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Achieving Growth through Increasing Connectivity: Lessons from the South Pacific

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Connectivity is an important driver of economic growth and many developmental outcomes in all countries, but is arguably even more important in small island developing states. It facilitates trade, enables governments to better govern, keeps communities in touch, promotes tourism and makes doing business easier. Three important elements of connectivity are shipping, aviation and telecommunications. South Pacific developing country achievements in each of these areas will be examined during the lecture. The relative isolation of these countries will be demonstrated, and lessons will be derived from those countries that have achieved most in recent years in increasing telephone usage, promoting greater air travel and making ports operate more efficiently. Implications for competition, the strategic, use of public funds, resource pooling and regional co-operation will be addressed. The lecture will be based on the AusAID Pacific Economic Survey 2009.

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