



SOLOMON ISLANDS CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY



2023
ANNUAL
REPORT

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SICCI Members, SICCI Sponsors for 2023 both Platinum and Gold, SICCI Board of Directors, Members of the Diplomatic Core, SIG, Our stakeholders and SICCI Secretariate.

2023 was a challenging year for SICCI Secretariate. The Secretariate was in a state of transition from the induction of the new SICCI Board, to key vital positions becoming vacant for CEO and Membership/Services and the induction of two newly recruited staff for Media and Communication and Finance office occurring in the same month of June.

However, this had not diverted the secretariate's mission to maintain its;

1.1 STRATEGIC PLAN 2019 - 2023

Vision: A vibrant private sector, leading to better lives for our people

Mission: A member-driven organisation that a) champions policies that deliver jobs and growth, and b) supports services that assist members to grow their business

Values: Excellence, Partnership, Innovation, Creativity, Integrity and best deliver in specified key results areas of **KRA 1: Advocacy for Growth**, **KRA 2: Delivering Services** and **KRA 3: Organizational excellence**. The strategy that was employed was to direct and link all SICCI secretariate performance and output in these three areas through its Industrial Working Groups, stakeholder engagements and partnership in the delivery of the much-needed advocacy for our SICCI Members.

We have strived to perform regardless of the many challenges faced and therefore in summary managed to achieve the following across the department departments in SICCI.

1.2 Review important events and milestones.

1.2.1 SICCI Membership and Services Key Achievement 2023

- 12 Partnership Events
- Business Surveys: 5
- BA5 Events: 16 BA5 Events
- SICCI Membership/Retention: Number of SICCI financial members is at 192 as compared to 197 in 2022.
- Annual SICCI Sponsorship: 9 Platinum Sponsors and 8 Gold Sponsors

1.2.2 SICCI Export Industry Development (EIDO) Key Achievements in 2023

- SPC and PIFS Joint Kava Event in Fiji
- USAID and SICCI Export Promotion Training Series 5 in total
- PHAMA Plus and SICCI HACCP: PHAMA Plus has supported four (4) companies (Kubonitu Holdings, 7 Grains Co. Ltd, Raphally Holdings Ltd, and Sol Kava) with their HACCP certification, including a local consultant who will be trained under PHAMA plus and HACCP Australia partnership to be HACCP certified consultants in the country.
- National Kava Standard and the formation of the new Kava Industry Working Group.
- Dialogue was with Kiribati Government representatives (Kiribati and Solomon Islands) and Kiribati Chamber of Commerce and Industry to better facilitate trade between Solomon Islands and Kiribati as biosecurity regulations negotiated by both countries had been approved for export of frozen products.
- Melanesia Sub-Regional Private Sector Climate Finance Workshop
- PACIFIC INFRASTRUCTURE CONFERENCE – Developing Sustainable Resilient Infrastructure in the Blue Pacific at Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.
- MSME Conference: SUPPORTING THE GROWTH OF MSMEs IN SOLOMON ISLANDS CONFERENCE

1.2.3 SICCI Advocacy Key Achievements in 2023

- 2023 Manufacturing Symposium
- Members-initiated roundtable discussions with IRD and ERU on tax obligation issues.
- Roundtable consultation with MID to gain further understanding on the status of the National Building Code.
- IRD Tax Education team from the meetings to provide tax compliance training for SICCI SMEs, aiming to enhance their understanding of their tax obligations.
- roundtable consultation with MCIL to further understand the status of the MSME Bill.
- roundtable consultation on the VAT Bill and the Income Tax Rewrite
- RSIPF and SICCI Executive Working Group - Dialogue on Business Crimes and Crime Prevention Committee.
- SIG and SICCI Advisory Working Group- Submission of the Local Content Policy to SIG in June
- Written submissions
 - Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2023
 - Honiara City Bill 2023
 - Electricity Amendment Bill 2023
 - Constitutional Amendment 2023
 - SIG procurement training – partnership with SICCI under Membership and Advocacy
- SIG procurement training – partnership with SICCI under Membership and Advocacy.

