption. Also, it reinforces for Pacific journalists the need to access available data dumps, such as Pandora Papers, when you are starting a new inquiry / investigation. Someone acting corruptly today, may also have done so in the past and their name, or a company name, may be linked to an earlier transgression. This can add value to your current story.

Conflict of interest in the workplace is an everyday challenge prevalent in our Blue Pacific continent. Public officials are required to act for the public good – not their own personal interests - meaning they should never unduly benefit from their official positions.

If a company employee, for example - a port manager, has competing interests or loyalties in the workplace, his/her decision-making on important matters of the company will be affected. The port manager's relationship with the public bodies or international entities and consultants is part of the company's routine activities – from payment of taxes to participation in tenders to writing letters of recommendations – the risk of backhanders to gain advantages will always exist. If the port manager received a personal reward, such as a large sum of money, for offering a friend or a business partner a favour – such as a multi-million contract award from the company – then that engagement is likely to be viewed as corrupt conduct.

Relative to conflicts of interest, the topical issues evident in this case study are of ethics and integrity in the workplace and the need to further strengthen existing codes of conduct. In our Teieniwa, a series of clauses speak to this effect – calling on our Pacific governments and leaders to champion and advocate such issues in the fight against corruption.

Clause 10 of Teieniwa encourages integrity-building across all sectors of society focusing on prevention, public awareness and education, transparency and accountability. While integrity-building is something already embraced within our Pacific democracies, regular incidences of corrupt conduct are still common in workplaces, and this calls for stronger measures on our integrity-building initiatives, particularly around accountability components. Studying how integrity-building is undertaken (and can be further strengthened) in social institutions of your country is a good starting point for a story on your country's implementation of its Teieniwa commitments.

If the media floods the public with series of quality and well-researched stories on Teieniwa and corruption, the level of awareness of people in society will be enhanced making them better informed - and better-informed citizens will always have an eye for anomalous acts or conducts in the workplace.

In this case study, people in influential leadership roles are implicated for the actions they undertook. Both Stephen Alphonse and later Fego Kiniafa assumed roles of leadership in the ports while Australian businessman Don Matheson – as head of his own enterprise - was also a leader in his own right. It is obvious now, after the leaks, that the close affiliation between the port officials and the Australian businessman was a clear case of undisclosed conflict of interest.

As an Australian and a foreign investor in PNG, Matheson's involvement in this episode makes this a case of international bribery. The secret offshore payments made by him to the port officials is seen as a bribe in return for awarding a contract to ICTSI, a company that Matheson appears to consult for. It also raises concerns on the procurement flaws existing in Papua New Guinea as evident in how Matheson's company – CSG Ltd – was a major contracting client for the PNG ports since 2010

– eventually leading to ICTSI winning a 25-year contract. On top of that, the existence of offshore financial facilities, like Asiaciti Trust, help facilitate the corrupt transactions undertaken between Matheson and the port officials.

Clauses 14, 15 and 17 in our Teieniwa can help journalists contextualise the situation prevalent in this case study. International bribery constitutes money laundering and in clause 14, our Pacific leaders reaffirmed their commitment to combat money-laundering through eliminating facilitators and enabling environment. Since international bribery and money laundering involves the transfer of finances, clause 15 calls for Pacific governments to strengthen their public finance management through good practices – and asking authorities if a corruption risk assessment in vulnerable

sectors has been, or needs to be, carried out. In such cases, international cooperation is required to effectively combat foreign bribery by ensuring that countries adopt common rules. Clause 17 in Teieniwa talks about regional cooperation and through regional mechanisms and greater regional collaboration with development partners, where journalists can base their questions as they develop story ideas on corruption.

Lastly, clauses 7 and 11 of Teieniwa put people in leadership roles under scrutiny ensuring that their actions are always ethical and in the peoples' interest. Journalists can cite clause 7 in their stories as they promote leaders to champion integrity by advocating anti-corruption practices and taking leadership by criminalizing corruption through impartial investigation and prosecution.

ANNEX 1 - Teieniwa_Vision Leaders Document

Pacific Unity Against Corruption



Teieniwa Vision

Gathering in Tarawa, Kiribati from 4 to 5 February 2020 with the President of Kiribati as the Chair, we, the Prime Minister of Samoa, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, Vice President of Kiribati, Ministers from the Kingdom of Tonga and the Solomon Islands, Ambassador of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, High Commissioners of Australia and New Zealand and the representative of Fiji,

Commit to Pacific Unity Against Corruption, recognising that all of our progress and aspirations for a peaceful, harmonious and prosperous Pacific cannot be realised unless we address corruption;

As the Blue Pacific, and noting the different contexts in defining corruption, reaffirm global anti-corruption efforts and frameworks as captured in the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), acceded to by all 14 Pacific Island Countries, noting Tonga's announcement of accession at this Conference, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 16;

Recall our collective aspirations captured in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, the Blue Pacific narrative and the Boe Declaration on Regional Security;

Encourage all Pacific States to unite against corruption, recognising that implementation should be substantiated through well-resourced national efforts that emphasise transparency and accountability, the rule of law and reinforce good governance; and

Recognise the importance of political will and leadership at all levels in addressing corruption.

