



OFC

ACTIVITY REPORT 2015



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FOREWORD BY THE OFC PRESIDENT

Dear Members,
Dear Friends of Football,

Welcome to the OFC Activity Report for 2015; the first of four years in this new cycle and the one in which we set the agenda for the term ahead.

Each activity we offer, every competition we hold, are themselves an example of the tireless work we are doing in pursuit of our mission to grow the game, create pathways and build better communities.

Here in the Pacific we are, and remain, An Ocean of Solidarity and together we have achieved a great deal of things over the past 12 months.

From historic successes on the global stage, to the introduction of the latest stage in our regional coaching pathway, the hard work of those dedicated to the development of football from Tahiti to New Zealand and everywhere in between has been immeasurable.

While we have accomplished many things across the board, there remains plenty more to be done.

We look forward to taking the game to even greater heights in 2016, to add further to OFC's reputation as a Confederation on the rise both on and off the pitch, and to help rebuild confidence in the beautiful game throughout the Pacific and further afield.

Yours in football,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'David Chung'.

David Chung,
OFC President
PNGFA President
FIFA Vice-President



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

It was a swift and determined start to 2015 for the Oceania Football Confederation as the 23rd OFC Ordinary Congress was held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on 7 January.

Incumbent David Chung stood unopposed and was re-elected for a further four year term as President of the OFC Executive Committee with Lee Harmon (COK), Lambert Maltock (VAN), and Rajesh Patel (FIJ) elected as Vice-Presidents while Iuli Alex Godinet (ASA), Laupama Solomona (SAM), and Barnabas Anga (SOL) were elected members. Following the 24th Solomon Islands Football Federation Congress held in Honiara in late-March, Normalisation Committee chairman Anga was replaced on the OFC Executive Committee by newly appointed Solomon Islands Football Federation President William Lai in May 2015.

With the formalities completed early in the year, the OFC Executive Committee quickly set about fulfilling their mandate with the creation of the OFC Strategic Plan for 2015-2018 first on the agenda.



The competition side of OFC's activities also got underway early in January with the opening competition seeing American Samoa and Samoa join forces to host the OFC U-17 Championship. It was the first time two Member Associations have hosted a tournament concurrently and also saw the event played across two time zones with American Samoa 12 hours behind their neighbour.

The 2015 Fiji Airways OFC Champions League brought further excitement to the competition calendar as the 12 top clubs from across the Pacific came together in Fiji. It was another tightly fought contest with Auckland City once again proving their dominance on the regional club scene as they beat fellow New Zealand side Team Wellington in a penalty shoot-out after finding themselves deadlocked after additional extra time.

The FIFA U-20 World Cup was a highlight for the whole region as New Zealand stepped up to the plate as hosts. Both New Zealand and Fiji featured as OFC representatives but it wasn't just those two teams getting involved however, as a FIFA Regional Youth Coaching Course saw coaches from across OFC's 11 Member Associations learning more about their craft with some of the world's best up-and-coming footballers providing the backdrop. Media Officers also benefitted from the tournament, flying in to Auckland from across the region to attend the FIFA TV Media Officers Seminar, and for some, their first FIFA World Cup match.

Papua New Guinea was awarded hosting rights for the 2016 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup in March which means the momentum for introducing the best youth football the world has to offer to Oceania will continue into the 2016.



The foundations have already been laid for what will be a momentous event for Papua New Guinea as they played host to the XV Pacific Games which is always a highlight on the calendar for Pacific athletes. This year was no different as thousands of athletes descended on Port Moresby to represent their nations with pride in their chosen discipline. The football competition was challenging as the Pacific Games ran alongside the Men's and Women's Olympic Qualifying tournaments.



Another highlight of the year was taking the first step towards the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ via Stage 1 of OFC qualifying. This year it was Tonga Football Association's turn to host teams from American Samoa, Cook Islands and Samoa. The incredible work that has gone into these four teams over the past four years, the last time most of them were active, was on display over the course of three match days as Samoa had to rely on results going their way on the final day. They made it through to Stage 2 – the OFC Nations Cup – on goal difference after impressive pushes from American Samoa and Cook Islands for the honour.

Off the field there has been no rest for the administrators of football throughout Oceania as the development and introduction of new Club Licensing regulations came under the spotlight. OFC has been working with FIFA on establishing

regulations of their own, and together the two organisations have been collaborating with each OFC Member Association in order to get regulations up-and-running themselves.

At the same time, FIFA and OFC have been working with the Member Associations to make sure their Statutes are in line with those of football's international governing body.

Work on the OFC Home of Football continued with Stage 1 of construction near completion and Stage 2 on the agenda for 2016. Usage by community groups, clubs and OFC Member Associations means the two artificial pitches rarely go unused and the feedback on the facilities from all stakeholders is positive.

The first OFC/NZF A Licence was held in Auckland, New Zealand over 12 days in November/December adding another step in the OFC Coach Education Pathway. Three Pacific Island coaches, representing Cook Islands, Fiji and Tonga, took part, having graduated through each stage of the pathway which has been designed and implemented by the OFC Technical Department. The goal now is to see more candidates from throughout the Pacific joining their New Zealand and Francophone counterparts.

We brought the year to a close in a similar fashion to how it started, with the last OFC Executive Committee meeting held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. While it was an opportunity to sign off on a number of competition and administration related matters, it was also a chance for the committee to consider how they want to move forward and progress over the next three years.

Technical development remains a high priority in each of the 11 Member Associations with the emergence of Fiji on the global stage an indication that the grassroots approach works. New Caledonia, Vanuatu and Tahiti are all knocking on New Zealand's door as the results of the U-17 competition showed, and with a continued focus on coach education as well as player development further OFC success is on the horizon.



23RD OFC ORDINARY CONGRESS

Shaping the administration for 2015 and beyond was the key focus in early January as Papua New Guinea hosted the 23rd OFC Ordinary Congress on 7 January.

As is the case every four years, it was an occasion in which the OFC President and the OFC Executive Committee would be decided.

Unity and solidarity were the key themes of the event as the Confederation returned incumbent President David Chung to officer for a further four year term.

Chung, who has been OFC President since November 2011, was elected unopposed in the presence of representatives from FIFA and local Papua New Guinea media. At the same time, the OFC Executive Committee was formed with representatives from Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, American Samoa and Vanuatu all earning their place on the committee.

Chung was both ecstatic and humbled to receive the endorsement of his peers for a second term in office and thanked them for their continued support.

"The next four years will be an exciting period for OFC and I am sincerely thankful to the Member Associations of OFC for putting your trust in me as your OFC President," Chung said during his acceptance speech.

"I would like to take the time to congratulate those members elected to the OFC Executive Committee and I look forward to working you in this next term and will rely on your expertise and experience to guide OFC in the right direction."

Chung outlined a number of plans he has for 2015 and beyond, with a focus on growing the game and popularising football in the region through television, radio and new competitions. He also envisioned creating pathways for elite players and teams as well as coaches and match officials.

"I will need your support to lead our Confederation and enable us to grow the game, create pathways for our elite and generate income to make us financially sustainable and create wealth to distribute to our Member Associations and reinvest back into football in each country."



Immediately following the 23rd OFC Ordinary Congress was the first meeting of the newly formed OFC Executive Committee, where the first order of business was the appointment of three OFC Vice-Presidents.

Fiji's Rajesh Patel, Lambert Maltok from Vanuatu and Lee Harmon of Cook Islands were unanimously elected to the positions which will see them provide close support to Chung over the 2015-2019 term.

Maltok expressed what an exceptional honour it was for him to be elevated to the role of OFC Vice-President.

"It's something I've been working for for a long time, but it was still unexpected," he said.

"My hope is that the last four years have laid the foundation for the next four years and it is good to continue with the leadership of David Chung and what he has in mind for OFC to be competitive on the field and off.

The appointment of three Vice-Presidents is a first for the OFC Executive Committee following a decision at the 23rd Ordinary Congress to replace the previous roles of Senior Vice-President and Treasurer.



MEMBER ASSOCIATION CONGRESSES

Following on from the 23rd OFC Ordinary Congress were the elective congresses of a large number of OFC Member Associations throughout 2015.



SAMOA

The Samoa Football Federation held its Elective Congress at the Tanoa Tusitala Hotel in Apia in early March with Laupama Solomona elected FFS President for the next four years.

Joining him as Vice-President of the FFS Executive Committee was Asiata Palota while new members to the committee included Afamasaga Sefine, Leslie Petaia, Siaoisi Tagilima. Emily Young and Sueiva Aoelua were re-elected as members of the committee.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Solomon Islands Football Federation held its 24th SIFF Congress in Honiara on 28 March. Honiara Football Association President William Lai was elected to the role of SIFF President. Eddie Omokiro was elected Vice-President while Tommy Mana, Adrian Gina and Angeline Vave make up the remaining members of the SIFF Executive Committee.

Solomon Islands Football Federation President William Lai became the newest member of the OFC Executive Committee in May.

"William Lai has a wealth of business experience as well as a lengthy background in Solomon Islands football development. His inclusion on the OFC Executive Committee will be of tremendous benefit not only to Solomon Islands football, but to the region as a whole as he shares his expertise and knowledge with us all."

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand appointed a new President in June with New Zealand Order of Merit Deryck Shaw elected to the role. The former WaiBOP board member sat on the NZF Executive Committee since December 2014 before being elected to his new role.

"Deryck has been a long time servant to the community and the work he started in Rotorua has continued at national level following his appointment to the NZF executive committee in 2014," OFC President David Chung said.

New members of the NZF Executive Committee were Caroline Beaumont and Scott Moran, who joined existing members Mark Aspdon, Philip Barry, Paul Cochrane, Suzanne Griffin and Vice-President Michael Anderson.



TAHITI

Fédération Tahitienne de Football President Thierry Ariotima was re-elected for a further four year term at the helm of Tahiti's Federal Council in August.

