

Curriculum vitae of:

Rob Solomon

Contact details

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Primary Expertise

- Economic & public sector reform;
- Governance;
- Public financial management;
- Economic & financial reporting, statistical analysis, modelling & forecasting;
- Poverty alleviation, rural development & SME reform;
- Monitoring & evaluation;
- Economic & social statistics & Management information systems; Survey design & implementation;
- Capacity building;
- Good knowledge of regional integration challenges in the Pacific.

Personal details and breadth of experience

Qualifications	Bachelor of Commerce, Otago University, New Zealand, 1983 (Double Major – Economics and Marketing)
Nationality	New Zealand
Date of birth	2 October 1961
Languages	English (mother tongue), Bislama (basic), Pidgin (basic)
Clients	Asian Development Bank, Australian Agency for International Development, Commonwealth Secretariat, UK Department for International Development, New Zealand Agency for International Development, United Nations Development Program, World Bank
Countries of	Bangladesh, Canada, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Iraq, Kiribati, Laos PDR, New Zealand, Niue, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste,

experience	Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Vietnam
Memberships	International Association of Official Statistics

Employment Record

1998 - date	Executive Director, Solomon Leonard Ltd, public sector and economic consultants
1992 - 1998	Freelance consultant
1986 - 1992	Economic Statistician, Statistics New Zealand

Consultancy Experience

Federated States of Micronesia, Economic & Financial Advisor

Provide economic & financial policy advice to the Secretary of Finance. Provide support to Cabinet sub-committees on economic & fiscal issues and prepare draft policy papers with staff on topics of interest. Provide support to the Compact's FSM Joint Economic Management Committee members and the FSM Compact Trust Fund members. Provide advice on the annual national government budget and the State Government Compact budgets. Assisted with maintaining the 5 Government macro-economic modes and preparing the annual economic & fiscal update publication. A key role is to support the public financial management reform programme and support the PEFA assessment. Provide advice on budget and management of budget surpluses because of rapid growth in fishing licence fees. Oversee and provide advice, including recommending law changes, with regards to the FSM Trust Fund

9 months, 2016

Kiribati, Labour Mobility Advisor

Prepared a Labour Mobility Strategic Framework for New Zealand support to labour mobility in Kiribati. The Framework identified key links with Government of Kiribati and other development partner labour mobility policies and activities, gaps and opportunities. As a key output, the Strategic Framework identified practical activities to drive significant improvements in the number of i-Kiribati employed offshore, for the period 2016 – 2020. The Strategic Framework specifically discussed opportunities to safely increase labour mobility opportunities for young people and women (especially young women) through both targeted initiatives and greater participation in existing initiatives.

MFAT, 2 months, 2016

Federated States of Micronesia, Support for the 2023 Action Plan

Macroeconomist, supported the Secretariat of the 2023 Planning Committee, in developing a strategic action plan to attain fiscal sustainability in 2024 and beyond, in light of the end of US Compact grant funding, and the beginning of Compact Trust Fund financing; Provide implementation advice based on the development of the 5 government's long term macroeconomic frameworks; provide advice on preparation of FY2016 Budget Policy Statement and the Economic

& Fiscal Update for FY2015. Assisted with the preparation of the public financial management road map.

ADB, 18 months, 2014-2015

Pitcairn Island Household Expenditure Survey & CPI

Team Leader, Economist/Statistician Undertook a Household Expenditure Survey (HES) for Pitcairn Islands. From the HES derived expenditure weights, selected items for pricing, and calculated the first dedicated consumer price index (CPI) for the Pitcairn Islands.

UK DfID, 3 months, 2014

Pitcairn Island Economic Report & Diaspora Survey

Team Leader, Economist/Statistician The Economic report reviewed existing economic analysis to date and considered the opportunities and/or constraints affecting future economic development and sustainability of the island. It included an analysis of how the demographics would affect the island's economic status and potential up to 2045 based on current trends and possible variations. An assessment of what level of community the island could potentially accommodate, setting out the infrastructure, resource and financial implications. An assessment of Pitcairn's economy opportunities for increased income and the potential for reducing aid dependency. The Diaspora Survey will ascertain potential interest in and the conditions of returning.

