



JAPAN-PACIFIC INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE
SOUTH PACIFIC



OPENING OF JAPAN-PACIFIC ICT CENTRE



USP Vice-Chancellor greets H.E Ratu Epeli Nailatikau



Ambassador of Japan, H.E Mr. Yutaka Yoshizawa.



Qaloqalovi is presented to Chief Guest.



Traditional attire of scissors bearer for cutting of ribbons.



Dr. Akanisi Kedrayate welcomes Chief Guests.



Blessings from Fr. Bonato.



Tour of facilities begins.

The University of the South Pacific's new Japan-Pacific ICT Centre was officially opened on Tuesday 6 July 2010, by the President of the Republic of Fiji Islands, His Excellency, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, and the Japanese Ambassador to Fiji, H.E. Mr Yutaka Yoshizawa.

The vision for the new Japan-Pacific ICT Centre is to be the Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) 'hub' of the Pacific Region. Its Mission Statement is:

To be a Regional Centre of Excellence for ICT and to spearhead research, new learning technologies, development and leadership in ICT to ensure that the South Pacific can participate in the global information society by:

- *Advancing ICT knowledge in the Pacific Region through learning, teaching, workshops and conferences;*
- *Increasing ICT knowledge by quality research;*
- *Working closely with the stakeholders to ensure there is relevant and sustainable solution to deal with ICT issues in the Region; and*
- *Taking advantage of international knowledge in ICT and making sure the people in the Pacific region benefit from it.*



The President of the Fiji Islands opens the ICT centre.

Attended by over 200 guests, including Fiji Government ministers and senior officials, members of the diplomatic corps, dignitaries, heads of regional and international organisations, donors and development partners, USP staff and other stakeholders of the University, His Excellency The President was accorded with a Fijian ceremonial welcome beginning with the *'Qaloqalovi'*, *'Yaqona Vakaturaga'* and ending with the *'ai Vakamamaca'*; a ceremony that befits his traditional status as a high chief and his official status as the holder of the highest office in the land.

After the official *'cutting of the ribbon'* and *'unveiling of the plaque'*, the Chief Guests were given a tour of the complex, allowing them to explore the ICT building and its state-of-the-art equipment. The President and the Ambassador were able to speak the Japanese officials by using the technology.

Upon completion of the tour of the building, a *'ground breaking'* ceremony was held alongside the building to officially mark the commencement of construction of Phase II of the project, which is a new state-of-the-art Multipurpose Lecture Theatre with seating for over 300.

The USP Chaplain, Father John Bonato pronounced the *'Blessing'* on the fine new addition to the University and also on the *'ground breaking'* ceremony for the multi-purpose theatre.

The Chief Guests and the invited guests witnessed vibrant *'Pacific style'* entertainment from USP's Tongan Students Association, a Fijian dance group, and the University's Oceania Dance Team while having refreshments.

Walk through towards the new buildings.



Front entrance.



Entertainment.



Kava ceremony.



'Ground breaking' ceremony for the multi-purpose theater.

In order to fulfill its learning, teaching, and research mandate to a huge geographical region composed mostly of open ocean, USP has always embraced the latest distance learning technologies. The completion of the new Japan-Pacific ICT Centre has firmly established USP as the regional leader in ICT technology and services. The Japan-Pacific ICT Centre enables the University to offer new Computer and Information Science degree programmes to fully utilise the potential of USNet, and ultimately provide more and better ICT services to the Pacific region.

Construction of the new centre, a US \$21.5 million (F\$43 million) Japanese Grant Aid Project was completed in April 2010 on schedule.

The Ambassador of Japan, His Excellency Mr. Yutaka Yoshizawa, announced, "Japan is now in the process of awarding another tender, to the tune of 857 million yen, which is equivalent to FJ \$16.1 million, for the construction of a multi-purpose Lecture Theatre. Work on this should commence as early as June this year".