Ariotima has been President of FTF since 2011 and has overseen a number of recent triumphs on both the regional and global stage.

Tahiti became the first nation outside of New Zealand or Australia to qualify for the FIFA Confederations Cup and it played perfect host to the 2013 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup. In 2015 the Tiki Toa finished runners-up at the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup in Portugal and picked up two key individual awards for best player and best goalkeeper of the tournament.

Ariotima has also helped develop Vision 2020, a strategy for the future which aims for continued development at grassroots level across the different football disciplines as well as further on-field success in Oceania and beyond.

The FTF Federal Council is made up of Ariotima as President and members; Mark Ploton, Michel Scallamera, Youenn Virmaux, Jean-Francois Martin, Venance Tamu, Angela Taiarui, Michel Paille, Vaiata Friedman, Felix Faatau, Roger Shan and Monique Barsinas.

FIJI

Fiji Football Association President Rajesh Patel secured a second consecutive term as President of the association in October with a 70 per cent share of the votes.

OFC President David Chung noted the huge development progress witnessed in Fiji since Patel had taken the helm.

"We have seen in the success of Fiji's U-20 and U-23 squads that Fiji football is on the rise," Chung said.

"Rajesh has committed to the ongoing development of football at grassroots and youth levels and therefore we will continue to see the fruits of this mandate in the coming years."

Patel is joined on the Fiji Football Association Executive Committee by Vice-President Tarunesh Reddy, Yogeshwar Singh and Edwin Chand as well as members, Jitendra Kumar, Girja Prasad, Susan Wise, Jainen Sukhu, Ravin Swamy and Bob Kumar.

VANUATU

Lambert Maltock was re-elected to the role of Vanuatu Football Federation President in December after already serving ten years in the role.

The 25th VFF Congress was held in Luganville, Santo and saw football administrators from across Vanuatu put their support behind Maltock for a further four years.

"Lambert has displayed great dedication to raising the profile of football in Vanuatu, and improving the quality of players and coaches in order to become more competitive," OFC President David Chung said.

"Football is the most popular game in Vanuatu and the efforts which have been made to decentralise the sport has increased that popularity ten-fold.

"The growth of the game in Vanuatu is a real credit to the vision of Lambert, and those who came before him, to take football to every corner of the nation.





OFC HOME OF FOOTBALL

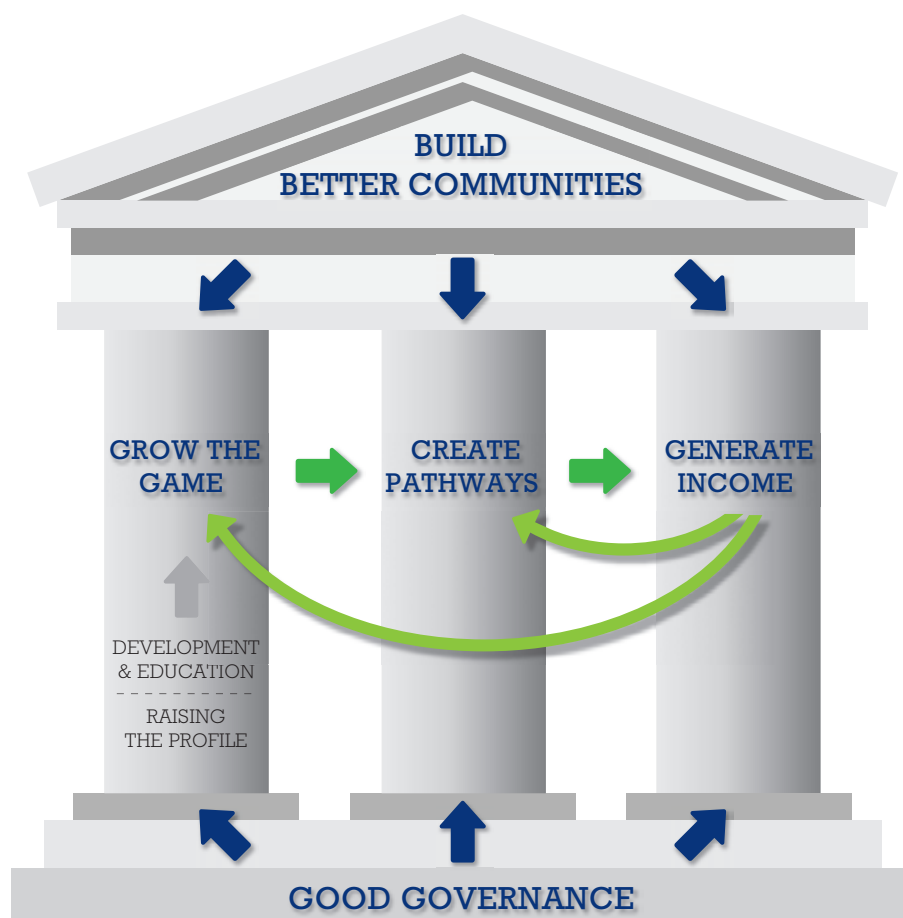
Stage 1 of this ambitious project was completed in late-2015.

Two full-size artificial pitches are complimented by high-grade floodlights, changing facilities and ample parking.

Feedback from community groups already using the facilities has been fantastic and the consensus is that there isn't enough hours in the day to make the most of this addition to Auckland's football infrastructure.

Stage 2 of the project is expected to get underway in 2016.





THE OFC STRATEGIC PLAN

With 2015 serving as the first of four years in the newest governance cycle there was no better time than the present to develop the 2015-2018 OFC Strategic Plan.

Work on establishing a brick-and-mortar Home of Football for the Confederation is well underway and served as the inspiration for the OFC Executive Committee's strategic plan.

A symbolic Home of Football was developed with good governance serving as the foundation, growing the game, creating pathways and generating income are the pillars and creating better communities the roof.

David Chung, as OFC President, has a vision to raise the overall standard of football in Oceania and utilise the power and passion of football to promote education, community development, capacity building, health awareness, cultural exchange and economic development within the football community.

Through the OFC Strategic Plan, Chung's vision combined with the Confederation's vision of 'enriching the lives of all people in the Pacific through football' are addressed.

Good Governance underpins all the activities and operations of OFC and its Member Associations. There is a strong emphasis on constant improvement in this area led by OFC.

OFC as a confederation wants to be a leader in good governance with clear, transparent decision-making process that are accountable and responsive to the needs of our members. We want to lead by example.

Development and Education are key to providing quality, sustainable development projects that cater to the needs to Member Associations. Building Capacity is also an important aspect of this pillar and can be achieved through interaction with players, coaches, officials and administrators of football in the Pacific.

Raising the Profile of football in the Pacific is no easy task, but one which is important for growing the game. Again, capacity building comes under focus with Member Association media officers the immediate beneficiaries. They receive training and constant advice in order to improve their skills and ability to promote and market football in their communities.

Creating Pathways is how we can lift the quality of domestic, national and international football competitions in the region. We can achieve this with the delivery of effective and sustainable programmes for our elite and talented footballers.

We want to identify and provide our members with long term income generation and cost sharing opportunities that are realistic, sustainable and adaptable. And finally, we want to work at Building Better Communities through football. This links back to OFC's overarching vision for football in the region.

KEY MOMENTS FOR OUR MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS



AMERICAN SAMOA

Having picked up their first victory in World Cup qualifying four years previously, all eyes were on American Samoa and what they would do when Oceania's campaign for 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ Qualifying got underway in August/September. Preparations included a lengthy stay in Seattle, USA the side didn't disappoint when they took to the field in Tonga. Two wins is already an improvement on their previous record and while they missed out on qualifying by just one goal, the nation has already vowed to return even stronger in four years' time.



COOK ISLANDS

As injuries contributed to their dwindling numbers the belief within the Cook Islands women's national team remained strong. So when they took on a tidy Samoa side in the XV Pacific Games Third Place Play-Off match it that confidence, coupled with determination and quality coaching, saw the side with just three substitutes left, triumph 2-0 to claim their first Pacific Games medal. Just a few months later it was the men's side hitting equal heights at the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ Qualifiers – OFC Stage 1 in Tonga. Two from two going into Match Day 3, the side had two more wins than they'd had in the two previous editions of this competition. As well as vying for a spot in the Stage 2 of qualifying, they were playing quick, attractive football under the watch of their Welsh coach Drew Sherman. The fairy tale ending never came true after the Cook Islands lost their third and final game to American Samoa, however it showcased the progress this side has made in just a short time, and what lies in store for the future.

FIJI

It almost goes without saying that the highlight for Fiji football in 2015 was seeing their U-20 team become the first Fiji side to appear at a FIFA tournament. But it proved just the beginning as the side also went on to become the first Oceania team to secure a FIFA U-20 World Cup win, with their 3-0 victory over Honduras earning them that honour. This high was swiftly followed by the U-23 team's charge through OFC Olympic Qualifying in Papua New Guinea to secure a spot in the final. They were taken to the wire by Vanuatu but eventually triumphed in the penalty shoot-out to secure passage to Rio 2016. On a sad note, the loss of Munit Shalit Reddy following his international debut for Fiji at the OFC U-17 Championship in Samoa cast a long shadow over the Fijian football community and the region.

NEW CALEDONIA

The Pacific Games have always been an avenue for New Caledonia to showcase their abilities on the football field and 2015's XV edition was no exception. Women's football has yet to establish a strong foothold on the domestic scene but that was far from apparent as the senior women's team made their way through the group stage and into the semi-finals with relative ease. They were undone in the final by a clinical Papua New Guinea side and despite some excellent football over the course of the tournament went home with silver for the second edition running. For the men's U-23 side it was a similar story as the side moved relatively unscathed through the group stage and semi-finals into a showdown with Tahiti in the final. Two goals saw them clear of their opponents to the successful defence of their title. On the club scene, FC Gaïtcha proved one of the shock contenders at the OFC Champions League as they made it to the semi-finals where they came up against six-time defending champions Auckland City FC. Compact defending and swift counter-attacking kept them in the game and while they were ousted by a 1-0 loss, did enough to secure New Caledonia two slots in the 2016 edition. They topped off a stellar year with help from World Cup winner Christian Karembu who called on a few friends to help the club celebrate its 50th anniversary in style.



NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand's hosting of the FIFA U-20 World Cup was an impeccable reflection on the nation's ability to warmly welcome sporting events and fans to its shores. As football fever struck the nation, the U-20 squad responded in kind, progressing to the knock-out stage of the tournament for the first time in its, and Oceania's, history. At the same time in Canada, the Football Ferns were hoping to make some history of their own at the FIFA Women's World Cup. The side were going into the pinnacle competition on the back of some of their best results and highest ranking ever but ultimately, despite some excellent performances, they were unable to progress this time around. Finally the U-17 men's performances in Chile at the FIFA U-17 World Cup proved that development is on the right pathway.





PAPUA NEW GUINEA

For yet another Member Association, the XV Pacific Games provided the stage for its teams to excel. Not only was Papua New Guinea hoping to compete well, they had the added pressure of hosting the games. They dealt with that pressure well as the women successfully defended their title to earn their fourth consecutive gold medal. It wasn't quite so smooth for the men's U-23 who faced several hurdles in the group stage that left them vying for bronze in the Third Place Play-Off. They overcame a tiring Fiji to earn bronze – their first podium finish at the Pacific Games.

SAMOA

Samoa opted out of sending a men's squad to the XV Pacific Games in order to focus their preparations on the senior side. The decision paid off when the side squeezed through the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ Qualifiers – OFC Stage 1 in Tonga to claim the sole berth up for grabs in Stage 2, the OFC Nations Cup. Lupe Ole Soaga made their OFC Champions League debut in 2015 joining AS Pirae, Ba and FC Gaitcha at Govind Park in Ba. Their inaugural appearance at the region's premier international club competition was much improved on that of Samoa's 2014 representatives as they competed well but missed out of the semi-finals finishing behind fellow debutants Gaitcha and the local side Ba. The women's national team did well at the XV Pacific Games making it to the semi-finals for the first time.





SOLOMON ISLANDS

2015 was a year of rebuilding for Solomon Islands as they got their house in order after coming out of a year of Normalisation. A new executive committee was elected in March at the 24th SIFF Congress. William Lai was elected President with Eddie Omokirio, Tommy Mana, Adrian Gina and Angeline Vave joining him on the committee. Solomon Islands sent teams to both the men's and women's Pacific Games tournaments and while it was good experience, neither team was able to make an impact on the competition.



TAHITI

Two regional finals for Tahiti in 2015, U-17 and Pacific Games (U-23), signal the Polynesian nation's drive to be the region's best. However it's on the sand that this Member Association remains a force to be reckoned with. After being awarded Oceania's sole berth at the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup in Portugal, the Tiki Toa more than proved they were worthy with a string of performances that took them all the way to the final. Never once compromising the all-in attacking nature of their game, the side knew taking down Portugal on home soil would be difficult and although they held their own, were unable to earn the title. They didn't go home empty-handed however as Heimanu Taiarui and Jonathan Torohia picked up the Golden Ball and Golden Glove awards respectively.

TONGA

Tonga Football Association played host to two important tournaments in 2015. The first was the FIFA World Cup Russia™ Qualifiers for Oceania featuring the hosts, American Samoa, Cook Islands and Samoa. The tournament was a credit to the association and its staff with the teams each given a warm welcome to the Friendly Islands. They followed that event up by stepping into the breach to host the 2015 OFC U-20 Women's Championship. Once again the nation received plenty of praise for their role as host as they brought the teams together giving them a taste of local cuisine and culture, while also providing a stunning back drop for the tournament.



VANUATU

Vanuatu did supremely well in the 2015 OFC U-17 Championship picking up third place in American Samoa after knocking over New Caledonia in the third place play-off. Vanuatu's U-20 women's team had some mixed results at the OFC U-20 Women's Championship which for much of the squad was a real learning experience. Vanuatu held their elective congress late in 2015 with Lambert Maltock retaining the confidence of his peers who re-elected him to the post of President of Vanuatu Football Federation. The VFF Technical Centre in Luganville, Santo was opened and provides a base for football fans on the island to gather, and for development to continue.





FIFA DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE — OCEANIA



FIFA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE — OCEANIA

The highlights for the FIFA Development Office Oceania are many, and varied across the 12 months that made up 2015.



To start with, FIFA, in partnership with the OFC Technical Department, oversaw the delivery of 50 technical courses across the 11 OFC Member Associations;

- Senior Coaching 4
- Grassroots 7
- Women's Football 8
- Beach Soccer 2
- Futsal 7
- Youth Coaching 7
- Refereeing 13
- Goalkeeping 2

The courses are an important part of capacity building among coaches, referees and instructors across Oceania. As well as making sure those new to coaching have all the information and resources available to them, the courses also offer an opportunity to upskill and learn the latest techniques.

Two key infrastructure projects were completed and inaugurated in 2015.

Football Federation Samoa's futsal development programme received a boost with the completion of the futsal court at the Savai'i Technical Centre. It's the second futsal court to be built in Samoa, with the first inaugurated at the FFS headquarters in Apia in 2013.

Vanuatu's decentralisation project continued with the successful inauguration of the Luganville Technical Centre, a key step in VFF President Lambert Maltok's vision to spread football activity throughout the Vanuatu community.

The project is Stage 2 of FIFA Goal Project 5, developing the centre to service the Northern region. The improved facilities are now capable of holding up to 12,000 fans, boasts an improved playing surface and changing rooms and increased office space and an education centre.

In addition, the FIFA Development Committee approved Tahiti's request to fund the construction of merchandising and administration offices.

A new Executive Committee elected to Solomon Islands Football Federation after the federation spent a year in normalisation. This provided an excellent opportunity for the FIFA Development Officer to facilitate a Strategic Planning Seminar.



The biggest event on the 2015 calendar was the retirement of FIFA Development Officer Glenn Turner after 16 years of service.

Turner has had a huge impact on football in the region during his time in the role, overseeing numerous Goal Projects, development courses and seminars and helping shape the landscape of Oceania football along the way.

Former New Zealand youth international Shaun Easthope joined Turner and Lyn Shirley in the FIFA Development Office in the latter stages of the year, learning the ropes ahead of Turner's impending departure.



SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SUPPORTING THE FOOTBALL COMMUNITY

On Friday 13 March 2015, category 5 Tropical Cyclone Pam left a wake of destruction across the Pacific with Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu all left picking up the pieces.

Vanuatu was one of the worst hit countries with a large majority of the community left without food, water or power for long periods. The storm affected over 160,000 people, of which 82,000 were children, on 22 islands. Homes, schools, businesses and basic services were all destroyed.

Following the FIFA Executive Committee meeting in Zurich in mid-March, FIFA committed US\$200,000 from the Humanitarian Fund to the help with the recovery effort, following a special request from OFC President David Chung.

"This first grant is needed immediately to support the humanitarian effort to provide food, water and shelter to victims of the cyclone across the country," Chung said at the time.

President Chung made a four-day visit to Vanuatu to evaluate the damage and to discuss how the FIFA Humanitarian Fund might be allocated.

US\$100,000 of the fund went directly to UNICEF, presented on behalf of OFC by Vice-President Rajesh Patel before the 2015 Fiji Airways OFC Champions League final.

Sport is an effective tool to help communicate messages of emergency preparedness and response in a fun and interactive way.

SOCIAL CAMPAIGNS

Following the devastation caused by Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu, OFC collaborated with partners UNICEF on the Vanuatu Cyclone Appeal.

The appeal was run in conjunction with the OFC Champions League in Fiji, with fans encouraged to donate to the initiative.

The award-winning Just Play Programme was another avenue that OFC utilised to aid the recovery efforts with post-cyclone activities delivered by Vanuatu Football Federation Just Play Project Manager Rorona Kalsakau and UNICEF's Vika Waradi.

"Children may need support to cope with, and overcome, the stress of the cyclone," UNICEF Pacific representative Dr. Karen Allen said.

"The use of sport, in this case football, is a powerful tool in the emotional recovery process allowing children to have fun at a stressful time, connect with others, collaborate, play and process their experiences."

HELPING VANUATU THROUGH JUST PLAY

As part of the Emergency Recovery Programme in Vanuatu, the Just Play Festival platform was used to support the National Birth Registration Campaign and to disseminate critical information to children.

Psychosocial training, as part of the emergency programme, allowed coaches to use Just Play sessions to encourage children to draw pictures and to share their experience of the cyclone, the effect it had on them and their family, and to support them through the recovery process.



PARTNERSHIPS

In July 2015 the quality of the award-winning Just Play Programme helped it edge out numerous development projects to secure a three-year partnership with the New Zealand Aid Programme.

The New Zealand Aid Programme is the New Zealand Government's aid and development programme managed by development specialists in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

It is charged with supporting sustainable development in developing countries in order to reduce poverty and contribute to a more secure, equitable and prosperous world – a mandate that links closely with that of successful sport for development programme Just Play.

OFC President David Chung said the partnership is the fruit of the groundwork laid by the OFC Social Responsibility department since Just Play's inception in 2009.

"Just Play has been addressing the growing obesity epidemic by engaging children around the Pacific region in physical activity, while also addressing several other social issues including social inclusion and gender equality," Chung said.

The New Zealand Aid Programme will support Just Play for three years, from 2015-2018, focusing on Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga.



In November, OFC and UNICEF renewed what has developed into a strong partnership working to improve the lives of children across Oceania through the Just Play Programme.

Since the partnership began in 2013, Just Play — the Oceania Football Confederation's sport for development programme — has worked alongside UNICEF on several projects reaching thousands of children through the powerful medium of sport.