UK DfID, 3 months, 2013

Study of Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility

Evaluation Specialist to review the Harmonisation Agenda as outlined in the PRIF Design Document, and assessed its continued relevance to PRIF, given what PRIF has achieved to date and given the changes in direction, governance and membership, since PRIF was first designed. The Review had three core objectives (i) review the Harmonisation Agenda, (ii) identify opportunities for and constraints for further harmonisation of processes and improved coordination; and (iii) outline the next steps for developing harmonisation for PRIF. The Review assessed and reported on progress to date, the value-add of further development of the Harmonisation Agenda, and revised the Harmonisation Agenda accordingly. It included a detailed Action Plan as to how the Agenda's goals (medium, and long) could be achieved.

AusAID/World Bank, 3 months, 2013

Tonga: Tonga Energy Road Map

Donor coordinator on the Tonga Energy Road Map (TERM). Attached to the Prime Minister's Office and working specifically on implementation issues of the Road Map. Main focus was preparing project proposals and reviewing proposals for donor funding of energy projects for World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the European Union. For EU Tonga had 2 EDF 10 projects and an Energy Facility II project.

World Bank, 6 months, 2010 – 2011

Tonga: Support for Economic & Strategic Management

Economic & Strategy Advisor to the Prime Minister and advisor to the Expenditure Review Committee (ERC). Advised the ERC through submission of timely papers on fiscal and economic matters. The ERC was the Cabinet subcommittee that was responsible for hearing annual ministry budget submissions prior to presenting the draft budget to Cabinet. The consultant reviewed fiscal

reports in terms of their contributions to the National Strategic Planning Framework outcomes and fiscal targets as contained in ministry corporate plans.

Advised the Ministry of Finance and other ministries in formulating and monitoring realistic performance indicators for the National Strategic Development Framework. A key component was the development of monitoring indicators for the Public Financial Management reform programme. Assisted with embedding the Plan into policy proposals, corporate plans, and aid discussion programs. Worked closely with key Ministries of Finance, Education and Health with regards to their components of the plan. Developed with Ministry of Finance staff the monitoring and evaluation framework for the Plan.

Asian Development Bank, 6 months, 2010

Tonga: Enhancing Engagement with Pacific Island Countries

Economic & Strategy Advisor. In 2009 Rob assisted with drafting the National Strategic Development Framework. A key role that the consultant provided was as the Prime Ministers representative on the team that negotiated the Tonga-Australia Partnership for Development, based upon the National Strategic Development Framework. The consultant was also responsible for negotiating and drafting of Tonga documents for the EU budget support modality developed as a response to the global economic recession. Budget support modalities were then developed for the ADB, World Bank and key bilateral partners, Australia and New Zealand.

The consultant was responsible on assessing and commenting on the ADB, EU, World Bank and bilateral partners country strategy papers and country performance assessments. Provided government comments and responses to annual aid reviews and the IMF Article IV consultations. He also was a member on two PEFA assessments for Tonga and finalised the draft mid-term MDG report for Tonga.

Asian Development Bank, 12 months, 2009 – 2010

Tonga: Economic & Financial Advice to the Prime Minister

Economic & Financial Advisor to the Prime Minister (PM) and working closely with the Secretary to the Prime Minister and Secretary to Cabinet. This was a very wide brief which encompassed all areas of development, with an emphasis on economic and fiscal policy, and including a major role in supporting Cabinet sub-committees such as the Expenditure Review Committee, the National Economic Development Council, and the Renewable Energy Committee. Responsible for donor coordination within the PM Office and with providing briefs to the PM on donor programmes and proposed new projects.

Commonwealth Secretariat, 24 months, 2007-2009

Tonga: Statistics Advisor

Statistics Advisor working to the Minister of Finance (MoF) on economic and financial issues. Responsible for monitoring and reporting to the Minister on issues with regards to the processing of the 2006 population census. The advisor reviewed the operations of the Statistics Office and prepared a stock take of statistical series and advice on improvements to the current system. Assisted with preparation of statistics for the macro-economic framework which will feed into the budget round and IMF Article IV consultations.

Ministry of Finance, 3 months, 2007

Tuvalu: Education Sector Reform & Development Project

Education policy and financial specialist providing technical assistance to the Government of

Tuvalu in developing policies for Junior Secondary Education. The priority was the development of schooling for all children leaving primary school, including the development of technical/vocational options. The consultant advised on the feasibility of the construction of a new residential JSS for Form 3 and Form 4 and the conversion of Motufoua to a Senior Secondary School.

