2024 Asia-Pacific Regional Dialogue on Sustainable Maritime Connectivity

PROGRAMME
Venue: Novotel Nadi Hotel;
Nadi and online, Fiji
22-23 July 2024 (GMT+12)

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Funafuti Port serves as the international gateway for Tuvalu.

Funafuti Port confronts several other difficulties.

1. Active Wharf
2. Congestion
3. Public Road
The Active Wharf
As indicated in the slide, there are two wharves, the abandoned wharf is not utilized for operations due to its condition, as it is unsafe to conduct any operations on it. The operational wharf can only accommodate two ships.

Congestion
Congestion in the port area is attributed to the increased number of imported containers and breakbulk cargoes.

Public Road
Due to the congestion at the port, containers were often stored along the roadside and breakbulk cargo, rendering the public access road hazardous.
Solutions:

The Marine Department has suggested a limited number of solutions to address these challenges: building a new dock, expanding the land area through land reclamation, and creating an alternative access route for the public.
Contents:

- Common Challenges in the Maritime and Port Development
- Tuvalu Port Opportunities and Perspectives
- Strategic Actions for Tuvalu Port
Common Challenges in the Maritime and Port Development:

✓ Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
✓ Greenhouse Gas Reduction.
✓ Technological Innovation.
✓ Private Sector Collaboration.
Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda:

Ports and maritime activities need to align with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to industry, innovation, infrastructure (SDG 9), and climate action (SDG 13). This requires integrating sustainable practices into port operations and development projects.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction:

The maritime sector is a significant contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions. Achieving reduction targets involves adopting cleaner technologies, improving energy efficiency, and transitioning to alternative fuels. Policies must support these transitions to mitigate the environmental impact.
COMMON CHALLENGES IN THE MARITIME AND PORT DEVELOPMENT

Technological Innovation:

The integration of new technologies, such as automation, digitalization, and smart port systems, can enhance the efficiency, safety, and sustainability of port operations. However, these require significant investment and expertise.

Private Sector Collaboration:

Engaging with the private sector is crucial for leveraging investment, expertise, and innovation. Public-private partnerships can drive improvements in port infrastructure and services, enhancing overall performance.
Tuvalu Port Opportunities and Perspectives:

❖ Geographical Isolation and Scale
❖ Vulnerability to Climate Change
❖ Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection
❖ Technological Advancements
❖ Capacity Building and Skills Development
❖ Regional Cooperation and Support
Tuvalu, as a small island developing state, faces unique challenges and opportunities in its port development.

**Geographical Isolation and Scale:**

Tuvalu's remote location and small size mean it relies heavily on maritime transport for imports and exports. Efficient port operations are essential for economic stability and growth.
TUVALU PORT OPPORTUNITIES AND PERSPECTIVES

Vulnerability to Climate Change:

Rising sea levels and extreme weather events pose significant risks to Tuvalu's port infrastructure. Implementing resilient design and construction practices is critical to withstand these challenges.

Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection:

Tuvalu’s port development must balance economic growth with environmental stewardship. Strategies could include adopting green port initiatives, enhancing waste management systems, and protecting marine biodiversity.
TUVALU PORT OPPORTUNITIES AND PERSPECTIVES

Technological Advancements:

Leveraging technology can help Tuvalu overcome some of its logistical challenges. For instance, adopting digital platforms for cargo handling and tracking can improve efficiency and reduce costs.

Capacity Building and Skills Development:

Investing in human capital is vital. Training programs to enhance the skills of port workers and administrators can ensure the effective implementation of new technologies and sustainable practices.

Regional Cooperation and Support:

Collaboration with regional organizations and neighbouring countries can provide Tuvalu with access to technical expertise, funding, and best practices. Regional initiatives can also help Tuvalu address common challenges more effectively.
Strategic Actions for Tuvalu Port:

- Developing a Sustainable Port Master Plan
- Investing in Resilient Infrastructure
- Enhancing Regional and International Partnerships
- Promoting Green Initiatives
- Fostering Innovation and Technology Adoption
STRATEGIC ACTIONS FOR TUVALU PORT

Developing a Sustainable Port Master Plan:
A comprehensive master plan that incorporates sustainable development principles can guide long-term port development. This plan should address infrastructure needs, environmental considerations, and socio-economic impacts.

Investing in Resilient Infrastructure:
Prioritize investments in infrastructure that can withstand the impacts of climate change. This includes reinforcing port structures, improving drainage systems, and constructing sea walls where necessary.
Finally, these are some of the factors that Tuvalu maritime sector considers in its efforts to reduce emissions and tackle climate change. These elements receive support from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

INVESTING IN RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROMOTING GREEN INITIATIVES
Currently, at Funafuti port, a project is in progress to pave the port area and build a barrier to protect against loss and damage on the shore side. This initiative is part of a recent undertaking managed by Hall Construction at the Funafuti port.
STRATEGIC ACTIONS FOR TUVALU PORT

Enhancing Regional and International Partnerships:
Strengthen ties with regional bodies like the Pacific Islands Forum and international organizations for support in funding, technical assistance, and policy development.

Promoting Green Initiatives:
Implement green port initiatives such as energy-efficient lighting, solar power installations, and initiatives to reduce marine pollution.
As the Funafuti Port project progresses, Portable Solar Lighting will soon be installed at the Funafuti Port. This initiative is a step towards transforming Funafuti Port into a Green Port.
PROMOTING GREEN INITIATIVES

The new general cargo and passenger vessel is anticipated to be delivered by the end of this year, following its completion. A Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) device will be installed on the MV Manu Sina to assist in reducing carbon emissions.
STRATEGIC ACTIONS FOR TUVALU PORT

Fostering Innovation and Technology Adoption:

Encourage the adoption of innovative technologies through pilot projects and collaborations with tech companies. This can include automation in cargo handling, real-time data analytics for port management, and block-chain for supply chain transparency.
Conclusion:

In conclusion, while Tuvalu and other countries in the Asia and Pacific region face common challenges in maritime and port development, they also have unique opportunities to harness sustainable practices, technological innovations, and regional cooperation to enhance their port infrastructure and operations. By addressing these challenges strategically, Tuvalu can improve its port performance, support economic growth, and contribute to the broader goals of sustainable development.
IN ORDER TO REACH THE TARGET, WE HAVE TO PADDLE/WORK TOGETHER

THANK YOU

FAKAFETAI

TUVALU MO TE ATUA