"Working alongside this globally renowned organisation provides OFC and the Just Play programme with a powerful platform, helping us to reach more children across the region," OFC Head of Social Responsibility and International Relations Franck Castillo said.

"Additionally UNICEF's reputation and history gives our work an added level of credibility and recognition internationally."

Isabelle Austin, Deputy Representative for UNICEF Pacific, reinforced this positive impact saying: "The partnership with OFC and the Just Play programme is recognised by UNICEF as a critical entry point through which to engage children in the Pacific."







MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS



OFC MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

With six tournaments on the calendar in 2015 as well as numerous other events and activities to cover it was an exceptionally busy year for the OFC Media and Communications Department.

The year got underway with a bang, covering the 2015 OFC U-17 Championship which for the first time in OFC history, played out across the international dateline in American Samoa and Samoa.

Staff turnover in the department was high in 2015 and several contractors had to be called on to help cover events, including the 2015 OFC Champions League held in Fiji in April.

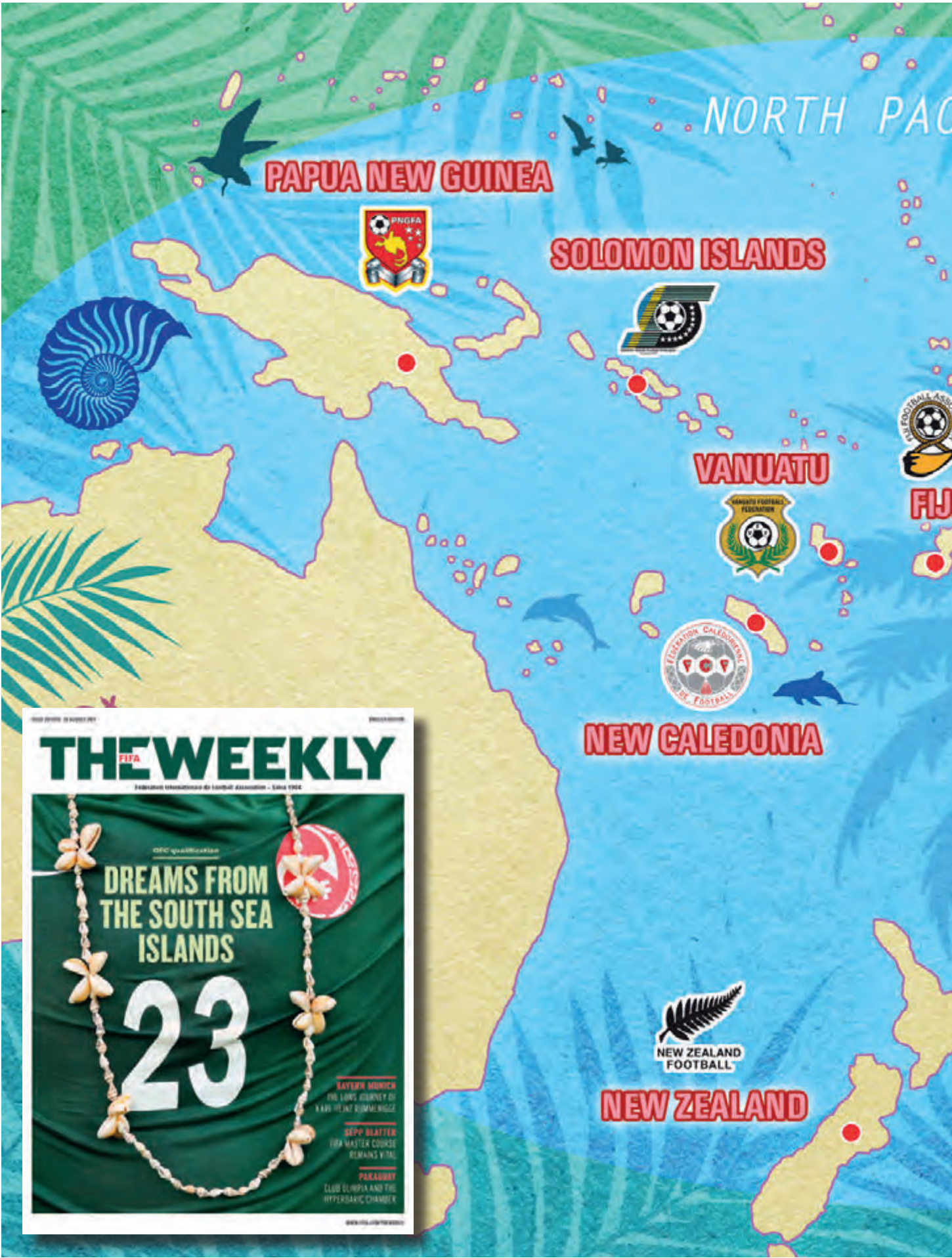
The changing of the guard opened the door for the region's media officers to step up to the plate, and in Fiji Avikash Chand made key contributions to the successful coverage of the Champions League.

Despite the human resource challenges, the audience numbers grew in comparison with 2014.

- 31 more matches in 2015
- Female facebook audience grew 5%
- 9 x more visitors to www.oceaniafootball.com
- OFC Insider Magazine readership increased five-fold
- Double the number of new followers on Twitter

OFC activities captured the attention of football fanatics across the globe. Helping spread the news of the goings-on in Oceania was FIFA Weekly, The magazine was launched in 2014 and its editors frequently collaborated with OFC Member Association media officers on stories related to the region.

One of the most followed events on the calendar for 2015 was the FIFA World Cup Russia™ Qualifiers in Tonga. A lot of global interest in the event was generated in part due to the highly successful documentary Next Goal Wins. The film documented American Samoa's first win back in 2011 and the audience for that documentary were very keen to see how the side would do this time around. The competition is the first step in Oceania's qualifying for the next edition of the FIFA World Cup which only added to the interest.







OFC TV



OFC TV

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PROJECTS

In 2015 OFC TV continued to provide quality coverage and highlights of OFC events. The team worked in conjunction with FBC and Fiji TV during the OFC Champions League in order to provide coverage of that event both to broadcasters and online.

Tui McKendrick came on board in May as a Special Project manager, overseeing the FIFA TV OFC Media Officers Seminar and the OFC TV filming projects around the FIFA U-20 World Cup in New Zealand.

A short time later Tukaha Mua resigned to take up a role in Papua New Guinea and McKendrick came on board in a full-time capacity as the new head of OFC TV.

McKendrick has an extensive background in sports broadcasting and during her tenure as executive producer for Sky Sport, McKendrick was involved in a number of sporting events from the 2009 NZ Winter Games to the 2012 London Olympics.

She has quickly put her extensive knowledge of the local broadcast industry to use, putting the OFC TV team to work on different events like the AIMS Games in Tauranga, the Gallagher Great Race in Hamilton, the Auckland Cross Country Championships and the NZ Open Billiards.

The team also covered the NZ National Dog Show and the NZ Touch National Championships in 2015.

Hans Bouter was engaged as a contractor responsible for the technical aspects of the department. The now four-person team has gelled well and are making some quality programming that is enjoying air-time in New Zealand and Papua New Guinea among other locations.

A major broadcast deal was struck between OFC and Telikom PNG to bring football into the homes of fans across Papua New Guinea on EMTV. The partnership sees Telikom PNG gain the broadcast rights to all OFC Tournaments and the A-League, Australia's professional national league, for the next three years.



FIFA TV REGIONAL OFC MEDIA OFFICERS SEMINAR

Holding the FIFA U-20 World Cup in New Zealand proved equally rewarding for OFC's remaining ten Member Associations as it did for the host nation.

Among those who benefited from tournament being held in their backyard were federation media officers across the region who travelled to Auckland, New Zealand to attend the FIFA TV Regional OFC Media Officers Seminar.

As well as learning the ins-and-outs of a major sporting broadcast with visits to the International Broadcast Centre and taking part in practical sessions over the course of the two days, they also got first-hand experience of a FIFA World Cup tournament.

The seminar covered a myriad of topics including the complexities of the Host Broadcast operation, field production, editing and practical exercises to assist with how best media officers can combine both media and video content to provide well-rounded and informative content.



FIFA U-20 WORLD CUP SPECIAL PROJECT

The FIFA U-20 World Cup Special Project was an opportunity for OFC TV to make a tangible contribution to the tournament.

"Together with video and media content which reflected New Zealand culture and customs, the aim was to provide a snapshot of the regions to support their contributions to making the 2015 FIFA U-20 World Cup a national success," project head Tui McKendrick said.

Joining the Auckland-based OFC TV crew on the job were four media officers; Avikash Chand of Fiji, Brian Vitolio from American Samoa, New Caledonia's Romain Painbeni and Leo Jakanduo of Papua New Guinea who helped with the collection of footage and interviews to complete their task.

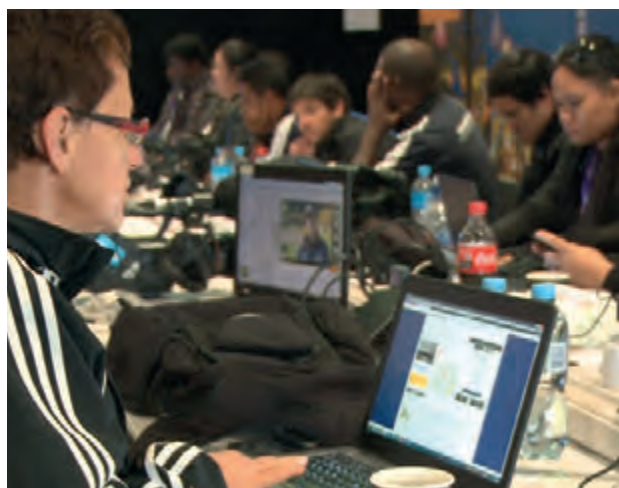
"Many of the media teams had not experienced an operation of this magnitude and when the FIFA juggernaut got underway the process and protocols were of much of a surprise as the immediacy and speed the video content was required to be ready for online."

