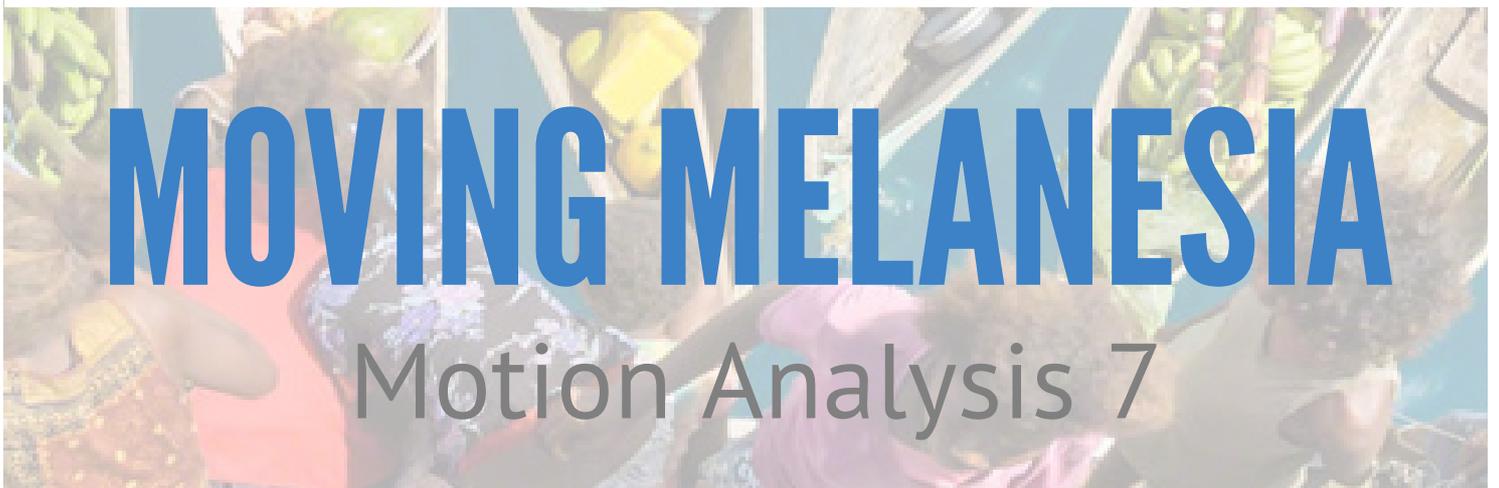




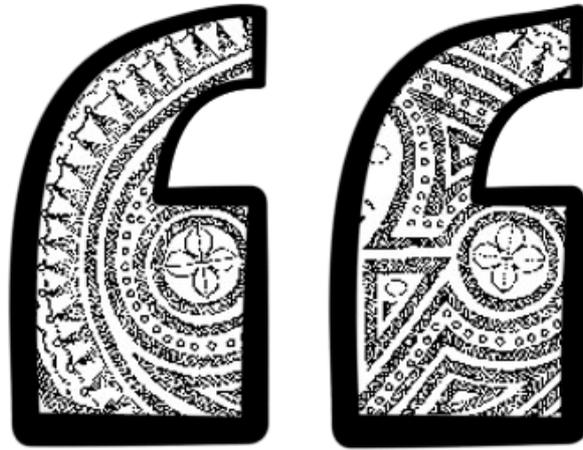
GS
MELANESIAN SCHOOL
DEBATE



MOVING MELANESIA

Motion Analysis 7





MELANESIAN SCHOOL DEBATE

MOTION:

MELANESIA MUST GLOBALIZE TO SUCCEED



**Pacific Institute
of Public Policy**

MOVING MELANESIA, Debate Preparation 7 - GRAND FINAL

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The Pacific Institute of Public Policy is the leading independent, non partisan think tank serving the Pacific islands region. We exist to stimulate and support informed and inclusive policy debate in and about the Pacific island countries

Our Motion Analysis are short papers that dissect and further inform debate motions that have been put forward in the Melanesian School Debate 2015.