1.2.4 SICCI Media and Communications Key Achievements 2023

I. Social Media Platform

- Facebook page Likes/follows: 162 decreases by 60.7% from 2022
- Facebook Reach: 15.7K increased by 56.8% from 2022
- Facebook Visits: 3814 decreased by 49.1% from 2022
- New Likes/Follows: 29 increased by 123.1% from 2022

It is evident that 47% of women as compared to 52% of male around about the age range of 25-44 engage with SICCI FB page. Solomon Islands remains the top country in terms of accessing and viewing of SICCI FB, followed by Australia (7%), Fiji (2.7%), PNG (2%), NZ (1.1%), Vanuatu (1.1%), Philippines (0.7%), United States (0.4%) and Nigera (0.3%).

II. Print Media

Our presence has decreased in print media; however, we manage to issue PR on issues affecting our businesses, especially in terms of roads, Load shedding and partnerships events. It is also important to note that we render advertisements or articles in Pacific Tender magazine.

III. Radio Program

SICCI has a monthly program on SIBC which is aimed at bringing awareness to SICCI core business. We have in 2023 done 7 radio programs.

IV. For 2023, did not manage to achieve the following tasks

- Directorship Training 2023
- Business Excellence Award 2023
- Charity Golf 2023
- Prime Minister's Breakfast
- Sponsorship Dinner 2023
- MoU pending endorsement for Partnership MoU between SICCI/ISIA/SIWIBA: Solomon Islands Senior Executive Women's Program 2023

1.3 IN TERMS OF PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS, WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING IN PLACE;

1. **MoU:** SIG/SICCI Advisory Committee (on going)



- a. Submission of final Local Content Policy done in June
2. **MoU:** RSIPF/SICCI Executive Working Committee (on going)
 3. **MoU:** New Zealand Business Resilience Council/SICCI 2023 recently signed activities will begin in 2024
 4. **MoU:** USAID_SICCI Collaboration on Economic Development SI 2023
 - a. 5 series of export training had been completed and study tour to US for 6 SICCI export ready business was conducted in October 2023.
 5. **MoU:** CHINA COUNCIL FOR THE PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE (CCPIT)/SICCI 2023.
 6. **MoU:** In progress yet to be signed, Partnership MoU between SICCI/ISIA/SIWIBA: Solomon Islands Senior Executive Women's Program 2023
 - a. 2 cohorts were conducted this year focusing on women in executive leadership. Formally arrangement of the partnership will be in MoU.

SICCI is grateful of the partnerships and support shown from our partners and members whom through your support and continued engagement we would not be able to achieve the events outlined previously. 2023 has seen us review and examine the approach going forward that should be considered in terms of driving SICCI advocacy with its Membership, Partners (MoU) and external stakeholders. It is important that we give value to the different sectors of businesses within SICCI and give the opportunity for all to be involved in driving SICCI forward in its core business. We would like to see increased engagement from members in 2024 for SICCI, because this organisation belongs to you members, therefore, it needs your valued attention.



OVERVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICES 2023

The Membership and Services Officer (MSO) is responsible for developing and managing a membership development plan, including building and maintaining relationships with members and stakeholders. The MSO also takes lead in organizing membership events such as the popular BA5s, Information Sessions and other relevant training for members. MSO is also responsible for maintaining some of the key assets of the Chamber such as the CRM database, mailing list and the membership tab on the SICCI website (which needs to be updated to reflect 2023 members). The MSO is also the local point of contact for Business Link Pacific in the Solomons. A brief about the BLP program and duties are described below. Membership and Services

department in 2023 was largely affected due to its post being vacant for more than 5 months. However, this has not affected membership engagement but allowed for the membership and services to work in collaboration across the SICCI departments.

2.1 MEMBERSHIP & SERVICES MANAGES:

- **SICCI Membership/Retention:** Number of SICCI financial members is at 192 as compared to 197 in 2022.
- **Annual SICCI Sponsorship:** 9 Platinum Sponsors and 8 Gold Sponsors

PLATINUM SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSORS



- **Business Link Pacific:** Business Link Pacific (BLP) is a New Zealand funded program that connects small and medium sized businesses in the Pacific to local advisory services. The BLP quality approved network of advisors offers accessible services for business growth.

As BLP Business Service Manager (BSM), you are responsible for providing BLP services to members and other SMEs. Services include;

1. The Diagnostic Tool
2. Business Health Check
3. Business Continuity Planner

Services (2) and (3) can be done by the SME on the BLP website <https://about.businesslinkpacific.com/>

- **Adaptation Grant**

Grants are coming up in June. You will be asked to verify business applications going on to the next stage. BLP will guide you on this.