Asian Development Bank, 1.5 months, 2006

Tonga: Tonga Education Support Program (TESP)

Institutional strengthening consultant responsible for assisting the Ministry of Education achieve a coordinated approach to planning, management, monitoring and progress reporting of TESP so as to contribute to the evolution of a performance management culture within the Ministry and achieve the objectives of the Education Policy Framework (EPF). Drafted the 2005-08 and 2006-09 Education Corporate Plans, the 2005/06 and 2006/07 Annual Plans, the 2005/06 TESP work plan, and the EPF Implementation Review. Also updated the EPF financing model.

NZ Agency for International Development, 6 months, 2006

Tuvalu: Education Implementation Plan

Economic and financial specialist responsible for assisting the Ministry of Education to achieve a coordinated approach to planning, management, monitoring and progress reporting. Advised on the co-ordination, planning and management of donor support to the education sector in line with the Ministry's intention to transition to a SWAp.

Asian Development Bank, 1 month, 2005

Tonga: Agriculture Development Project

Monitoring & evaluation specialist conducting an ADB Operations Evaluation Mission for an Outer Islands Agriculture loan. Responsible for producing a project performance audit report assessing the projects achievements in comparison with the anticipated project outputs, objectives, and goals. Conducted an economic and financial evaluation and assessed the project performance by components and subcomponents.

Asian Development Bank, 1 month, 2005

Tuvalu: Outer Islands Development Program

Monitoring & evaluation specialist conducting an ADB Operations Evaluation Mission for an Outer Islands Development Program loan which financed the Falekaupule Trust Fund. The Trust Fund was set up to finance outer island development. Responsible for producing a project performance audit report assessing the projects achievements in comparison with the anticipated project outputs, objectives, and goals. Conducted an economic and financial evaluation and assessed the project performance by components and subcomponents.

Asian Development Bank, 1 month, 2005

Bangladesh: SME supply chain study

Statistician responsible for designing, supervising, analysing and reporting on a sector based supply chain study of SMEs, providing a framework to effectively address enterprise development issues; including: design of survey questionnaires to capture information about SME supply chains; selecting the sample, recruit and train enumerators and supervise the pilot test; develop a database for survey capture; and tabulate and analyse results and prepare draft report on the survey.

World Bank/IFC, 3 months, 2005**Tonga: Tonga Education Support Program (TESP)**

Economist responsible for assisting with the establishment of financing mechanisms for commencement of direct budgetary aid flows to Education; supported finalisation of various partnership documents; as well as assisting in getting the project implementation plan prepared and operational.

NZ Agency for International Development, 6 months, 2005

Laos PDR: Rural & microfinance Survey

Team leader (economist) responsible for designing, supervising, analysing and reporting on a survey of the status of rural and microfinance, including: design of survey questionnaires; selecting stratified random samples; designed survey database; analysed survey data; and prepared a report on the survey making recommendations for the future development of rural and microfinance.

Asian Development Bank, 3 months, 2004

Vietnam: SME data collection & analysis system

Economic statistician assisting with the development of an SME data collection and analysis system; analysed and reconciled 3 main business registers, Statistics Office, Tax Office, and National Business Information Network; negotiated inter-agency agreements on reporting requirements to collect the necessary data on the SME sector; and designed data collection systems.

Asian Development Bank, 1 month, 2003

Iraq: Statistical Analysis for Reconstruction Planning

Statistical specialist responsible for reviewing the Statistics Office operations pre-conflict, and its post-conflict capacity, took action to make the Office operational; liaised with other ministries and donors on what initial indicators might be required for early planning purposes; and outlined what capacity building and reform is needed in the Statistics Office in the medium to long term.

UK Department for International Development, 3 months 2003

Timor Leste: SME Reform Project

Project Manager responsible for managing Master Trainer and Business Skills Training Course where train the trainer programs were implemented by 3 trainers across the provinces.

World Bank, 12 months, 2002 - 2003

Solomon Islands: Fiscal & economic policy advice

Economic and financial advisor to the Prime Minister, working on special projects as directed; provided specific advice to the civil society Think Tank Taskforce on economic and financial topics; advised on privatisation and commercialisation of public enterprises; coordinated donor support to government; liaised with other advisers to ensure that policy advice to the government was consistent and sound. Provided support to the Budget Review Committee.

NZ Agency for International Development, 9 months, 2002

Tonga: Public Enterprise Reform Project

Project Manager (economist) on public enterprise monitoring and reporting, including briefing the Minister of Finance on issues relating to Government investments; advised on privatisation and corporatisation of public enterprises; assisted with drafting the Public Enterprise Act, and worked with ADB reform team to ensure co-ordination between public sector reform program and public enterprise reform project.

