



**INSTITUTE OF SOLOMON ISLANDS
ACCOUNTANTS**

INAUGURAL CONGRESS 2024

**“BUILDING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR SOLOMON
ISLANDS: THE ROLE OF THE ACCOUNTING PROFESSION IN
NATION-BUILDING”**

Message from the President of ISIA



I extend a warm welcome to all participants, speakers, and guests joining us for this year’s first ever Congress. This event stands as a pivotal platform for collaboration, innovation and growth for nation building linking to the theme “Building for a Sustainable Future for Solomon Islands: The Role of the Accounting Profession in Nation Building”

As we convene for this Congress, we embark on a journey of knowledge-sharing, networking, and empowerment. The overall objective of the Accountants Congress is to facilitate discussions between private sector business community, industry experts, government and the accounting profession on relevant matters affecting the SI economy, business practices and the development of the local accounting profession.

Throughout the Congress, delegates will have the opportunity to engage in insightful discussions, attend informative panel discussions, and gain valuable insights from both local and international speakers. From identifying critical economic development issues and challenges to exploring problem based solutions to enhance sustainable growth. This event promises to be a transformative experience for all involved.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our sponsors, partners, and organizers for their unwavering support in making this Congress possible. Together, we affirm our commitment to empowering ISIA and other professional bodies through strengthening collaboration and partnership towards nation building.

I encourage you to actively participate, connect with fellow participants and seize the countless opportunities that await you at this Congress. May this Congress inspire and empower you to unlock your full potential and find a path towards sustainable growth.

Together we can build a sustainable nation for our children

Thank you and best wishes to all.

**Johnson Lobo
President ISIA**

MEET THE SPONSORS

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Strategic Direction

Vision

To be an international standard professional accounting organisation that provides leadership and builds trust in the accounting, assurance, audit, finance and business advisory professions in Solomon Islands.

Mission

- **To lead, develop, facilitate and support accounting, assurance, audit, finance and business advisory professionals so that they will excel in their role and meet international standards.**
- **To foster public confidence in the accounting, assurance, audit, finance and business advisory professionals by upholding the public interest.**
- **To encourage and expect of our members the highest ideals of professionalism and ethical standards and commitment to delivery of quality services.**
- **To be the leading and most valued professional body for advocacy on public interest issues where the accounting, assurance, audit, finance or business advisory profession's expertise is most relevant.**
- **To commit ourselves to a strong, active and devoted sense of duty to our members and communities**

Values

Member Development

We will support the growth and development of our members.

Integrity

We will be straightforward and honest in all professional and business relationships.

Objectivity

We will not allow bias, conflict of interest or undue influence of others to override professional or business judgements.

Professional Competence and Due Care

We will maintain professional knowledge and skill at the level required to ensure the public receives competent professional services based on current developments in practice, legislation and techniques and act diligently and in accordance with applicable technical and professional standards.

Confidentiality

We will respect the confidentiality of information acquired as a result of professional and business relationships and, therefore, not disclose any such information to third parties without proper and specific authority, nor use the information for personal advantage or third parties.

Professional Behaviour

We will conduct ourselves in a manner to avoid any action that discredits the profession.

Inclusivity

We will provide equal access to opportunities and resources for people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized, such as women and those having physical or intellectual disabilities or belonging to other minority groups.

ISIA TEAM



Pamela Naesol-Alamu

Chief Executive Officer



Everlyn Suibaea

Finance Administration Officer



Augustine Kafukese

Membership & Training Officer

PROGRAM

THEME: “Building for a Sustainable Future for Solomon Islands: The Role of the Accounting Profession in Nation-Building”

TIME	SESSIONS
7:30am – 8:45am	Registration of Delegates (Refreshment on the Go (Tea & Coffee))
9:00am – 9:10am	Arrival of Chief Guest
9:10am – 9:15am	National Anthem, Garland & Prayer (MC)
9:15am – 9:30am	Welcome by the President of ISIA and Introduction of the Chief Guest
9:30am – 9:45am	Keynote Address by the Chief Guest <i>Minister of Finance Hon. Manasseh Sogavare</i>
9:45am – 10:15am	Plenary 1: Partnership & Collaboration Fostering growth through sustainable collaboration and partnerships in the Pacific Region <i>Speaker: First Secretary (Economic) Australian High Commissioner to Solomon Islands, Mr. Nicholas Saundersson</i>
10:15am – 10:30am	GROUP PHOTO & MORNING TEA
10:30am – 11:15am	Panel Discussions 1: SI Tax Reforms Are the current tax reforms conducive to stimulate sustainable growth in Solomon Islands future economy?
11:15am – 11:45am	Plenary 2: Governance & Ethics Professional Skepticism: Adopting a questioning mindset and critically assessing information and evidence to ensure accurate financial reporting & compliance <i>Speaker: Professor Andrew Conway – Group Chief Executive Officer - Institute of Public Accountants (Australia)</i>
11:45am – 12:30pm	Plenary 3: Inclusivity and Growing Together: Developing a robust ISIA – What it takes for the profession to be successful and contributing towards society and economic success, including a focus on accountants in the public sector. <i>Speaker: Mr. Brian Blood, Chief Executive Officer – Confederation of Asia Pacific Accountants (CAPA)</i>