The project had the production team travelling up and down New Zealand. Long hours were spent cataloguing footage and editing projects to tight deadlines.

McKendrick said without a doubt, the project was a success especially for those media officers from across the region who took part.

"To have the opportunity to engage with other media officers from around the region does not happen very often. To have access to ongoing OFC and FIFA support structures and helping them to achieve their goals and objectives can only result in a positive outcome.

"If a similar project arises in the future, OFC TV would want to be involved. It's always important to experience as many diverse operations as possible."







OFC MARKETING AND COMMERCIAL



OFC MARKETING AND COMMERCIAL

The OFC Marketing and Commercial branch expanded in 2015 with the appointment of Justin Ellis to the newly-created role of OFC Business Development Officer.

The position is responsible for managing OFC's existing commercial activities as well as identifying, developing and implementing income generation programmes and business partnerships.

"Justin's extensive experience in sales and marketing, including different sporting environments, makes him a qualified choice for this position," OFC General Secretary Tai Nicholas says.

Ellis got straight to work creating the OFC brand; establishing who the Oceania Football Confederation is, what it does and how it fits into the global football structure.

In addition, Ellis was keen to start protecting OFC intellectual property rights. That is to say, establishing value in what the Confederation has to offer and ensuring it remains the property of OFC.

Creating consistency in what OFC offers was also high on the agenda. Ellis and his department put together a brief giving each department an overview of the need for a collective branding approach, consistency in look, feel and messaging in all that OFC offers.

Investigating the generation of income is also an important aspect of the department's key objectives.

OFC Commercial and its apparel and signage entities has become well established and the department, while continuing to build on these revenue streams, is also investigating alternate avenues of revenue generation.

Ellis has also reviewed current agreements with existing suppliers to refine what OFC has to offer them, and vice versa. Improving the relationships between OFC and its existing partners and suppliers is one aspect of the department's objectives, as is looking for new partnerships and sponsorship agreements to help OFC continue to develop and expand its activities and services to growing football in the region.

The partnership with Telikom PNG was one of the key signings of early-2015 and further partnerships and sponsorship deals were sought following Ellis' appointment later in the year.



OFC TECHNICAL



OFC TECHNICAL

The OFC Technical department continues to play a major role in the development of football across Oceania and 2015 was no different.

Led by OFC Technical Director Patrick Jacquemet, the department oversaw the successful running of 52 FIFA and OFC courses across the region, covering women's football, refereeing, senior, youth and grassroots football as well as beach soccer and futsal.

Linking its outputs to the OFC Strategic Plan, the department focused on Growing the Game, Development and Education and Creating Pathways, all three of the pillars are addressed through seven technical categories.

Two important decisions influenced the development of the department's internal strategic plan; OFC receiving an additional slot (two in total) for the FIFA U-17 and U-20 World Cups as of 2017, and the implementation of Club Licencing and Sporting Criteria.

Jacquemet says OFC has identified an immediate need to prioritise and support its Member Association players and coaches as a cornerstone to the long-term success and health of football.

Which starts with the development of a proper football environment which incorporates players, administrators, referees and coaches within the football context.

The Oceania football context incorporates the demands of the player – at grassroots, youth and senior level – with the supply of coaches across the participation, performance and high performance levels.

In order to do this, the department has established a vision, a mission, goals, and objectives in order to achieve at the highest level across each of the seven technical categories it has identified.



Vision	Mission	Goals	Objectives
To promote, foster and develop football for everyone in Oceania, creating a fun, safe and inclusive culture which inspires a lifelong love of the game.	<p>Creating opportunities, inspiring change and helping Member Associations fulfil their potential on and off the pitch.</p> <p>Serving the community through football and education</p>	<p>Improve Member Association football environments</p> <p>To increase and sustain participation in football</p> <p>To improve performance at National and International level</p>	<p>Football Category Activity 2015-2018 in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Player Development – Education & Training – Performance Programmes – Women's Football – Futsal & Beach Soccer – Refereeing



1. Player Development

The establishment of Player Development Resources has been an important aspect of creating a common programme that addresses the needs of Member Associations across Oceania.

A Player Development Curriculum is applicable to Development Centres and Centres of Excellence with imagery and content specific to each Member Association. The provision of equipment and materials also helps make these programmes a success.

In addition, Sport Session Planner is available for all OFC MA Technical Departments. The programme provides an extensive library of sessions and exercises, technical and tactical videos and information on strengthening and conditioning.

In numbers...

Member Association	Development Centre (10-12 years)	Centre of Excellence (13-15 years)	Total No.s
American Samoa	2	2	80
Cook Islands	2	3	98
Fiji	12	12	720
New Caledonia	6	–	209
Papua New Guinea	5	7	307
Samoa	4	3	200
Tonga	4	3	99
Tahiti	-	3	148
Vanuatu	19	8	605
	54	41	2,466

A new Goalkeeping Schools Project was piloted in 2015 in the Solomon Islands. Its purpose is to work with each Member Association to develop a structure and pathway to support consistent Goalkeeper and Goalkeeper Coach Development.

Identifying the best goalkeeper coaches from previous courses in Member Associations, the project will provide the best platform for goalkeeper development within each MA. This is set to be achieved by guidance and direction on goalkeeper school set-up, training content, training frequency, training equipment and materials. A reporting structure to monitor attendance, training content and progress.

Background work on a FIFA Youth Football Competitions Project also began in 2015, with the objective of developing youth football competitions at domestic level.

The idea is for the competition to complement existing Grassroots programmes in Member Associations, improving the link to school football competitions and should be held over a period of seven to eight months to improve the development of players, coaches and referees. The pilot is set to be run in the Solomon Islands from early 2016 with two leagues; U-16 and U-19.





2. Education and Training

OFC has an established Coaching Education Pathway but in 2015 proposed a new mixed Member Association/OFC Accreditation system to complement the pathway.

The concept sees Member Associations take responsibility for awarding Grassroots, Youth, Senior, Laws of the Game and Goalkeeping Certificates. From there, those coaches can then progress to completing the OFC coaching accreditation.

The OFC/Member Association Education Programme is run in conjunction with the Mentoring Programme. Seminars and workshops offer assistance to Member Association staff working in the various technical areas in order to improve their capacity.

Four regional courses were planned for 2015 but only three were held after the FIFA/OFC Women's Football Regional Development Workshop was postponed until early 2016.

The first regional course was the annual FUTURO III Referee & Fitness Instructor Course held in Fiji in March.

This was followed by the FIFA National Teams Coaching Course, which brought U-17 and U-20 coaches to Auckland, New Zealand during the FIFA U-20 World Cup. The advantage of having the course held in conjunction with the World Cup was having high level, quality matches playing out in front of the participants and offering up the best youth matches for first-hand analysis.



Finally, the major event on the calendar for coach education was the inaugural OFC/NZF A Licence. After two highly successful B Licence courses held over four years, the A Licence was next on the agenda for the OFC Technical Department.

The coursework was created and implemented in conjunction with the New Zealand Football technical director Rob Sherman, with assistance from UEFA. Tuka Tisam of Cook Islands, Tonga Football Association Technical Director Kilifi Uele and Fiji Football Association Technical Director Ravinesh Kumar were all graduates of the first OFC B Licence, and became the first Pacific Islanders to take the next step in the OFC Coach Education Pathway.

New Zealand-based coaches made up the majority of the remaining candidates, while five coaches from New Caledonia made the journey to add to their regional development. Federation Caledonienne de Football development officers Matthieu Delcroix and Kamali Fitialeata were joined by senior men's coach Thierry Sardo and club coaches Jean-Paul Curreau and Felix Tagawa.



3. Elite Performance and Mentoring

The OFC Vision for 2015-2018 identified an immediate need to prioritise and support Member Association players and coaches as a cornerstone to the long-term success and health of football in Oceania.

The implementation of national academies is on-going and the uptake has been successful in Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Fiji.

An on-line management system for the academies outlines the KPIs for Player Development and helps the academy coaches keep track of players' progress. The programme focuses on several areas with strength and conditioning, mental health, nutrition and football among the key areas of focus.

The project is a long-term one, but already it is starting to see some successes with Vanuatu academy graduates receiving scholarships to schools and programmes in New Zealand.

The mentoring programme continued in 2015 though with some new faces joining the programme.

In Samoa Scott Easthope has taken up the role of Coach Mentor, working directly with coaches in Samoa as well as staff at the Football Federation Samoa.

Meanwhile in Tonga the role is filled by Philip Parker who has extensive knowledge and success in developing young footballers and is a perfect role model to assist Tongan coaches improve their knowledge, skills and ability to help develop young footballers.





4. Women's Football

The vision for women's football in Oceania is: "To lead and inspire our Member Associations to provide an environment where the girls and women of Oceania can access all aspects of football, aspiring to be competitive and successful."

The OFC Technical Department has three goals related to women's football which includes developing women's football in the Member Associations football context, increase and sustain participation and improve performance at national and international level.



Player Development in six OFC Member Associations was helped along by the FIFA Grassroots Programme and Tahiti continued to promote the game among girls through the FIFA Live Your Goals programme. Altogether these programmes were an introduction to football for just under 2000 young girls.

Eight Member Associations hosted FIFA Women's Football Coaching Courses in which 184 coaches were trained – 82 per cent of them female. Additionally, seven Member Associations launched a FIFA League Development Programme which offered 1567 young footballers with a competitive league to practice in.





5. Futsal and Beach Soccer

In 2015 OFC boasted 30,000 registered futsal players.

The increased interest in the small-sided discipline is reflected in the growing competitiveness at elite level. Seven FIFA Coaching Courses were held in Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Samoa, Tahiti and Vanuatu — five of which had teams preparing for the 2016 OFC Futsal Championship.

National Leagues in New Caledonia, New Zealand, Solomon Islands and Tahiti continued to flourish, while Regional Leagues in Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tahiti and Vanuatu all had high participation numbers.

