

## Call for Entries: Essay Competition

### Theme: Financial protection for a resilient future- Pacific Youth Perspective

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) in collaboration with the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) Disaster Risk Finance Working Group (DRFWG) is now inviting entries for an **essay competition** based on the overall theme of ‘**Financial protection for a resilient future- Pacific Youth Perspective.**’ The essay competition is part of the **Disaster Risk Finance Learning Series** which the PRP DRFWG launched in April 2022 to create greater awareness across the Pacific of the importance in investing in financial protection against disasters.

Disasters, caused by climate change and other hazards such as COVID-19, carry an expensive price tag, particularly in terms of the costs and resources that are involved in the immediate relief, recovery, and re-construction period.

The overall theme acknowledges that financial protection is crucial for building a resilient future. It further emphasizes the critical the role Pacific youth play in raising awareness, advocating and actions for a resilient future in the face of climate change and disasters including COVID19. According to the 2021 Pacific Resilience Meeting Youth Forum Outcome Statement, the youth have called for “*access to equitable, critical, and intentional opportunities that cultivate new green jobs, entrepreneurship and **financing** which accelerates our regions capacity to address disaster risk and climate change.*” Engaging young people including people with disabilities is essential for resilience building.

Recognising the critical role that youths play in terms of resilience actions, the DRFWG intends to conduct this activity to engage youths to raise awareness of the crucial importance of disaster risk financing as an integral part of climate change and disaster resilience building. Also, to hear their perspective regarding strengthening financial protection within the context of the Pacific region. Interested participants in this contest are expected to write and submit a written essay on the given topics.

#### **A. Eligibility Criteria:**

- The essay competition is open to youth from the PICTs with age ranging from 13 years old to 25 years old in three (3) different categories:
  - Junior – 13 years old to 16 years old;
  - Intermediate – 17 years old to 20 years old; and
  - Senior - 21 years old to 25 years old.

#### **B. Essay Topics:**

- Junior Category: **Why is it important to set aside or invest money to help Pacific Island countries better deal with the impact of disasters?**
- Intermediate Category: **Why is it critical to engage young people when planning and implementing actions to invest in financing for disaster response in the Pacific?**
- Senior Category: **How should governments make disaster risk finance options more responsive to the needs of young people?**

### **C. Language and Length:**

Any essay submitted should conform to the following rules as to content, length and style:

- All submissions must be done in English. In case where it is written in any of the PICTs' language, the essay must be submitted with an English translation.
- The essay should begin with a cover page with the following details:
  - (i) Title of the essay;
  - (ii) Word count;
  - (iii) Full name as per Birth Certificate;
  - (iv) Date of Birth;
  - (v) Country of citizenship; and
  - (vi) Telephone contact number and/or email address.
- The essay must not exceed the word limit specified below for each category (excluding figures and references).
  - Junior Category: **300 words to 500 words**
  - Intermediate Category: **501 words to 800 words**
  - Senior Category: **801 words to 1000 words**
- The essay should be in Word or PDF format. Essay may also be accepted if it is handwritten and only if it is legible.
- References should be included at the end of the essay in any desired reference style.

### **D. Other Competition Rules:**

- Essay must be an original piece, written by the participant.
- Essays can be:
  - (i) handwritten (it must be legible); or
  - (ii) typed and sent as PDF or Word format.
- All reference materials used must be properly cited and referenced.
- To allow others an opportunity, entry is limited to only one entry per participant.
- Please read the competition rules and consent form carefully. If you wish to consent your child (**below 18 years of age**) to submit an entry, please complete and sign the consent form and submit together with the entry. Please include the consent form with the submission, where applicable. Consent Form is attached below.
- To maintain neutrality, the staff of PIFS and DRFWG and their immediate families (spouse, siblings, children) are ineligible to win a prize but may participate to showcase creativity.
- All entries will become the property of the PIFS and DRFWG. Except where prohibited by law, submission of an entry to this competition constitutes permission to use the winner's name, likeness, prize information, and information provided for this competition for publicity purposes, without further permission or compensation.
- The PIFS and DRFWG reserves the right to modify submissions received for general promotion of Pacific resilience issues.
- Submissions received late, incomplete, incorrect, illegible or missing consent forms (where applicable), will be considered invalid.
- The decision of the PIFS and DRFWG on prize winners is final.

**E. Submission Details:**

- i. **Personal Data:** In entering the Essay Competition, participants consent to provide PIFS and DRFWG with certain personal data in order that it may administer the competition. Any personal data will be used only for the administration of the competition and as set out in the Competition Rules.
- ii. Full Names (as per Birth Certificate), Date of Birth, Country of Citizenship, and Contact details need to be provided by participants. Please note that age verification will be conducted. Therefore, participants are requested to submit a copy of their birth certificate when submitting their entry.
- iii. Download and sign the consent form where applicable (**below 18 years of age**) and submit together with your essay.
- iv. Entries can be emailed, posted by mail, or delivered by hand no later than the deadline below, to the address provided.
- v. Submissions must be emailed to: [pacific.resilience.partnership@gmail.com](mailto:pacific.resilience.partnership@gmail.com) with the subject: ‘*Submission for Essay Competition*’ **before midnight Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022 (Fiji standard time)**.
- vi. Hardcopies can be mailed or delivered by hand no later than the deadline to:  
 Attn: **Ms. Sharon Tohaimae**  
**Disaster Risk Finance Working Group**  
**Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Ratu Sukuna Road**  
**Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji**
- vii. Submissions received late, incomplete, incorrect, illegible entry forms, or missing consent forms (where applicable), will be considered invalid.

**F. Judging:**

- The criteria will be based on, messaging and content (reflecting the theme and the topic), relevance, creativity, and originality.
- The judges of the competition will include members of the DRFWG and PIFS.
- Winning Entries will be notified by telephone or email after completion of the judging. The top three (3) entries of each category will be awarded a prize.
- In all matters, the decision of the judges is final, and no correspondence or discussion shall be entered into.

**G. Prizes and Categories**

The Essay competition will have three (3) age categories. There will be three (3) winners announced from each of the three (3) age categories. Prizes will be as per below.

<b>Junior Category (13-16 years old)</b>	<b>Intermediate Category (17- 20 years old)</b>	<b>Senior Category (21 to 25 years old)</b>
1st – FJD 600	1st – FJD 800	1st - FJD1000
2nd – FJD 300	2nd -FJD 500	2nd -FJD 800
3rd – FJD 150	3rd -FJD 300	3rd -FJD 500

**H. Deadline:**

All entries to be received **before midnight Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022 (Fiji standard time)**.

## Consent Form

**Theme: Financial protection for a resilient future- Pacific Youth Perspective**

### Parent/Legal Guardian Consent Form

Full name of parent or legal guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

I am the parent and/or legal Guardian of:

Child's full name (Participant): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth (MM/DD/YY): \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Competition Entered: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent and/or Legal Guardian Contact Information

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

By checking this box, the Participant has my consent and permission to items below:

- 1) Enter and participate in this competition and in any Award Ceremony.
- 2) I acknowledge that I have read and understood the attached Entry rules. The participant and I will comply with these Competition Rules.
- 3) I allow the Participant's name, age, country, and entry to be displayed on the PIFS and PRP Website, exhibitions, meetings or for promotional use, in line with the copyright conditions in accordance with the rules of the competition.
- 4) I allow for the Participant's photos to be taken during any award ceremony and related events to be used for Competition purposes (e.g., purposes relating to promotion, reports that are submitted to partner organizations, media press releases and more), and use for any promotion/publication.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of parent/ legal guardian**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date signed**