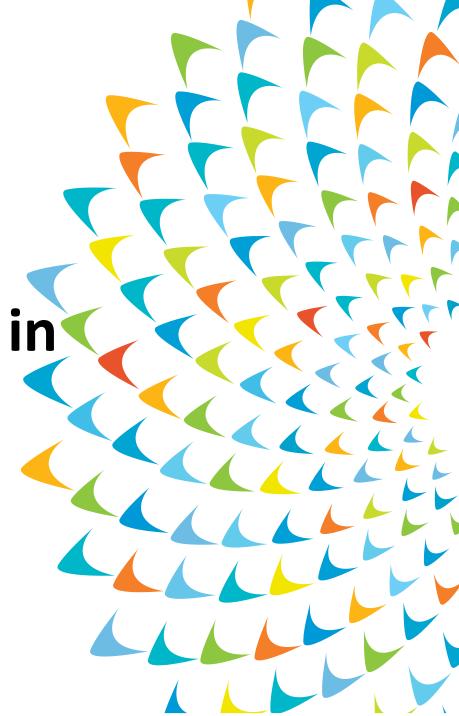


Regulatory collaboration on power sector across borders in the Pacific

6 June 2023





OPERA OVERVIEW

- OPERA founding members from the energy regulators in Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu established the Alliance in December 2016.
- 8 Pacific Island countries, including the Republic of Fiji, Cook Islands, Republic of Palau, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and the Solomon Islands joined the alliance and are currently active members under a formal MOU signed by OPERA members and the Pacific Community (SPC)
- OPERA operates as a network, regional hub, and clearinghouse for energy regulators in the Pacific Island countries.
- Hosted by SPC's Georesources and Energy Programme, the Alliance is led by a chairman elected by the OPERA members and supported by SPC staff
- ADB's TA is providing resource assistance and technical expertise to OPERA members on activities during 2022-2023

OPERA MAJOR MILESTONES

- Eight member countries actively involved and more Pacific Island countries are seeking membership.
- OPERA and SPC MOU signed and SPC is designated as the OPERA Secretariat.
- Regular monthly OPERA member meetings and consultation on key regulation issues among regulators.
- OPERA approved revisions to the OPERA Constitution and Administrative Regulations to enable OPERA authorization in July and August 2022 to undertake actions per the OPERA Business Plan
- Continuous capacity building activities (in-person and virtual workshops and trainings)
- Country supports to the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Samoa.

OPERA MAJOR MILESTONES (cont.)

- MOU finalized with NARUC to be signed at OPERA Annual Meeting on October 11, 2022
- MOU with Energy Growth Hub proposed and pending review and approval by OPERA members
- Enhanced donors' coordination for Pacific regulation reforms and capacity building (PRIF, USAID and US State Department, DFAT, MFAT and the World Bank)



OPERA BUSINESS PLAN

OPERA's Business Plan enumerates its purposes and objectives which covers the period from 2021-2026 and seeks to achieve these primary strategic goals:

Goal A: OPERA will strengthen and enhance the regional capacity in utility regulation in OPERA member countries

Goal B: OPERA will promote the independence, professionalism, accountability and visibility of national utility and energy regulators

Goal C: OPERA will develop its regional and international outreach and visibility with a communication strategy and action plan



OPERA 2022-2023 AREAS FOR SUPPORT

- Strengthen the regulation of power utilities to promote clean energy technologies that will help decarbonize Pacific economies and achieve their respective national climate targets;
- Support preparation of regulatory reforms to ensure good governance and to facilitate market-based incentives for attracting private participation in the energy sector; and
- Raise awareness and identify regional issues and challenges in attracting private investment in the energy sector, including the use of public-private partnership transparency frameworks to enable a more efficient and transparently regulated power sector.



Thank you