The Melanesian School Debate is and is an annual event bringing the best and the brightest of Melanesian Youth together to debate pressing policy issues affecting our region.

This year's event is hosted by the Pacific Institute of Public Policy, in association with the Vanuatu Ministry of Education in Port Vila, November 2015

Moving Melanesia

THE WORLD is globalizing rapidly. Never before in history have we seen the world more interconnected as technology, transport and information cross borders at will. Can we get the benefits of globalisation without the negative impacts? More importantly, how do we define success for our region? Is globalisation the key?

There are many issues that come with a rapidly globalizing world; open markets, refugees, transnational crime, tourism, conflict, foreign investment, terrorism, labor migration, the internet, new technology, remittances and cyber crime. For Melanesia, we are only just starting to feel the effects of a more interconnected global community. Should we pursue this, and look to further engage in global affairs?

Our isolation does have its benefits. Some of the great global issues of today are yet to hit Melanesia's shores. Our introverted nature has kept us far from global security issues, safe from terrorism and huge influxes of refugees that have caused turmoil for some of our closest neighbours. During the global financial crisis of 2007/08, the economies of Melanesia were relatively unaffected compared to the industrialized countries. While linked economies around the world sunk to devastating lows, Melanesia's heightened dependence on the *Kastom* economy kept us afloat.

If we look to open our trade networks, reducing import taxes and joining multilateral trade agreements, we are ultimately signing up to ride the wave of the international economy - its peaks and troughs. Global investment in our small countries has the ability to transform our economies. But relying on global demand can also be risky. We have seen how global prices can drastically influence national revenue, with the drop of oil and gas wreaking havoc for PNG's budget in 2015.

Regional agreements can open new doors to overseas markets, boosting internal production and national revenue. But by encouraging the import of foreign goods, we also place pressure on our local markets, with new powerful incoming competition. Labour migration is also a major factor, as domestic employment opportunities dwindle. Recently, Fiji has joined other Pacific countries as a remittance economy, with thousands of its citizens

working overseas, and sending the profits back home.

For our future too, it is important to consider our borders and their fluidity. If climate change continues on its current path, climate refugees will indeed become a reality. If we want to look at supporting incoming refugees from other Pacific islands, or even re-homing our own citizens overseas we need to start looking at global agreements. Access to new technology could also play a major role in prevention and management of climate change related events, providing new opportunities in renewable energy, and natural disaster detection. More so, opening borders through simplified visa process has the ability to increase numbers in tourism, foreign business and investment. On the other hand, it could also see a spike in transnational crime, or support foreign investors coming to our countries only to exploit our natural resources.

Finally, Melanesian countries are aware of how globalisation can negatively impact on those timeless *kastom* values and traditions that are such a part of our identity. Will we lose our unique identity and way of life in the rush to become global citizens? The internet has already had a dramatic impact for our urban communities. Foreign investment and aid is changing our national landscapes. What further changes could eventuate if we pursue a modern life style? Will they be to the benefit, or detriment to life in Melanesia?

Key Terms to Define

DECONSTRUCTING THE MOTION will ensure you are clear in the parameters of your debate. By understanding and analyzing each term you can gain a deeper understanding of the underlying issues.

TERMS to deconstruct

MUST: does this mean this is the only option for success? if not what are the other alternatives?

GLOBALIZE: What stage are we currently at? How globalised are we? What would it mean to further globalise? How would we achieve this? What current elements of the modern world are beneficial to us? What are detrimental? Which aspects would be the most influential to us?

SUCCEED: What is success in Melanesia? It is important how this is defined. Is success development and modernisation, improving access to health, education and employment? Or is success linked to maintaining kastom and tradition?

