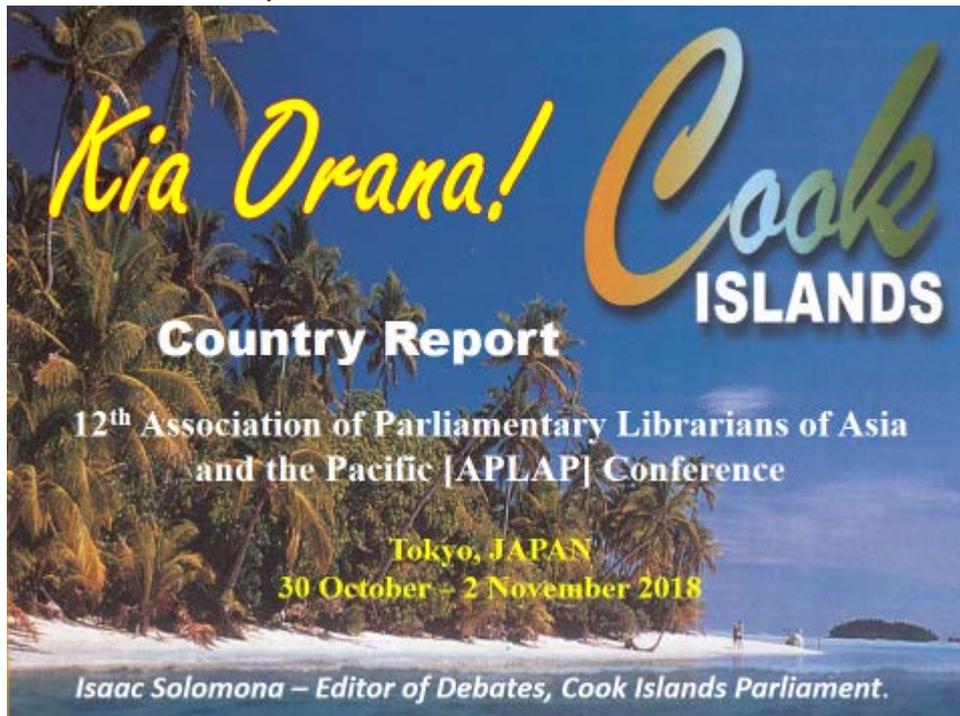


- Slide 1: Introduction
- Slide 2: Geography/Location
- Slide 3: Government/History
- Slide 4: Parliament & House of Parliament
- Slide 5: Parliamentary Library
- Slide 6: Proposal & Vision
- Slide 7: End/Q & A



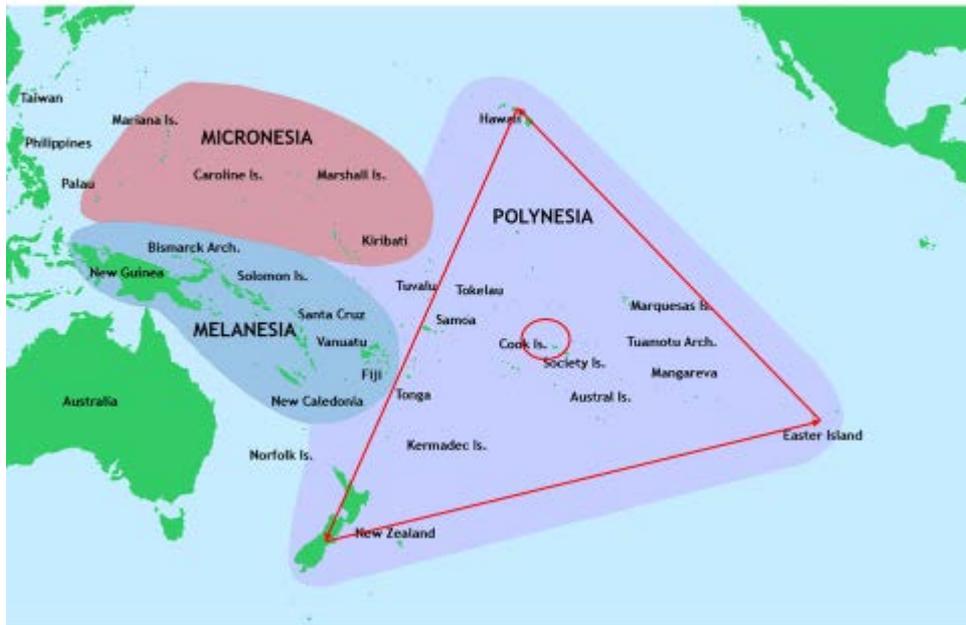
Slide 1: Introduction

Kia Orana & greetings!
My name is Isaac Solomona,
I represent the Parliament of the Cook Islands.

COOK ISLANDS?

I am absolutely certain many of you do not know where, I come from.
I am also persuaded that my short presentation this morning/afternoon will
make a definite impact on you all if you know my geographical location – my
little corner of the world. Before I finally share with you the main subject of
our conference; the Parliamentary Library.

