

# OCIES 2026 Recommended Conference Theme

“Reimagining Education in Oceania: Indigenous Knowledge, Equity, and Sustainable Futures”

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## Rationale

This theme positions the conference to:

- Highlight the **centrality of Indigenous knowledge systems** in Pacific education
- Address ongoing challenges of **equity, access, and inclusion** across Oceania
- Engage with global and regional priorities around **sustainability and development**
- Create space for **Pacific methodologies** such as *tok stori* and relational approaches
- Encourage dialogue between **local knowledge and global education systems**

It aligns strongly with:

- OCIES’ regional focus
- Pacific-led research and scholarship
- Current global education discourse

## Proposed Sub-Themes

### 1. Indigenous Knowledge and Pacific Epistemologies

- *Tok stori* and relational methodologies
- Language, culture, and identity in education
- Decolonising curriculum and pedagogy

### 2. Equity, Access, and Inclusion in Education

- Rural and remote education challenges
- Gender and education
- Inclusive education and marginalised learners

### 3. Teacher Development and Professional Learning

- Beginning teachers in Pacific contexts
- Culturally responsive pedagogy
- Teacher education and leadership

#### 4. Education for Sustainable Development in Oceania

- Climate change and education
- Community resilience and local knowledge
- Education for sustainable livelihoods

#### 5. Digital Futures and Innovation in Education

- Technology in Pacific education contexts
- AI and education policy (linked to current SINU/MEHRD work)
- Blended and distance learning

#### 6. Policy, Leadership, and Governance in Education

- Education reform in Pacific nations
- School leadership and system sustainability
- Partnerships between governments, communities, and institutions

The proposed theme seeks to foreground Pacific and Indigenous knowledge systems while addressing key regional challenges such as equity, sustainability, and teacher development. It provides a broad but coherent framework that aligns with OCIES priorities and the Solomon Islands context.