

Enabling (a coordinated?) sustainable capacity building approach for the Pacific (and beyond?)

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SUMMARY

I am extremely lucky to be able to regularly travel to Pacific nations and engage with a relatively broad section of the geospatial and surveying community, both on development projects and through capacity building opportunities. I have done, and continue to do, this through both voluntary and consulting opportunities. □□Despite the range of aid provided and a regular stream of international consultants undertaking work throughout the Pacific, the expanded learning opportunities that external consultants have access to is not being effectively harnessed locally. This is due to several complex reasons, but I believe we (external consultants, vendors, and donors) can, and should do better. □□There is a significant disconnect between consultants working in the Pacific, generally very lucratively, and those Pacifica surveyors and geospatial operators who often struggle for broader knowledge building opportunities due to several factors. Improving the commitment to interacting with and supporting our Pacific counterparts is a key process to improve outcomes throughout the region. □□I will share a straightforward but effective methodology for legitimate engagement that I have developed and encourage all international consultants, vendors, and donors to include some form of this in their upcoming projects. It should also be noted that a similar methodology can be enacted by those seeking assistance. □□Sharing some examples of how this has assisted both my work and those I work with will display how it can also help other professionals in the region. The many professional, cultural, human, and technical positive benefits are significant and lead to high job satisfaction and commitment to driving change. □□I will share and celebrate some of the educational outreach programmes and ongoing support that are ongoing and in development and encourage expansion of these and some of the professionals who work tirelessly to promote and develop these alongside encouraging legitimate interactions in their work. □□I believe that we all need to work together on enabling capacity building / knowledge transfer / technical upskilling and hold each other accountable, and if we do, the resulting benefits will be considerable for all.

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