- **With ILO CRM Database**

The Membership Database is considered an asset of the Chamber.

- **Website:**

MSO is responsible for updating the members tab in the SICCI Website.

Details are below.

2.2 SICCI Membership and Services Key Achievements in 2023

Key Hight Event for 2023 in partnership across SICCI Departments and stakeholders

2.2.1 Event: 12 Partnership Events

- **MSME Conference (Partnership with ISIA and SISBEC):** SUPPORTING THE GROWTH OF MSMEs IN SOLOMON ISLANDS CONFERENCE
- **PACIFIC INFRASTRUCTURE CONFERENCE** – Developing Sustainable Resilient Infrastructure in the Blue Pacific at Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.
- **Kiribati Trade Delegation Information Session dialogue** with the Private Sector on the 26th of July 2023.
- **SCALE's International Study Tour** to the US activity under the SEGA/USAID program
- **Advisory Business Forum** October 25th 2023
- **FFA-SICCI Renumeration Survey** January 2024 Final Phase
- **Directorship Training 2023**
- **RSIPF/SICCI MoU** Executive Working Group BA5
- **META Phase 2 Campaign Launch** (Focus women in Business)
- **Solomon Breweries** (30th Anniversary)



- Australian Solomon Islands Business Forum (ASIBF) in April
- Partnership with ISIA. SIWIBA and SICCI supported by ADB: The Solomon Islands Women in Executive Leadership training which held 2 cohorts.

2.2.2 Business Surveys: 5

- 2022 Business Confidence Survey
- Business Survey- Earthquake Report
- Business Survey on Roads and Power
- 2023 Business confidence Survey
- Agri-Business sector survey of Power Outage impacts on Businesses

2.2.3 BA5 Events: 16 BA5 Events

- Welcome Back BA5 hosted by SICCI
HPH - Fri 20/01/2023
- SINU BA5 - SICCI and SINU co- hosted BA5 for members, presentations by SINU Vice Chancellor Dr Transform Aqorau on his vision for the University. 60 in attendance.
- DMU 2023 Domestic Bond Issuance Awareness BA5 hosted by SIG/SICCI Mendana Hotel - Fri 10/02/2023
- PTAFE BA5 Mendana Hotel - Fri 10/03/2023
- SIEC BA5 Mendana Hotel - Fri 03/03/2023
- SINU BA5 Lokol Fusion Cafe - Fri 14/04/2023
- GOC BA5 - GOC provided general games updated, shared Pacific games video presentation, SOL2023 workforce information, 107 in attendance. SPRED Information session - SICCI and SPREP co- hosted Information session for members, presentations by Gabriella and her team. 30 in attendance.
- Ministry of Environment should do a plastic regulation
- ASIBF - The 12th Australian Solomon Islands Business Forum was held on 18 and 19 April 2023 at the Brisbane Convention Centre. The event brought together key government and business representatives from Australia and Solomon Islands to hear and discuss information on current issues relating to doing business in Solomon Islands.
- Credit Corporation BA5-SICCI and Credit Corp co-hosted the BA5 event. Credit Corp Country Manager Ronald Vikrash & his staff Walter Waneoroa- Business Development Officer do the presentation on their new products. 50 members attend
- ADB, SICCI, SIWIBA & ISIA BA5 - Senior Executive Women's Training Presentation & Intro of New CEO Credit Corporation BA5
HPH - Ahara Conference room - Fri 09/06/2023
- Sol2023 Games Organizing Committee BA5 - Friday 28 April
- SI Senior Executive Women in Leadership Program BA5
HP - Fri 14/07/2023
- PLASTIC BAN/WESTERN PROVINCE BA5
HPH - Fri 21/07/2023
- SI SEWLP BA5/Awards Ceremony
HPH - Fri 29/09/2023
- RSIPF OUTREACH BA5 - Fri 29/09/2023

