

A Career Devoted to Pacific Island Development

For 32 years now, Nila Prasad has been a fixture at the JICA Fiji office. First recruited to work for the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) Program she has been continuously serving Fiji and the Pacific Island community in a wide variety of roles. Prasad fondly recalls her work in the Volunteer Section, particularly organizing the Art Exhibition project for primary schools, a first in Fiji and an event which had a profound impact on the standard of art in the country's primary schools. Another career highlight was a survey conducted in the Republic of Kiribati for the deployment of JOCVs, followed by the establishment of the JICA/JOCV Kiribati Office in 2008.

Fiji and the small island nations of the Pacific are highly vulnerable to climate change. The government of Fiji sees climate change as one of the biggest threats to sustainable development and shows strong leadership in mitigating the associated risks as more frequent and extreme weather events dramatically affect the country.

In 2010, Prasad moved to the Operations Section and has worked in almost all sectors including climate change. Over the years, she has made valuable contributions to JICA's efforts to mitigate the negative effects of climate change by connecting Japanese experience to the Pacific Islands through JICA's

cooperation. Currently, Prasad is honored to be engaged in many projects which contribute to Fiji's filling of human resource gaps and strengthening of its system related to climate change, especially in the field of disaster risk reduction.

Reflecting on her career, she narrates, "I have seen the JICA Fiji Office grow from a very humble beginning with only five staff members to what it is now. I have worked with so many Japanese staff and have met so many volunteers, including JICA Experts and Missions. I have also established a great network with government officials, donor partners, and civil society." Prasad is full of pride and admiration for the degree to which JICA has been able to contribute to the development of Fiji and the Pacific islands. She holds high hopes for JICA's ability to make an even greater contribution to the region, helping it overcome the challenges ahead.



Prasad with JICA co-workers at the official launch of upgraded radio transmitters and facilities that will vastly improve media coverage throughout Fiji.



Prasad with Fiji Meteorological Service officials at the 5th meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-5) held in Samoa in August 2019.

Nila Prasad
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