TIME	SESSIONS
12:30pm – 2.00pm	LUNCH
2:00pm – 2:30pm	<p>Plenary 4: Empower and Embrace New Change Resilience: Building a resilience Solomon Islands work force through educational pathway. Resilience is a skill that can be cultivated with practice by focusing on these elements, organisation can built a more resilient workforce. <i>Speaker: Ms. Lilly Lomulo, Head of Talent, Culture & Inclusion – British American Tobacco Solomon Islands (BATSI)</i></p>
2:30pm – 3:00pm	<p>Plenary 5: Digital Transformation through Artificial Intelligence Adopting an artificial intelligence in a developing economy/accounting profession <i>Speaker: Mr. Peter Vial, New Zealand Head – Chartered Accountants of Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ)</i></p>
3:00pm – 3:30pm	<p>Plenary 6: Transforming Education through Innovation – re-designing education systems to build a sustainable skilled workforce for sound economic growth in Solomon Islands <i>Speaker: Professor Philomena Leung, Group Executive Education - Institute of Public Accountants (IPA Group)</i></p>
3:30pm – 3:45pm	AFTERNOON TEA
3:45pm – 4:30pm	<p>Panel Discussions 2: Is the Solomon Islands Education system effectively produces A-GRADE graduates ready for the workforce?</p>
4:30pm – 5:00pm	<p>Plenary 7: Motivational & Inspiration Solomon Islands ICON personality – Journey to success (sports icon) share the insight of success, challenges and key lessons to motivate participate <i>Speaker: <u>Batram</u> Suri, SI Soccer Icon</i></p>
5:00pm – 5:30pm	Vote of thanks & closing remarks – ISIA CEO

Meet our CHIEF GUEST

Hon Manasseh Damukana Sogavare **Minister of Finance and Treasury of Solomon Islands.**



Hon. Sogavare holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and Economics from the University of the South Pacific (USP) and a Masters' Degree in Management Studies from the University of Waikato in New Zealand

Prior to his appointment as the Minister of Finance and Treasury, Hon. Sogavare was elected Prime Minister of Solomon Islands for the fourth time on 24 April 2019, following the national general election on 3rd April 2019.

Hon. Sogavare first held the Prime Ministerial post from June 2000 to December 2001, then again from April 2006 to December 2007, and prior to this election from November 2014 to November 2017.

Hon Sogavare's political career begun in 1997 when he won the East Choiseul Constituency seat in the 1997 national general elections. This is his seventh consecutive term as MP for the East Choiseul Constituency in Parliament.

From July 1998 to September 1999 he served as the Deputy Opposition Leader. During this period Hon. Sogavare successfully completed a Masters' Degree in Management Studies from Waikato University using flexible learning delivery.

Hon. Sogavare took over the leadership role of the Opposition party in January 2000 following the death of then Opposition Leader, the late Honourable Solomon Mamaloni and remained in this position until June 2000 when he became Prime Minister. He retained the Opposition Leader role from December 2007 to April 2010.

In the 9th Parliament, Hon Sogavare was a member of the Opposition under the leadership of Hon Steve Abana and later Hon Dr Derek Sikua and served as Chair of the Parliamentary Bills and Legislations Committee. The committee was notable for referring back to the government several legislations submitted to Parliament for approval for being poorly done.

Meet the Speakers

Andrew Schloeffel

Australian Deputy High Commissioner – Solomon Islands



Andrew Schloeffel is Australia's Deputy High Commissioner to Honiara. Prior to this role, he was Assistant Secretary Fiji and Vanuatu in DFAT's Office of the Pacific. Andrew has previously served overseas as Counsellor Economic at the Australian High Commission in Honiara (2018-2021) and in defence, private sector and World Bank roles based in Dili, Port Moresby, and Washington DC.

In Canberra, Andrew has worked on foreign and economic policy and international development issues at the Department of Defence, the Department of Resources Energy and Tourism, the Australian Agency for International Development and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Andrew holds a First Class Honours Degree in Science from Monash University, a Master of Arts from the University of New South Wales and is a graduate of the Australian Command and Staff College.

