



# RESERVE BANK VANUATU

## PRESS RELEASE

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Telephone: (678) 23333

Facsimile: (678) 24231

Email: resrvbnk.gov.vu

### **Governor Athy's term as PIRI Chairman draws to an end**



*Governor Athy delivering his remarks during the 5<sup>th</sup> PIRI High-level Forum at the Heritage Park Hotel in Honiara, Solomon Islands (5<sup>th</sup> June, 2019)*

The Pacific Islands Regional Initiative (PIRI) is a regional initiative under the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) network which comprises of Governors and Senior Level Central Bankers around the Pacific region who meet annually to discuss financial inclusion matters within the region.

This year marks the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the PIRI Leaders gathering since its inception in 2015. The 5<sup>th</sup> PIRI forum was held in Honiara, Solomon Islands from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 under the theme **Advancing Green Finance through Youth Inclusion**. Some of the other important topics of discussion during this high-level forum included; *PIRI Fintech Work stream: Regional regulatory*

*sandbox; De-risking in the Pacific: Regional and National Action Plans to Stem the Tide; Launch of the publication AFI Special Report: Inclusive Green Finance: A Survey of the Policy Landscape; Inclusive Green Finance: Disaster Preparedness and Response; and Gender Inclusive Finance in the Pacific.*

Members of PIRI Leaders include the Central Banks Governors of the following seven (7) Pacific Island Countries; Reserve Bank of Fiji (RBF), Bank of Papua New Guinea (BPNG), Central Bank of Samoa (CBS), Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI), Banco Central de Timor Leste (BCTL), National Reserve Bank of Tonga (NRBT) and the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu (RBV). The chairmanship role of this regional initiative is usually rotated amongst the member countries for a period of 2 years.

The Governor of RBV, Mr. Simeon Athy is the outgoing Chair of the PIRI Leadership and his term was from June 2017 – May 2019. He handed over the chairmanship to the incoming PIRI Leadership Chairman – Governor Loi Bakani of the Bank of Papua New Guinea during this 5<sup>th</sup> PIRI high-level forum.

In his remarks, Governor Athy thanked all the PIRI member Governors for their unwavering support and wisdom during his tenure as Chair and concluded by assuring the incoming Chair of RBV's steadfast support in the coming years on the region's financial inclusion journey.

## **RESERVE BANK OF VANUATU**