



PRIF Newsletter - February 2025 Edition

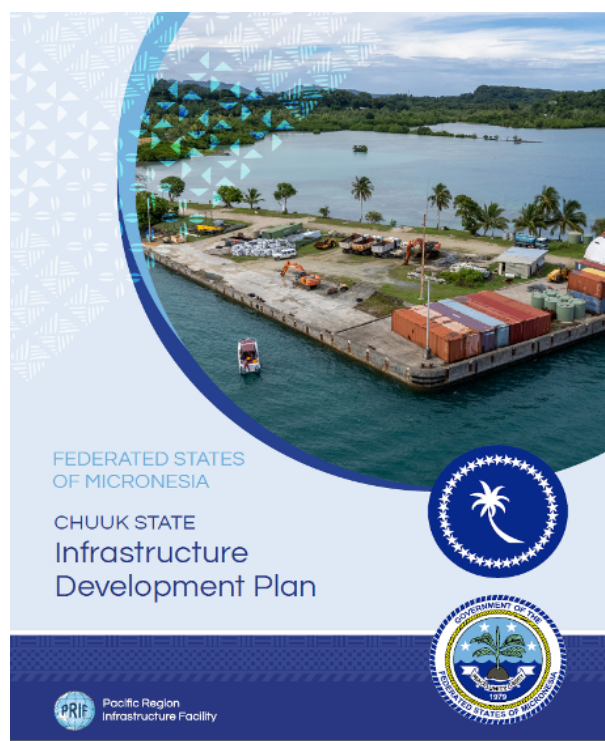
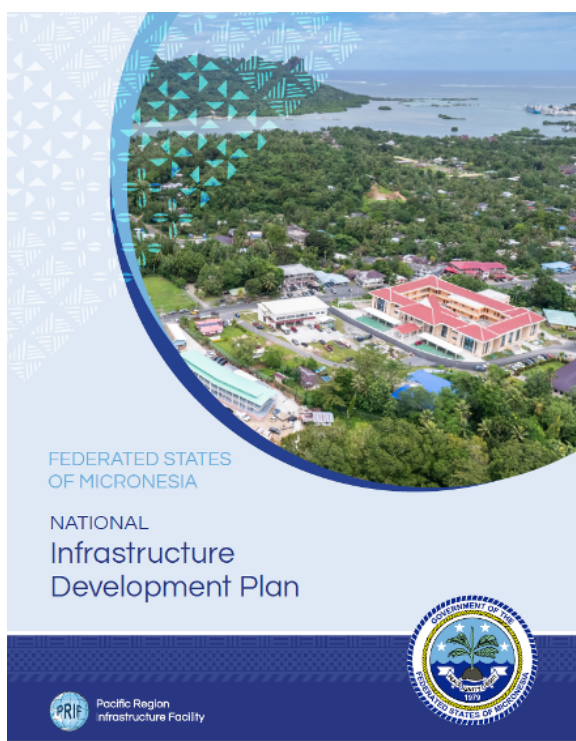
In November 2024, we relaunched the PRIF Newsletter to disseminate PRIF knowledge products, news on PRIF activities and events around the Pacific region, and interest work our partners are delivering in the infrastructure space. Our newsletter is evolving and will become a monthly occurrence starting this year. The newsletter is intended to increase awareness of PRIF work and now includes a dedicated section to PRIF knowledge products and insights, tools and resources to help Pacific infrastructure practitioners, PICs member countries and our partners

PRIF CO hopes the information is useful to your work and we welcome any comments and questions you may have to enquiries@theprif.org. If you are not on our distribution please subscribe to enquiries@theprif.org. To access previous newsletter, please click on this [link](#).

Technical Assistance

FSM Congress adopts Infrastructure Development 2025-2034

On 24 January 2025, the Twenty-Third Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia passed a resolution approving and adopting the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) 2025-2034. PRIF provided support to the FSM Government in developing the FSM IDP 2025 – 2034.



At the 4th State and National Leadership Conference on 11 December 2024, President Simina underscored the importance of the country’s Strategic Development Plan and the IDP as vital frameworks for FSM’s long-term development. The SDP, spanning 2024–2043, sets ambitious goals across thematic areas such as education, healthcare, economic diversification, and environmental sustainability, while the IDP prioritizes strategic infrastructure investments to support socioeconomic growth. “These plans are not just roadmaps but the collective vision of our nation’s leadership and its people,” stated President Simina. “They represent our shared responsibility to foster a sustainable, resilient, and prosperous FSM.”

