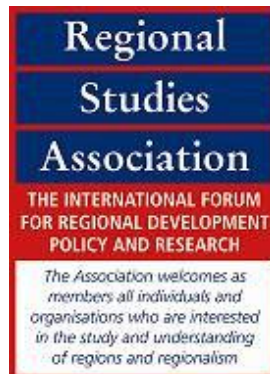




# RESEARCH NETWORKS

## EVENT REPORT



Please complete the form below and email the form back to: [researchnetwork@regionalstudies.org](mailto:researchnetwork@regionalstudies.org)

**RESEARCH NETWORK TITLE:** The Academic-Practitioner Collaboration for Urban Settlements, South Pacific (APCUS-SP), changed from the Academic-Practitioner Collaboration for Urban Shelter

**OVERALL AIM OF THE NETWORK:** Linking of academic and practitioner knowledge applied to the disaster-management cycle in the South Pacific.

**EVENT TITLE:** Human Rights and Civil Society in Port Vila Workshop

**AIM OF THE EVENT:** To connect civil-society actors with intergovernmental leadership, in preparation for our next workshop on community strategic planning.

**DATE AND PLACE OF EVENT:** 21 June 2019, Port Vila, Vanuatu, Elang Etas Stage

**ORGANISER(S)' NAME(S):** Jennifer Day, Sam Tabawa, Wycliff Tarilenga, Brian Merah, Denise William Roy

### **I. How many people attended the event? Please provide a geographical segmentation**

30 people attended. Virtually all (26) of the participants were Ni-Vanuatu (local Vanuatu) people. The majority are members of the Elang Etas Community Association, and three (Tabawa, Tarilenga, and Merah) are members of APCUS-SP. Two other APCUS-SP members attended from the NGO sector, Anne Pakoa and Willie Missack. The four non-Ni-Vanuatu participants were the UN Regional Representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR), Chitra Massey, and UN Human Rights Officer, Jo Nacola. Massey and Nicola are now also APCUS-SP members as a result of the event.

### **II. Please list the speakers of the event and describe their contribution to the development of the Association's prioritised themes of research:**

- Regional theory
- Regional economic development
- Regional planning and policy
- Regional policy, public management and policy evaluation
- Territorial politics, governance, regionalism and federalism
- Regional 'impacts'
- Data, methods and spatial econometrics
- Regional identities

Name of speaker	Country	Institution	Email address	Theme(s) presented	How did this contribute to the development of the RSA's prioritized themes of research?
Sam Tabawa	Vanuatu	Elang Etas Community Association	stabawa@vanuatu.gov.vu	EECA overview and structure	<p>All of the presentations were most-closely aligned with RSA's <b>Regional Planning and Policy</b> theme.</p> <p>APCUS-SP seeks to engage with civil-society organisations as part of the network membership. EECA will form the community core of upcoming engagements with academics, government, NGOs, and international actors. A core activity will be critique and recommendations for operationalization of Vanuatu's national displacement policy. This has regional implications because Vanuatu's is the first policy of its kind in the Pacific, and other countries in the Pacific are currently formulating similar policies.</p> <p>Also, our work with EECA will inform other urban governance processes which are currently in planning phases in Port Vila. From the APCUS-SP special session at the 1-3 July Pacific Urban Forum (report forthcoming), we have generated collaborations among APCUS-SP members from urban and national urban governance personnel in Vanuatu.</p> <p>The other presenters in this event are similarly aligned.</p>
Wycliff Tarilenga	Vanuatu	Elang Etas Community Association	<a href="mailto:tarilengawycliff@gmail.com">tarilengawycliff@gmail.com</a>	Master of ceremonies	Wycliff is the Vice-Chairman of EECA.
Denise William Roy	Vanuatu	Elang Etas Community Association Mother's Committee	No email	Women's concerns	Denise is the Chairlady of the Mother's Committee of EECA
Brian Merah	Vanuatu	Elang Etas Community Association Youth Committee	No email	Youth concerns and activities	Brian is the Chairman of the Youth Committee of EECA

<b>Chitra Massey</b>	<b>Fiji</b>	<b>UNOHCHR</b>	<a href="mailto:chitrakha.massey@one.un.org">chitrakha.massey@one.un.org</a>	UNOHCHR position on human rights	Chitra's presentation was galvanizing for the community. We are now preparing these workshops: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A follow-up human rights workshop in cooperation with UNOHCHR</li> <li>2. A community strategic planning workshop</li> <li>3. A data-collection workshop in collaboration with APCUS-SP member Thomas Guillard of the data-analysis NGO, Ecosophie.</li> </ol>

**III. If the event took place over more than 1 day, describe how the days were segmented**

The event occurred entirely within a single day. I attach the workshop plan to show how the day was structured.

