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## USPBeat Magazine

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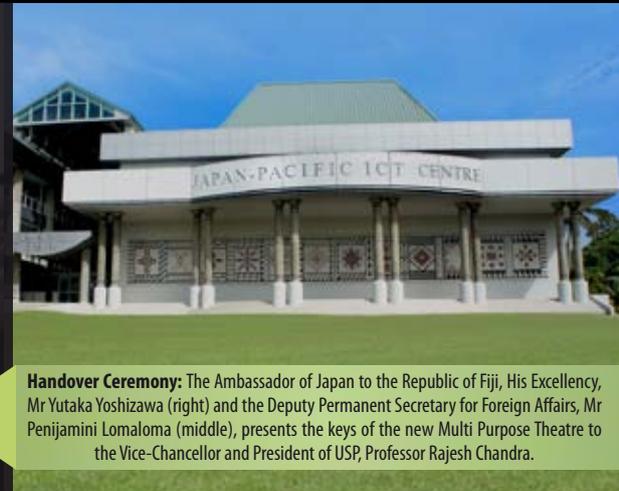
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**Handover Ceremony:** The Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Fiji, His Excellency, Mr Yutaka Yoshizawa (right) and the Deputy Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr Penijamini Lomaloma (middle), presents the keys of the new Multi Purpose Theatre to the Vice-Chancellor and President of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra.

## NEW MULTI PURPOSE THEATRE HANDED OVER TO USP

A ceremony was held to witness the handing over of keys of the newly-built state of the art Multi Purpose Lecture Theatre to the University of the South Pacific on 12 October, 2011.

Located at the USP Laucala Campus in Suva, the Lecture Theatre worth JPY 857 million (approximately FJ\$18 million) was built as Phase II of the Japan-Pacific ICT Centre.

The facility, which was funded by the Government of Japan through its bilateral assistance to Fiji, has a sitting capacity of over 300 and is fitted with stage lights and video camera.

During the handover ceremony, official documents were signed by the Site Manager, Mr Kazuomi Taoda, Resident Architect, Mr Hiteo Hochi and the Vice-Chancellor and President of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra.

After the signing, the keys of the Multi Purpose Lecture Theatre were handed over by the Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Fiji, His Excellency, Mr Yutaka Yoshizawa to the Fiji Government representative, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr Penijamini Lomaloma, who then presented it to Professor Chandra.

In his introductory remarks, Professor Chandra described the occasion as a "significant" one for the region including the Governments of Japan and Fiji and the USP community.

In thanking Japan for their generosity and foresight in constructing the Multi Purpose Theatre, Professor Chandra said that such an investment in educational facilities will bring benefits to the region for many years to come.

He said that the willingness of Japan to share its knowledge and technology with the Pacific Island Countries demonstrates Japan's deep commitment to meeting the needs of the region.

The Vice-Chancellor applauded the efforts of the Japanese contractor, Konoike Construction Company Limited for the outstanding workmanship displayed in completing the facility ahead of schedule. He also acknowledged the support of the Fiji Government in facilitating the Japan-Pacific ICT Centre project which was made possible through Japan's bilateral assistance to Fiji.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, the Multi Purpose Theatre will provide and enhance student learning at USP.

"All students will benefit from this excellent facility. It is a

symbol of a reinvigorated and agile USP which is forging strong partnerships in the service of all its member countries and stakeholders," he added.

Similar views were expressed by the Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Fiji, His Excellency, Mr Yoshizawa, who elaborated that the Lecture Theatre will provide state of the art learning environment to the students of USP.

The Ambassador anticipates that the new facility will become a benchmark in the development of ICT education in the region as well as a model for cooperation between Japan, USP and the Fiji Government.

H.E. Yoshizawa commended the Fiji Government and USP for their assistance and cooperation with the project.

The architectural expression of the new Lecture Theatre is unique and portrays the 'Pacific Spirit' depicting the strong Pacific arts and traditions prevalent in the region, as shown in the tapa designs on the building.

These designs have been created in view of regional cooperation and symbolises the different Pacific traditions including those of the 12 USP member countries, endowing further elegance and uniqueness to the building, highlighted the Ambassador.

Speaking at the ceremony, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr Lomaloma said that the Multi Purpose Theatre is a beautiful addition to the University and its Pacific facade is a reflection of the arts and cultures of the islands.

In thanking the Government of Japan, Mr Lomaloma explained that there is no better way to reach the highest achieving tertiary students in the region than by locating the facility at USP.

He hopes that that the facility will inspire students to appreciate the value of ICT.

"The Fiji Government acknowledges the leadership role that USP has taken with regards to the development of ICT and human resource capacity building in the Pacific region. The exposure to ICT that USP students enjoy in part because of the Japan-Pacific ICT Centre will benefit all of their home countries, when they return and are able to work well with ICT," he mentioned.

The official opening of the Multi Purpose Lecture Theatre will be held later.

# RENEWABLE ENERGY ON THE RISE GLOBALLY

The renewable energy sector continues to perform well despite continuing economic recessions, incentive cuts, and low natural gas prices, according to the REN21 Renewables 2011 Global Status Report (GSR11) launched at the University of the South Pacific in Suva on 4 October, 2011.

In 2010, renewable energy supplied an estimated 16 percent of global final energy consumption and delivered close to 20 percent of the global electricity production. Total global investment in renewable energy in 2010 jumped to a record of \$211 billion, the report highlighted.

The report provides an integrated perspective on global renewable energy situation and documents the development taken place in the previous year.

