

Pacific Quality Infrastructure Initiative (PQII) Newsletter

(April 2026 – June 2026) Issue no. 1/2026-27

Building Trust. Enabling Trade. Supporting Development

What is Quality Infrastructure?

Quality Infrastructure (QI) is the system of institutions, policies, services, and regulations that help ensure products and services are safe, reliable, and meet recognised standards.

It encompasses key functions such as standardisation, metrology, accreditation, and conformity assessment, which together support trade, consumer protection, innovation, and sustainable economic development.

A member-led governance structure of PQII comprises of:

- The Pacific Islands Standards Committee (PISC, est. 2022)
- The Pacific Islands Testing Committee (PITC, 2023)
- The Pacific Islands Metrology Committee (PIMC, 2023)

The three regional committees with focal points nominated by Forum Members serving as official country representatives to ensure a coordinated, regionally driven approach to standards, testing, and metrology across the Pacific.

Technical Committee 1 on Building and Construction, Technical Committee 2 on Food and Food Products and Technical Committee 3 on Kava, responsible for developing specific regional standards, are established under the PISC, and are composed of nominated member experts from the respective committee members



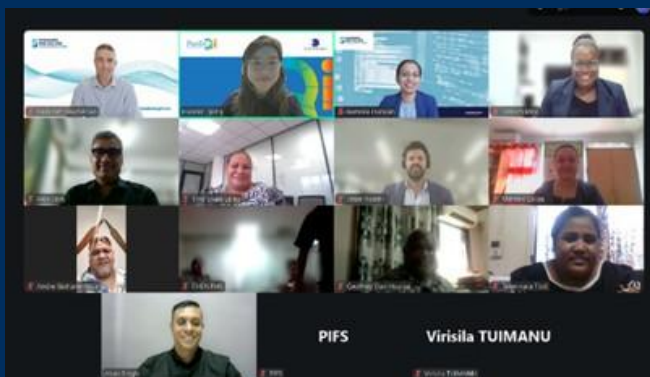
Advancing Pacific Quality Infrastructure for Sustainable Trade and Growth

Grounded in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, and the Pacific Roadmap for Economic Development, the Pacific Aid-for-Trade Strategy (PAfTS) 2026–2030 targets nine key areas to drive sustainable economic growth. As one of these priorities, the Pacific Quality Infrastructure Initiative - standards, metrology, testing, certification, inspection and accreditation - supports exports by ensuring standards compliance, boosting enterprise competitiveness, and improving regional health and environmental outcomes

Desna Solofa, Deputy Secretary General, Governance

Recognising the strong potential of Quality Infrastructure, the PQII Phase 1 was initiated in 2019, followed by Phase 2 (2020–2025), focusing on Quality Infrastructure governance, including quality policies and technical regulations; core Quality Infrastructure institutions responsible for standardisation, metrology, and accreditation. Under Phase 3 (2026–2030), it is now time to deliver more on-the-ground results with measurable impact

Mere Falemaka (Mrs)
Permanent Representative & Ambassador
Permanent Delegation of the Pacific Islands Forum to the United Nations,
WTO and Other International Organisations in Geneva



PQII continues to strengthen regional cooperation through the successful convening of the 13th Pacific Islands Standards Committee (PISC) meeting on 28 May 2026, which brought together focal points from 11 Forum Member Countries.

Discussions advanced key regional priorities, including engagement with international standards bodies — ISO (International Organization for Standardization), IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) and ASTM (formerly the American Society for Testing and Materials).

Advancing Pacific Regional Standards for Buildings and Food Products

The PISC Technical Committee 1 (TC 1) on Building and Construction, in its meeting #14 held on 14 May 2026, continued deliberations on the regional standard for Energy Efficiency of Buildings.

The objective of this standard is to establish minimum requirements and provide a framework for assessing and calculating energy efficiency for any owner constructing or renovating a building in the Pacific region

The PISC Technical Committee 2 (TC 2) on Food and Food Products, in its meetings #14 held on 28 April 2026 and #15 held on 26 May 2026, continued progressing the development of the regional standard for Quick-Frozen Cassava by deliberating on and incorporating over 50 public comments received on the draft version, bringing the regional standard close to completion.