America Samoa, a nation where the smaller population can make fielding a traditional football team difficult, embraced futsal in 2015. Meanwhile Papua New Guinea, where population is less of an issue, also reinvigorated its futsal programme starting with coaching courses.

In terms of Player Development with Futsal and Beach Soccer Development Officer Paul Toohey also playing a role in Grassroots Development, more boys and girls have access to futsal through grassroots programmes.

When it comes to beach soccer in Oceania, nothing makes a better statement for the potential in Oceania than the Tahiti beach soccer team. Tahiti is one of the few nations that has a beach soccer national league, and they have made the most exceptional progress on the world stage. In 2015 the side finished second at the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup and the Intercontinental Cup, earning themselves a World Ranking of fifth.

While at a high performance level the Tiki Toa are achieving amazing things, development is also happening in New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. In October an OFC Beach Soccer Coaching Course was conducted in Tonga's Ha'apai region, bringing the basics of the game to an area of the country that is incredibly suited to a sand-based game.



6. Referee Development

The ongoing development of referees remained a top priority in 2015 as indicated by the 17 courses held throughout Oceania.

OFC Referee Development Officer Mark Hester was kept incredibly busy as he started to implement the OFC Referee Education and Accreditation Pathway. Similar to the OFC Technical Department's Coach Education and Player Development Pathways, the Referee Education and Accreditation Pathway sees work begin in each Member Association before referees graduate to the OFC-offered courses and accreditation system.

The concept is important as there are match officials who are considered by their respective Member Associations to be candidates to become FIFA accredited in the near future. The OFC Match Officials Badge provides an intermediate step between Member Association national leagues and FIFA level, through a more structured pathway to international football.

Key to the success of the pathway is having well-trained referee development officers in each Member Association, which is why the annual FIFA FUTURO III Referee Instructors Seminar.

The seminar brings together two to three referee instructors from each Member Association and they are put through their paces regarding new teaching materials and methods in respect to technical aspects of refereeing, and referee fitness.

For the last time, the course was overseen by FIFA Refereeing Development Senior Manager Fernando Tresaco-Gracia with support from Hester and FIFA Instructor Steve Bennett of England.

While the candidates learn an incredible amount during this course, the expectation is that they then go back and disseminate this information among their peers.

Across the region, 262 referees took part in the courses being offered by FIFA and OFC. The vision of the referee department is to improve existing match officials, develop world-class match officials, increase and retain referees across OFC and finally, to improve the organisation of refereeing across Oceania.

On an elite level, it was the year of the female with several referees and assistant referees representing OFC at the FIFA Women's World Cup in Canada. New Zealanders Anna-Marie Keighley and Sarah Walker teamed up with Australia's Allyson Flynn to form a trio which was appointed to the Round of 16, the Quarter-Finals and the Semi-Final between Japan and England. Referee Tupou Patia of Cook Islands also attended as did Tongan assistant referee Lata Kaumatule.

There were also appointments to the FIFA U-17 World Cup, U-20 World Cup and Beach Soccer World Cup for referees from Oceania all of whom performed to the standard that is expected of match officials on the world stage. OFC referees were appointed as the Fourth Officials to two FIFA World Cup finals in 2015; Nick Waldron to the FIFA U-17 World Cup final between Mali and Nigeria, and Matt Conger to the final between Serbia and Brazil at the FIFA U-20 World Cup in New Zealand.



With six OFC tournaments also on the calendar in 2015, including the two week long XV Pacific Games in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, there was plenty of opportunities for the region's best to put their skills to the test. The inclusion of female match officials at the OFC U-17 Championship was an innovative step towards appointing the best available match officials to OFC competitions.

OFC MATCH OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION AT FIFA EVENTS

FIFA U-20 World Cup New Zealand 2015

Referee	Matthew CONGER	NZL
Assistant Referee	Tevita MAKASINI	TGA
Assistant Referee	Simon LOUNT	NZL

FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015

Referee	Anna-Marie KEIGHLEY	NZL
Referee	Tupou PATIA	COK
Assistant Referee	Sarah WALKER	NZL
Assistant Referee	Lata KAUMATULE	TGA

FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Portugal 2015

Referee	Hugo PADO	SOL
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FIFA U-17 World Cup Chile 2015

Referee	Nick WALDRON	NZL
Referee	Abdelkader ZITOUNI	TAH
Assistant Referee	Ravinesh KUMAR	FIJ
Assistant Referee	Glen LOCHRIE	NZL

FIFA Club World Cup Japan 2015

Referee	Matthew CONGER	NZL
Assistant Referee	Tevita MAKASINI	TGA
Assistant Referee	Simon LOUNT	NZL



PORT MORESBY 2011
XV PACIFIC GAMES

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

COMPETITIONS

Official



OFC CLUB LICENCING

Club licencing is an important principle which must be applied if competitions and the clubs taking part in them are to become more professional.

It doesn't just address the level of the players taking to the field, but the administration of the clubs, financial aspects, infrastructure and legal aspects all fall under this heading.

In 2015 the Oceania Football Confederation made concrete steps towards an improved club licencing system that would assist not only its Member Associations and their clubs, but the Confederation itself and its premier international club competition the OFC Champions League.

The appointment of OFC Competitions Director Chris Kemp to the role of OFC Club Licencing Manager was the first step in the process, with Kemp now responsible for working with FIFA and individual OFC Member Associations to start implementing the process.

Kemp says it starts with five key criteria which must be considered; Infrastructure, Sporting (coach and youth development), Administration, Financial and Legal.

As part of working through the process of creating the Confederation concept, Kemp attended three seminars in 2015. The first two with FIFA involved establishing global principles in which the old principles were made more adaptive to each confederation.

The third seminar was run by UEFA, a confederation which has been running Club Licencing effective for the past ten years.

"This was important to attend in order to get an in-depth understanding from the point-of-view of a confederation that has run club licencing since day one, and to look back ten years on in order to learn from that experience," Kemp explains.

Giving a broad overview, he says FIFA have global principles which apply everywhere and his role is to take those and establish a minimum which can be applied in Oceania specifically.

Kemp visited eight OFC Member Associations in 2015 on a joint FIFA/OFC mission joined by FIFA Consultants Robbie Middleby and Kaita Suguhara.

The group met with the Presidents, CEOs and Technical Departments in Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tahiti and Cook Islands to explain the concept from a FIFA and OFC perspective, before then working with the Member Association to individually tailor the regulations to suit the local environment.

"The idea is to collaboratively draft regulations for each Member Association so that they work for their specific environment, but are also in line with FIFA and OFC regulations."

The process is an on-going one but Kemp is confident the ground-work laid in 2015 has OFC and its Member Associations leading the way.

OFC U-17 Championship

13-26 January / Pago Pago, American Samoa and Apia, Samoa

Participating Teams
American Samoa (co-host), Samoa (co-host), Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Tonga, Vanuatu

The year of competitions got underway in January with the 2015 OFC U-17 Championship which was held across the international dateline in American Samoa and Samoa for the first time.

For the first time all 11 OFC Member Associations took part in the tournament and a group of six was hosted in Samoa, while the remaining five nations were hosted by American Samoa.

Having already won the event on the four previous occasions, New Zealand were hot favourites to add a fifth straight regional title. However with the development going on in several nations via grassroots, youth and academy programmes it was a tough challenge for the Kiwis this time around. The first major speed bump came in the form of New Caledonia who almost pipped the New Zealand squad for top of the group before eventually going down 5-4. It was on to the semi-finals in American Samoa for the two sides where they faced Group B's top teams Tahiti and Vanuatu. The Francophone sides met for a spot in the final, with the French Polynesians getting past their Caledonian cousins, while New Zealand outplayed Vanuatu to set up a showdown with Tahiti.

The final was an incredibly tight contest which finished 1-1 at the end of normal time, and in line with the regulations the encounter went straight to a penalty shootout where New Zealand remained calm and collected in the face of immense pressure to secure their tickets to Chile.



Results		
Winners	New Zealand	(NZL)
Runners-Up	Tahiti	(TAH)
Third	Vanuatu	(VAN)
Fourth	New Caledonia	(NCL)
Awards		
Golden Ball	Logan ROGERSON	(NZL)
Golden Boot	Larry ZAMA	(SOL)
Golden Gloves	Vaiarii HALLIGAN	(TAH)
Fairplay Award	American Samoa	(ASA)

FIFA U-17 World Cup Chile 2015

New Zealand headed off to the FIFA U-17 World Cup with a new set of coaches to those they qualified with as Danny Hay and Chris Zoricich took over the roles of coach and assistant coach respectively.

The side did exceptionally well in their three group games earning progression to the knock-out stage of a FIFA U-17 World Cup for the third time. It was in the Round of 16 where New Zealand met Brazil and held their own against the South American heavyweights for much of the match. Although they made a valiant effort that kept the Brazilians locked out for most of the match until a defensive error saw them awarded a penalty which was duly converted.

NEW ZEALAND REPRESENTED OFC		
Group Stage	vs France	1-6
Group Stage	vs Syria	0-0
Group Stage	vs Paraguay	1-2
Round of 16	vs Brazil	0-1
Final Ranking	15	(24)
Goal Scorers		
Hunter ASHWORTH		1
Lucas IMRIE		1
James McGARRY		1

2015 Fiji Airways OFC Champions League

11-26 April / ANZ Stadium, Suva, Fiji

Participating Teams

Auckland City FC, Team Wellington (NZL), AS Pirae,
AS Tefana (TAH), Amicale, Tafea (VAN),
Ba, Suva (FIJ), Gaitcha (NCL), Hekari United (PNG),
Western United (SOL), Lupe Ole Soaga (SAM)

For the second consecutive edition the OFC Champions League was held in Fiji across two venues, however this time the entire competition – group stage, semi-finals and final – were played in Fiji.