We call on all Pacific Leaders to champion integrity and advocate and implement anti-corruption practices in their Parliaments, public services, private sectors and entire communities through commitment to criminalisation of corruption and prompt, impartial investigation and prosecution;

We commend Pacific countries that have advanced their anti-corruption agenda through global and national commitments;

We acknowledge that corruption disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, specially women, persons with disabilities, youth and the elderly;

We encourage integrity-building to be embraced as a whole-of-society issue, with a strong focus on corruption prevention, strengthening public awareness, integrity learning through education and enhanced transparency and accountability in the public and private sectors, and in civil society;

We commit to governing in an accountable manner wherein all Leaders, persons with authority, Cabinets, Parliamentarians and public servants adhere to their Leadership Codes and/or codes of conduct;

We commit to developing and maintaining independent integrity bodies or appropriate coordination mechanisms that prevent and fight corruption;

We recognise and support the right to information, the need to protect genuine whistle-blowers and for an independent civil society and responsible media to be involved in national and regional anti-corruption efforts;

We reaffirm our commitment to combat money-laundering and its facilitators and the enabling environment in our region;

We commit to further strengthen good practices in public finance management and to conduct corruption risk assessments in vulnerable sectors;

We will partner with non-State actors through a Pacific network of anti-corruption champions to elevate and strengthen our shared vision of Pacific Unity Against Corruption;

We urge States to draw on regional mechanisms to further this Teieniwa Vision, including greater collaboration through regional architecture and development partners;

We resolve to develop and review our National Anti-Corruption Strategies and policies and implementation arrangements, including within our national plans, through a participatory process which includes our civil society, youth, private sector, Parliamentarians, media and other stakeholders;

We resolve to document anti-corruption impact by developing and maintaining anti-corruption measurement tools and data within our SDG and national plan reporting and address implementation gaps in relation to SDG16 on peace, justice and strong institutions;

We will endeavour to unite our voice as a Blue Pacific to ensure that regional anti-corruption priorities are being presented, where possible, as a collective;

We commit to promoting the Blue Pacific as a recognised, distinct region within the international framework, including the Conference of States Parties to UNCAC, to support the drive for a unified regional anti-corruption voice; and

We support a strong Pacific engagement with the UN General Assembly Special Session on Corruption and its implementation.

ENDS

(Teieni waa is the Kiribati word for sail (ie) and canoe (waa), reflected in both the shape of the reclaimed land where the Kiribati Parliament venue for the Pacific Unity Against Corruption Conference is built and the symbol in the Conference logo for this Conference. A sailing canoe is a common form of transport in the Pacific. It was adopted as the Conference logo to symbolize a sailing canoe in the vast Pacific Ocean that separates and makes our individual countries isolated, as the only traditional means to unite the Blue Pacific in the fight against corruption. It also symbolises that a long journey of a sailing canoe in open waters will encounter both tranquility and stormy weather at times, and that is what is expected to happen in the fight against corruption; it is not easy nor short-term, but it is a journey that requires collaborative efforts of all sectors of society.)

ANNEX 2 - Teieniwa Vision in Brief - Clauses

Teieniwa Vision clauses – refers to the paragraphs - in order of the original document.

Clause 5 – Implementation of Teieniwa

Talks about implementation of the Vision through substantiated well-resourced national efforts – with transparency and accountability, rule of law and good governance, in mind.

Clause 6 – Political Will and Leadership

Political Will and Leadership should be recognized at all levels when addressing corruption.

Clause 7 – Champion Integrity

Call on all Pacific Leaders to champion Integrity. Also, to advocate and implement anti-corruption practices in all sectors of society to criminalize corruption through impartial investigation and prosecution.

Clause 9 - Vulnerable Sectors

Acknowledges that vulnerable people – women, persons with disabilities, youth and elders – are affected disproportionately.

Clause 10 – Integrity-building as a ‘Whole-of-society’ issue

Encourages integrity-building applying a ‘whole-of-society’ approach focusing on Prevention, Public awareness and education, Transparency and Accountability, in all sectors i.e. public, private and civil society.

Clause 11 - Leadership Code & Codes of Conduct

Commitment to governance and accountability guided by Leadership Codes and/or Codes of Conduct applicable to all Leaders, Persons with authority, Cabinets, MPs and Public Servants.

Clause 12 - Integrity Bodies

To develop and maintain independent Integrity bodies or mechanisms that prevent and combat corruption.

Clause 13 - Right to Information and Inclusive Participation

Recognize and support: Right to Information, Whistleblower Protection + to include Media and Civil Society in all efforts.

Clause 14 - Money Laundering

Reaffirm commitment to combat Money-laundering through eliminating facilitators and enabling environment.

Clause 15 - Public Finance Management

Strengthening Public Finance Management through good practices, corruption risk assessments in vulnerable sectors.

Clause 16 - Non-State Actors

Partnering with Non-State Actors to elevate vision of Pacific Unity against Corruption.

Clause 17 - Regional Cooperation and Development Partners

Progress Teieniwa Vision through cooperation with regional mechanism, greater regional collaboration with Development Partners.