**IV. Please list the main topics covered together with the relevant methodology, theory and stance used to select the papers presented.**

No papers were presented. The guiding theory framing the event was a rights-based approach to urbanization and development. After the speaking panel, every participant of the workshop had a chance to ask questions about how human rights and raise their concerns about rights in the Elang Etas community.

**V. Please describe any social activities organised as part of the event**

We held a lunch after the half-day event. The food was catered by members of the Elang Etas community with financial support from APCUS-SP, and the lunch was attended by all event attendees. Traditional Malekula *Laplap Sousour* was served (see pictures).

## VI. Conclusions, future events/outputs planned

### 1. Conclusions

The workshop highlighted is:

- EECA leadership and Elang Etas community members seek more information about their human-rights protections as articulated by international guidance
- EECA leadership and community leaders, including women's and youths' leadership, seek more information about their obligations to protect human rights
- EECA leadership welcome training on human rights
- EECA was, prior to this event, not connected to local civil-society support structures such as the Vanuatu Association of NGOs (VaNGO) and local civil-society associations. EECA leadership now recognises the need to engage with these structures
- The Women's Committee, which appears in the EECA organisational chart, was not active before we began planning this workshop. From this event, a Women's Committee was activated, headed by Ms. Dennis William Roy
- A committee for people with disabilities still needs to be activated within the EECA leadership, according to EECA's organisational chart.

### 2. Partnerships

The workshop identified three new partnerships among APCUS-SP members, including between:

1. Members from EECA and UNOHCHR
2. Members from EECA and civil-society organisations such as the Vanuatu Civil Society Influencing Network (VCSIN) and the Vanuatu Climate Action Network (VCAN), which is affiliated with the international NGO, Oxfam
3. Members from the external NGOs Ecosophie (see above).

### 3. Outcomes

The event resulted in the nominal addition of 14 new APCUS-SP members, including the UNOHCHR attendees. As the previous section indicates, the event also had the more-significant impact of creating working partnerships between members of the APCUS network. We are now preparing additional workshops as per APCUS-SP's Year 2 Plan, in collaboration with EECA. The concurrent purposes of these events is to encourage active partnerships between APCUS members, to recruit new APCUS-SP members, and to seek to address some of the issues identified by the Elang Etas community as needing urgent attention. We are currently planning these additional workshops in the near-term:

1. A follow-up human rights workshop in cooperation with UNOHCHR and VCAN (tentatively scheduled for 11 July 2019)
2. A community strategic planning workshop (scheduled for 15 July, with follow-up community consultations scheduled as part of the EECA Independence Day festivities from 24-30 July 2019, likely in consultation with VCSIN or VCAN, or both)
3. A data-collection workshop in collaboration with APCUS-SP member Thomas Guillard of the data-analysis NGO, Ecosophie (scheduled for 13 July 2019).

**VII. Please include a short biography from/on behalf of the author of this report (author's title, institutional affiliation, and research interests, max 40 words) and please attach an ID picture (this may be published in *Regions*) in Jpeg format.**

Jennifer Day is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Melbourne. She is lead organizer of the Regional Studies Association Research Network on Academic-Practitioner Collaboration for Urban Settlements, South Pacific (APCUS-SP). She researches forced displacement, economic development, and disaster management.

Photo on file with RSA.

**VIII. Please send an email addressed to [researchnetwork@regionalstudies.org](mailto:researchnetwork@regionalstudies.org) attaching any photographs of the event the RSA may use.**

This has been/will be sent

No photographs available

**IX. Please send an email addressed to [researchnetwork@regionalstudies.org](mailto:researchnetwork@regionalstudies.org) attaching any presentation or additional material that you have permission to display on the Association's website.**

This has been/will be sent

No additional material available

**X. Please outline below how you promoted the Association at your event and what follow up actions are planned.**

All of the promotional materials for the event (see attached) included the RSA and APCUS-SP logos and our graphic design, which includes the RSA language, "Regional Studies Association Research Network."

We also publically acknowledged RSA as the funder and enabler of the event at the beginning of the day. This workshop occurred in a community without access to grid electricity, so no slide presentations were used. However, we did provide handouts of the materials with all of the above branding and acknowledgement. These are attached.