CONCEPTS to research

Aid and development Free Trade
Asian Development Bank
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Employment Migration
Impacts on local business remittances New sustainable technology
PACER PLUS Technology and Social Media
Effects on Kastom and Tradition Terrorism
Political and climate Refugees International Monetary Fund World Bank
Global Financial Crisis Trans Pacific Trade Agreement
Foreign Investment

Essential Reading

IN DEPTH RESEARCH IS CRUCIAL to constructing a convincing and accurate argument. Be creative and use different methods to collect your research material. Talk to organisations, find case studies in the newspaper, look up books or search through journal articles online.

REMEMBER! All sources should be as recent as possible. Try not to use sources older than 5 years - from 2010-2015 is best! Here are a few to get you started:

Pacific Institute of Public Policy, 'Net Benefits' *Discussion Paper 20*, April 2012
<http://pacificpolicy.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/2/files/2012/04/DP20.pdf>

S.Firth, 'Globalisation and Governance in the Pacific Islands' *Australia National University Epress* 2006
<http://press.anu.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/globalgov-whole.pdf>

Global Education 'Responding to Globalisation' *Chapter 2, Pacific Neighbours: Understanding the Pacific Islands*, 2009 http://www.globaleducation.edu.au/verve/resources/pacificneighbours_chapter2.pdf



DEBATE IT!

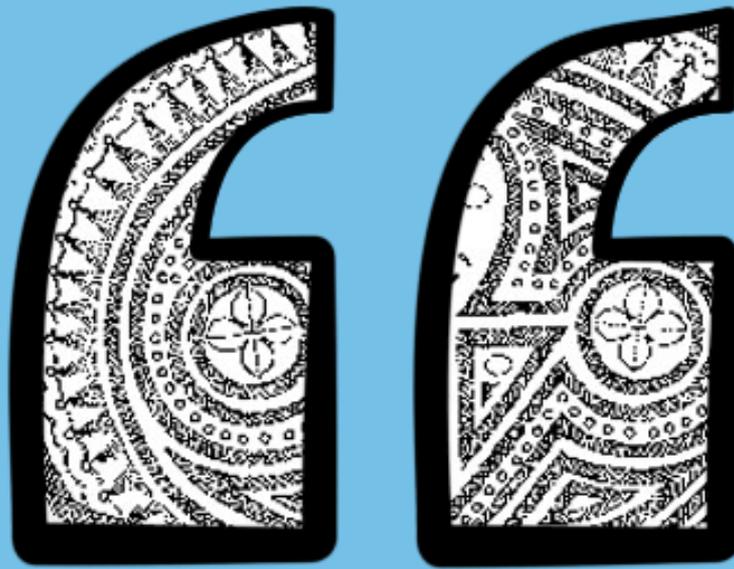
AFFIRMATIVE

- Melanesian countries are not able to stand up financially without external support. They rely heavily on foreign aid and international business to bolster economies. Rapidly expanding urban centres are putting increasing pressure on governments to provide service delivery to those who no longer have access to subsistence lifestyles. Without external business investments and aid to support government revenue, poverty would certainly increase in urban cities. In terms of emergency or disaster, Melanesian governments do not have the resources or finance to support their citizens, which was evident in the aftermath of Cyclone Pam and now the on going effects of El Nino. Therefore it is crucial to maintain and further enhance relationships with international partners to ensure all citizens are protected and afforded a good standard of living.
- Globalisation can bring new means of adaptability and resilience. New technology in sustainable living and disaster prevention or preparation can provide new opportunities to Pacific communities. Around the region solar panels are providing electricity to even the most remote communities, reducing reliance on government services and non-renewables. Some argue that the small number of fatalities from the devastating Cyclone Pam was due to a phone messaging system that updated citizens throughout Vanuatu of the cyclone's path. This new technology was able to help people prepare, and therefore stay safe. Similarly for Kiribati, designs have been drawn up with the assistance of Japan to create a 'floating city' should climate change continue to render its land inhabitable. These kinds of technology have the ability to minimise the effects of climate change and provide future options for sustainable Melanesian communities.
- Migration is key to Melanesia, and has always been a way of life in the Pacific. Opening our borders, and promoting migration can lead to new opportunities in the workforce as well as skills training. It can provide Melanesians with more pathways to high levels of education at international universities, increasing the capacity and skills of our own workforce. It can provide access to more jobs, with programs such as the season workers program in Australia and New Zealand, overseas sporting contracts, or even through the United Nations as a Peacekeeper. Most recently Fiji has joined Tonga and Samoa a remittance economy, with a great percentage of national income coming from workers sending income earned overseas back home. This income relieves pressure on booming urban cities and unemployment rates, helping more families to survive economically and maintain a good standard of living.
- Fluid borders, created through a deregulation of visa conditions can also have great benefit, increasing tourism, business investment and even pathways for future refugees who have lost their homes either through conflict or climate change. For us Melanesians this could be critical in the future, as climate change alters our traditional landscapes and climate migration becomes a reality.
- Access to the phones and the internet can have huge benefits, generating more opportunities in education, local and international business markets, communication and even the promotion and protection of culture. The Internet can assist in the preservation and sharing of traditions, language and other aspects of *kastom*. It can also help in the dissemination of information, helping to educate people on areas including environment protection, health and even good governance.