Prof. Andrew Conway FIPA FFA

IPA Group CEO



As CEO, Andrew is responsible for the future of the Institute of Public Accountants and the Institute of Financial Accountants where he leads an international team that represents more than 50,000 members in more than 100 countries known as the IPA Group. Andrew helps small businesses around the world navigate complex social, environmental, and economic issues.

In 2023, the IPA was named Association of the Year by the Associations Forum for its commitment to professional excellence. He is a vocal mental health advocate, and co-founder of the multidisciplinary IPA-Deakin University SME Research Centre where he initiated the Counting on U wellbeing program to better support the small business community

Andrew is a former Treasury chief of staff, and the youngest CEO of a public entity in Australian history. In 2001, he was awarded the Centenary of Federation Medal for his service to the community.

Andrew holds academic qualifications in education, commerce, and post-graduate qualifications in artificial intelligence from Deakin University. In 2016, he was presented with a Distinguished Fellow award from the Vice-Chancellor of Deakin University.

Andrew is also an honorary professor of accounting at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, an adjunct professor at Deakin University, and an adjunct professor at Lanzhou University.

Brian Blood

Chief Executive, Confederation of Asian & Pacific Accountants (CAPA)



Brian has been Chief Executive since September 2009 and was previously with global Big 4 accounting firms for 27 years in the United Kingdom and Australia, including 16 years as a Partner. He commenced his career with Arthur Andersen in London, England and transferred to Sydney, Australia in 1985, later joining Ernst & Young.

As an audit partner he worked with many large, multinational corporations. In his last ten years as a partner, he worked increasingly with public sector clients, in both an audit and advisory capacity.

He is currently an independent chair or member on a number of Australian state-government audit and risk committees in planning, environment, transport, health and emergency services sectors. The entities are significant in size, some with over 10,000 employees or with assets worth billions of dollars. Brian was the President of CPA Australia in 2002. In 2003, he was honoured with a Centenary Medal for services to the accounting profession in Australia.

Ms Lilly Lomulo

Head of Talent Culture & Inclusion, British American Tobacco



Lilly currently holds the Head of Talent Culture and Inclusion at British American Tobacco (BAT) Solomon Islands, has dedicated over two decades to driving excellence in Talent Attraction, Development and Retention; Diversity, Inclusion, and Culture; and Building leadership.

Her efforts included significantly building line manager capabilities across Southeast Asia and placing accredited rewards for BAT in South Pacific. Under her leadership, BATSI earned accolades such as the Inclusion Diversity and Local Talent award from SICCI's Business Excellence Awards and attaining twice in a row the prestigious American based annual "Great Place to Work" certification for the years 2023 and 2024.

Before her current role, Lily held senior positions in various private organizations, in general management, accounting, and corporate and regulatory affairs.

Lilly is deeply passionate about community support serving on several boards, including the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce, the Central Bank of Solomon Islands, and Trade Disputes Panel. Currently, she contributes her expertise as the board of director for State owned Solomon Power Ltd and NGO Solo Enviro.

Lilly is committed to developing young Solomon Islanders and focuses on fostering leadership skills and empowering women to build confidence, engage in decision-making processes, to contribute meaningfully to the nation's growth and hope that her profound impact on her industry and community underscores her dedication to creating an inclusive, dynamic, and forward-thinking talent in Solomon Islands.

Mr Peter Vial

New Zealand Head (Chartered Accountants of Australia and New Zealand)



Peter started his career as a tax consultant at KPMG and then spent time working as a paralegal overseas. Peter worked for New Zealand's Trade Development Board for 6 years, including 3 years as New Zealand's Trade Commissioner to Germany. He moved on to work at PwC for 12 years as a senior manager and then executive director.

Prior to joining CA ANZ in 2013, Peter was an Associate Professor in Commercial Law at Auckland University.

Before becoming New Zealand Country Head Peter was CA ANZ's New Zealand Tax Leader. He is a nationally recognised and respected authority in this area.

In his current role, Peter leads the New Zealand regulatory and professional conduct functions and has oversight of New Zealand governance and advocacy. He is a Fellow Chartered Accountant, a barrister and solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand and a Chartered Member of the New Zealand Institute of Directors.

Prof. Philomena Leung

PhD, MAcc, PFIIA, Group Executive Education, Institute of Public Accountants (IPA group), Professor Emerita Macquarie University.