A Unified Approach to Kava Quality and Trade



Bringing together technical experts and stakeholders from across the region, TC 3 held its inaugural meeting in Sydney from 20–22 April 2026, hosted with funding support from Standards Australia. The meeting marked a significant milestone in advancing a coordinated regional approach to kava standardisation. Opening remarks were delivered virtually by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Acting Director of Programmes and Initiatives, Mr. Denton Rarawa, recognising the importance of the initiative in supporting quality, consistency, consumer confidence, and trade opportunities for Pacific kava.

The Pacific region's strong interest in developing harmonised Regional Kava Standards led the Pacific Islands Standards Committee (PISC) to establish Technical Committee 3 (TC 3), with member nominations completed and the committee composition formally approved to lead this important work.



METROLOGY

Strengthening Legal Metrology Capacity for Fair Trade and Consumer Protection

A two-week attachment training programme for legal metrology inspectors from Tonga and Papua New Guinea was successfully completed from 11 to 22 May 2026 at the Trading Standards laboratory in Auckland. The training was delivered by Trading Standards New Zealand, part of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE).

The training focused on the verification of weighing scales and fuel meters, which are essential for ensuring fairness in everyday transactions such as markets, supermarkets, petrol stations, and pharmacies. Accurate measurement supports consumer protection, fair trade, and trust in goods and services.



Reflecting upon the training, Secretary General Baron Waqa noted that *"It was a pleasure to see the participation of two female inspectors in the training programme, highlighting the increasing role of women in legal metrology and quality infrastructure across the Pacific. Their participation reflects strengthened technical expertise and advances gender inclusion within national metrology systems, contributing to more effective consumer protection and fair-trade practices across the Pacific Islands."*



Regional Model Metrology Legislation: Building a Stronger Measurement Framework

The Regional Model Metrology Legislation has been drafted on demand from Forum Island Countries to address outdated and, in some cases, inadequate metrology legislation. Today's draft encompasses both technical improvements to align with the OIML D1 document as well as legal recommendations.

The legislation will help in harmonizing measurement laws across countries, enabling fair trade, consumer protection, and efficient cross-border recognition of measurements.

Acknowledgment of the enduring partnership of the European Union and UNIDO, and their respective contributions through financial support, technical leadership and coordination.

New Measurement Equipment Supports Fair Trade Across the Pacific Region



The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) is pleased to support the delivery of high-accuracy fuel measurement equipment to **Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Samoa and Vanuatu**, marking an important step in strengthening legal metrology capabilities across the region. The new equipment is already transforming field operations, enabling faster and more efficient verification of fuel dispensers and improving confidence in measurement accuracy.

As one Legal Metrologist from Papua New Guinea noted, "The new fuel prover has reduced our setup time from more than one hour to less than two minutes, allowing us to deliver fuel dispenser checks much faster and more efficiently. This is a major improvement for our field operations and for the delivery of volume and flow calibration and verification services." The initiative will help enhance measurement integrity, support regulatory oversight, and strengthen consumer and industry confidence in fuel transactions across participating countries.



TESTING

Regional Laboratory Development and Capacity Building Initiative

A comprehensive laboratory development assistance plan has been developed to strengthen quality infrastructure and facilitate trade across the Pacific. The plan draws on assessments of selected laboratories in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Papua New Guinea, and was prepared in close collaboration with participating laboratories and UNIDO.

Key outputs include the delivery of a second Proficiency Testing report on kava, designed to enhance laboratory performance, improve testing reliability, and support the development of regional standards.

In addition, two self-paced virtual training courses on laboratory management have been developed for inclusion on the forthcoming Pacific Quality Infrastructure Portal, providing accessible capacity-building opportunities for laboratory professionals across the region.

Together, these initiatives contribute to stronger laboratory systems, improved compliance with international standards, and enhanced regional trade competitiveness.

PQII

Pacific Quality Infrastructure (PQII) Initiative is endorsed by the **Forum Trade Officials Meeting (FTOM) in 2018**.

A medium-term framework of priority QI regional actions for the period 2020-2024 was endorsed by the **Forum Trade Ministers Meeting (FTMM) of 2020**.

Quality Infrastructure - one of the nine Key Intervention Areas of the **Pacific Aid-for-Trade Strategy 2026- 2030 (PAfTS)**



Write to us:

Dr. Andrea Giacomelli, Trade Policy, and Aid for Trade Adviser, andrea.giacomelli@pifs-geneva.ch
Alok Jain, Pacific Quality Infrastructure Coordinator, alokj@forumsec.org