The report was commissioned by REN21 (Renewable Energy Policy Network for 21st Century) - a Paris based global renewable energy policy network that connects a wide range of key stakeholders from government, industry, and civil society to facilitate knowledge exchange, policy development and joint action towards the advancement of renewable energy worldwide.

The launch of the report, which was held at the USP Marine Campus, was hosted by the School of Engineering and Physics from the Faculty of Science, Technology and Environment (FSTE).

In his presentation, Dr Atul Raturi, Head of the School of Engineering and Physics, presented a comprehensive overview of the global renewable energy situation and key trends of the report.

Dr Raturi confirmed that the report indicates an increase in the use of renewable energy with the first time ever, financial new investments in renewable energy in developing countries surpassing that in developed countries.

This growth in renewable energy is attributed to renewable energy policies.

By early 2011, at least 119 countries had some type of policy target or renewable support policy at the national level, more than double from 2005, which included 55 countries. More than half of these countries are in the developing world, Dr Raturi explained from the report.

Speaking at the launch, Professor Susan Kelly, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching and Student Services) at USP, emphasised that in the coming years, renewable energy will play an increasingly important role in the sustainability of societies.

"The huge dependence on imported fossil fuels and the effects of climate change makes renewable energy development a matter of survival for small island countries," she pointed out.

While access to sustainable energy remains a challenge in the Pacific, Professor Kelly said that USP is determined to proactively respond to such challenges faced by its stakeholders - island nations and the Pacific communities.

She stated that these issues were being addressed through a number of programmes being developed to meet the challenges of a sustainable future for the Pacific.

According to Professor Kelly, one of the key requirements for renewable energy development is the existence of qualified professionals - an issue also highlighted in the Pacific Energy Ministers' meeting in April this year.

She explained that USP is leading a committee that will oversee the development and approval of the competency standards and courses being developed by the Sustainable Energy Industries Association of the Pacific Islands for designers and installation technicians. Once completed, the certification programme will provide quality technical training across the Pacific region.

In launching the report, Professor Kelly said that USP is happy to be associated with REN21 in promoting the global sustainable energy network.

The launch was followed by a panel discussion involving regional energy experts. The panelists discussed and exchanged views on the topic, '100% Renewable Energy for the Pacific - Opportunities and Threats.' The panel discussion was moderated by Dr Anjeela Jokhan, Dean of FSTE.



## USP AND SPC TO INCREASE COLLABORATION

The Vice-Chancellor and President of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra (left) and the Director General of SPC, Dr Jimmie Rodgers at the MOU signing.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the University of the South Pacific and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) which commits the two regional organisations to increased collaboration for the benefit of the Pacific region.

The signing, which took place at the Japan-Pacific ICT Centre at USP's Laucala Campus, was held on 18 October, 2011.

Under this agreement, the two regional intergovernmental organisations will work closely to ensure enhanced delivery of services to their 12 common member countries, which are the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa and Fiji.

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor and President of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra highlighted that this was a very significant occasion for both the regional organisations.

"This MOU, which describes a framework for closer cooperation at all levels, from the governance through to the operational level, further enhances the role of CROP agencies to better serve their member countries," he said.

Under the MOU, SPC and USP will work together to develop joint programmes in areas of mutual interest, including, information and communication technologies (ICT); renewable energy and energy efficiency; climate change and climate related disaster risk reduction; management of marine and coastal resources; environmental waste and water pollution; arts and culture; education; development, governance and leadership.

Professor Chandra explained that two of the major outputs of the MOU will be the Regional Framework on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and the Regional Framework on ICT in Education. These will be significant resources for the region, said the Vice-Chancellor.

"USP is happy to cooperate for the benefit of the region with SPC. The Pacific Plan which Pacific leaders have endorsed over six years ago can only make progress through such collaboration," he commented.

"The initiation of the MOU is held at an opportune time as it will assist and inform the development of the University's new Strategic Plan 2013-2018, work on which starts in early 2012," he added.

Professor Chandra commended the Director General of SPC, Dr Jimmie Rodgers for his willingness to explore new possibilities for the future of the SPC-USP relationship.

Highlighting the importance of the MOU, Dr Rodgers said that it enables the two organisations to join forces in equipping Pacific Island people with the skills they need to respond effectively to the challenges they are facing today, such as climate change, through effective education and training.

"Appropriate education is key to Pacific Island people making informed decisions about their future and the future they wish to leave for the generations that follow and this is an institutional partnership which will guide the future working relationship between the two organisations," he stressed.

Dr Rodgers explained that the MOU provides opportunities for USP to reach out to SPC members that are not members of USP through the SPC network.

"USP and SPC provide the region with an exceptional pool of expertise and resources that when well applied and coordinated will provide the foundation for a more effective delivery of regional services to members to help them achieve their national development outcomes," he said.

Dr Rodgers added that the MOU provides the framework for this new approach to providing regional services by the Pacific's two largest and oldest regional organisations.

After the signing, SPC delegation were given a tour of the Japan-Pacific ICT Centre.



# UNIVERSITY CONNECTS TO INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

Dr Satoshi Furukawa speaks live with participants at the Japan-Pacific ICT Centre, USP Laucala Campus from the International Space Station.



A historic 'In-Flight Education' session between the University of the South Pacific, students of Suva Sangam School and Dr Satoshi Furukawa, a Japanese astronaut currently staying in the International Space Station (ISS) was held on 14 October, 2011.

The live session was jointly organised by USP, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV).