SICCI Strategy 2019 – 2023 in the area of advocacy aimed to bring awareness and drive policy changes through dialogue and roundtables discussions around issues affecting its members and in turn the wider business community. It strives to maximise opportunities for members and is delivered through positions informed by research. 2023, has seen the onboarding of Road and Power issues that have greatly impacted businesses together with Tax reforms and the review of the Solomon Power Act. With the limitation in resources especially in manpower to conduct research, advocacy does its research through surveys and in partnership with organisations and the Solomon Islands Government (SIG). In the Climate Change space, SICCI has been able to contribute to

- Climate Change Policy: Policy Framework
- Solomon Islands Long Term Low Emissions Development

Strategy (LEDS)

- Carbon Trading Policy
- GEF - LDCF Workshop in Solomon Islands
- Plastic Technical Working Committee

3.1 ADVOCACY MANAGES:

3.1.1 SICCI 3 Industrial Working Groups

- Manufacturing Industry Working Group (MIW),
- Building Construction Industry Working Group (BCIWG)
- Small Medium Industry Working Group (SMEIWG)

3.1.2 2 MoU Advisory Executive Working Committees.

- SICCI-SIG MoU Executive Advisory Working Committee
- SICCI-RSIPF MoU Executive Working Committee



3.2 SICCI Advocacy Key Achievements in 2023

KEY FOCUSED AREAS	EVENT OVERVIEW	OUTCOME
3 meeting for Manufacturing Industry Working Group (MIWG).	Monthly meeting of the MIWG to discuss issues and challenges impacting the growth of the manufacturing industries in the country. These were convened to enable members to discuss issues impacting the growth of manufacturing industries in the Solomon Islands and to decide on the recommendations to put forward to the government for consideration when implementing policies for the manufacturing industry in the Solomon Islands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2023 Manufacturing Symposium to bring together manufacturing industries, government ministries, and other stakeholders in one room to discuss issues impacting the manufacturing sector and possible solutions to implement in order to address these issues. ▪ Members-initiated roundtable discussions with IRD and ERU on tax obligation issues.
3 meetings for Building Construction Industry Working Group (BCIWG)	Meeting for BCIWG enabled members to discuss issues impacting the growth of building and construction practices in the Solomon Islands and to decide on recommendations to present to the government for consideration when implementing policies supporting the building and construction practices in the Solomon Islands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roundtable consultation with MID to gain further understanding on the status of the National Building Code. ▪ Members also organize Business After 5 (BA5) events with the Ministry of Environment to enable attendees to gain insights into how the Ministry conducts assessments, particularly for building and construction projects.

4 meetings for Small and Medium Enterprise Working Group (SMEWG) meeting	<p>Convened to facilitate discussion among members who possess SME-specific expertise and insights into what is essential for fostering a growth-enabling environment for their businesses. The aim was to address issues affecting SME growth and develop specific recommendations to be presented to the government for consideration when implementing policies supporting SMEs in the Solomon Islands.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Members invited the IRD Tax Education team from the meetings to provide tax compliance training for SICCI SMEs, aiming to enhance their understanding of their tax obligations. ▪ Members also held a roundtable consultation with MCILI to further understand the status of the MSME Bill. ▪ Members organized a roundtable consultation on the VAT Bill and the Income Tax Rewrite, aiming to help members understand how these bills will operate upon enactment.
4 meetings for RSIPF and SICCI Executive Working Group	<p>Purpose for RSIPF and SICCI to promote crime prevention initiative, share and exchange information on areas of mutual interest and build a strong relationship that will contribute to nation building, stability, employment opportunities and economic growth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Updates on an ongoing preparation of security outlook and communication strategy RSIPF will enforce to support businesses during SPG 2023. ▪ Security outlook for parliament sitting. ▪ Dialogue on Business Crimes and Crime Prevention Committee. ▪ Updates on travel advisory after opening of borders. ▪ Information on security outlook for upcoming National General Election.
2 meetings for SIG and SICCI Advisory Working Group.	<p>Organised for parties to dialogue on matters relating to develop public private partnership opportunities in Solomon Islands, SICCI to recommend policy redirection on areas of mutual interests, recommend legislative initiatives for effecting identified partnership opportunities and advise the government on matters related to the development of private sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Private sector engagement on legislative Reforms (new legislation, legislative amendment and tax reform) ▪ Dialogue and advocacy on payment for businesses affected by the looting and burning down during the riot last November 2022. ▪ Dialogue on business affected during power load shedding and road construction and congestions. ▪ Updates, and presentation on launching of the 2023 Government Budget. ▪ Update, Engagement and consultation on Tina Hydro, VAT Bill, MSME Bill, Investment Bill, Electricity Bill and regulatory function of CEMA. ▪ Dialogue and awareness of increasing Labour Mobility Scheme and Trade agreements and other development areas government is planning to assist private sector. ▪ Submission of the Local Content Policy paper.
Manufacturing Symposium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The event aimed to share information and raise awareness about manufacturing in the Solomon Islands among stakeholders. ▪ Provide new information or updates, specifically related to manufacturing from SIG, etc., so that manufacturers can derive value from the symposium. ▪ Facilitate constructive presentations and Q&A sessions (avoiding it becoming a forum for complaints and finger-pointing) that may result in identifying at least three key priorities or actions for stakeholders to focus on. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Issues raised and identified from the symposium have been documented. The report containing recommendations has been submitted for action.