The summary of the FSM IDP can be downloaded: [Federated States of Micronesia Infrastructure Development Plan 2025-2034](#). PRIF is finalizing the full IDP for publication on the website. For more information about Congress endorsement, read [here](#).

PRIF response to the Vanuatu earthquake

The current PRIF technical assistance “Improving National Building Codes (NBC) and Standards in the Pacific – Phase 3” is supporting a range of regional guidance notes, a feasibility study into a regional NBC Secretariat and a review of Vanuatu’s national building code. When the magnitude 7.3 earthquake hit Port Vila on 17 December 2024, the PRIF team working on this TA were requested by The Government of Vanuatu / DUAP to provide their support given their expertise.

The PRIF team supported The Government of Vanuatu to prepare a draft Ministerial Order for an Interim Amendment to the National Building Code for Vanuatu 2000 to address earthquake loads, wind loads and the prevention and control of asbestos in construction to facilitate clear requirements the early stage building reconstruction. This draft interim amendment provided a necessary immediate response in the absence of the final draft of the revised Vanuatu NBC which is not due to be completed until May 2025 in cooperation with the Vanuatu Building Code Technical Working Group.



Source: The Billabong building had customers inside when the earthquake struck.” (Source: [Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation](#)) - [Vanuatu earthquake recovery effort](#)

The PRIF team also established a WhatsApp group to connect national and international colleague engineers who were responding to or supporting the Vanuatu EQ through information and knowledge sharing of resources, guides, experiences, and lessons learned.

Rhys Gwilliam’s significant experience in Vanuatu, as a former Government Architect and ongoing work with building codes and school infrastructure, Mikael Gartner’s significant experience with building codes and post-disaster responses, and Campbell Duncan’s expert knowledge of the legal and regulatory system were of invaluable support to the Government of Vanuatu, and we thank them for their efforts above and beyond their contract with PRIF.

Driving Infrastructure Coordination - Enhancing private sector participation

PRIF Coordination Office meets with the Trilateral Infrastructure Partnership

We recently met with representatives of the Trilateral Infrastructure Partnership to discuss opportunities for cooperation in the Pacific region. The partnership is between U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Export Finance Australia. Topics of keen interest included initiatives to increase private sector participation in delivery of infrastructure projects, addressing the availability of contractors and professional services to partner for local content, and systematically involving the private sector in national infrastructure investment planning. These themes are also addressed in the PRIF Phase 5 Strategic Work Plan so the scope for cooperation is clear.

Knowledge Products

What we are reading :

Global Infrastructure Resilience: Capturing the Resilience Dividend

The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure has just released its report analyzing the social, economic, and political reasons for investing in better resilience. I really like the idea of a “dividend” which the authors define as “avoided asset loss, reduced service disruption, better quality and reliable public services, accelerated economic growth and social development, reduced carbon emissions, enhanced biodiversity, improved air and water quality, and more efficient land use, among others.” Chapters address core topics of assessing risk, building systemic resilience, modes of financing, and managing knowledge and governance. The concept of harvesting dividends from investments is intuitive and could help practitioners develop better business cases and policy briefs for the necessary up-front investment. (Robert Guild, Team Leader, PRIF CO)

[Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure](#)

Outreach Activities

PRIF Communication Tools

PRIF has released these fantastic knowledge product postcards to interface and share PRIF knowledge products with partners and Pacific member countries. The QR code allows interested practitioners the ability to quickly access and download the reports, while increasing efficiency of dissemination compared to publishing hard copies.



Guide to Asset Management Improvement Planning for the Pacific Water Sector



This guide provides practical advice for water utilities on assessing their organization’s asset management maturity and developing an asset management improvement plan. Asset management maturity measures how advanced an organization’s asset management practices are. An asset management maturity assessment (AMMA) includes evaluating an organization’s current maturity level and setting an appropriate target maturity level that the organization should aim to achieve over a defined time frame.



INFRASTRUCTURE RISK

Improving National Building Codes and Standards in the Pacific for Resilient Infrastructure

This report intends to assist coordination across PRIF member countries and PRIF development partners to identify needs and support sharing national building codes (NBC) best practices, leverage lessons learned, and support related initiatives. It provides short-, medium-, and long-term national and regional recommendations to reinforce and improve building construction legislation, regulations, codes, and standards across the Pacific and concludes with key reasons why supporting NBC regional harmonization and coordination is beneficial.



BUILDING CODES AND STANDARDS

Improving National Building Codes and Standards in the Pacific for Resilient Infrastructure



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MEMBER COUNTRIES