The event, which attracted a total of 85 participants consisting of USP and Suva Sangam College staff and students, JICA Fiji Office, Japan and New Zealand Embassy staff, and the local and Japanese media, took place at the Video Conference Room, Japan-Pacific ICT Centre at the Laucala Campus in Suva.

Students from Suva Sangam School and USP, including a Japanese volunteer had an interesting 30-minute question and answer session with Dr Furukawa. Students asked many interesting questions to which Dr Furukawa responded fully and clearly.

The ISS is a massive laboratory complex located at an altitude of approximately 400km above the earth and the ISS programme is supported by a consortium of 15 countries including Japan, the United States, Canada, European countries and Russia.

The ISS facilitates various kinds of experiments conducted in a microgravity and high vacuum environment which contribute greatly to the development of our society.

During the session, Dr Furukawa entertained the participants with a performance in microgravity environment, which was well received by the participants.

When asked how he felt spending time in space, Dr Furukawa revealed that it was great working with the rest of the astronauts and that he loves the experience.

He also enlightened everyone present at ICT Centre that working as a team with other races in the space station was like a family.

"We have all trained together and know each other very well. Everyone here feels like a family member," Dr Furukawa added.

The newly established Japan-Pacific ICT Centre, the upgrade to the USPNet, and over FJ \$80 million by the Grant Aid and Technical Cooperation Projects (USP-JICA ICT for Human Development and Human Security) are very fruitful assets which have resulted from the friendship between Fiji and Japan.

The Vice-Chancellor and President of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra highlighted that this has been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for everyone present at the event to interact with an astronaut.

"The event showcases what the Japan-Pacific ICT Centre and USP in partnership with Japan can achieve and I hope that all students are inspired by Dr Furukawa's achievements," he stated.

In addition, Professor Chandra congratulated Dr Furukawa and wished him well and further thanked JAXA, JICA and JOCV for making the event possible.

It was also a proud moment for Fiji as it was the first country selected by JICA for interaction with the ISS. It showcased the benefits of networking and partnership, and the depth of the USP-Japan partnership.

In his concluding remarks, JICA Fiji Office, Resident Representative, Mr Juichiro Sasaki stated that he was proud that JAXA chose Fiji to have such collaboration.

Mr Sasaki commended the students of Suva Sangam School and USP for the interesting session with Dr Furukawa and stressed that the experience students gained would be very rewarding.

"Now I expect that you (students) can feel the space much closer to you and hope some of you will aim to become astronauts," he added.

He emphasized to students the need to realize the importance of 'inspiration for innovation' because without it human beings will not reach newer heights.

While quoting the words of a leading scientist at JAXA, Mr Sasaki challenged the students that, "new horizons will only be seen from the higher stage you may build."

"I will not say here study hard because I am not a teacher, but experience hard and I think today you have had a very hard experience," he added.

The live interaction with the ISS showed how the cutting edge facilities of the Japan-Pacific ICT Centre and USPNet can even connect to outer-space.

## ISO SECRETARY GENERAL VISITS USP

The Secretary General of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Mr Rob Steel visited the University of the South Pacific's Laucala Campus in Suva on 17 October, 2011.

This was part of Mr Steel's two-day visit to Fiji to discuss how international standards can help trade and how Fiji can be more involved in international standards formulation particularly for the fishing, mining and timber industries.

During the visit, Mr Steel who was accompanied by Mr Anare Vadei, Director, Trade Measurement and Standards from the Ministry of Industry and Trade met with the Vice-Chancellor and President of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra and the Director of the Institute of Applied Science (IAS), Professor William Aalbersberg to discuss about standards and quality and the role of IAS in the region.

Professor Chandra highlighted the University's commitment in maintaining standards and quality.

He noted that the IAS Laboratory at USP, accredited

to the standard ISO 17025, is the only accredited food and water physical, chemical & microbiological testing laboratory in the South-West Pacific. Its internationally accredited results have allowed acceptance of Fiji products in the international export markets.

He added that the visit by the Secretary General will not only inspire the private sector on the value of standards but also help to promote the important work that USP is doing on standards and quality.

Mr Steel acknowledged the role played by IAS in terms of trade for the country and the region. He encouraged the University including the IAS to participate with stakeholders in the creation of standards.

The Secretary General and the Ministry of Trade and Industry also co-hosted a seminar on "Standards-Creating Confidence Globally" at the University's Faculty of Business and Economics Conference Room on 18 October, 2011.



ISO Secretary General, Mr Rob Steel viewing displays of certificates and accreditation materials at the IAS Laboratory.

# LAUNCH OF THE 2011 TRADE AND INVESTMENT REPORT

The University of the South Pacific's Faculty of Business and Economics together with the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT) launched a new publication on trade and investment at the Laucala Campus on 19 October, 2011.

Titled 'Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2011' with the theme, 'Post-crisis Trade and Investment Opportunities', it is an annual report of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

The report is the only publication in the region which provides data for a large number of trade performance indicators for most of the 58 regional members of UNESCAP.

The data in the report includes the export and import growth rates, shares in intraregional trade, services trade, indicators of trade facilitation, tariff levels and the number of Regional Trade Agreements and their trade coverage.

The report also features analysis of key issues for the region, such as preferential trade agreements, linkage between trade, investment and climate change mitigation policies, and the centrality of China in the Asian century.

While presenting the major findings of the report, the Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics at USP, Professor Biman Chand Prasad highlighted that the report identifies the challenges for investment and trade in the Asia-Pacific region and provides recommendations for policy makers.

