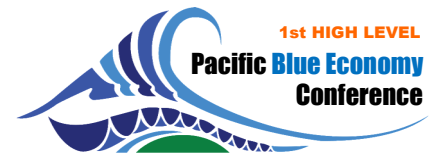


SIDE EVENT

Self-Funded innovations for Small Islands Countries



The Blue Economy presented by Prof. Gunter Pauli as a keynote at the Pacific Blue Economy Conference on Wednesday 23rd August outlines a portfolio of opportunities that have been implemented around the world. These initiatives change reality, transform the livelihood of communities and ensure that the basic needs are met (food, water, health, housing, energy and jobs). However, these +200 initiatives that have been implemented follow a transparent logic: first identify the opportunities to create initiatives that generate value with locally available resources; then second, scan for those projects that generate short term the greatest impact and build a consensus around these. However, the first and the second step cannot evolve into the third one, which is the implementation of a portfolio of innovations unless there is solid financing.

The ZERI Network (on one hand a network of 3,000 scholars and researchers and on the other hand nearly 1,000 entrepreneurs) has ensured the funding without donors or banks because the initiatives are designed around the creation of value that is quick to recognise. If it cannot be explained on the back of an envelop, then the project financing is not viable. All initiatives are linked and connected, provide feedback loops and create multipliers in the local economy securing the generation of a positive cash flow early on. From the €835 million funding for a biorefinery around Porto Torres in the north of Sardinia using thistles as a source of oil and fibre, or the A\$220 for tomato farming in Southern Australia that is now producing fresh water and tomatoes; or the US\$180 funding for 100MWe power station with biogas from seaweed in Sulawesi (Indonesia), or the €82 million for turning a Spanish island (El Hierro) of 10,000 self-sufficient in water and power ... it is important to understand how the funding of these programs has been secured, ensures how the entrepreneurs maintain their leadership and how the communities enjoyed multiple benefits (financial, economic, social, and ecological).

Date: Thursday 24th August @ 5.30pm

Venue: Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva, Fiji

For further information contact:

If country representatives wish to have a private exchange with Prof. Gunter Pauli, then they can contact:

Anais Rouveyrol on +679 990 61 66 or

Leba Salusalu, lsalusalu@pacificidf.org to schedule an appointment.

This side-event on financing presented by Prof. Pauli will be held at the MATUA room, Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva.

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