Clause 18 - National Anti-Corruption Strategies

Develop and review National Anti-Corruption Strategies, policies, and implementation arrangements: within national plans and include Civil Society, Youth, Private Sector, MPs, Media and other stakeholders (participatory process)

Clause 19 - Document Anti-Corruption Impact

Document anti-corruption impact by developing and maintaining anti-corruption measurement tools for SDG reporting including implementation gaps on SDG16 on peace, justice and strong institutions.

ANNEX 3 - OCCRP IS IN THE PACIFIC!

You may not know the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) by name, but you have almost certainly heard of its projects.

The OCCRP has been behind the scenes of most global investigative journalism projects for more than a decade, including the Panama Papers, Laundromats, the Pandora Papers, The Daphne Project, Suisse Secrets, the Pegasus Project, and the Russian Asset Tracker. OCCRP is known best in the United States for the reporting that led to former President Donald Trump's first impeachment.

What started as a pathway to access investigative reporting tools to support investigative journalism centers in eastern Europe blossomed into a global network that promotes investigative journalism globally – including here in our very own Pacific Blue continent.

“We're a place where organizations can come in, get all the tools and technical help they need and all the partners they need and some of the money they need, and be able to realize a project in this space. OCCRP is really a space for doing investigative reporting.” OCCRP Co-Founder Drew Sullivan said.

OCCRP has 54 member centers spanning the globe, three regional partners and 40+ publishing partners. OCCRP is “part think tank,” plus it provides critical resources for investigative reporting, including technological tools, editorial coordination and digital and physical security.

In our Pacific region, there are more than 10 Pacific journalists who are working on investigative stories – either as fellows with the project or as media partners with OCCRP. Leading the Pacific investigation is Aubrey Belford who is based in Sydney. Dan McGarry is another OCCRP Pacific Editor assisting Pacific journalists in their respective investigations from his Port Vila home.

The Journalism Development Network (JDN) – a US-based non-profit journalism organization dedicated to improving investigative reporting and newsroom management around the world, operates the OCCRP, says OCCRP Co-Founder Paul Radu.

Among their free resources is Aleph, a global archive of research material for investigative reporting. Journalists can input massive datasets into Aleph and use it to extract an entity, such as an organized crime figure. Aleph will create its own index and link indexes together to show everyone connected to that figure. There are 3 billion records in the data, which grows as users input more data into the system.

Another OCCRP service available to Pacific journalists is id.occrp.org. Run by OCCRP's Research Team, ID is a service that helps investigative journalists in the OCCRP network conduct research quickly and effectively. A team of expert researchers and data specialists is available to help track down people, companies, and assets – like ships and planes – anywhere in the world. OCCRP is equipped with access to a number of commercial search engines and databases as well as the experience to make effective use of dozens of publicly available, but little-known, open sources. Services also include assistance with data acquisition, wrangling, and analysis.

There is an open public part of OCCRP ID that gives everyone tips on public databases, and a ticket filing system to get help from the OCCRP research team in digging stuff up. Normally, this is only open to OCCRP network people but Pacific journalists can access this service by getting in touch with the OCCRP Pacific team: Lead Pacific Editor Aubrey Belford or Editor Dan McGarry.

Other investigative portals in the Pacific that were created in collaboration with OCCRP that Pacific journalists can tap into are pngiportal.org and pacificportal.org

PacLII is another online portal that promotes free access to legal information in the region. The portal collects and publishes legal materials from 20 Pacific Islands Countries on its website www.paclii.org which is hosted by AustLII. These countries are American Samoa, Cook Islands, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, New Caledonia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The materials consist mainly of primary materials such as court decisions and legislation but also include decisions of various tribunals, panels, Ombudsmen's reports or secondary information such as court rules or bench books.

An adage at OCCRP is, "it takes a network to fight a network."


Sullivan said OCCRP intends to reinvent investigative journalism and connect to the public through what he calls "the journalism commons," where members of the public can work closely with journalists and contribute to the journalism OCCRP produces.

"Our goal is to change the world," Sullivan said. "Our goal is to create a global space where reporters can work effortlessly across borders and teams to do grand-scale stories about what's happening in the world."

He said their work has helped bring down presidents and prime ministers in half-a-dozen countries and overthrown corrupt governments, including in Kyrgyzstan, the Czech Republic and Bosnia.

"We've done projects that have helped save people's lives," he said.

**This article is adapted from The OCCRP: Behind the scenes of global investigative projects an article by Alyssa Choiniere published on E&P (EditorandPublisher.com)*

The background features a complex pattern of traditional Pacific motifs, including stylized waves and geometric shapes, rendered in various shades of blue. Overlaid on this pattern is a grid of rounded rectangular shapes in different shades of blue and cyan. A large cyan shape is positioned in the upper left, and several other shapes in various shades of blue and cyan are arranged in a grid-like fashion across the lower half of the page.

The Pacific Anti-Corruption Journalists Network (PACJN) developed this toolkit under its Pacific Islands News Association (PINA) project, Building the capacity of Pacific media to report on anti-corruption, supported by the UN Office of Drugs and Crime UN-PRAC Project, funded by the New Zealand Government MFAT.