"The report also identifies the key issues surrounding trade and investment in the region in the post-crisis period and projections for 2012," he added.

He stressed that the report is very valuable for the Pacific.

"The report is important for the region as it lays down the key challenges and recommends policy interventions for harnessing new opportunities and is very useful for researchers and policy makers," he explained.

The report was prepared by UNESCAP Trade Division which also hosts the Asia-Pacific Research Network on Trade (ARTNeT).

ARTNeT is a regional network of leading trade research institutions across the Asia-Pacific region and aims to increase the amount of quality and relevant trade research by harnessing the research capacity already available in various institutions in the region.

Professor Prasad said that USP is a founding member of the network and is involved in the research activities supported by ARTNeT.

In his introductory remarks, the Regional Advisor of ESCAP Subregional Office of the Pacific, Mr David Smith commented that international trade and cross-border investments were very big development issues in the Pacific.

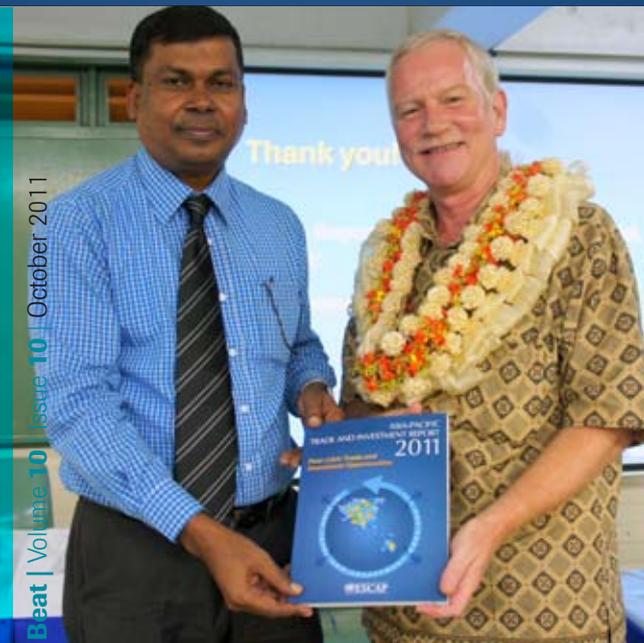
"Many Pacific Island economies are highly dependent on trade in both goods and services, especially tourism, and this means achieving higher rates of economic growth will require a lot of effort," he stated.

According to Mr Smith, trade barriers, tariffs, quarantine requirements and red tape – are major issues that require government attention and action.

He said that trade and investment issues are only one of the core areas in which ESCAP carries out analytical work to address common development problems that face the Asia Pacific region.

"The Asia-Pacific trade and Investment report is a regular publication of ESCAP which aims to stimulate thinking and policy making that will lead to improved trade in the region," Mr Smith pointed out.

The launch was well attended by USP staff and students, government representatives, other invited guests and the media.



Dean of FBE, Professor Biman Prasad (left) and the Regional Advisor of ESCAP Subregional Office of the Pacific, Mr David Smith with the new Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2011.

## STUDENT PROFILE | LUSIANA LEWAVESI TABAIWALU – LLB MAJOR



### What is your home country?

Fiji Islands.

### Which Campus are you studying at?

Laucala.

### Why do you choose to study at USP?

It is convenient since I am a working student plus the education is the same for online and face to face students.

### What do you enjoy about "UNI" life?

Making new friends and learning new cultures.

### What do you find most difficult or challenging?

Studying law which needs bulk of reading notes and cases.

### What do you like about your program of study?

Studying law is unique in a way because you interact with all works of life and assist the general public. When you render your services as a lawyer, you are giving back to the communities.

### What can't you live without on Campus?

Free internet quotas but you just have to make sure that you don't exceed your limit.

### What could improve your studying experience at USP?

Facilities are tailor-made especially the newly upgraded ICT labs. Student can improve their studying by helping themselves make use of the unlimited facilities provided.

### What is your best survival tip?

'Daylight studies', I know that most law students will agree with me on this part.

### What do you do to relax when you're not studying?

Sleeping and watching comedy movies.

### What makes a good lecturer?

The one who knows the stuff and delivers them well.

### Who is your role model or mentor?

My dad, he inspired me to become what I am today.

### What career(s) will your course prepare you for?

Lawyer, legal consultant, solicitor or barrister etc.

### What are some challenges facing young people in the Pacific?

USP has expanded in all areas of studying from certificate to PhD level with first class advanced technologies equipments and facilities offered. The only challenges faced by most young people is that they don't explore beyond the boundaries of their understanding in order to achieve their aim in life. 'Sky is the limit', aim for your target and work towards your goal to achieve your target.

### What are your hopes for the Pacific in 2011 and beyond?

Looking at the Pacific now and beyond I hope that it will be competing with international universities like ANU, Waikato University or Bond University so that students will not opt for further studies overseas when everything they need is right here at their university (USP).

# AWARDS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Sitting from left to right: FRIEND Director/Founder, Ms Sashi Kiran, Lautoka Campus Director, Dr Pramila Devi, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Law and Education, Dr Akanisi Kedrayate, Lautoka Campus Manager-Continuing and Community Education, Mr Hasmukh Lal and EU Programme Management Unit Team Leader, Mr Andrew Winter-Taylor with the graduates.

One hundred and fifty women, men and youths were awarded certificates in Community Development from the University of the South Pacific's Lautoka Campus on 17 October, 2011.

The graduation ceremony was held at the Sugar Cane Growers Council Hall in Lautoka and was commemorated with the International Day for Eradication of Poverty.