NZ Agency for International Development, 15 months, 2001 - 2003

Solomon Islands: Equitable Rural Development & Poverty Alleviation

Team leader (economics and finance) on a project to identify rural development strategy, policy and programme options, at the national and provincial levels, that would reduce poverty and minimize development disparities between urban centres and rural areas. Finalised 9 provincial development profiles and analysed the economic potential of each province and prepared provincial development strategies. Responsible for developing a model of financial devolution for the budget.

UNDP, 2 months, 2001

Vanuatu: SME Microfinance Survey

Economic statistician and SME specialist responsible for the design and implementation of a Microfinance Survey. The survey covered rural and urban small business including small retail shops, taxi drivers, handicraft stall and food stalls. Responsible for developing a business register, based on business license records; overseeing the sampling; design of the questionnaire; implementing and monitoring; and final publication of the accumulated data.

Asian Development Bank, 6 months, 2001

Vanuatu: Comprehensive Reform Program

Economic statistician and MIS specialist responsible for advising on the establishment of a social statistics database, ensuring data met the requirements for the monitoring process and development of social impact indicators for the comprehensive reform program; assisted Statistics Office staff with analysis of results and preparation of the report on the 1999 population census; assisted with the production of national accounts estimates; and assisted with development and publication of a quarterly set of Government Finance Statistics.

Asian Development Bank, 6 months, 2000

Vanuatu: Reform of National Statistics Office

Economic statistician, advisor to the Government Statistician on all aspects of running a national statistics office in a reformed public service, including: advising on restructuring of the Office; assisted with the production of the first ever “NSO Annual Business Plan”; and assisted with improving general office monitoring and control systems.

Responsible for providing support for the 1999 Population Census, including a member of the National Census Steering Committee; provided general survey training to all staff involved in the population census as well as specific training sessions for coders, data entry operators, and computer editors; developed a census processing monitoring and control system; prepared census manuals for current and future reference; and assisted with writing computer edits for the census processing system and prepared tabulation programs and undertook analysis for final reports.

NZ Agency for International Development, 6 months, 1999 - 2000

Vanuatu: Financial forecasting

Revenue forecasting advisor responsible for preparation of guidelines for the assembly, co-ordination and evaluation of revenue forecasts in relation to the annual Budget cycle; preparation of revenue forecasting models for all Budget revenue heads; preparation of procedures for the conversion of annual revenue estimates into monthly cash flow forecasts for budget monitoring and control; and preparation of training materials including a course structure, course notes and training manual.

Australian Agency for International Development, 2 months, 1999

Niue: Review of Development Assistance

Team Leader (Economist) tasked with reviewing New Zealand's program of official development assistance to Niue including development and discussion of options for economic development and the implications in terms of the level of self-sufficiency and independence; and analysis of options for delivery of future NZODA to Niue, including the level, mix and mechanisms for delivery.

NZ Agency for International Development, 3 months, 2000

Vanuatu: Macroeconomic Analysis, Planning & Policy Formulation

Economic statistician and MIS specialist responsible for preparation of a long-term plan to meet data requirements for macroeconomic analysis, planning and policy formulation; contributed to the budget policy statement, fiscal strategy report and annual budget document, developed a GDP forecasting model, assisted review of national accounts; balance of payments and monetary statistics methodology, estimates and forecasting models.

Asian Development Bank, 11 months, 1998

Solomon Islands: Labour Market Statistics

Economic statistician responsible for assessing labour market statistics and their appropriateness for policy development; advised on the appropriate employment survey to best assist with monitoring impacts of the reform programme; and assessed the capacity of the Statistics Department to undertake such a survey.

NZ Agency for International Development, 3 months, 1996

Cook Islands: Comprehensive Economic Reform Program

Economic statistician responsible for developing a MIS for the economic reform program; developed a financial model to monitor the Crown accounts; preparation of economic and financial policy documents; assisted with setting up the Cook Islands Investment Corporation, and the drafting of public enterprise legislation; assisted on a debt-restructuring project including developing a model to assess the country's capacity to pay. Advised on restructuring of the National Statistics Office; upgraded the program of annual business surveys; advised on the 1996 population census and 1997 household income & expenditure survey.

NZ Agency for International Development, 30 months, 1996

Tonga: Monetary Policy

Senior Research Economist responsible for the establishment of systems to monitor the economic situation and prepare medium-term forecasts as an input to the formulation of monetary policy; writing economic commentary and preparing statistical tables for the Quarterly Reserve Bank Bulletin.

NZ Agency for International Development, 36 months, 1992