Philomena Leung is a Professor Emerita at Macquarie University and Group Executive Education at the Institute of Public Accountants (IPA). Before this appointment, Philomena has held multiple senior Professorial roles as Head and Associate Dean in Australia since 1990.

Philomena has developed and instigated different innovative educational and transdisciplinary programs, including, internal audit and risks, a multi-disciplinary cyber security hub, a think tank for the chairs of accounting and finance ANZ, and an innovative program for future skills through an Education 3.0 program, and pioneered accounting ethics education in Hong Kong and in Australia.

Philomena has published extensively in academic journals in the areas of auditing, ethics, governance, and accounting education and been the lead researcher commissioned to develop a model for ethics education in accounting for 160 countries under the auspices of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). In particular, Professor Leung has recently completed the first version of the Global Certificate of Public Accounting (GCPA) program for the IPA Group in collaboration with Incept Labs.

This world leading transdisciplinary accounting certification program uses a microcredential framework to create various new opportunities for accounting professionals working in the public interest and with a broad range of competencies. Philomena holds a PhD in accounting ethics (RMIT University), a Master of Accounting and Finance (Glasgow) and is board director for the Institute of Internal Auditors Australia. She is an expert panel chair of the Hong Kong Accreditation body for Academic and Vocational programs

Mr Batram Suri

Motivational Speaker – Solomon Islands Sports Icon



Batram is the first ever local contracted with Solomon Islands Football federation (SIFF), as the current head coach for Women’s National senior team. He was also appointed as the head coach for the under – 19 Men’s youth level.

Batram is a well know household name and a good ambassador when it comes to football in the Solomon Islands and Pacific Islands. He played football since his high school days; he played for 22 years from 1990 – 2012.

He played in countries like NZ, Tahiti, Fiji and Vanuatu.

As a player to high light few achievement, he played in the team that won the first ever Melanesian cup held here in Honiara, Solomon Islands in 1994; also as a player he is the captain of the team that drew 2-2 with Australia , Socceroos in 2004, and lastly vote as the 4th best player in the OFC.

As a coach he coach for 11 years; he coach in countries like, PNG, Fiji and Vanuatu. He led women's national senior team (WNT) to improve their standing in the OFC/FIFA rankings. WNT won bronze, Silver for the 1st time in history in any tournaments under OFC. He also led U-19 to win against U-17 Australia in their first friendly match here in SI for the first time.

He is described as a history maker. In Nelson suburbs, NZ they described him as rain maker

Batram does not have any higher academic qualification but blessed with a God given talent/skills.

Meet the Panelists

Panel Discussion 1: Solomon Island: Are the current tax reforms conducive to stimulate sustainable growth in Solomon Islands future economy?

Dr. Luke Forau

Governor - Central Bank of Solomon Islands



Luke Forau is the Governor of the Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI). He was appointed Governor on the 1st October 2019. Before that, he was the Deputy Governor for a year, and prior to that position, was the Advisor to the Governor's Office from 2016 to 17th September 2018.

He also held the position of Chief Manager Economics, Research & Statistics Department. Mr Forau has been with the Central Bank since January 1999.

He holds a Doctor in Philosophy (PhD) in the field of Economics from the University of New South Wales, a Master Degree in International and Development Economics from the Australian National University, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Management and Public Administration and Economics from the University of South Pacific.

Mr. James Dolarii

CEO – Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce & Industry



Mr. James Dolarii is the Chief Executive Officer of Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI), the head and peak body of the Solomon Islands Private Sector.

He brings with him a strong background in public diplomacy, private and public sector stakeholder engagement. He has close to 9 years' experience of which half of it was his grooming and built with SICCI from 2012 – 2016 under three 3 different CEO leadership. James holds two degrees, BA in Public Management from 2011 and a Master's in Business Administration in 2018.

James has a cross-sector career, working within the private sector, with donors, NGOs projects, and primarily involved in some of Solomon Islands Government special projects like Tina River Hydro and the Pacific Games. CEO Dolarii, strives to Lead SICCI with a strong vision to bridge relationships and partnerships for private sector issues discussions and dialogue, to create a sound conducive environment for doing business, investment, growth and expansion.

Ms. Primula Kingmele



Panel Discussion 2: Is the Solomon Islands Education system effectively produces A-GRADE graduates ready for the workforce?

Dr Patricia Rodie



Dr. Patricia Rodie is the third Solomon Island woman to obtain a Doctor of Philosophy degree. She is an Academic with more than 35 years of invaluable experience in the realms of teaching, teacher education, university instruction, and educational leadership and administration. She comes from the Island of Guadalcanal, more specifically Malango Ward in Central Guadalcanal.