The certificates were presented upon the completion of the six-month Social and Economic Empowerment training conducted by the Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises & Development (FRIEND). As part of the training, more than 150 backyard gardens, 100 composts and around 70 income generation programmes supporting livelihoods have been established in six rural communities over the period.

The training guide manual for Pacific communities was developed by FRIEND and launched jointly by the USP Lautoka Campus in March 2010. Since then FRIEND has been training participants in a number of communities.

The Lautoka Campus partnered with FRIEND not only to launch the training guide but also to evaluate the programme and assess the work done in the communities.

In a very inspiring opening speech, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Law and Education at USP, Dr Akanisi Kedrayate commended FRIEND and the Lautoka Campus for their efforts and commitment towards community development.

Dr Kedrayate congratulated the graduates from the rural communities on their achievement and urged them to continue to make good use of the

skills and lessons they have learnt.

In his keynote address, the Team Leader of the Programme Management Unit of the European Union-funded Social Mitigation Support Programme 2010, Mr Andrew Winter-Taylor challenged graduates to step out of their comfort zones.

"Shake off the fear of failure and do not allow procrastination to delay putting their learning into action," he advised.

While addressing the graduates, the Director of USP Lautoka Campus, Dr Pramila Devi said she was pleased to observe the huge impact of the training in rural communities, such as the increase in both, ground level and hanging gardens, difference noted in waste management and other positive changes.

She added that the training manual is holistically based on the Pacific.

Dr Devi is currently conducting academic research to examine the impact of the training manual and this will continue for a three-year period.

In his welcome address, Lautoka Campus Manager Continuing and Community Education (CCE), Mr Hasmukh Lal highlighted that the Campus valued its commitment and partnership collaboration in this initiative as part of its CCE programme.

He said the Campus was also proud to be associated with this Social and Economic Empowerment Training as it directly addressed poverty eradication.

As a result of the training, community members have set up back yard gardens, income generation

programs, composts and disaster management committees and learnt about active citizenship, good governance, financial literacy, starting up income generation programs, healthy living as well as disaster management.

The communities participating in the Governance training this year include Natalecake village, Vakabuli village, Vakabuli/Paipai settlement, Ba Senior centre, Qalitu settlement and Neimasi/Bila.

FRIEND Director/Founder, Ms Sashi Kiran thanked the families of the participants for enabling them to be a part of the training programme.

She pointed out that her primary concern was on poverty and the need for sustainability.

"A key area of focus is on food security in the country and through this training, FRIEND hopes to see more vegetable and crop farming in people's backyards which should result in changes to their diet from processed junk food to freshly grown produce in their daily meals," Ms Kiran explained.

She added that the results were quite impressive so far but pointed out that a lot more can still be done and achieved.

To motivate the participants and with an endeavor to build a better society, FRIEND runs an Annual Competition of Healthy Gardens.

Some of these prizes were presented during the graduation ceremony to community members with 'Aspiring Gardens' and the 'Most Outstanding Gardens'.

The prizes were watering hoses and other garden tools to assist in backyard farming.

## ALUMNI PROFILE | DENNIS SEN



### What is your home country?

Fiji Islands.

### What programme did you graduate in and in which year?

I graduated with Bachelor of Science majoring in Mathematics and Computer Science in 2005. In 2010, I graduated with a Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Science and Information Systems.

### Who is your favorite lecturer and why?

I believe all of them were really good as they had their own way of teaching which was challenging.

### What was your most memorable moment as a student?

When I was chosen as a part-time tutor to teach computer basics to new students in my second year at university.

### What is your funniest moment as a student?

There were plenty moments but one I feel was really funny. In one of the USP Social I was full dancing with a girl when I later realized that she was my sister-in-law.

### What was your greatest achievement while studying at USP?

Passing all my CS and MA units and completing my programme within 3 years. Also submitting assignment before deadlines.

### How do you think USP helped you in your career?

USP helped me in many ways such as to become a team player, think critically, have a positive mind and to become a good citizen of my country. USP also trained me so that I can fit in any workplace with

confidence.

### What inspires you and why?

I get inspired by my parents, family members as well as peers in my same age group. Also with the support and encouragement of the diligent students.

### After graduating from USP, what has been your greatest achievement?

Being equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills, I got employed in USP. I am looking forward to delivering the things I learnt to my students in a manner that suits them the best.

### Your advice to current and future USP students?

'Attempt till the last breath'. Success only comes through hard work and dedication. If you are given the opportunity, then make the most of it. Think of your parents and those who are supporting you financially or in some other ways. Work towards your goals as nothing is impossible and finally if you are not sure of anything then ask.

### What you hope USP will be like in the future?

USP will surely transform itself from a good university to a great university. It will deliver with excellence the programmes in the different fields of study.

# WOMEN OF INDEPENDENCE: RECOLLECTIONS OF FIJI AT FORTY-ONE



Members of the panel (sitting: left to right): Ms Roshni Pal, Dr Shaista Shameem, Mrs Mavis Basawaiya, Dr Claire Slatter and Ms Suliana Siwatibau as the Dean of FALE, Dr Akanisi Kedrayate (standing) concludes the discussion.

The Faculty of Arts, Law and Education (FALE) at the University of the South Pacific hosted a featured speaker and a panel discussion to allow women from various walks of life who were actively involved in Independence celebrations to share their recollections of the historic day.

Held at the USP Laucala Campus on 20 October 2011, the discussion allowed the invited panel of guest speakers to speak of their memories of Fiji's Independence Day in 1970. Those present at the discussion contributed with their personal viewpoints on what independence means to them as women and as citizens of Fiji.