DEBATE IT!

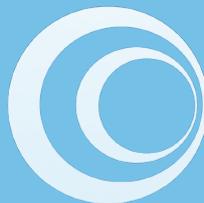
NEGATIVE

- In all Melanesian countries a large percentage of the population live in rural communities, and rely on the *kastom economy*. They are supported through sustainable subsistence practises that have been used by Melanesians for centuries to support themselves and maintain a good standard of living. This reliance on the traditional economy insulated Melanesia during the Global Financial Crisis, where other industrialized countries suffered. Earlier this year the downturn of the price of oil and gas had devastating repercussions for Papua New Guinea's income and spending projections. This reliance on international exports and global economies can have dire consequences for small Pacific economies that do not have a safety net to fall back on. Similarly, international aid is often political and therefore can be unstable. Recently a change in government in Australia saw a huge percentage of the aid budget stripped. This was felt heavily by organisations and institutions around Melanesia as projects were cut and budgets slashed. Melanesia should look internally and focus on extending sustainable, traditional economic methods, instead of depending on unreliable and uncertain international support.
- International free trade agreements are not necessarily in Melanesia's best interest. Often free trade opens the door to large corporations, with the ability to undermine local produce with imported alternatives. These agreements are more than often developed and dominated by the global powers of the world; they were not designed with Melanesia's interest at heart. They have the ability to impact working conditions and wages, as local companies fight to keep up with multinational corporations. Similarly, open trade and migration agreements can see high levels of foreigners arriving in Melanesia, reducing employment opportunities for locals, with profits not necessarily staying within the country.
- Opening borders and encouraging foreign investment can open the door to exploitation. Corruption and low capacity in law enforcement reduce Melanesia's ability to monitor business ventures on land or at sea. Already we have seen Asian fishing fleets - both legal and illegal - exceeding quotas, putting huge strain on Melanesia's fish stocks. Foreign investment in logging in Solomon Islands has now lead to massive deforestation and land degradation. Although a highly productive revenue earner for the Solomons, the logging industry is dominated by foreign companies based in Asia. Of all those involved in the industry, the resource owners receive the least benefit and have the least control. The same can be said for many of the mines in Papua New Guinea. This kind of investment is a dangerous path that can be quickly taken out of Melanesian hands, and overpowered by huge multinational corporations with little interest in the preservation of the traditional environment or culture.
- Globalisation is the melding of culture, language and way of life. By reaching out to the world, Melanesians will feel the pull to modernize and adapt to global norms. Access to new markets and technology has the ability to alter traditional lifestyles, pulling more people towards urban centres in hope of jobs and new economic opportunity. In this, there is danger that Melanesian tradition and culture will be lost, as language and lifestyle meld to represent a more modern style of living. Loosing what is unique to Melanesia, a region with some of the greatest diversity in language and oldest upheld traditions and *kastom* would be devastating for the region and it's citizens.



MELANESIAN SCHOOL DEBATE

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