



Te Puni Kōkiri  
REALISING MĀORI POTENTIAL

## The Journey of Māori Economic Development: How the past has influenced present and future advancements for the Māori Economy



### Side Event Abstract

Over the past thirty years, successive New Zealand governments have increasingly sought to build their relationship with Māori by providing formal legal and political means for Māori to seek reparation for breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi, New Zealand's founding document. The long-awaited settlement of these grievances has resulted in the return of substantial assets including land and fisheries rights as well as financial payments to date for many iwi (tribes).

The settlement process has led to the creation of financially strong Māori entities and growth in the Māori asset base as iwi have devoted funds to business and investment opportunities. With an asset base worth NZ\$50 billion (approx. US\$36.8 billion) today, the Māori economy is thriving. Māori are major stakeholders in the tourism and primary industries and are growing their presence in the services and high-tech sectors. Furthermore, Māori are increasingly seeking to expand their international trading partners which is leading to significant international business opportunities for Māori.

This side-event will provide a snapshot of how Māori businesses are taking advantage of the opportunities to grow their businesses internationally based on their indigenous cultural points of difference. This side-event will highlight how the Crown (New Zealand government) and Māori are working together to grow Māori businesses with examples of the internationalisation of Māori businesses. It will also provide case study examples of how Māori are taking the initiative to drive their own independent business developments both in Aotearoa as well as internationally.

NAU MAI, HAERE MAI!  
WELCOME!

**When: April 23, 2018  
1:15 – 2:30 pm**

**Where: CR-08, United Nations Headquarters**