Conduct power load shedding survey and Road construction survey	The survey was conducted to gather insights from members on the impact of power load shedding and road constructions on businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey reports have been compiled and sent out to the members. Data collected has been used to support press release and position papers.
4 written submissions on; 1. Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2023 2. Honiara City Bill 2023 3. Electricity Amendment Bill 2023 4. Constitutional Amendment 5. Local Content Policy Paper	Written submissions were drafted to highlight concerns of the private sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written submissions have been submitted to the government. Actions have been taken by responsible ministries on the Bills to include points raised by the private sector.
SIG procurement training	This was hosted in partnership with the Procurement team within the Ministry of Finance and Treasury to educate members about the tender and bidding process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 29 SICCI members attended the training. Members are fully aware of the topics facilitated during the training.
Tax Compliance Training for SME members.	The IRD Tax Education team from the Inland Revenue Division has been invited to facilitate training for SME members on various types of taxes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members fully aware of their tax obligations under different types of taxes.

3.3 Key Hight Event for 2023

3.3.1 MSME Conference: SUPPORTING THE GROWTH OF MSMEs IN SOLOMON ISLANDS CONFERENCE

This event occurred on the 8th of December 2023, a mini conference was held by SICCI, SISBEC & ISIA who collaborated to host a conference to initiate dialogue between stakeholders including MSMEs/SMEs and the accounting profession to look at how MSMEs/SMEs can be effectively supported to ensure they grow sustainably.

3.3.2 Melanesia Sub-Regional Private Sector Climate Finance Workshop

Theme: Building resilience through strengthening private sector engagement in climate change finance and public-private partnership.

Hosted in 29 – 31 August 2023, Honiara, Solomon Islands
In partnership with In collaboration with the Department of Climate Change MECDM, Climate Finance Resilience Unit (CFRU) MOFT, SICCI and the Pacific Islands Forum through the PACRES Project is organizing a three-day workshop, bringing together representatives from governments, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu including regional and development partners and climate financing institutions will converge

at the Heritage Park Hotel and the private sector to Honiara from 29-31 August 2023.

3.3.3 PACIFIC INFRASTRUCTURE CONFERENCE – Developing Sustainable Resilient Infrastructure in the Blue Pacific at Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

This was held on the 25th to 27th of September 2023 in Brisbane where SICCI was invited to present at the APIBC Infrastructure Conference. Chamber representative was Mr Daniel Tucker Vice Chair to the SICCI Building Construction Industry Working Group on the topic: Connecting Contractors to Solomon Islands’ Labour Market Capability: President, Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

3.3.4 Publications

GCF Mapping of the Private Sector Digital PDF (available on SICCI website)

Mapping of the private sector PDF (available on SICCI website)
UNDP Solomon Islands Roadmap for Improving Access to Climate Finance and Public (available on SICCI website) Spending 2022-2027

Local Content Policy presented to SIG-SICCI Executive Advisory Committee for SIG to consider and take on board June 2023.
Manufacturing Symposium with SICCI

04

OVERVIEW OF EXPORT INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT (EIDO) 2023

