

PRESS RELEASE



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Small Islands: Sustained Complexity?

The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy** are hosting an international conference entitled *Development on Small Islands: What does a complexity approach have to offer?* The Prime Minister of Tonga, Lord Tu'ivakano, will deliver a keynote address, followed by Oxfam Senior Strategic Adviser, Duncan Green.

The conference provides a platform to consider the value of complexity-aware approaches to tackling development challenges on Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The nonlinear nature of development processes and requires public services to deal with high complexity, acknowledging that there are no simple answers, even in a small island context.

This year the United Nations are convening the *Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States* (www.sids2014.org) focused on this group of countries that remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities. Complex adaptive systems thinking potentially offers decision-makers an approach that offers more sustainable responses to development challenges.

This is the first such conference organized jointly by the UNDP Global Centre for Public Service Excellence and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

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Event Details

Tuesday, 29 April 2014, 1:30pm – 5:30pm

Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Oei Tiong Ham Building, 469C Bukit Timah Road, Singapore 259772

Participation: open to the public, registration required as seats are limited

Info: <http://bit.ly/SIDS-Conf>

Speakers (see attached list for short biographies)

- **The Honourable Lord Tu'ivakano**, Prime Minister, Kingdom of Tonga
- **'Aholotu Palu**, Chief Secretary and Secretary to Cabinet, Kingdom of Tonga
- **Michelle Gyles-McDonnough**, Resident Representative, UNDP Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei
- **Vanessa Chan**, Director General, International Organisations Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Max Everest-Phillips**, Director, UNDP Global Centre for Public Service Excellence
- **Peter Batchelor**, Regional Manager, UNDP Pacific Centre
- **Duncan Green**, Senior Strategic Adviser, Oxfam Great Britain
- **Eduardo Araral** (Chair), Assistant Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
- **Harold Lee**, Deputy Director, Technical Cooperation Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

For further information please contact:

Mr. James Obata, Communications Specialist, UNDP Global Centre for Public Service Excellence

Mobile: +65 96553984 / email : comms.sg@undp.org

or

Ms. Francesca Tañada, Assistant Manager – External Affairs, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

Tel : +65-6516 6876 / email : francesca.tanada@nus.edu.sg

