



PACIFIC BLUE SHIPPING PARTNERSHIP CHARTER SIGNED

11 June 2026, Majuro. The inaugural Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership (PBSP) Ministerial Council concluded with the signing of the PBSP Charter by seven Ministers. The following countries thereby established the PBSP as an international organisation, subject to ratification: Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Naoero, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. Palau and Tonga also plan to sign the Charter.

The PBSP is a country-owned and driven partnership designed to coordinate and deliver a just and equitable transition for domestic shipping across participating countries. The unique maritime contexts of islands across Oceania require bespoke solutions for which Pacific expertise, not external consultant preferences, should be central.

For over a decade, a coalition of high ambition Pacific states known as the '6PAC+' have led by example at the International Maritime Organisation, catalyzing global action on reducing international shipping emissions. The PBSP is these countries' response to addressing our domestic shipping, repeatedly described as a sector in crisis, trapped in a cycle of aged, poorly maintained ships servicing some of the longest, thinnest and highest cost domestic routes in the world.

Practically, the PBSP serves to implement future-proof maritime connectivity through a paradigm shift in climate funding for Pacific Island Countries. The Partnership's aim is to deliver fit-for-purpose maritime vessels, slipways, and skilled workers to ensure the long-term resilience and connectivity of island communities across Oceania.

The Charter provides the organisational blueprint for the PBSP and establishes the framework for its governance and operations. The PBSP Charter establishes the Partnership and sets out provisions relating to its purposes and functions, governance structure and decision-making processes, funding mechanisms, review arrangements, dispute resolution procedures, and the conditions for its entry into force. The Charter designates Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, as the headquarters of the PBSP. The Council elected the Marshallese Minister responsible for Transport as the Partnership's inaugural Chair.

The Charter was developed through consultation involving the Secretariat and senior officials, who worked collaboratively to draft and refine the text. After agreeing on the Charter text, Ministers and Senior Officials visited the *Juren Ae*, the first sailing cargo ship designed and built for the Marshall Islands Shipping Corporation to meet the needs of inter-atoll transport. The PBSP will build on the successful delivery and deployment of this vessel to scale up investment in new ships.



Caption: *Juren Ae* under sail in Majuro lagoon, alongside a Marshallese outrigger canoe. © Chewy Lin

As inaugural Chair of the PBSP Ministerial Council, the Republic of the Marshall Islands' Minister of Transportation, Communication and Information Technology, Hon. Hilton T. Kendall, welcomed the signing of the Charter.

“This is a historic moment for Pacific regional cooperation,” Minister Kendall said.

“The signing of the PBSP Charter transforms a shared vision into a permanent institution that will help drive the transition to cleaner, more resilient and more affordable maritime transport across our region. We are honoured that Majuro has been selected as the Partnership’s headquarters and that the Marshall Islands has been entrusted to serve as its first Chair.”

“The Charter provides a strong foundation for collaboration among Pacific nations and development partners as we work together to decarbonise shipping, strengthen maritime connectivity and deliver tangible benefits to our communities.”

With the PBSP formally established, its members are ready to collaborate and coordinate to deliver clean climate-proof shipping for their communities. The Ministers supported the development of an application to the Green Climate Fund for a demonstration fleet of low carbon (wind-propelled) vessels, maritime maintenance facilities, capacity building for seafarers and shoreside workers and institutional strengthening to kick start the maritime transport transition.

The PBSP marks a major step towards meeting climate commitments, increasing the reliability of supply chains, and improving Pacific energy security by phasing out reducing the reliance on imported fossil fuels.

ENDS



Caption: Ministers from seven Pacific Island countries following the signing of the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership Charter, marking a significant milestone in regional maritime cooperation and sustainable shipping development.

[From Left]

Minister for Fisheries, Ocean and Marine, Vanuatu, Honorable Norris Jack Kalmet;

Minister for Transport, Energy & Tourism, Tuvalu, Honorable Simon Kofe;

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade, Nauru, Honorable Russ Joseph Kun;

Minister for Transportation, Communication and Information Technology, Republic of Marshall Islands, Honorable Hilton Kendall;

Minister for Information, Communication and Transport, Kiribati, Honorable Alexander Teabo;

Secretary of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure, Federated States of Micronesia, Honorable Carison Apis;

Minister for Public Works, Transport and Meteorological Services, Fiji, Honorable Ro Filipe Tuisawau

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About PBSP

The Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership (PBSP) is an ambitious country-driven initiative for a large-scale climate finance investment to catalyse a regional transition to sustainable, resilient, and low carbon shipping.

Website: <https://mcstrmi.org/projects/pacific-blue-shipping-partnership/>

About MCST

The Micronesian Center for Sustainable Transport (MCST), a Marshall Islands government owned research center, is dedicated to promoting sustainable transport solutions in the Pacific region and beyond. MCST collaborates with various stakeholders to address the challenges of climate change and support the transition to a low-carbon future.

Website: <https://www.mcstrmi.org>