The tournament once again saw 12 teams from eight OFC Member Associations come together to compete in what is the region's premier club competition, which boasts a highly coveted prize of the regional title and qualification to the FIFA Club World Cup.

Preliminary winners Lupe Ole Soaga of Samoa made a strong start on their competition debut, holding 2014 semi-finalists AS Pirae to a 3-3 draw. FC Gaitcha, also making their debut, saw off Pirae and Lupe Ole Soaga to earn second place in the group, with their superior goal difference seeing them through to the semi-finals along with Ba FC.

Also making a dream debut were Team Wellington of New Zealand who collected all nine available points on their way to the semi-finals where they met Ba FC. Team Wellington made relatively short work of the Fijian side to progress to their first OFC Champions League final. Auckland City also made a straight run to the final after downing Gaitcha 1-0 to secure their fifth consecutive appearance in an OFC Champions League final.



In the all-New Zealand final Auckland City edged ahead after just 14 minutes when Portuguese striker Joao Moreira converted from the penalty spot. They held onto that lead for a decent period before former Auckland City defender Ian Hogg pulled back an equaliser in the 79th minute. The two sides remained deadlocked at the end of extra time sending the match to a penalty shootout. Hogg's night took a turn for the worse when he sent his penalty over the crossbar allowing Auckland City to secure the 4-3 win and tickets to the FIFA Club World Cup.

Results

Winners	Auckland City FC	(NZL)
Runners-Up	Team Wellington	(NZL)
Third	Ba FC	(FIJ)
Fourth	FC Gaitcha	(NCL)

Awards

Golden Ball	Ivan VICELICH	(NZL)
Golden Boot	Saula WAQA	(FIJ)
Golden Gloves	Tamati WILLIAMS	(NZL)
Fairplay Award	Suva FA	(FIJ)

FIFA Club World Cup Japan 2015

10 – 20 December

After an incredible run in Morocco which saw Auckland City FC claim third place at the FIFA Club World Cup, all eyes were on the club from Sandringham as they once again made the leap onto the world stage. The seven-time OFC Champions League winners had to play-off Sanfrecce Hiroshima, who had been crowned winners of the J.League less than a week earlier. A goal in each half from Yusuke Minagawa and Tsukasa Shiotani sent Sanfrecce through to the quarter-finals at Auckland City's expense, ending the Kiwi club's journey much earlier than they'd hoped.

AUCKLAND CITY REPRESENTED OFC

Play-off for the quarter-finals vs Sanfrecce Hiroshima 0-2

Final Ranking 7 (7)





FIFA U-20 World Cup New Zealand 2015

30 May-20 June

The 2015 edition of the FIFA U-20 World Cup was much anticipated across the region. With OFC Member Association New Zealand hosting it meant two nations would represent Oceania - both New Zealand and Fiji.

The competition drew global audiences and shone the spotlight on New Zealand as a more than capable host nation.

Not only that, it showcased the abilities of Oceania sides on the world stage as Fiji became the first OFC nation to win a match at this level, and were quickly followed by New Zealand who not only won a game, but progressed to the round of 16 where they lost out to Portugal 2-1.

New Zealand's ability to stay focused after falling behind a key attribute picked up by the FIFA Technical Study Group, and the side eventually finished 14th overall.

Fiji's excellent team spirit and ability to rapidly transit from defence to attack were key elements noticed by the FIFA TSG, and their 3-0 victory over Honduras helped them earn 19th place, one spot higher than the highly favoured Argentina.

NEW ZEALAND AND FIJI REPRESENTED OFC

New Zealand

Group Stage	vs Ukraine	0-0
Group Stage	vs USA	0-4
Group Stage	vs Myanmar	5-1
Round of 16	vs Portugal	1-2

Final Ranking 14 (24)

Goal Scorers

Noah BILLINGSLEY	1
Sam BROTHERTON	1
Stuart HOLTHUSEN	1
Clayton LEWIS	1
Monty PATTERSON	1
Joel STEVENS	1

Fiji

Group Stage	vs Germany	1-8
Group Stage	vs Honduras	3-0
Group Stage	vs Uzbekistan	0-3

Final Ranking 19 (24)

Goal Scorers

Iosefo VEREVOU	2
Saula WAQA	1
Own goal (HON)	1



FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015 6 June-5 July

New Zealand have been shooting up the world rankings over the past few years recording some impressive results against top 20 teams, while achieving a best-ever ranking of their own.

Going into the FIFA Women's World Cup the Football Ferns were in their best form and having been drawn against hosts Canada, China and Netherlands would have liked their chances of earning their first appearance in the knock-out stage of a FIFA World Cup.

A narrow opening loss to the Netherlands was a bump in the road and after a performance deserving of a win against Canada, in a match that ended 0-0, the side weren't looking too bad. However, in their final match against China despite their best efforts the Football Ferns were unable to knock over their Asian rivals finishing with a 2-2 draw to bring an early end to their World Cup campaign.

In the FIFA Technical Study Report on the competition the Football Ferns were praised for their high pressing and the immediate pressure placed on opponents after losing possession. Ria Percival and Ali Riley are consistent performers and the TSG recognised their contribution to the team as effective full-backs that can lead rapid transitions from attack to defence and vice-versa.



FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP CANADA 2015		
Group Stage	vs Netherlands	0-1
Group Stage	vs Canada	0-0
Group Stage	vs China PR	2-2
Final Ranking	19	(24)
Goal Scorers		
Rebekah STOTT	1	
Hanna WILKINSON	1	



FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Portugal 2015

9-19 July

Tahiti's fourth place finish at the 2013 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup on home sand proved to be just the stepping stone to higher honours.

A lack of participants for the OFC Beach Soccer Championship saw the Tiki Toa receive direct entry to Portugal 2015 meaning they weren't able to enjoy the matches that come with a qualifying competition.

However that didn't prove to be an issue for the side. Led by new coach Tehina Rota, the team was almost identical to the team which did so well two years earlier with talismanic captain Naea Bennett leading the charge, and Bronze Ball winner Raimana Li Fung Kuee among the leading goal scorers.

Making it through the group stage, included getting a 7-1 victory over defending champions Russia set Tahiti on a course to the final as they knocked over Iran and Italy to set up a showdown with the 2015 hosts Portugal in the final.

While Tahiti performed brilliantly in the final, they were unable to get one over the hosts eventually going down 5-3 to earn the runners-up prize. In the FIFA Technical Study Group findings, Tahiti were praised for the heavy involvement of the goalkeeper in build-up play as well as his accurate short- and long-range passes. The side's skills in direct aerial play, most notably overhead kicks and scissor kicks, was also picked up on. While teamwork is the basis of the Tiki Toa's approach to the game, the skills of certain individuals did not go unnoticed. Goalkeeper Jonathan Torohia was awarded the Golden Gloves for his outstanding performances while Heimanu Taiarui picked up the Golden Ball for player of the tournament.



FIFA BEACH SOCCER WORLD CUP PORTUGAL 2015		
Group Stage	vs Madagascar	4-3
Group Stage	vs Paraguay	7-5
Group Stage	vs Russia	7-6
Quarter-Finals	vs Iran	5-4
Semi-Finals	vs Italy	6-6 (1-3 PSO)
Final	vs Portugal	3-5
Final Standing	2	(16)
Goal Scorers		
Raimana LI FUNG KUEE	7	
Naea BENNETT	5	
Tearii LABASTE	5	
Heimanui TAIARUI	4	
Patrick TEPA	4	
Heiarii TAVANAE	3	
Tainui LEHARTEL	1	
Angelo TCHEN	1	
Jonathan TOROHIA	1	
Teva ZAVERONI	1	



XV Pacific Games / OFC Olympic Football Tournament Qualifier

4 July-18 July / Port Moresby / Papua New Guinea

The XV Pacific Games are held every four years and are a showcase of the incredible athletic talent across the region.

For the 2015 event, football was once again among the sporting disciplines with both men's and women's football tournaments being run. Adding to the allure of the men's event was having the OFC Olympic Men's Qualifying Tournament run alongside the Pacific Games tournament.

Due to their links to France, neither Tahiti nor New Caledonia were eligible for the Olympic Games, but both agreed to field U-23 teams for the Pacific Games in order for the group stage to also double as the group stage for the Olympic Qualifiers. New Zealand was not invited to participate in the Pacific Games.

The two events therefore split into two separate semi-finals and finals in order to ascertain the winners of the Olympic Qualifiers and XV Pacific Games gold medalists.

The inclusion of the Federated States of Micronesia in Group A made for some fairly lopsided results as the relative newcomers to football were trounced by the much more experienced Tahitian, Fijian and Vanuatu teams.

Tahiti topped the group with seven points after winning two of their three matches and drawing the third. Fiji went through to the Pacific Games semi-finals as runners-up, while the third placed Vanuatu went through to the Olympic semi-finals.

In Group B New Zealand earned the full nine points from three games to secure their place in the Olympic semi-finals, while Papua New Guinea finished above Solomon Islands to join New Zealand. They also joined group runners-up New Caledonia in the semi-finals of the XV Pacific Games.

Participating Teams

Men's Pacific Games

Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu,
Federated States of Micronesia,
Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Tahiti

Men's Olympic Football Tournament Qualifier

Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu,
New Zealand, Solomon Islands

Women's Pacific Games

Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Cook Islands, Samoa,
Tonga, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands

With a side littered with U-20 World Cup talents Fiji made their way to the final of the Olympic Qualifiers with relative ease after beating Papua New Guinea 3-1. New Zealand's 2-0 win over Vanuatu looked to see them through however the match was forfeited after Vanuatu protested the fielding of an ineligible player and it was the Ni-Vanuatu side that faced Fiji in the final at Sir Hubert Murray Stadium.

Deadlocked at 0-0 at the end of additional extra time, the final went to a penalty shoot-out. Fiji held strong to secure the victory 4-3, qualifying for their first Summer Olympics. It also marked the first time a team from OFC other than Australia or New Zealand has qualified for the Olympics.