The Vice-Chancellor Professor Rajesh Chandra has commented that this investment reflects Japan's confidence in USP's role as a quality provider of higher education in the region, and support for the University's commitment to increase access to higher education through its Distance and Flexible Learning programmes. All Pacific Regional member countries are expected to benefit from the project, which is being implemented under JICA's Pacific Regional Programme to utilise ICT for advancing human development and ensuring human security in the Pacific Region.

The official opening of the new Japan-Pacific ICT building took place on 6 July 2010.

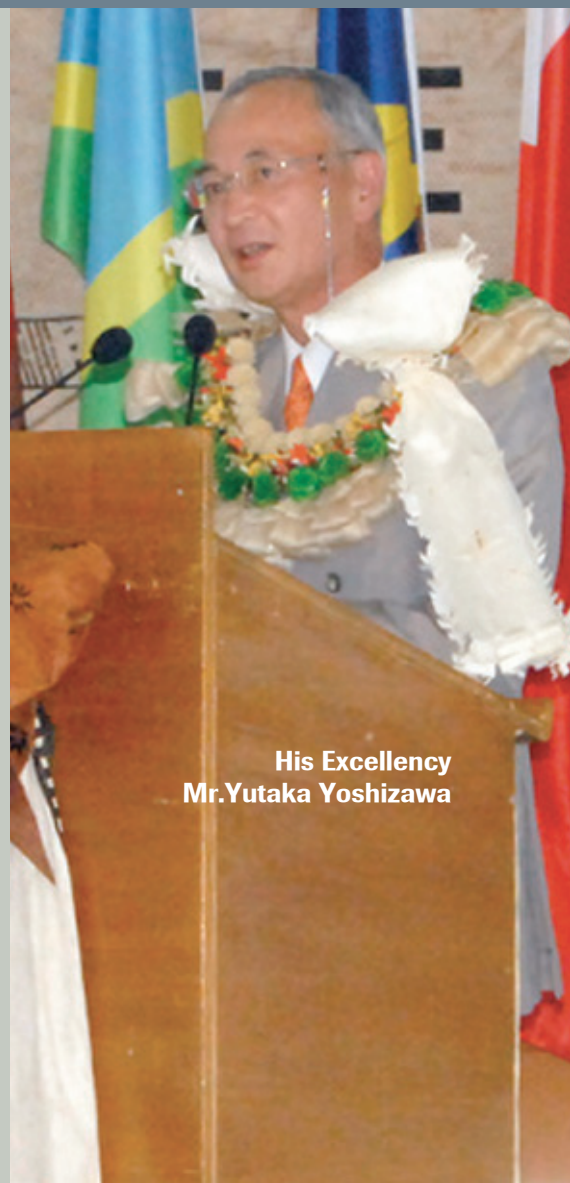
Excerpts from Address

by the **Ambassador of Japan to Fiji**

At the outset, on behalf of the people and Government of Japan I convey to you all our deepest appreciation for the strong historical partnership ties that exists between Japan and twelve USP member countries. Japan has been supporting USP's effort for institutional empowerment since 1996. The new state of the Japan-Pacific ICT Centre, funded through Japan's General Grant Aid, will ensure the South Pacific region's full participation in the global information society and lead to research development and education in the ICT field, thereby, promoting socio-economic development through the growth of ICT potential in the fields of human resource development, education, environment preservation, society and culture.

In addition to the funding of this project, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has also commenced a three year Japanese Technical Cooperation for the ICT for human development and human security. As part of the Japanese Technical Cooperation, JICA in collaboration with key stakeholders of USP will support IT services to optimise the performance of USP-Net, conduct necessary trainings and provide expertise on enhancement of Distance and Flexible Learning courses and provide mentoring and comprehensive advice on designing two new bachelor courses in Computer Science and Information Systems.

A grant of US\$21.5 million (F\$43 million) was made available for the construction of Phase I works and an additional JPY 857 million (approx. F\$16.1 million) has been approved for Phase II works which has commenced beginning of last month.



**His Excellency
Mr. Yutaka Yoshizawa**