To lead and drive SICCI's Export Industry agenda through the development of industry working groups into representative and sustainable industry bodies, and to assist in relevant activities to assist in export industry growth. The export industry focused on the agri-business sector, bringing together SMEs, Farmers, partner organisations such as PHAMA Plus and the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) to discuss and focus on areas that are affecting the growth, expansion and engagement of SMEs involved in the Agri-business Sector. One of the significant achievements that of EIDO was in partnership with US Aid in 2022-2023, bringing about the much-needed series of export trainings, 5 in total to local exporters in the agri-business sector to enhance awareness on matters pertaining to the export industry. This resulted in 6 SMEs export ready businesses being brought in a study tour to US visiting and forming networks with exporters in the

agri-business sector. From this tour it was identified that

4.1 EIDO MANAGES;

4.1.2 SICCI 3 Industrial Working Groups

- Cocoa Industry Working Group (CIWG),
- Coconut Industry Working Group (CIWG)
- Kava Industry Working Group (KIWG)

4.1.3 Partnership

- MAIWG with PHAMA Plus (Market Access Industry Working Group)
- MoU signed in 2023 with US SCALE
- SIG: MAL and CEMA
- Other donor organisations

4.2 SICCI EXPORT INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT (EIDO) KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023

KEY FOCUSED AREAS	EVENT OVERVIEW	OUTCOME
<p>Deliver significant advocacy and networking events, including the popular fortnightly</p> <p>Business After 5 (BA5) and its online equivalent, Back to Business (B2B), the post National Budget Analysis event, the Prime Minister's Breakfast, symposium and Biannual Business- Awards.).</p>	<p>SPC and PIFS Joint Kava Event in Fiji</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KIWG Chairman have been selected to attend on behalf of the KIWG Members also to do a presentation during the event concerning SI kava Industry. a summary report was provided to the Members upon Returning from the Event organized by PIFS - SPC in Fiji
<p>Host training courses for members and the broader business community, and roundtables for specific sectors.</p>	<p>Export Promotion Training Series # 2 - 3</p> <p>Series #2. A two days training was organized by USAID and SICCI, Topics covered includes: Market identification and Trade Negotiations.</p> <p>Series # 3 Topics Covered Includes: Developing Export Business Strategies and Technical Barriers to Trade.</p> <p>PHAMA Plus report on the Progress work done eg, HACCP and other updates</p> <p>2 days training on SPS, Shipping & Cargo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SICCI Agribusiness members have learnt the approach to identify potential markets regionally and internationally including approach to Trade Negotiations. ▪ Agribusiness Members have also Learnt the Technical approach to Developing Export Business Strategies including possible ways to mitigate same of the Barriers to Trade by conducting a swot analysis. ▪ HACCP: PHAMA Plus has supported four (4) companies (Kubonitu Holdings, 7 Grains Co. Ltd, Raphally Holdings Ltd, and Sol Kava) with their HACCP certification, including a local consultant who will be trained under PHAMA plus and HACCP Australia partnership to be HACCP certified consultants in the country. Pacer Plus agrees to support few KIWG activities in the next financial year as per Chairs reports. ▪ Exporters learn the appropriate approach to SPS shipping & Cargo procedures.



Represent the private sector on government committees, in working groups and when other opportunities for engagement arise.

- a. With the recently launched National Kava Standard and the formation of this newly established KIWG, the chairman conversant with all members about the importance of the KIWG Terms of Reference (TOR) to be drafted and approved by members.
- b. Meeting Minutes from the Last Meeting was discussed.
- 2. Discussed Trade Opportunity and Investment opportunity in SI.
- 3. Malaita Agribusiness Members are encouraged to Register with SICCI.
- 5. IEP Project: focus on the cocoa sector and how the Project can add value to the initiatives on the ground. The project is facilitated / implemented by UNDP Under the IEP Project.
- 1. Australia Solomon Islands Business Forum
- 2. International Food Agriculture Development consultation, IFAD.
- 3. MSG Green Trade Project SI Workshop.
- 4. Pacer Plus engagement.
- 1. Australia Solomon Islands Business Forum.
- 2. International Food Agriculture Development consultation, IFAD.
- 3. MSG Green Trade Project SI Workshop.
- 4. Pacer Plus engagement.
- a. PHAMA Plus IWG TOR to be reviewed by Kava Chair /Phama plus members develop one for KIWG.
- b. Develop a draft Kava Plan 2023. Semi from PHAMA Plus to go through a planning with the KIWG to develop a firm kava industry plan.
- Further to the outcome of the PTI Europe meeting, Trade Commissioner and her Team is planning a trip to Honiara to visit KPSI, Solagro, Soltuna MCILI and Industry working group Chairs.
- New Agribusiness in Malaita have Register their membership with SICCI.
- Cocoa Industry Working Group Members, provide information around the following areas:
 - a). volume of export, quality assurance, engaging support from gov't on areas of support such as working capital, commercialising of cocoa
 - b). Attempts shall be made to better understanding the work of the existing WG and on how to align with the proposed platform. This will be taken into account during the establishment and preparation of the IEP project collective action plan.
- Provide secretarial Support during the event along with the PIFs secretariat and Agribusiness members. IFAD Concept Note Discussion meeting.
- Participate in a National Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) and provide input in a report on the Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) assessment of Kava Value Chain in Solomon Islands.
- 4. EXPORT PRODUCT MAPPING

