

MEG TAYLOR, DBE

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*To the future leaders of the Blue Pacific,
Students of the University of the South Pacific,*

I am thankful and deeply touched that students from USP across the region have written to me to acknowledge my work and bid me farewell. I return home to Papua New Guinea where life will be very busy with work and family.

The past six years as Secretary General have been challenging and rewarding. It has been a privilege to serve our Leaders and the peoples of the Blue Pacific. I am very proud of the fact that there is greater inclusivity in the Forum's policy development processes and engagements at the Forum Leaders Meetings – it ensures that the voice of the Pacific peoples is also articulated.

I thank you, as students and as young peoples, for your support and for always welcoming me when I visited campus.

The future of our Blue Pacific region is in your hands. Your leadership and commitment to serve our region is essential. Leadership is more than political leadership; it is who we are in our communities and what we do with our lives to make sure that we the peoples of the Pacific define our destiny.

I leave you with one main concern I continually raise, and that is the months and years ahead will be challenging because our destiny is being designed by bigger powers and not by we, the peoples of the Blue Pacific. Do not be afraid to speak out, do not be afraid to be critical thinkers and work to find ways forward so our interests are protected.

I will hold you all, the future of our region, in my prayers – you are the future of this Blue Pacific region. Be courageous, you are not alone.

God be with you all.



Meg Taylor, DBE

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