

# NEWSLETTER

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## *Enhancing Regional Collaboration*

The Micronesian Center for Sustainable Transport (MCST) represented by Co- Directors, Maria Sahib and Aileen Sefeti participated in the Pacific Women in Maritime Association (PacWIMA) Regional Workshop on Gender-Responsive Governance and the Twin Transition and the PACWIMA Annual General Meeting held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands in February 2026, reaffirming its commitment to advance inclusive and sustainable maritime development across the Pacific.

During the event, MCST engaged with regional and international partners (SPC, IMO, Smart-C Women) government representatives, and women maritime leaders to support efforts aimed at strengthening gender-responsive maritime policies and promoting women's leadership in the sector.

Discussions also highlighted the importance of inclusive approaches to maritime decarbonization and the transition to low-emission shipping in Pacific Small Island Developing States.

MCST as part of the Marshall Islands' (RMI) delegation shared perspectives on sustainable maritime transport, capacity building, and regional collaboration, emphasizing the critical role of women in shaping resilient and future-ready Pacific shipping systems.

They emphasized the importance of sustaining partnerships and of creating Women in Maritime Associations within each country to tackle key issues

and showcase achievements in the sector. The RMI delegation also included RMI Ports Authority Deputy Director, Zoya Tayag and Winifred Canney from RMI Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

The event provided an important platform for strengthening cooperation and advancing shared priorities for a safe, sustainable, and inclusive maritime future for the Pacific recognizing the role women play in this sector.

# LATEST SCIENCE & REPORTS

## Sailing Through Time: Building Pacific Maritime Resilience



MCST Co-Authors

1. Maria Sahib; 2. John Taukave; 3. Andrew Irwin; 4. Kyrie Lalauvaki;  
 5. Aileen Sefeti; 6. Dr. Christiaan De Beukelaer; 7. John Kautoke;  
 8. Dr. Peter Nuttall

This article examines the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership (PBSP), an ambitious initiative aimed at decarbonising maritime transport across Oceania.

The study explores the cultural, historical and technological aspects of wind-propelled shipping in the Pacific.

Highlighting the recent delivery of the SV Juren Ae, a modern sailing cargo ship, as a significant milestone, the research contextualises the PBSP within the broader framework of international maritime decarbonisation efforts and the unique challenges faced by Pacific Island States.

Drawing on interdisciplinary perspectives, including Indigenous knowledge systems and contemporary climate science, the article argues for the integration of traditional seafaring practices with modern sustainable technologies. [Read more](#)

## Journal of Cultural Autonomy



### Regulating Logistics: Compliance Capitalism Or Compliance Environmentalism?

This article argues that compliance should primarily align with geophysical constraints rather than with economic growth.

Drawing on earth system science, doughnut economics, and critical perspectives on global trade, the article challenges conventional economic assumptions about limitless growth within finite systems.

It explores the tensions between capitalist extraction and earth system stewardship, arguing that current compliance mechanisms often serve to incrementally improve fundamentally exploitative practices rather than transform the underlying environmental and social problems.

The article calls for a reversal of priorities, placing compliance with planetary boundaries above the extractive needs of capitalism.

[Read more ....](#)

### Pacific Dialogue (Talanoa) at the International Maritime Organization

This is an edited and abridged transcript of the presentation by John Fatuimoana Kautoke and John Taukave at a workshop in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where the participants responded to Stuart Kirsch's (this issue) position paper on compliance capitalism and global supply chains.

Kautoke represents the Micronesian Center for Sustainable Transport (MCST) and sits with the delegation of the Kingdom of Tonga at the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Taukave also represents the MCST at the IMO.

Kautoke and Taukave showed us how they introduced the Pacific speech genre of talanoa, which facilitates dialogue and encourages open exchange (see Kirsch 2020, 2021), to discussions at the IMO about regulating the impact of the shipping industry on the climate. [Read more ....](#)

# EVENTS

## Wind Propulsion Conference



MCST represented by John Kautoke and John Taukave participated in an open roundtable discussion at the 2026 Wind Propulsion

Conference in London, contributing a critical Pacific perspective to ongoing maritime decarbonization efforts.

The discussion reflected on recent developments within IMO negotiations, including key sentiments and outcomes from the Extraordinary Session, highlighting both progress and persistent structural challenges for small island states. MCST articulated the Pacific's forward-looking strategy, emphasizing resilience, collective advocacy, and the urgency of equitable climate action. The roundtable also explored the role of wind propulsion as a viable and

culturally resonant solution for reducing emissions in Pacific shipping.

MCST provided valuable insights into the technical, economic, and socio-cultural opportunities of integrating wind-assisted technologies within regional maritime systems and their contribution reinforced the importance of centering Pacific knowledge and priorities in shaping sustainable and just pathways toward global maritime decarbonization.

## Nuclear Remembrance Day for the Marshall Islands

On the 6th of March, 2026, MCST's John Taukave attended the Nuclear Remembrance Day for the Republic of the Marshall Islands in Geneva, Switzerland.

The event was celebrated with Ambassador Doreen De Brum and the Republic

of the Marshall Islands Embassy in Geneva.

John assisted the staff with the planning of the program as well as presenting a ceremonial opening to welcome attendees and finally, a spiritual calling to acknowledge all speakers at the event.



## UNESCAP EST AND SIDS MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT



Attendance to the meetings was supported entirely by UNESCAP upon nomination by the state administrations.

Tuvalu nominated Pierre-Jean Bordahandy from the MCST to attend on their behalf.

The event started with the Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Regional Meeting and Capacity-Building Workshop towards Accelerating Implementation of the Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021-2030).

The second segment of the event was a dedicated regional meeting for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Asia and the Pacific.

This invitation-only event provided representatives of SIDS with a space to discuss priorities, exchange views and contribute to the development of the Regional Action Programme on Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2027-2031).

# HIGHLIGHTS



**1** JET NEWS PODCAST TALANOA



**2** WEBINAR



**3** MCST UPGRADED ONLINE REFERENCE LIBRARY



**4** MCST ON FIJI TIMES SHIPPING COLUMN

1. MCST launched a new podcast series, Talanoa with the Traveling Diplomat, hosted by John "Jay-J" Taukave. [Click to watch latest episode](#)

2. The most recent webinar, titled "Is Net Zero Framework on Life Support: What Options for the Pacific?", provided an interactive forum with strong participation from key partners and stakeholders, fostering dialogue on emerging challenges and potential pathways for the Pacific region. [Click to watch ....](#)

3. MCST officially launched an upgraded and more user-friendly Reference Library. The enhancements strengthen access to critical knowledge for policymakers, researchers, and development partners across the Pacific region and beyond. [Click to view .....](#)

4. THE Micronesian Centre for Sustainable Transport is like a voyaging 'vaka', steady, deliberate and guided by purpose across uncertain waters. Within its hull are researchers, technical and legal negotiators [Read more ....](#)