The event was part of FALE's community engagement initiatives. A similar discussion was held last year when FALE organised the inaugural 'Fiji at Forty', which showcased recollections from prominent persons who were present during Fiji's Independence.

The five-member panel included Ms Suliana Siwatibau, Dr Claire Slatter, Mrs Mavis Basawaiya, Dr Shaista Shameem, and Ms Roshni Pal.

The Chief Guest and the featured speaker was the Minister for Women, Culture and Heritage and Social Welfare, Dr Jiko Luveni. She was among the first i-taukei women in the medical profession in Fiji.

Speaking at the discussion, Dr Luveni highlighted the contributions of women over the four decades of Fiji's independence.

She emphasised that women have always been a great force towards the progress of civilization. Dr Luveni added that society as a whole would not progress without the advancement of women.

"There is evidence of change in the women of Fiji in the past forty-one years of independence as we take

ownership of our efforts to upscale the development in our nation. This is most encouraging," she affirmed.

The Minister described independence as the strength that breeds confidence to create something from nothing and prompts a will to go beyond to reach extraordinary heights.

"When individuals become achievers of their goals, there is multiplier effect on the country. When Fiji gained independence, we took ownership of our destiny. There should be a change in the mindset from complacency to hard work, from welfare to workfare, to prioritize education and to emerge from poverty to gain from the wealth of our natural resources," she explained.

Dr Luveni stressed that responsibility comes with empowerment and freedom.

"It is our responsibility as strong and independent women to demonstrate in our own lives the potential Fijian women have. We are the role models and mentors for all women," she added.

A former USP academic and now a peace ambassador, an emotional Ms Siwatibau shared the importance of Independence for women in Fiji. She elaborated that Independence had liberated women to lead their country which is quite positive for countries and societies.

Having taught in Fiji for over 43 years, Mrs Basawaiya recalled her experience of the historic day in 1970. The retired school teacher said that the sight of neatly turned out school students waving the Fiji flag can never be forgotten.

According to Mrs Basawaiya, Fiji has achieved a lot and made rapid progress in many areas since Independence. These include the involvement of

women in decision making, combating violence against women and children, and localising skilled jobs.

In moving Fiji forward, Mrs Basawaiya said, "we must exert our energy in nation building and healing so that we can make our nation a plural society and enjoy a land of freedom, hope and glory."

Another panelist, Dr Shaista Shameem, a human rights advocate and the Associate Professor of Law at the University of Fiji, shared her experience as a school student at that time trying to understand Independence.

Dr Claire Slatter, an academic from the Fiji National University, talked about her recollections of being a young woman studying and graduating in the early days of Fiji's Independence. Similar reminiscences were made by Ms Roshni Pal, a senior manager at the Fiji National Provident Fund, who was one of the five students chosen to be part of the formalities during Independence celebrations.

In her concluding remarks, the Dean of FALE, Dr Akanisi Kedrayate thanked the distinguished panelists for their diverse viewpoints and informative discussions.

"We can learn from all these experiences and know that we have all come a long way," she pointed out.

She encouraged those present to work together and make the society a much better place in which to live.

The event was organised by the Associate Dean Research and Graduate Affairs, Dr Mohit Prasad, as part of FALE's community engagement program in association with the Gender Studies programme based at the School of Social Sciences.

## FIRST INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS WORKSHOP FOR STUDENTS

Students enrolled in the newly established Graduate Studies in International Affairs and Diplomacy programme at the University of the South Pacific participated in an inaugural hands-on workshop on International Negotiations from 17 - 18 October, 2011.

In welcoming the workshop participants, the Director of the School of Government, Development and International Affairs, Professor Vijay Naidu, said that this was the first time that USP students experienced such an important skills workshop on negotiation as part of their postgraduate programme.

The two-day workshop was designed to impart practical skills in diplomatic writing and negotiation

through a step-by-step preparation for participation in a mock 'Wellington Conference on Climate Change.' During the training, each student became part of a country or international agency delegation to this mock conference.

On the first day, participants practiced the art of writing Cabinet submissions, preparing briefs for the conference, and writing opening speeches.

After a briefing on international meeting procedures and negotiation styles, the participants on the final day engaged in the 'Wellington Conference', delivering opening speeches, participating in corridor and tea-time negotiations, and then delivering delegation positions at the conference table. Ruci Botei ably chaired the mock conference.

The workshop was facilitated by Ambassador Peter Rodgers, a visiting Fellow at the Asia Pacific College of Diplomacy in Canberra.

Ambassador Rodgers commented that the participants were "naturals", keeping in mind that only one or two in the group had experienced an actual international conference.

The workshop organiser, Associate Professor Greg Fry of the Graduate Studies in Diplomacy and International Affairs programme, said that the feedback from the participants was incredibly positive.

He said that participants gained an appreciation of how such international negotiations work and the confidence to actually participate in negotiations.



President of CSSP, Dr Surendra Prasad (front: left), Dr David Rohindra (far right) from the Division of Chemical Sciences at USP and Mrs Basundra Kumar (centre), Director, Secondary Education from the Ministry of Education with teachers and students at the Awards Ceremony.

## CHEMICAL SOCIETY HOSTS AWARDS CEREMONY

*Apart from bringing the benefits of chemical educational institutions and organisations to the general public, the IYC 2011 also aims at increasing the interest of young people in chemistry.*

The Chemical Society of the South Pacific (CSSP) concluded its activities for secondary schools this year with an Awards Ceremony to honor outstanding high school chemistry students in Fiji.