Where in the WORLD is the Cook Islands?



Slide 2: Geography & Location of the Cook Islands

The question you may be asking; where in the world is the Cook Islands?

- Picture a world map of the vast Pacific Ocean,
- I am now going to introduce you to the Polynesian Triangle, (not the Bermuda Triangle) – the Polynesian Triangle, the meaning of the word *Polynesian* is explained by the Greek words
 - *poly*, meaning **many**
 - *nesos*, meaning **islands**
- In the northern part of the Pacific Ocean is the Hawaiian Islands (the northern apex of the triangle),
- Go down the Pacific Ocean to Ao-tea-roa/Islands of the Long White Cloud – New Zealand (southern apex),
- Go East of the Pacific Ocean to Easter Islands/Rapa Nui, to make the eastern apex,
- Now, go back up to the Hawaiian Islands to complete the Polynesian Triangle.

NOW, the most interesting part of this element of my presentation.

- Go to the middle of the Polynesian Triangle,
- There you will find ME!
- My home, my paradise – where I come from...
- The COOK ISLANDS, yes we are only a dot on the world map, compared to your countries.
- That is the Geographical Location of the Cook Islands.
- *The Cook Islands were named after the British Captain James Cook, who sailed through them in 1773 and again in 1777. He is said to have named them the Hervey Islands, for a British Lord. But in the early 1800s the name Cook Islands showed up on a Russian naval chart and it stuck, till today.*

GOVERNMENT



Coat of Arms



National Flag



Cook Islands became Self-Governing on 4th August 1965 in free association with New Zealand; 53 years of Self-Government in 2018.

Head of State; is her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who is represented by the Queens Representative.

Government; is headed by the Prime Minister, Hon. Henry Puna & his government is responsible for enacting legislation.

The Cook Islands has a Westminster Parliamentary Style of government similar to New Zealand & England.

4 Years Parliamentary Term: Unicameral

Slide 3: History of Government/Parliament of the Cook Islands

I will begin with the historical year of **1965**.

1965 is the year my country became a SELF-GOVERNING nation,
The year we had our own PARLIAMENT, where we can make our own
legislation/laws,

Before the year 1965

- 1888 we were a British protectorate,
- 1901 we were annexed to the British colony of New Zealand & remained a NZ dependent territory until 1965,
- 4th August 1965, the CIs became a self-governing nation in free association with New Zealand

The Head of State is her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who is represented by the Queen's Representative, appointed by the government.

The Government currently headed by the Prime Minister, Hon. Henry Puna, and his government is responsible for enacting legislation,

The Cook Islands has a Westminster parliamentary style of government similar to New Zealand and England.

We have a 4 year parliamentary term.



Slide 4: Our Parliament & Building

We have a Unicameral, House of Representative – parliament, Our Parliament is a House with a total of 24 Members of Parliament, Currently after the General Election in June 2018 our Members of Parliament is composed of 20 men and 4 women;

- 10 MPs from Rarotonga, the main island,
- 10 MPs from the Southern Group, and
- 4 MPs from the Northern Group.

Our Parliament House/Building is an old dormitory building, built by the Government to accommodate the men who came from NZ to build our international airport.



Slide 5: Our Parliament House

Back in 1965 when our Parliament was set up, all the services a parliamentary institution delivers it's parliament or MPs were established;

- Clerk's office,
- Administration,
- Hansard, and
- Library & Research services.



Slide 6: Our Parliamentary Library

Our **small** library room contains what a small parliament library is supposed to have in its collection; encyclopedias, parliament publications, legislative debates and parliamentary papers.

To date these have not been replaced or updated,

Subscriptions to magazines related to parliament is no longer active.

Since the beginning of our Parliament among its small parliamentary staff was appointed a Research and Librarian officer but this appointment discontinued in 2004, when the officer at the time resigned.

We have not replaced this position since that year.

Our parliament library has been for many years out of action, not operating, functioning or used; non-operational.

Purpose Built Parliament House



Slide 6: Our Vision & Proposal for our Parliamentary Library

Future Vision:

- To build our dedicated or purpose built Parliament House; built with our vision & purpose,
- This dedicate Parliament House to include a parliament library; which will include:
 - Archive (older parliamentary booklets & papers),
 - Museum (older artefacts & gifts which were donated previously).
- Stocked with up to date collection of books not only to service our future parliamentarians but also like you all that a parliamentary library must hold, that we can be proud of, *cause at present what we have is a room full of rubbish, sorry but it is the truth,*
- The appointment of a dedicated full time, Research and Librarian Officer/staff,

We will need the support of all APLAP members in this big & important venture for our parliament.

Q & A



Slide 7: End – Q & A

Meitaki Maata (*thank you very much*)

Thank you for your attention – Kia Manuia!

Any questions.

COOK ISLANDS FACTS:

Population - 2016 Census = 17,459