

# The University of the South Pacific: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Partnerships for Skills

7th International Skills Forum

Anticipating and Preparing  
for Emerging Skills and Jobs

12–14 December 2017  
Asian Development Bank  
Manila, Philippines

**Professor Rajesh Chandra**  
**President**  
**The University of the South Pacific**  
**Suva, Fiji**





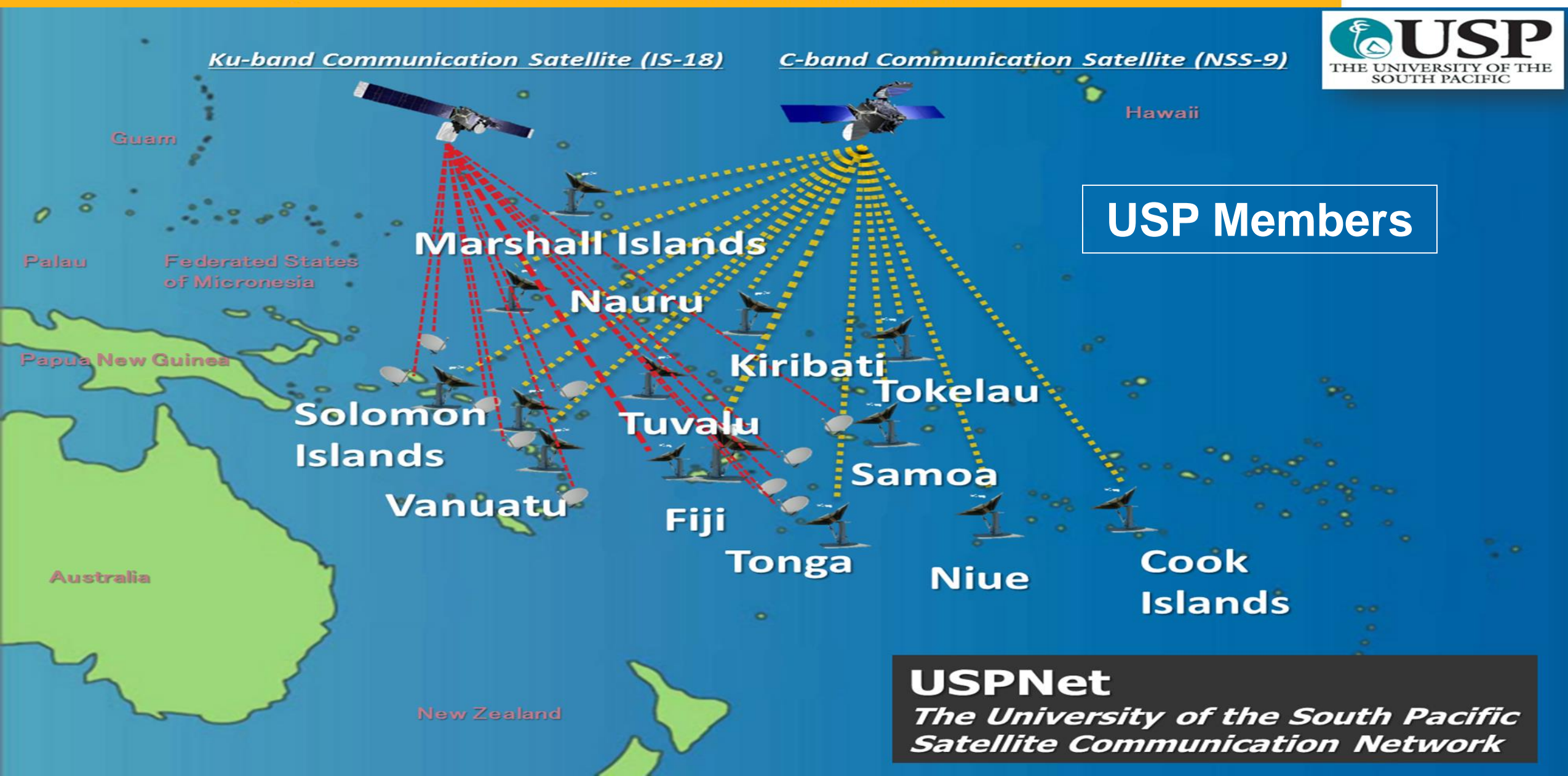
# Introduction

- The University of the South Pacific (USP) and Educating and Skilling the Pacific Islands
- Multinational Partnership Model for Higher Education
- Unique Partnerships with Development Partners
- Beyond Academia: Promoting Regional Co-operation and Integration with Partnerships within the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) and Role in Public Policy
- Leveraging ICTs for Access, Innovative Pedagogies, and Quality Outcomes



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# USP and Pacific Skills at a Glance

- Tertiary development at very low level: GER as low as 3% in many countries (World average in 2015 was 35.69%; Korea at 93%)
- 30,000 students scattered across 33 million km<sup>2</sup> in 12 Countries, 14 Campuses and 11 Centres
- Many heads of state, heads of government, Ministers and most of the senior public servants, private sector workers all trained at USP
- Comprehensive range of academic programmes through 3 Faculties, 19 Schools, PaCE-SD and Pacific TAFE—most rapidly expanding unit
- Combines different delivery models
- World leader in utilising ICTs for skills creation and upgrade
- Committed to international accreditations; 24 achieved; WSCUC



# Unique Multinational Partnership Model for Higher Education

- Owned by 12 Pacific Island Countries
- Governed by its Council through Royal Charter and Statutes
- Governance shared with management, staff, students, and independent co-opted specialists
- USP working to improve the whole **Pacific Tertiary System**, through engagement with Governments, advocacy and mentoring via AHTIPI and via CROP
- Regional exemplar for national tertiary institutions and support for them--- Essence of ***Cooperation*** rather than ***Competition***
- USP cooperating with national universities in the Pacific to identify effective and sustainable solutions to issues facing the PICs
- Partnerships with other universities to foster research based sustainable solutions



# Unique Partnerships with Development Partners

- Overall, 4 main partners with a number of emerging partnerships, including ADB
- Overall 27% of the University's income from partners
- Australia and NZ unique partners as they provide all their funds for budgetary support
- They sit on the governing board and also the funding committee
- Development relationship has become more strategic and moved away from projects
- EU and Japan large project funders over three decades
- Emerging partnerships with Korea, China, India, ADB, World Bank
- Congruence of interests of partners and USP, giving assurance of long-term support



# Beyond Academia: Promoting Regional Co-operation and Integration

- Significant role in promoting regional co-operation and integration as a member of Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP)
- Region-wide responsibility for coordinating and facilitating regional policies and activities for ICT and Human Resources Development as part of the regional architecture of the Pacific
- Huge recent movement on ICT developments since the Pacific Leaders chose ICT as one of the 5 truly transformative enablers of development in 2015
- Active participation and contribution in regional meetings: PIF Leaders, Ministerial, CROP Executive – USP a resource and source of policy advice
- Active contribution in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism and Regional Public Policy



# **USP as a Higher Education Provider: Major Focus on ICT –Enabled Pedagogies**

- Started distance learning in early 1970s. Leader in the use of satellites and marine fibre cables for student access & success
- Flexible Learning programmes in place for all Faculties
- ICTs to improve Flexible and Distance Learning: Re-engineering USPNet
- Tablets for new students and Lecture Capture
- Open Education Resources
- MOOCs
- Learning analytics