With a profound dedication to enhancing the quality of teaching and learning opportunities for students in Solomon Islands schools, Dr. Rodie currently serves as the esteemed Dean of the Faculty of Education and Humanities at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU).

Mr Alex Haro



Alex Haro, hailing from the Western Province of the Solomon Islands, is a highly accomplished educationist with over 30 years of experience in Primary and Secondary Education. Throughout his distinguished career, Alex has devoted himself to shaping students' academic and personal development while fostering a strong, supportive school community.

As the Principal of the Secondary School at Woodford International School, Alex has been instrumental in transforming the institution into a beacon of academic excellence and innovation.

Under his leadership, the school has consistently delivered outstanding results in both local and Cambridge International Examinations. One of the significant highlights of his tenure was the school receiving the prestigious Top of the World award in 2014 from Cambridge University.

Alex's educational philosophy is rooted in student-centered learning, inclusivity, and the cultivation of critical thinking skills. He is deeply committed to providing a safe and stimulating environment where students can thrive, not only academically but also in arts, sports, and extracurricular activities. He believes in nurturing the whole student, ensuring that their talents and interests are developed alongside their academic growth.

Mr. Bob Pollard

Managing Director – Pasifiki & Kokonut Pacific Solomon Islands



Bob Pollard is currently the Managing Director for both Pasifiki HR and Kokonut Pacific Solomon Islands Ltd. He started his career in teaching in the Solomon Islands and co-founded Pasifiki HR in 1998 and in 2010 took Kokonut Pacific, an agricultural manufacturing and export business. His qualifications are in economics, accounting, education and theology.

Twenty-six years in commerce in the Solomon Islands has given him a good understanding of the Solomon Islands business environment. Bob is a founding member of Transparency Solomon Islands, an anti-corruption NGO, active in a church community, a Solomon Airline's and Central Bank Director. His passion is to see young people fulfil their potential and improve village livelihoods.

Mr. Jeremy Seward

ISIA Accounting Education Consultant



Jeremy is overly excited (and grateful) to be able to join the dynamic, forward-thinking member-centric team of ISIA (and aligned in a smaller level SINU) under an Australian Aid program.

He brings equally to the ISIA team financial, governance and educational skills and experiences gathered from over thirty-five years of further and/or higher education employment, and community, business and association mentorship and board membership ranging from for-profit, not-for-profit, and pro-bono Australian entities and/or committees.

His background for a significant part of his career to-date has been undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Australia and USA, and employment in Australian higher education institutions, and usually within business schools in roles ranging from accounting, business law and social entrepreneurship lecturing to degree program coordinator to academic administrative leadership roles including Heads of business departments and for a short period of time Associate Dean of a Faculty. He has also researched and/or published in business areas of human resource management, social entrepreneurship, and wine business.

Aligned to those academic duties he has practiced, for various short periods of paid employment, his accounting, strategic business planning and entrepreneurship skills in corporate, community and NGO entities in various Australian states. Early in his career he worked in the Australian banking sector which included posting to very rural and regional Australian communities where a bank was one of a very few businesses in that community.

Some of his most recent community memberships have included Chair / President of a CPA Australia Charter, a Chamber of Commerce, and a Rotary Club, and being a company secretary of an Australian national sporting body.

Meet the Moderators

Moderator Panel Discussions 1

Dorothy Wickham

Founder and Editor, Melanesia News Network



Dorothy is the founder and editor of Melanesia News Network. With extensive experience in journalism, Dorothy has worked as a freelance journalist for esteemed organisations such as Radio Australia, Radio New Zealand International, and AAP.

She has also worked as a fixer for documentaries aired on television programs like 60 Minutes, Dateline, and Four Corners, covering topics related to the ethnic crisis in the Solomon Islands.

Dorothy's contributions extend to radio, including her role as a host for the RAMSI Talking Truth Program, a talk back radio program on National Radio.

She has held various positions throughout her career, including Senior Reporter at the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation, Editor at Paoa FM, Manager at ZFM Station, Senior Journalist at Voice Newspaper, Senior Reporter at Citizen Press, Editor at Voice Katolika, and Correspondent for Global Network.

Moderator – Panel Discussions 2

Ms. Georgina Keke

Director, Solomon Islands Local Media Agency



Georgina is a media professional with over 24 years of experience in broadcasting and journalism. She is a broadcaster, producer, correspondent and communications specialist, as well as coordinating various regional media programs.

Georgina is the editor of Tavuli News and recently completed two terms of President of a Media Association of Solomon Islands (MASI). She also contributes to various international media outlets and serve on the board of the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA), where she advocates for ethical journalism and media sustainability.