

## Pathways through disruption

RDI Network Conference 2021

1- 2 July | Online

# Research for Development Impact Conference 2021

## Event Background

First held in 2009, the Research for Development Impact (RDI) Conference 2021 is the eighth in a series of conferences previously known as the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) University Network Conference. These conferences have become valued occasions in the development community calendar, bringing together hundreds of attendees from across Australia and internationally who work in aid and sustainable development. The main purpose of the conference is to share insights and promote collaboration and partnerships among NGOs and universities within the research for development community.

The 2021 RDI Conference is hosted by The University of Queensland. The Student Forum (30 June 2021) and two-day conference (1-2 July 2021) will be delivered fully online with networking events in selected Australian cities. The series of pre-conference live webinars and workshops will commence 9 June 2021 featuring events open to public and those exclusive to conference delegates.

## Conference Theme

The theme of this year's conference is **Pathways through disruption – the future of sustainable development and recovery in the Pacific and Southeast Asia** with four sub-themes:

1. Pathways to Sustainable Development
2. Pathways to Improved Response and Recovery
3. Forging Pathways Through Collaboration and Partnerships
4. Pathways to Enhanced Climate Change Adaptation

The conference aims to showcase **research, initiatives, and innovations** that could inform the **future of sustainable development and socio-economic recovery** in the Pacific and Southeast Asia regions. The focus on recovery refers to the impacts created by recent major disruptions (both positive and negative) at regional and global scale (not limited to COVID-19), and the innovation and opportunities emerging from those disruptions. The conference will facilitate action-oriented and future-focused discussions on building a sustainable future for the Pacific and Southeast Asia in the face of recent and anticipated future disruptions.

The conference program features a diverse range of presentations, workshops, roundtables, panel discussions, and side events. Session topics range from sustainable development, post-disaster recovery, climate change, capacity building, innovative partnerships, socio-economic resilience, educational research, global education and youth, sustainability and innovation in tourism and farming, sustainable extractive, and transformational change.

## High profile speakers and panellists

**The Hon Julia Gillard AC**, Former Prime Minister of Australia, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Global Partnership for Education

**Mr Peter Varghese AO**, Chancellor of The University of Queensland and Chair of the Asialink Council. Former Secretary of DFAT

**Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago – Elisara**, Regional Director for Polynesia at Pacific Community-SPC, New Caledonia.

**Linh Do**, Director of Leaders for Global Sustainability, University of Melbourne. Former Australia and Pacific lead for AI Gore's Climate Reality project.

**Sopheap Ros**, Founder and Executive Director of Gender and Development Cambodia

## Audience

The conference will bring together international experts and guests, Australian practitioners and academics, private sector stakeholders, Australian and international students, and government representatives. We are expecting 500+ attendees at the conference.

## Student Forum (30<sup>th</sup> June 2021)

The Student Forum is a full-day event organised by the students and for the students. It is a great opportunity for university students interested in aid and development in Australia and around the world. Hear from speakers, interact in workshops, and learn about research and initiatives on the future of sustainable development and recovery in the Pacific and Southeast Asia.

## Helpful links:

**2021 RDI Conference website:** [www.rdiconference2021.org.au](http://www.rdiconference2021.org.au)

### Registration for the conference and the Student Forum:

[https://whova.com/portal/registration/confe\\_202107](https://whova.com/portal/registration/confe_202107)

**Conference interim program:** <https://rdinetwork.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/JUNE-PROGRAM-2021-1.pdf> Please note that we will release newer versions of the conference program in the coming weeks. Visit the conference website for latest program.

**Receive conference updates** by subscribing to our mailing list: <https://rdiconference2021.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=fbe41073efe267439b5e8ac0c&id=86c252fba0>

**Support us in promoting the conference:** we have created promotional materials for your use. Access them here <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bt9vmgo26ztixxi/AABCKHW5v7z0Y3gfa5Xklckta?dl=0>

## Contact:

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