



ADB Seminar Series – Fiji 2019

Theme: Prosperity Through Unity

ADB Seminar Series – Oceans Health: Actions from Source to Sea

2 May 2019, 3:00 pm–4:30 pm

Sofitel Grand Ballroom 2, Nadi, Fiji

Seminar highlights

The seminar *Oceans Health: Actions from Source to Sea* held on 2 May 2019 discussed the interconnectedness of ocean health and economic development as well as actions to protect and restore our oceans.

Speakers included Indonesian Minister for National Development Planning and ADB Alternate Governor for Indonesia Mr. Bambang Brodjonegoro; Global Environment Facility CEO and Chairperson Ms. Naoko Ishii; World Resources Institute President and CEO Mr. Andrew Steer; Pacific Islands Forum Deputy Secretary General Ms. Cristelle Pratt; and ADB President Mr. Takehiko Nakao. The seminar was moderated by journalist and filmmaker Mr. Craig Leeson, director of *A Plastic Ocean*.

Mr. Brodjonegoro discussed the Indonesian Government's commitment to reduce plastic waste by 70% by 2025. He shared the negative impact plastic pollution has had on tourism and is advocating to impose an excise tax on single-use plastics.

Ms. Ishii shared that the ocean is a global common that needs mechanisms to address various issues. She cited three solutions: mapping resources, bringing stakeholders together, and realizing the values of the ocean as natural capital to maximize and protect its global benefits.

Mr. Steer talked about the WRI's role in support of the High Level Panel for Sustainable Ocean Economy with 14 heads of state. He encouraged governments to recognize the power of the ocean to make life on earth livable. He added that there was more collective action when women are involved in conservation.

The Pacific is "the largest oceanic continent on the blue planet," said Ms. Pratt. The region has shown leadership and willingness to work together on ocean issues. Well-established regional policies already exist to ensure sustainable use of resources.

President Nakao shared that the recently launched ADB Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economy included a financing component of \$5 billion between 2019- 2024. He cited successful projects in Shanghai, China, and Boracay, Philippines where ecosystems were restored through political will and supportive investments in pollution control and waste management.