In the Pacific Games semi-finals Papua New Guinea came close to securing their passage to the final but were undone Tahiti who progressed in their place. Fiji, having played two extra matches in Olympic Qualifying didn't have the legs to keep up with New Caledonia who also progressed to set up a Francophone final.



In the Bronze Medal match Papua New Guinea were able to secure a podium finish to reward their loyal fans following a 2-1 win over Fiji. They took an early lead through Patrick Aisa before Atonio Tuivuna equalised early in the second half. It took a late strike from captain Alwin Komolong to put Papua New Guinea ahead and earn them their first Pacific Games medal.

The final was also a tight match with the Tahiti and New Caledonia unable to be separated for much of the first period. It wasn't until striker Jim Ouka found the back of the net in the 30th minute that New Caledonia started to settle and dominate the final. A penalty converted by Raphael Oiremoin in the 74th minute sealed the victory for the Caledonians as they picked up their seventh Pacific Games gold medal.

In the women's competition an uneven number of participants made for one group of four teams, and another of just three.

In Group A 2011 Runners-Up New Caledonia were faced with Samoa, Tonga and Solomon Islands and while they seemed the favourites to progress to the semi-finals the campaign wasn't without a few nail-biting moments. After dismissing Solomon Islands 8-1, New Caledonia were surprised by the driven Samoan side who held them to a 2-2 draw. The rough patch was short-lived as they went on to down Tonga 6-0 to progress along with Samoa.

With just three teams in Group B, and two guaranteed to progress came down to goal difference to pick the runners up. Papua New Guinea, as defending champions, were the favourites to progress and with two wins from two, did that with the maximum six points. After Fiji and Cook Islands drew 1-1 in their match it came down to goal difference and having lost just 2-1 to Papua New Guinea compared with 5-1, it was the Cook Islands who went through to the semi-finals.

The euphoria of a semi-final appearance was short-lived for Cook Islands as they met a determined New Caledonia who brushed them aside 5-1 to secure their place in the final. There they met Papua New Guinea who had been equally precise in their 3-0 victory over Samoa.

While New Caledonia had looked a strong side throughout proceedings in Port Moresby, when it came down to their final encounter against the home side Papua New Guinea in front of the largest audience yet, they seemed to forget their form.





Papua New Guinea dominated the encounter from start to finish although it was just one goal, scored in the 21st minute by Marie Kaipu, which separated the two sides. Papua New Guinea made it four-in-a-row much to the delight of the crowd, while New Caledonia once again had to settle for silver.

In the bronze medal match, it was Cook Islands making history as the side managed to outlast their opponents Samoa to secure an historic podium finish courtesy of their 2-0 victory.

As the highest ranking IOC member team, Papua New Guinea's women's team progressed to Stage 2 of OFC Olympic Qualifying, a home-and-away play-off against New Zealand which was scheduled for 2016.

Men's Olympic Football Tournament Qualifiers		
Winners	Fiji	(FIJ)
Runners-Up	Vanuatu	(VAN)

XV Pacific Games – Men's Football Tournament		
Gold	New Caledonia	(NCL)
Silver	Tahiti	(TAH)
Bronze	Papua New Guinea	(PNG)

XV Pacific Games – Women's Football Tournament		
Gold	Papua New Guinea	(PNG)
Silver	New Caledonia	(NCL)
Bronze	Cook Islands	(COK)





PRELIMINARY DRAW FOR THE 2018 FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA™

The impressive surrounds of The Konstantin Palace in Saint Petersburg, Russia played gracious host as the road to the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ was laid out for 141 teams from around the world, including Oceania's 11 contenders.

The journey to the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ is a long one with the preliminary competition lasting 33 months and including over 850 matches around the world.

For Oceania, the Road to Russia got underway on 31 August 2015 when the first matches of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ Oceania Qualifying Stage 1 tournament kicked off in Tonga.

Four nations contest Stage 1, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Samoa and hosts Tonga, with the winner progressing to Stage 2 where they join the seven remaining Oceania Member Associations.

The eight teams were drawn into two round-robin groups of four teams each, and they compete for the OFC Nations Cup, a one-off tournament in set for Papua New Guinea in 2016.

Group A features 2012 OFC Nations Cup champions Tahiti, and runners-up New Caledonia as well as the Preliminary winners and Papua New Guinea. Group B consists of regional heavyweights New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu.

From here, three teams from each section will move through to Stage 3 where the six teams will be placed into two groups of three teams. The sides will compete in a round-robin, home-and-away battle to top their group. The two group winners will advance to a single home-and-away series.

The regional winner earns the right to face the fifth-placed South American side in the two-legged Intercontinental Play-off in November 2017 for a place at Russia 2018.

OFC President David Chung says it is a long and arduous journey for each of the competing teams.

"There is no doubt that this is one of the longest world cup qualifying paths Oceania teams have faced," he says.

"It will be an exciting journey, especially for the region's football fans, who will have plenty of opportunities over the course of qualifying to see their favourite teams and players in action on home soil."



2018 FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA™ QUALIFYING – OFC STAGE 1

31 August-4 September / Nuku'alofa, Tonga

Participating Teams
Tonga, Samoa, American Samoa, Cook Islands

Stage 1 of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ Qualifying began for four OFC Member Associations in Tonga.

The hosts welcomed American Samoa, Cook Islands and Samoa to Loto-Tonga Soka Centre for three intense days of competition and incredibly close contests.

Cook Islands got off to a great start, downing Tonga 3-0 while close neighbours Samoa and American Samoa had a much tighter match in mind. Three goals within 30 minutes was enough to give Samoa what looked like a fairly comfortable lead but American Samoa had other ideas. A brace from Demitrius Beauchamp either side of the break pulled them within a goal of equalising but unfortunately American Samoa fell just short of an historic result.

A narrow one goal win over Samoa on day two of competition gave the Cook Islanders hope of qualifying for their first appearance in the OFC Nations Cup, and as American Samoa secured a 2-1 win over Tonga they remained in the chase.

Samoa scored three goals over Tonga on the final match day, while American Samoa put a halt to the Cook Islands dream of three from three with their 2-0 win after outplaying their tiring opponent. With three sides locked on six points the deciding factor became goal difference and for the second campaign running it was Samoa heading through to Stage 2.



Results		
Winners	Samoa	(SAM)
Runners-Up	American Samoa	(ASA)
Thir	Cook Islands	(COK)
Fourth	Tonga	(TGA)
Samoa qualify for the 2016 OFC Nations Cup		



OFC U-20 WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP TONGA

1-10 October / Nuku'alofa, Tonga

After playing successful host to one of the region's biggest preliminary tournaments in men's football, Tonga welcomed the women's game to its shores a month later for the OFC U-20 Women's Championship.

With the next edition of the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup scheduled to be held in Papua New Guinea, the nation did not send a team to participate in the qualifier as they receive automatic qualification as hosts.

Joining defending champions New Zealand were New Caledonia, Samoa, Vanuatu and hosts Tonga, with all matches played at Loto-Tonga Soka Centre. New Zealand were clear favourites and they wasted no time in living up to that tag as they recorded a 15-0 opening win over Tonga before going on to secure 26-0, 18-0 and 10-0 victories over their remaining opponents to claim their fifth OFC U-20 Women's Championship title.

Results were closer among the remaining teams with Vanuatu earning their first win at this level after downing New Caledonia 4-0 while Tonga and Samoa continued their rivalry with a 3-3 draw. New Caledonia got on the board against Samoa but were unable to secure the win, before they too earned a victory with a 3-2 win against Tonga. The matches between Samoa and Vanuatu, and Vanuatu and Tonga also finished with draws enabling Samoa to finish runners-up, closely followed by Vanuatu.

Participating Teams		
Tonga, Samoa, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Vanuatu		
Results		
Winners	New Zealand	(NZL)
Runners-Up	Samoa	(SAM)
Third	Vanuatu	(VAN)
Fourth	New Caledonia	(NCL)
Awards		
Golden Ball	Jasmine PERIERA	(NZL)
Golden Boot	Emma ROLSTON	(NZL)
Golden Gloves	Katarina AH SUI	(SAM)
Fairplay Award	Tonga	(TGA)
New Zealand will join hosts Papua New Guinea in representing OFC at the 2016 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup		



FIFA U-20 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP PAPUA NEW GUINEA 2016

For the first time the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup is set to be hosted by a Pacific Island nation; Papua New Guinea.

After being awarded the honour in March, a steering committee of local stakeholders was quickly established, as was the Local Organising Committee with Seamus Marten taking up the role of CEO.

Things have been on fast-forward since then as the team works closely with the Papua New Guinea Government, the PNG Sports Council, stadium stakeholders and others to get the city of Port Moresby ready to welcome the 16 participating teams in November 2016.



**U-20 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP
PAPUA NEW GUINEA 2016**



OFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



PRESIDENT
David CHUNG
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



VICE-PRESIDENT
Lee HARMON
COOK ISLANDS



VICE-PRESIDENT
Lambert MALTOCK
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SOLOMON ISLANDS

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Lord VE'EHALA
TONGA

OBSERVER
Thierry ARIIOTIMA
TAHITI

OBSERVER
Jules HMUEN
NEW CALEDONIA

OBSERVER
Deryk SHAW
NEW ZEALAND



OFC GENERAL SECRETARIAT

GENERAL SECRETARY

Tai NICHOLAS

NEW ZEALAND

DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY

Sarai BAREMAN

SAMOA

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COMPETITIONS ADMINISTRATOR & LOGISTICS

Beatrice TCHEN PAN

(until September 2015)

TAHITI

COMPETITIONS ADMINISTRATOR & LOGISTICS

Allie SMITH

(from September 2015)

NEW ZEALAND

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HEAD OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Franck CASTILLO

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JUST PLAY TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

Emmie SOPE

VANUATU

MONITORING & EVALUATION COORDINATOR

Supriya KULKARNI-PADHYE

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