



Application Form

Australia – Solomon Islands Business Forum and SME visit side program

BACKGROUND

The Australian Government in partnership with the Solomon Islands Government and the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) is supporting a small delegation of Solomon Islands small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to participate in the Australia – Solomon Islands Business Forum on 18-19 April and join a specially developed side program on 20-21 April for Solomon Islands SMEs to meet Australian partners.

The business forum is an annual event but has not been held since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2023 Business Forum is an opportunity for business from Solomon Islands and Australia to meet and discuss the opportunities in both countries.

In addition to the business forum, we will also provide a side program for the participants to visit Australian SMEs. There will be two options as part of this program (1) on agribusiness and (2) on tourism. Those selected for sponsorship will have their travel, accommodation, forum tickets and per diems funded for both the Business Forum and the Side Program.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply, applicants must:

- Represent a business (or multiple businesses) which is a member of the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI)
- Be engaged in international trade, investment or tourism
- Consider themselves as a small and medium sized enterprise (SMEs) and therefore not ordinarily able to finance attendance at the business forum
- Hold a valid passport (with at least 9 months before expiry), or be able to apply for and obtain an expedited passport in order to travel by 17 April
- Be able to obtain an appropriate visa for Australia (see Australian Home Affairs website). Note: the Australian High Commission is not able to assist participants with obtaining a visa for this program.
- Be available from at least 17 April to 22 April in order to attend the business forum and participate in the side events
- Willing to participate in a small number of pre- and post- trip activities for briefing and promote the activity in Solomon Islands.

Applicants will be assessed by the Australian High Commission, Solomon Islands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade (MFAET) and SICCI. We will be looking for men and women participants who can represent various sectors such as agribusiness, tourism, forestry and timber, fisheries and manufacturing.



To apply, please email **services@solomonchamber.com.sb** with all of the below information:

YOUR DETAILS:

Please provide the below details of you and your business(es):

Last Name:

First Name:

Name of your business(es):

Position in your business(es):

Sector:

Business website or Social Media account links:

SICCI Membership Category: *1-9 Employees (\$550) 10-19, Employees (\$1,600) 20-49 Employees (\$3,300))

Passport Number:

Passport Expiry Date:

APPLICATION:

In order to be assessed, we will need all the following information:

1. How long have you been involved in the business(es)? If in different roles, please list.
2. Please describe what your business does, and your role in the business's success (200 words or less)?
3. Please provide an approximate annual turnover (gross income) for your business (please indicate the year/period, and whether your business/this figure was negatively affected by COVID19)
4. Does your business engage in international trade? Or international promotion activities?
5. Have you attended an international business forum, expo or trade fair before? If yes, please list.
6. Has your business been showcased at any international expo before? If yes, please list.
7. Have you attended any training on international business or trade promotion? If yes, please list.
8. How would attendance at the business forum and participation in the side programs support your business (200 words or less)?

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

With your application please attach:

- Copy of your passport (or if you don't have one, please indicate willingness to get an expedited passport – the program will reimburse costs for selected participants)
- Supporting letter from your employer for you to attend the forum and represent the business (if you are not the business owner)