Consider supporting the Ministry of Commerce Industry Labour and Immigration to host a National Investment Summit.

1. SICCI Agribusiness (Exporters) List was sent To MCILI Trade department for future support.

2. SICCI provides list of Registered Exporters to Biosecurity Solomon Islands.

Arrange PTI Europe Trade Commissioners meetings with MCILI Trade and Marketing team, MFAET PS and Commissioner, KPSI, Sol Agro, 'Cathliro', SOL NONI Followed by a Cocoa Visit to Tenu cocoa farmers.

Facilitate contacts details of our Copra millers to PTI Australia Trade Commissioner.

■ MCILI through marketing and Export Promotion Department have announce the funding allocation for Exporter Ready Businesses, particularly support towards sending consignments. Export is urge to show their Export Contracts to Director Trade Marketing and Export promotion Dept.

■ A three-day electronic phytosanitary certification (ephyto) refresher Training will be organized /facilitated by Pacer Plus for Bio security SI and Local Exporters, proposed date March 2023.

■ Outcome of the Meeting: SICCI and SIG to plan a cocoa festival next year which will be funded by International Trade Centre and having European Chocolate makers to attend Aswell as an opportunity for Sol Cocoa Sector to promote and make positive business connections with European cocoa buyers. Tentative date for the event is around April Next year 2023. Other Agenda discussed was the support for Organic certification for our local Cocoa Exporters. Also, Through SICCI's exceptional assistance and research have resulted to highly productive meetings. It is envisaged that Solomon Islands have opportunities in the European Market. Also, KPSI and Soltuna are the qualified recipients to attend the Vanuga Trade Show in Europe in October this year.

■ Potential Chinses Market for our Sawn Timber was discussed including the Export Standards and demand for certain timber species.

4.3 KEY HIGHT EVENT FOR 2023

4.3.1 MSME Conference: SUPPORTING THE GROWTH OF MSMEs IN SOLOMON ISLANDS CONFERENCE

This event occurred on the 8th of December 2023, a mini conference was held by SICCI, SISBEC & ISIA who collaborated to host a conference to initiate dialogue between stakeholders including MSMEs/SMEs and the accounting profession to look at how MSMEs/SMEs can be effectively supported to ensure they grow sustainably.

4.3.2 PACIFIC INFRASTRUCTURE CONFERENCE – Developing Sustainable Resilient Infrastructure in the Blue Pacific at Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

This was held on the 25th to 27th of September 2023 in Brisbane where SICCI was invited to present at the APIBC Infra-

structure Conference. Chamber representative was Mr Daniel Tucker Vice Chair to the SICCI Building Construction Industry Working Group on the topic: **Connecting Contractors to Solomon Islands' Labour Market Capability:** President, Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Represented SICCI in support to SICCI Rep and did awareness on SICCI at the given Booth.

4.3.32 Kiribati Trade Delegation Information Session dialogue with the Private Sector on the 26th of July 2023.

Dialogue was with Kiribati Government representatives (Kiribati and Solomon Islands) and Kiribati Chamber of Commerce and Industry to better facilitate trade between Solomon Islands and Kiribati as biosecurity regulations negotiated by both countries had been approved for export of frozen products.

In 2023, Media and Communications for SICCI had seen it gradually growing SICCI presence across the different departments of SICCI since its vacancy for 1 year 5 months. Media and Communication department reports in line with SICCI's strategic Plan and works in collaboration across the SICCI departments. The Media and Communication department has strived to ensure SICCI's presence in the different media avenues such as Radio, social media, SICCI Website and Print.

