



CHINA NAVIGATION

New-generation of low-carbon ships for the Pacific region

The project will design, build and trial a low-carbon, low-cost, low-technology Project Ship for use in the PICT region



“

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Simon Bennett

General Manager, Sustainable Development at CNCo

The University of the South Pacific (USP) in Fiji and Republic of Marshall Islands and The China Navigation Company (CNCo) – Swire Shipping have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to;

- conduct feasibility studies for the design and costs, then
- build a pilot vessel, and then
- operate the pilot vessel for up to two years to prove its viability

for a new generation of ships for the Pacific Island Communities and Territories (PICT).

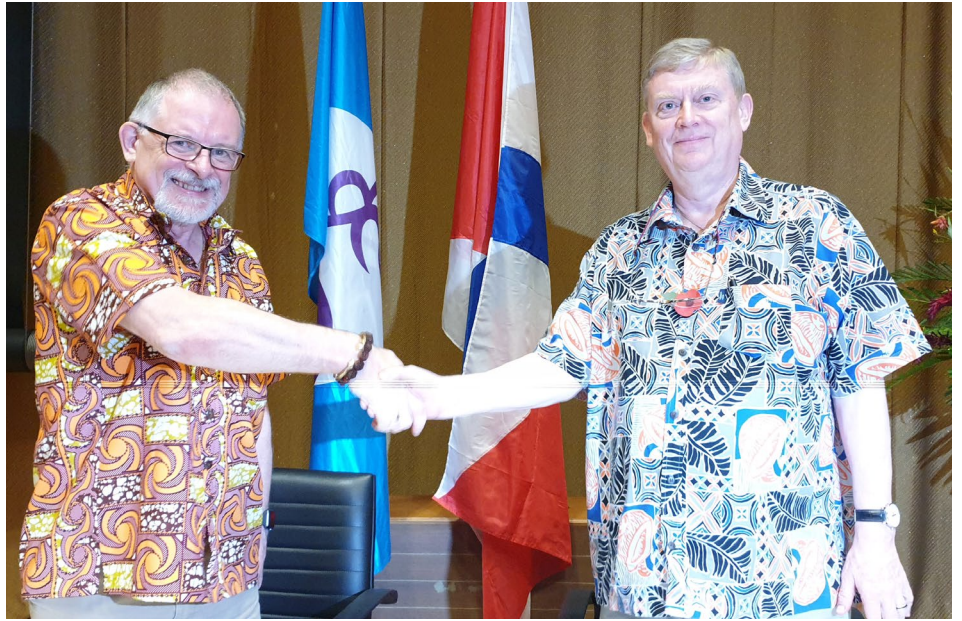
Project Cerulean aims to develop a new class of small cargo freighter, which, once proven to be commercially viable to operate, can be scaled up in numbers to provide a cost-effective solution for

any currently marginalised communities and / or those with limited or no cargo handling infrastructure in the PICT. In the immediate term, the project will design, build and trial a low-carbon, low-cost, low-technology Project Ship to service the PICT in partnership with the USP's Micronesian Centre for Sustainable Transport (MCST) which is committed to developing low carbon sea transport.

The PICT are almost wholly reliant on sea transport for essential imports, exports and other vital transfer of people and goods. Sea transport, especially at the domestic level, has always presented a particularly difficult issue for PICT to find long-term, sustainable, cost-viable solutions with low (or better, zero!) fossil fuel energy costs / GHG emissions.



Photo right:
Professor Derrick Armstrong (left), Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Innovation and International at USP with Simon Bennett, General Manager, Sustainable Development at CNCo during MOU signing ceremony



Lack of appropriate and viable transport is a major barrier to developing economies and their social service delivery, especially for remote Maritime Provinces in the Pacific. Many routes are uneconomic using conventional shipping solutions and require increasingly high government subsidies for them to be maintained.

CNCo has budgeted an initial investment of around USD2.5 million to design, build and operate a pilot low-cost, low-carbon, low-tech freighter, intended to be constructed in a suitable South Pacific shipyard, thus also building (reviving) local capacity and expertise.

“We want to raise economic capacity in the South Pacific as the vessel will be able to service the outlying communities in the region, which are not currently on main cargo shipping line routes. This really is our way of giving back to the community as we will be building the freighter specially for the South Pacific,” said Mr Simon Bennett, General Manager, Sustainable Development at CNCo.

Professor Derrick Armstrong, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Innovation and International, at USP said that “working in collaboration with the private sector is a critical way for us to go and the University is very pleased and proud to be able to part of this collaboration with Swire Shipping”.



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Professor Derrick Armstrong
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Research, Innovation and International,
The University of the South Pacific

Relevant Sustainable Development Goal