Held at the University of the South Pacific's Laucala Campus in Suva, the ceremony took place at the Faculty of Science, Technology and Environment on 15 October, 2011.

Supported by the University of the South Pacific, the CSSP has been greatly involved in organising national and regional chemical science events and is a prominent and active chemical society in the region.

This year, some of the major activities of CSSP included: the Regional Chemistry Quiz; National Titration Competition; National Chem Knowledge Battle; and National Poster Competition.

About 70 schools from the Central, Western and

Northern Divisions participated in these activities and competitions organised by the CSSP.

The highlight activity of CSSP was the International Conference on Chemistry, Environment and Climate Change (ICCECC) which was held at the USP Laucala Campus in September earlier this year.

The conference was to honour the 'International Year of Chemistry' (IYC 2011) which the United Nations declared at its 63rd General Assembly held in December 2008 with the theme, 'Chemistry - Our Life, our Future.'

In his address at the ceremony, the President of CSSP, Dr Surendra Prasad welcomed the awardees, teachers and parents to the function.

Dr Prasad highlighted that the goal of the CSSP has always been to develop links between the private and public sectors to help stimulate high school students for higher education in science and in particular chemistry.

"The collaboration of this nature will go a long way in achieving the goals of CSSP," he added.

Students from Central and Western Division were awarded at the Laucala Campus, while the Northern Division winners were awarded in a parallel ceremony at the Labasa College, lead by Dr Ikhtiar Ahmed and his team.

The Chief Executive Officer of Vodafone Fiji Limited, Mr Aslam Khan, who was the Chief Guest during the function, thanked CSSP for their efforts.

"Vodafone is always proud to be part of such important educational initiative, which helps enrich the lives of the people," he said.

Mrs Basundra Kumar, Director, Secondary Education from the Ministry of Education, was also present to encourage students to participate in such competitions to improve their knowledge.



## WORKSHOP BUILDS RESEARCH CAPACITY IN COOK ISLANDS

A workshop aimed at educating participants on preparing thesis research proposals began on 8 October, 2011.

The 'Empowering Voices ~ Transforming Communities: Preparing a Thesis Research Proposal' workshop was organised by USP Cook Islands Campus.

The workshop, which was held in the Cook Islands, was conducted by Professor Tania Ka'ai with support from Professor John Moorfield and Ms Tania Smith.

Professors Ka'ai and Moorfield are both academics in Maori Innovation and Development and Professor Ka'ai is also the Director of Te Ipukarea - The National Maori Language Institute at AUT University in New Zealand.

The main objective of the workshop was to develop Cook Islands national research capacity. Students who have completed the first six papers towards their Masters degrees with USP were invited to be part of the workshop with a view of completing their Masters by research, proceeding to PhD.

Cook Islands students interested in taking the Maastricht/USP Doctors in Business Administration programme also participated. Their attendance was made possible with partial financial support from the USP Research Office.

The workshop covered a range of research topics which included:

- (i) identifying a research question to be developed into a thesis;
- (ii) identifying contending theoretical perspectives and critiquing existing research;

(iii) identifying and utilising indigenous research methodologies which derive from indigenous knowledge;

(iv) identifying relevant ethical issues;

(v) resources needed to complete research;

(vi) timetable for completion; and

(vii) referencing.

Part of the workshop assessment involved a four minute presentation by each student on their research proposal presented on two power-point slides.

A number of teachers from the outer islands of Atiu, Mitiaro and Mauke were also part of the workshop. A proposal exists to extend the workshop to other post graduate students in the outer islands (particularly Atiu and Mangaia) in late November with the assistance of Professor Emerta Joy Hendry of Oxford Brookes University in the UK.

One of the workshop facilitators, Professor Moorfield led a team that placed the New Zealand Maori dictionary online and made it available as a phone application.

He is also providing advice and assistance to USP Cook Islands and the Ministry of Education on plans to digitize the Cook Islands Maori Dictionary for online and mobile phone use.



# USP FAMILY DAY

The 2011 Family Day hosted across the eight campuses on 1 October has been labeled as the 'most successful' to date.

USP campuses in Samoa, Tuvalu, Nauru, the Solomon Islands, Republic of Marshall Islands, and the three campuses in Fiji- Laucala, Lautoka and Labasa marked the fun-filled day.

Like previous years, the response to the day was extremely positive where people had fun, caught up with colleagues, and met new people and made new friends.

The Family Day at the Laucala Campus was opened by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching and Student Services), Professor Susan Kelly who encouraged those present to make the most of the opportunity.

Professor Kelly described the Family Day as a happy event which happens concurrently at other USP campuses around the region.

"I encourage everyone to join in these fun Family Day activities and to be an active member of the USP Family," she said.

"We are all very fortunate to be part of a University that understands the value of events where staff can bring their children and partners and just enjoy activities, good company and fun," she added.

Children got to enjoy their favorite sack race and treasure hunt competitions, which is also popular with adults. The egg and spoon race, and the Pacific's very own traditional game of coconut scraping and basket weaving competition took the Family Day to another level of excitement.

The Group Manager, Campus Life, Mr Glenn Pope who led the organisation of the event commented that 2011 Family Day was the most successful to date with more USP campuses participating and generated larger crowd with increased activities.

"Over 1500 members of the USP Family attended the Laucala Campus Family Day and were treated a range of rides and goodies (ferries wheel, bouncy castles, merry-go-around rides, paddle boat rides, popcorn, candy floss and ice-cone and live music). The cultural performances by Tokelauan and Tongan groups added color and energy to the day," Mr Pope said.

