



Last Week in the Pacific: Embassies Shut Down for Lunar New Year, Commercial Diplomacy, and More

Summary of PRC Activity

Last week's embassy activity centered on the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. During the Lunar New Year break, Ambassador to the Solomon Islands Cai Weiming attended three site visits while Chinese corporations made donations and initiated a new project. In Vanuatu, Ambassador Li Minggang held two meetings—one with local leaders and one with a UN regional organization, blending local engagement with broader diplomatic outreach.

This Week's Big Themes:

Cai Weiming's Work Never Ends

On the 17th, PRC Ambassador to the Solomon Islands Cai Weiming was the only envoy still working. Cai traveled to an agricultural site near the capital with Minister of Agriculture Wasi, where he used the holiday as a backdrop to call for closer agricultural cooperation. He also visited Chinese enterprises to express appreciation and repeat the same safety message he delivered the prior [week](#). The next day, Cai delivered the same message to the Chinese medical team and police liaison team in the Solomons.

Supporting Events

- **Solomon Islands:** [Ambassador Visits Chinese Enterprises](#)
- **Solomon Islands:** [Ambassador Tours Agricultural Site](#)
- **Solomon Islands:** [Ambassador Visits Medical and Police Teams](#)

Chinese Enterprises Pick Up the Pace

With the embassy quiet, Chinese enterprises in the Solomon Islands filled the gap. Two Chinese shareholders of Wanguo Gold Group, which holds a 90 percent stake in the Gold Ridge Mine, donated a combined \$189,000—likely an effort to shore up community relations after violence at the mine on January 20. The shareholders hosted a public ceremony with the local community. In Western Province, the Noro Township Road Project opened last week. The World Bank provided approximately \$14 million in funding for the project, which it contracted to the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation—a state-owned

Ambassador's Corner:

Two weeks ago, China's Pacific embassies ran a full schedule of public Lunar New Year festivities. Last week, they scaled back to observe the holiday themselves.

The embassies closed on Tuesday the 17th—the first day of the holiday and the peak of celebrations. They reopened after three days, shorter than China's week-long national holiday, but most of them posted little activity for the rest of the week.

The two-week contrast is sharp: 37 catalogued events two weeks ago versus 11 posts last week. Chinese enterprises and medical teams, not the embassies, produced many of those 11 events.

**The PRC Pacific Embassies Monitor provides systematic, open-source tracking of Beijing's public diplomatic activities across the nine Pacific Island Countries hosting Chinese missions. The monitor captures official embassy social media and website posts, supplemented by local sources, to offer a weekly structured intelligence report that bridges critical information gaps on regional engagement*

enterprise active across the region. A company representative attended the opening and received a gift from local leaders. This road project fits a broader pattern: Beijing claims credit for work that outside institutions fund, using such events to burnish its image as a generous partner.

Supporting Events

- **Solomon Islands:** [Wanguo Shareholders Donate to Gold Ridge Community](#)
- **Solomon Islands:** [Noro Road Project Opening](#)



Minister Fu'o'o presenting a gift to CCECC Country Manager Mr. Huang.
(Source: [Solomon Islands Ministry of Infrastructure Development](#))

Li Minggang's Intra- and International Diplomacy

PRC Ambassador to Vanuatu Li Minggang took off the first day of the Lunar New Year but returned to work the next day. He met with a team from the UN OCHA Office of the Pacific Islands, which had traveled to Vanuatu for a workshop on data sharing and early warning messaging during extreme weather events. Li and the team discussed regional cooperation and coordination between UN OCHA and the China Meteorological Administration. Li also visited Pele Island, accompanied by Speaker Stephen Felix and MP Fred Samuel. After consulting Felix on local needs, the Ambassador delivered water pipes, cooking pots, and guitars for a local string band.

Supporting Events

- **Vanuatu:** [Li Minggang Meets with UN OHCA](#)
- **Vanuatu:** [Li Minggang Visits Pele Island](#)