



CID Talk, Dr Frank Rijsberman

Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)

GGGI in the Pacific

Thursday 21 June, 2018

Our discussion with Dr Rijsberman touched on subjects that are extremely important for NZ as a Pacific nation, including climate change, sustainable development and the notion of the **quality** of economic growth.

[GGGI](#) as an organisation works through supporting partner governments to create a policy environment that enables green growth by embedding GGGI staff in government departments. They then implement pilot projects and other initiatives to attract finance for green growth initiatives to go to scale. Where there are obstacles to private sector investments, for example policy barriers, they work to reduce these. GGGI then help “unlock finance to implement green policies”. There are currently 28 member countries, including Fiji, Kiribati, PNG and Vanuatu and a further 20 on the path to joining, including FSM, Palau, the Solomon Islands and Tonga. Member countries contribute to the GGGI work programme and fund special-interest projects, for example Norway supports REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) projects in Indonesia.

GGGI focusses on four priority areas: sustainable energy; green cities; water and sanitation; and sustainable landscapes (working in agriculture and forestry sectors, for example). They are also focussing on young entrepreneurs, developing green-business capacity and currently holding a [“greenpreneur” business plan competition](#).

In Pacific island nations, the reality is that large grants (for example through the Green Climate Fund) aren't always suitable for community-level projects. In Vanuatu, GGGI have helped the government establish a “National Green Energy Fund” that can receive large grants and disburse small grants for locally-led initiatives. This has allowed community level solar lighting as well as solar-powered freezers to support catering in rural tourism bungalows. Other examples include solar-powered water pumps and (in line with a global re-think of food systems) agricultural development that adds variety and nutrition to local diets, creating positive health outcomes.

GGGI have been in New Zealand this week, meeting with MFAT and others about the types of projects that could be supported in the Pacific. Regionally for example, there is potential to improve energy efficiency in green tourism, food processing and possibly breweries. They also support less-developed-countries in “climate diplomacy” in order that they may engage in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

In the presentation, Dr Rijsberman also explained that GGGI is interested in expanding partnerships and they are looking for opportunities to partner with NGOs in the Pacific. In other countries, civil society have facilitated green growth by raising public awareness about health and environmental issues (ie air quality), creating demand for leadership and change at the political level.

For more details, please view Dr Rijsberman's presentation [here](#).