"The event was first introduced in 2010 and is about celebrating the concept of USP Family and providing an informal setting for USP students and staff with young families to enjoy each other's company and appreciate the value of being part of USP across the region," he added.

The Family Day was received very well by the participants and according to the feedback by many people that turned up, the event was very well organised.

USP Student Association Tokelauan Student representative, Ms Jewel Toloa commended Campus Life for putting up a "great" family day for the USP community.

"We continued to play touch rugby and had more games in the evening. It was so much fun," she said.

USP staff, Ms Rina Antonio-Jang said that the family day gave her the opportunity to meet with other staff and friends.

"My family had planned to spend at least two hours but we got carried away with so much fun that we left after six hours, enjoying every minute if it," Ms Antonio-Jang mentioned.

Another staff, Ms Patrina Dumaru shared similar sentiments. She said the rides, pop corn and candy floss, water activities, games and awesome band - all by the sea was really very special.

"Sharing all that with other USP staff and their families made it a very successful family 'soqo' - of course the Tongans and Tokelauans have to be especially thanked for adding the Polynesian touch with dance on the day," she excitedly shared.

The event ended with a display by the fire fighters of the National Fire Authority on the 'Smoke House'.

The University of the South Pacific held its most successful Blood Drive of the year when a total of 112 pints of blood was collected on 3 October, 2011.

The Blood Drive which was the third one to be held at the Laucala Campus this year, attracted lot of staff, students and visitors to the campus with many turning out to be first-time donors.

In the other two Blood Drives, USP made a collection of 41 units during the Orientation Day in February and 84 units in August.

The University's blood contributions over the last two years have earned USP recognition from the Ministry of Health as the highest collector of blood in the Tertiary Institutions Category for 2009 and 2010.

The Blood Drives are part of the 'Give Back to the Community Program' through which the University has been involved in a number of community initiatives. These programs are coordinated by the Group Manager of Campus Life at USP, Mr Glenn Pope.

Highlighting the importance of giving blood Mr Pope said that USP is championing this initiative by attracting young voluntary donors.

"There is no doubt that most if not all of these donors will become regular donors and continue to save lives with liquid love - blood," he stated.

To promote the Blood Drives at USP, Mr Pope explained that the idea of bringing the Drives on-campus and providing personal attention to all the donors has attracted a lot of new and existing donors.

The Drives are also used to create awareness amongst the USP community on the value of blood, how to prepare yourself to be a blood donor, and how to take care of yourself after donating blood.

Mr Pope announced plans on launching similar Blood Drives at the USP Lautoka and Labasa Campuses later in the month to help curb the issues of blood shortage in central hospitals around the country.

USP's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching and Student Services), Professor Susan Kelly assured that the University is keen to continue with the Blood Drives.

"Tertiary institutions have a lot of students and should partner for such initiatives. Our students' population offer numbers as well as the ideal age group at which to begin encouraging regular and voluntary blood donations as a habit," she added.

The USP Blood Drives have been organised by USP Campus Life and the USP Sai Youth Wing of the Sathya Sai Service Organisation of Fiji in conjunction with the USP Students Association and supported by Vodafone.

The Fiji Red Cross volunteers were also part of the volunteer team and Nestle has been voluntarily providing Milo to donors at all USP Blood Drives. USP has volunteers from Projects Abroad who have joined this year and will be providing support with the volunteer nurses.

Blood Drives

## STAFF PROFILE | GREG CORNWALL | COORDINATOR - HOTEL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME



**What is the length of time you've been employed at USP?**  
11 months.

**What is your home country?**  
Fiji.

**How do you usually begin your working day?**  
I have a shower and shave, get dressed, drink a glass of fresh lemon and water, have fresh fruit for breakfast and start at Uni between 7.30am - 8.00 am.

**What is the best part of your current work?**  
I get to teach students what it took me 20+ years to learn and assist them with 12 month internship placements and holiday jobs in the hospitality industry. I get to be involved in projects that improve the lives of Fijians such as Makogai marine nursery, the Modern Fiji Cuisine and the Plant a million mangroves.

**What is your best practical remedy for work and life stress?**  
Have a good balance of fun, fitness, family and stay healthy.

**What is the most unusual/ unexpected event that has ever happened to you?**

I helped deliver a baby on an island resort that I managed.

**What is the best advice you've ever been given, or have given to students at USP?**

Every young student or worker that has studied hard and worked well has always excelled in their career.

**Who inspires you and why?**

My wife Julie, who is always happy and enjoys life to the fullest.

**What have been your main career highlights?**

Fiji's first Food & Beverage Manager of the Regent of Fiji, a 5 star resort, General Manager of the Hua Hin Marriot Resort and Spa in

Thailand, and the Hotel Management Programme Coordinator at USP.

**What books are you reading at the moment, and why?**

Honolulu. It is a great Pacific Island magazine that has great ideas in it, applicable for Fiji.

**What are some challenges you think are faced by young people in the Pacific?**

Employment is the major challenge for young Pacific Islanders and most of the current leaders in the Pacific do not have enough focus on creating jobs for them.

**What are your hopes for the Pacific in 2011 and beyond?**

I hope that the Pacific is blessed with good weather, can elect good leaders that can create good economic growth for their countries and maintain a balanced scorecard of education, food supply, health standards, sporting success, good living conditions, environmental care, sustainability and employment growth.