Media & Communications Manages

- Manage and implement a media and communication strategy.
- Design, produce and coordinate the distribution of public relations materials such as media across a variety of media outlets.
- Build and maintain good working relationships and contact with stakeholders to progress SICCI's role in supporting the private sector.
- Identify target audiences and prepare suitable communication to engage these audiences to maintain and build membership.
- Develop marketing materials for SICCI branding initiatives.
- Coordinate events and activities for members in collaboration with membership and advocacy officer.
- Ensure website content is up to date.
- Respond to enquiries from the public via emails, face to face or website in a timely manner.

SICCI Media & Communications Key Achievements in 2023

The Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) Media and Communication Department experienced a vacancy in the first quarter of 2023. Recruitment efforts were successfully completed in May, leading to the appointment of an Interim Media and Communication Officer who gradually integrated into the team.

During the reporting period, the Media and Communication Department demonstrated significant productivity and engagement across various platforms. A total of 42 articles and briefs were authored and published on the SICCI website, Facebook page, and mainstream media outlets. These publications covered a range of topics, including industry updates, advocacy initiatives, and business insights, contributing to a more informed public discourse on economic matters.

Additionally, the SICCI Facebook page served as a vibrant hub of communication, hosting 78 notices, 15 videos, and 2 radio programs. These multimedia efforts enhanced outreach and



engagement with stakeholders, fostering greater awareness of SICCI's activities and promoting dialogue on key economic and business issues.

The concerted efforts of the Media and Communication Department resulted in a notable increase in online engagement and audience reach. The publication of diverse content formats, including articles, videos, and radio programs, facilitated broader dissemination of SICCI's messages and initiatives. Furthermore, the department's strategic use of social media platforms, particularly Facebook, effectively amplified SICCI's presence and contributed to building stronger connections with stakeholders and the public.

The first quarter of 2023 marked a period of revitalization and productivity for the SICCI Media and Communication Department. Through a combination of content creation, multimedia engagement, and strategic communication efforts, the department successfully advanced SICCI's mission of promoting economic development, advocacy, and industry dialogue.

This report reflects the department's commitment to excellence in communication and its valuable contributions to fostering a conducive business environment and informed public discourse in the Solomon Islands.

Performance

Daily Cumulative ⓘ

Reach ⓘ 31K ↑ 189%	Content interactions ⓘ 526 ↑ 55.6%	Followers ⓘ <small>Lifetime</small> 12.2K	Link clicks ⓘ 1 ↓ 97.6%
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Reach breakdown

Total
30,980 ↑ 189%

From organic
30,885 ↑ 188.9%

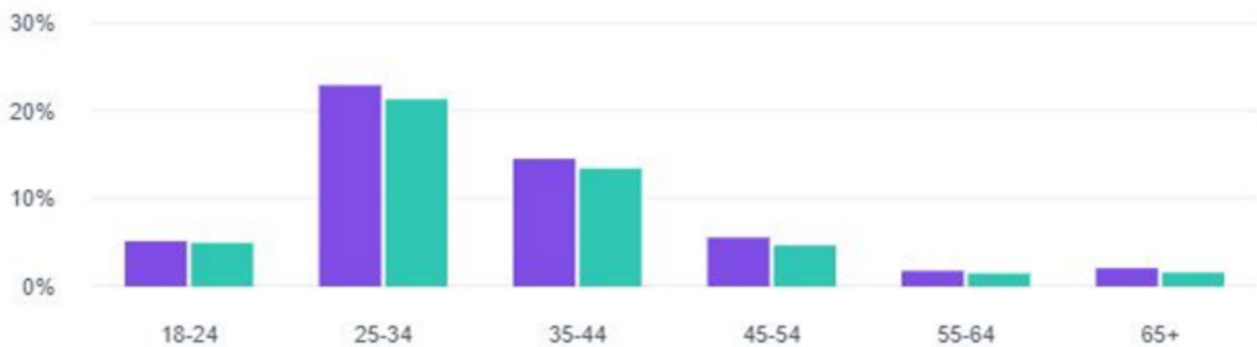
From ads
0 0%

Audience

12,205 Facebook followers

Age and Gender

Men 52.30%
 Women 47.70%





SICCI

SOLOMON ISLANDS CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY