

USP AND THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT SIGN PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The New Zealand Acting Head of Mission, Mr Phillip Taula and the Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of the South Pacific (USP), Professor Rajesh Chandra signed a Partnership Funding Agreement on 6 October, 2010 which confirmed New Zealand's funding support to USP for 2010-2012.

The Partnership which is worth FJ\$19.2 million (NZ\$13.8 million) over three years will ensure close cooperation to ensure the achievement of New Zealand and the USP's shared commitment to the sustainable development of the Pacific region.

"New Zealand is committed to supporting the USP to deliver excellence and academic leadership in the Pacific. This Partnership Agreement signals the importance of the University to the region. New Zealand is pleased to be a part of enabling people to access quality and relevant higher educational opportunities through USP. Our funding will support the University to implement its Strategic Plan 2010-2012," said Mr Taula.

The Partnership Agreement provides core budget support to the USP that will fund the implementation



New Zealand Acting Head of Mission, Mr Phillip Taula and Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of the South Pacific, Professor Rajesh Chandra.

of the Strategic Plan 2010-2012, and will focus on supporting enhanced teaching and improved learning outcomes, improved governance and engagement with member countries on the part of the University, and effective strategic planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

In addition to the Partnership Agreement funding, New Zealand also provides regional scholarships to USP. For 2010, there are 185 students on New Zealand Government scholarships studying at USP, at a cost of approximately FJ\$6.35million (NZ\$4.57 million).

"New Zealand was a founding member of the USP, and has played an important role as adviser and supporter over the past forty years. I am pleased that New Zealand is USP's 'partner'. That term in itself demonstrates the strong commitment of New Zealand to the University and its mission, as detailed in the USP's Strategic Plan 2010-2012, which emphasises 'Quality, Relevance and Sustainability'," remarked Professor Chandra.

At the conclusion of the signing ceremony, Professor Chandra conveyed to H.E Mr Taula the sincere gratitude of the University, on behalf of its twelve member countries, staff and students for the generous funding support that will greatly assist the University to achieve its main objective of enhancing human resource development in the Pacific.

CPA AUSTRALIA ACCREDITATION FOR USP's ACCOUNTING PROGRAMME

A launch was held to commemorate the Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) of Australia accreditation for the University of the South Pacific's Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) in Accounting programme. This is a milestone achievement for the USP's School of Accounting and Finance.

CPA Australia is one of three professional accounting bodies in Australia and has about 129,000 members from across the globe.

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor and President of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra said that, "the accreditation with CPA Australia and our local Fiji Institute of Accountants indicates and provides very high levels of assurance to stakeholders of the quality of the accounting education we deliver."

Similar remarks were made by the President of CPA Fiji Chapter, Mr Pradeep Lal, who said that the "accreditation indicates the confidence that CPA Australia has in the quality of the BCom Accounting programme at USP."

Professor Chandra added that a CPA accreditation meant greater levels of respect and recognition

Professor Chandra assured continued support for the School saying that "the USP Management and the Faculty of Business and Economics assures the School of Accounting and Finance that all forms of support will always be forthcoming to maintain and further improve the quality of the accounting programme and to produce more relevant and timely courses and programmes for our stakeholders."

He highlighted that the accreditation body will audit the School, thus providing a greater level of assurance for stakeholders through such quality checks.

In his speech, the Head of School of Accounting and Finance at USP, Professor Arvind Patel highlighted that the School had made tremendous progress.

"The School of Accounting and Finance offered its first course in 1970, enrolling three students. In 1975, the full accounting programme was established. Today we offer three undergraduate programs and five postgraduate programmes. The total course enrolments currently exceed 7,000" he added.

Professor Patel stressed the importance of the

process and have the power to allocate and mis-allocate resources."

He stated that accounting education was making a shift from "only technical bean accounting to a more complex inclusion of ethical discourse and training" and that the USP's School of Accounting and Finance was at the forefront of such a change.

He added that the School had introduced courses in professional and corporate ethics and the University had introduced generic courses in Governance and Ethics.

Professor Patel added that with the support from the University and the Faculty, the School will constantly review and revise curriculum and hire appropriate staff to reflect real world changes. He also announced that the Faculty would build a special postgraduate library next year to provide greater levels of specialised academic resources to postgraduate students.

He thanked the Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics, Professor Biman Prasad, and USP's senior management for their support and encouragement.

2010 USP OPEN DAY A GREAT SUCCESS

The University of the South Pacific (USP) hosted a successful Open Day this year. In the presence of the Ministers, diplomats, sponsors, USP staff, secondary school students and their teachers, the Vice-Chancellor and President of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra sent a strong message highlighting why USP is a unique, preferred and renowned institution for quality higher education for the students of the region and beyond.

Open Day 2010 marked the start of the enrolments for 2011, and took place simultaneously at most other USP regional campuses. 54 schools with over 5000 form six and seven students visited the University's different faculties, schools and support facilities to get first hand information on the courses, student support facilities and a chance to experience campus life.

Emphasizing the theme for this year - 'USP: Preparing you for Lifelong Success', Professor Chandra said that "USP offers and equips its students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to succeed in whichever fields they choose to make their careers in and as the place where many of the region's future leaders will spend their formative years gaining both intellectual exposure and leadership expertise."

He added that "over the last 42 years, USP has produced over 30,000 graduates, many of whom have gone on to make extremely significant contributions in their countries, regionally and internationally. USP has become an internationalised university with a strong Pacific character that focuses on quality, offers excellent ICT and other facilities, remains student-centered, and has safe, healthy, and exciting campuses."

USP is a unique university and offers the best choice for higher education in the Pacific. This is not just based on the advantages that USP students have during the course of their studies, but also that USP offers its graduates excellent connections in the Pacific and worldwide.

Professor Chandra reminded students that "after all, for most people, university is not a destination, but rather a stepping stone. No other university connects you with so many of the most influential people around the Pacific. USP alumni hold prominent positions in all walks of life, and it is not unusual to hear gatherings of CEOs and ambassadors from around the region reminiscing about their days at USP. USP therefore offers opportunities, it offers support, and it offers you the best possible future."

The USP Student Association's multi-cultural groups provided the entertainment throughout the day with the final event being the 'Peace Unplugged Concert' hosted by USP's own Radio Pasifik.

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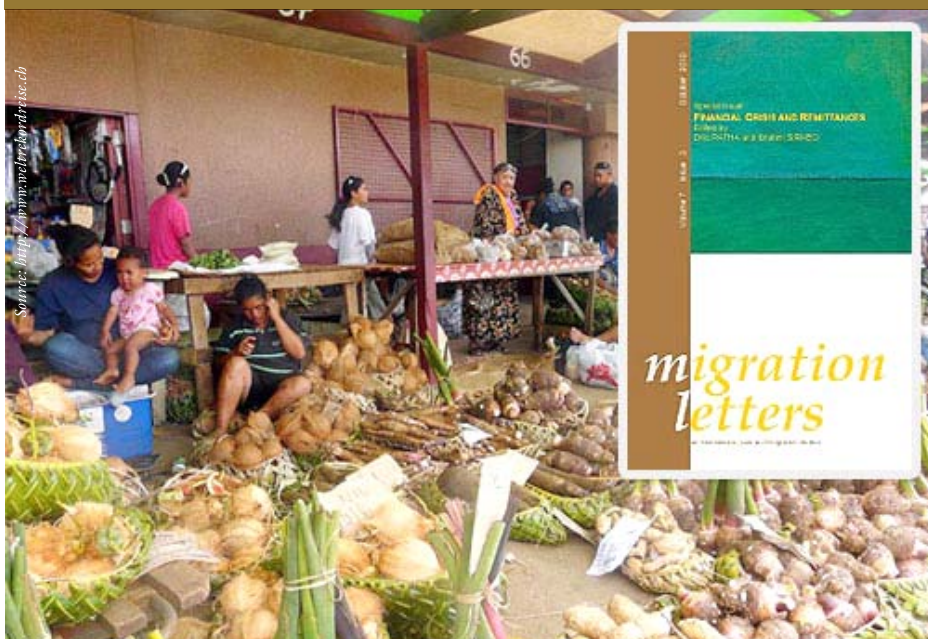
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"ROLE OF REMITTANCES IN TONGAN ECONOMY" RESEARCH PAPER



Talamahu Market in Tonga.

Insert: Cover of Journal of Migration Letters, Issue - October, 2010.

A research paper on the 'Role of Remittances in Tongan Economy', which was authored by the University of the South Pacific's (USP) School of Economics, Associate Professor, T. K. Jayaraman, Ronald Kumar of the School of Government, Development and International Affairs at USP and Dr C. K. Choong from the University of Tunku Abdul Rahman in Malaysia, has been published by the Journal of *Migration Letters* in its special issue on 'Financial Crisis and Remittances'.

This special issue of October 2010 was edited by Dr Dilip Ratha, who is the lead economist of the Remittances Group, World Bank in Washington, D.C. and Dr Ibrahim Sirkeci of Regent College, London, UK.

The research paper studies the role of remittances in the economic growth of Tonga during the past 28-year period from 1981 till 2008. As highlighted in the paper, Tonga is one of the two Pacific Island countries (PICs) which figured in the list of world's top ten remittance receiving countries in 2007 and 2008.

Professor Jayaraman explains that in the context of the current global economic downturn, inward remittances have been a great support to all PICs. Aside from being a major source of foreign exchange earnings, they supplement domestic savings and real resources.

"Amongst the PICs, Tonga's dependence on remittance inflows is well known. In addition to being in the list of top remittance-dependent countries in the world, its ratio of remittances to GDP is also the highest amongst PICs," he added.

Tonga's annual remittance inflows over the past three decades averaged about 35 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), as stated in the paper.

Professor Jayaraman further elaborated that, "as foreign exchange earnings from traditional commodity exports have been falling and the prospects of tourism are dim due to continuing global economic downturn, remittances have assumed much greater importance in recent months."

According to the paper, remittance inflows along with the liquidity in the banking system led to increases in credits to private sector and hence greater economic activities resulting in more exports and GDP growth.

The full citation of the paper is:

Jayaraman, T.K., C.K. Choong and R. Kumar, "Role of Remittances in Tongan Economy," Journal of Migration Letters, Special Issue on Financial Crisis and Remittances. 7(2), Oct 2010: 224-230.

The paper is available in the Pacific Collection at the USP Library.

RESEARCH DAY TO VUTIA VILLAGE IN THE REWA DELTA

Each year, the University of the South Pacific's Research Office holds a number of 'Research Days'. These occasions inform staff and students about a particular area of research within the University. The purpose of the 'Research Days' are to:

- Raise awareness about key areas of research within the University and encourage cross-fertilisation of ideas;
- Encourage a holistic view of solutions to challenges that confront the Pacific Islands region; and
- Target senior undergraduate and postgraduate students - prospective and current researchers - who wish to be informed about USP's research strengths, perhaps to help them decide which area of research interests them.

On 25 September, 2010 the University's Research Office hosted a 'Research Day' to Vutia village in the Rewa Delta. This village is the research site of Ms Shalini Lata, who completed her Master of Science in Environmental Science this year under the supervision of USP Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and International) Professor Patrick Nunn. Her study as-

sessed perceptions of future climate change and its implications for adaptation in the area.

This 'Research Day' enabled participants to:

- Witness firsthand the effects of climate change facing the area;
- Observe the importance and urgency of implementing adaptation solutions in a vulnerable community;
- Understand the customary way of living in a Fijian community, including hierarchical decision-making and its role in environmental governance and future climate change adaptation; and
- Value field research.

This was a successful event and was enjoyed by all participants. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching and Student Services) Professor Susan Kelly, who attended the event described the day as "very informative, enjoyable and thought-provoking".

Professor Nunn said "it is gratifying to note the huge interest in this particular Research Day which I feel really underscores the point that climate change is not a challenge to be



Participants on the 'Research Day' visit to Vutia village in the Rewa Delta.

exclusively met by one particular sector or group of specialists, but by all those represented at the University.

He added that the "warm welcome our group received from the Vutia community really made the day a huge success."

For more information on Research Days please visit: www.research.usp.ac.fj/researchday

SOCIAL POLICY, SOCIAL WELFARE SYSTEMS AND HUMAN SECURITY IN THE PACIFIC CONFERENCE



Participants at the 'Social Policy, Social Welfare Systems and Human Security in the Pacific' conference at USP.

The University of the South Pacific's School of Social Sciences, under the Faculty of Arts and Law in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), hosted a conference on 'Social Policy, Social Welfare Systems and Human Security'. The conference was held on 5 - 7 October, 2010 at the Communications Conference Room at the University's Lautala Upper Campus in Suva, Fiji.

The conference brought together major stakeholders from around the Pacific to discuss issues of social policies, welfare systems and human security in the region. With reflection on Pacific Island countries, and assessments and analysis of already existing policies; the aim of the conference was to identify and map social policies with relation to social and cultural protection and human securities.

Keynote speakers at the conference included: Dr Isiye Ndombi - UNICEF Pacific Representative; Professor Vijay Naidu - the Director of the School of Governance and Development Studies at the University of the South Pacific; Dr Rachael Slater - a specialist in social protection, food security, rural and agricultural development; and Fr Kevin Barr - lecturer and author of a number of books on 'Social Issues'.

In his opening address Dr Isiye Ndombi stated that the "number of person to years of experience in this conference room is staggering."

"You bring unparalleled knowledge from your countries. That is a resource that must be exploited. Accordingly, I look forward to your deliberations and recommendations that, among other things, will highlight frameworks for building children and family welfare systems that are Pacific-

relevant, tapping into the good local traditions and resources with focus on prevention and good community caring practices," added Dr Ndombi.

In addition to the keynote speakers, the conference also included speakers from around the Pacific who shared their experiences with regards to policy and the Pacific. Among the participants at the conference were social work students from Massey University in New Zealand.

The conference was an initiative by USP to contribute to the social development of the region through networking and capacity building.

Conference website:

<http://www.usp.ac.fj/socialpolicyconf>



ODN Research Capacity Building Workshop at USP.



ODN RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

The Oceania Development Network (ODN) Research Capacity Building Workshop held on 4 - 5 October, 2010 at the University of the South Pacific (USP) was attended by 70 people including academics from around the Oceania region, ODN funded researchers and postgraduate students. The workshop was organised by the ODN Secretariat which was re-located from the National University of Samoa in July this year to the Faculty of Business and Economics (FBE) at the University of the South Pacific.

ODN Chairperson and the Dean of FBE, Professor Biman Prasad thanked everyone for attending the opening of the workshop and for their participation in the two-day workshop.

"We believe that ODN can play a crucial role within the region in developing a research community that is able to effectively connect to each other and build capacity to fulfill the development research needs of their countries," said Professor Prasad.

The keynote address was delivered by USP's Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and International) Professor Patrick Nunn. He captivated and

inspired the new and emerging researchers by reiterating the importance of research and its pivotal role in the development of the Oceania region.

The workshop included presentations by the 2009 Regional Research Competition (RRC) winners. For the 2009 RRC winners, the focus was on research presentations and report of research findings while the others received assistance in terms of research proposal writing together with research methodology.

This followed presentations by resource persons. The one on 'Research Proposals' was presented by Professor Pamela Thomas from the Australian National University, 'Research Methodologies and Analysis of Research Findings' was presented by Mr Rup Singh from USP while 'Research Presentations' was presented by Professor Vijay Naidu from USP.

Representatives of the two teams from the 2009 RRC turned up to present the findings of their researches. They were:

1. Mr Joseph Foukona (USP Emalus Campus) and Mr Paul Roughan (Islands Knowledge

Institute: Honiara) and their research topics were on 'Social service expectations in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands: a comparative exploration of bases for social contract in the modern Melanesian state.'

2. Peter Kanaparo (University of Papua New Guinea) and Dr. Benedict Y. Imbun (University of Western Sydney) and their research topics were on 'How are Pacific Island Countries reforming their labour markets to stimulate economic development, good governance and security through regionalism? The Case of Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu.'

Three young researchers at the USP Laucala Campus, Patrina Dumarua a PhD candidate, Ronald Kumar, a Masters candidate and Laniet Tokalauvere, a recently graduated Masters student shared "lessons learnt" at different phases during their research work.

Presentations of the progress reports and lessons learnt were made on Day 1. Day 2 consisted of a more hands-on approach to refining the research papers. The Oceania Development Network also acknowledged the support of the Global Development Network and AusAID.

STUDENT PROFILE | LILLIAN S. HOLMES-FUATA | BCOM IN TOURISM AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Programme of Study:

Bachelor of Commerce in Tourism and Industrial Relations.

What is your home country?

Fiji.

Which campus are you studying at?

Laucala Campus, Suva.

Why did you choose to study at USP?

The University of the South Pacific was an opportunity for me to venture out on my own and experience a whole new perspective to life and most importantly to gain an academic qualification that is highly recognised around the world.

What do you enjoy most about 'uni' life?

Meeting new friends every semester from all parts of the South Pacific and the world.

What do you find most difficult or challenging?

I work part time at the Student Services Centre, study and have a family; I do find it challenging to juggle all that at once.

What do you like best about your programme of study?

The programme I'm currently doing provides me with an insight of the challenges in the work place and issues

that are raised from time to time, and as to how we can deal with them.

What can't you live without on Campus?

My purse, ipod, bottle of water and of course my phone.

What could improve your studying experience at USP?

For teaching staff to have an open door policy which is not restricted to consultation hours only.

What is your best survival study tip?

I find it difficult studying on my own, one of the methods that work for me is networking with friends that do the same course so for me the best way to study is in groups as you learn and help your friends at the same time.

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

Watch a movie, read a book or hanging out with my family and friends.

What makes a good lecturer?

A lecturer, who is very easy to approach, has a good sense of humor and knows her/his boundaries around students.

Who is your role model or mentor, and why?

My role model is my best friend and husband, Nicholas Fuata. He has been a great influence in my life and the

support I get from him is remarkable especially in my studies and goals that I wish to accomplish in life.

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

Administration, Human resource officer and management.

What are some challenges facing (young) people in the Pacific?

Some challenges are: maintaining the balance of healthy diets due to numerous temptations of outdoor eating options, the influence of the internet, peer-pressure, sex, alcohol and drugs.

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

That we may all share and appreciate the cultures and the values of our ancestors that despite the changes that may take place and the influence of the world in the Pacific, we may hold on it and share it with the generations to come.



USP HOSTS 2010 CHEMICAL SOCIETY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC AWARDS CEREMONY

Dean of FSTE, Dr Anjeela Jokhan, Associate Professor of Chemistry and CSSP President Dr Surendra Prasad with Gold Medalist awardee Mr Paolo Arsenio Angelo L Redoblado.



The Chemical Society of the South Pacific's (CSSP) awards ceremony was held at the Faculty of Science, Technology and Environment (FSTE) at the University of the South Pacific (USP) in Suva on 23 October, 2010. Awards were given out to Form four to Form seven students who excelled in 'Chem Quiz' competitions organised by CSSP in their respective categories.

In his opening address at the ceremony, Associate Professor of Chemistry at USP and President of CSSP, Dr Surendra Prasad said that the goal of CSSP has always been to develop links with both the private and public sectors to help stimulate high school students for higher education in Science in general and Chemistry in particular.

According to Dr Prasad, the CSSP has a long history of organising national and regional events since its inception in 1985. "The CSSP is the prominent and most active Society in the region and has been the champion in organising national events in Chemical Sciences every year," he said.

The CSSP's prominent activities in 2010 were National/Regional Chem Quiz competitions, National Titration competitions, National Chemistry Knowledge Battle and National Poster competitions. The National/Regional Chem Quiz competitions being the most important activity of the CSSP allowed Form four to Form seven students from Fiji and the Pacific region to participate in. In this year's competition, 4300 high school students participated from 80 schools in Fiji and 190 students participated from three schools in Tonga.

In her speech at the ceremony, Chief Guest and Dean of FSTE, Dr Anjeela Jokhan acknowledged the "sterling work of the CSSP year after year bringing Chemistry to the schools and the community in order to give you students some important experience in Chemistry outside of school."

Dr Jokhan reminded the audience, especially the students present, that Chemistry was one of the three fundamental sciences which was crucial not only in development but in sustainable development. "When doing Chemistry in

school you learn the basics of the subject. Later in life you learn how to apply these basics to develop things that build industries, infrastructure and livelihoods so Chemistry is a critical part of Science," she said.

Dr Jokhan highlighted that "any development (social or economic) can never take place unless it is based on sound scientific foundation."

"Here in the Pacific we need to ensure that we too develop and more importantly our development is sustainable so that our fragile economies and environments are not damaged as we develop. It is students like yourselves who form the future of our nations and as parents and governments the more we invest in Science and Technology, the better our future will be," she added.

Present at the ceremony were representatives from various sponsoring agencies to the activities of CSSP, USP staff members, teachers from different schools, awardees, students and media personnel.

USP ALAFUA CAMPUS NETBALL TEAM WINS NETBALL COMPETITION



Left to right: Dolly Autufuga, Elenoa Salele and Mereani Nai. Members of the victorious USP Alafua Campus Women's Netball team.

The Women's Netball team from the University of the South Pacific's Alafua Campus came out victorious during the main netball season competition in Samoa. The team won in the B-Division grade of the competition in September 2010.

Approximately 30 teams participated in the competition which consisted of three women's grades and a men's grade. The competition was held at the Apia Park from May to September and the USP Alafua Campus fielded a men's and a women's team in the competition.

USP Alafua Campus Senior Librarian and coach of the women's team, Ms Angela Jowitt said that she was thrilled with the win as this was the first USP team she had coached and described the victory as a "boost for netball at Alafua."

As a result of the win, Ms Jowitt said that, "more students and staff were now interested in netball and have even started playing."

In their preparations leading up to the tournament, Ms Jowitt motivated her players to train at least twice a week and to have healthy lifestyles. She outlined plans for USP Alafua Campus to

compete in netball tournaments next year and to have the Alafua netball court renovated by Campus Life at Alafua.

"This will bring more excitement and motivation for netball at USP Alafua," she added.

Ms Jowitt remarked that the USP Alafua team will be a "strong force in the netball arena in Samoa and added that, "netball is only going to get bigger and better at USP Alafua."

The women's team scooped awards for the best team and players of the year at the Alafua USP Students Association Sports Awards night.

SUSTAINABLE WASTE TREATMENT PROJECT AT VOTUA VILLAGE

The Wai Votua project was officially opened at Votua village, Baravi in Nadroga on 28 October, 2010. The four-year project drew on the skills and expertise of the New Zealand National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research and Environmental Science and Research (NIWA), a Christchurch, New Zealand-based consultancy firm, ecoEng, the University of the South Pacific's Institute of Applied Science, and Reef Explorer Fiji Ltd.

The project was supported by the New Zealand Ministry of Research Science and Technology and funded by the New Zealand Aid Programme as part of the New Zealand Overseas Development Assistance Contestable Fund Programme.

The official ceremony commenced with a traditional opening, speeches, ribbon-cutting and a tour of the project. This was followed by a presentation of the project outcomes by various stakeholders. While opening the village project, the New Zealand Acting Head of Mission, Mr Phillip Taula said that the project was a significant multi-year infrastructure focused on improving the communities' ability to manage drinking and wastewater.

"This project will result in lasting environmental, economic and health benefits for the people of Votua, as well as protect marine eco-systems and provide opportunities to generate income," said Mr Taula.

The project involves the development and construction of a wastewater treatment system for

Votua village by local and village workers with support from the whole village community. This has vastly improved the village water supply and distribution system, thus allowing villagers to use house water rather than water from the nearby creek for bathing and household chores. Septic tanks have been installed along with pump stations and sewerage lines that take toilet wastewater away from homes to water treatment wetlands. Greywater disposal systems were also installed to treat and manage this wastewater effectively within the village.

All 57 houses in the village have been joined up to sewerage lines and this has greatly improved physical water supply and sanitation infrastructure. Treated wastewater from the village will now be used to grow flowers and taro leaves and its use in fish ponds will be trialed. This creates opportunities for income generation as well as delivering health and environmental benefits. There have also been significant new planting and irrigation developments associated with the Wai Votua project. This will allow surplus fruit and crops to be sold.

Votua village project Manager, Mr Semi Railau said that the whole village actively contributed to the project at all stages from planning to construction. "We expect that future generations will benefit greatly from the hard work we put in to complete the project," he added.

There are also future plans to relocate the pig-geries and generate compost, which will give the village another potential revenue stream and will

safeguard village health and the marine resources on which the community depends. Mr Taula mentioned that this project also contributes to the tourism industry by promoting the conservation of the natural environment that tourists come to see and experience.

"This project greatly enhances the environmental management work being undertaken by Votua to preserve and protect our marine resources," said Kini Ravonoloa, an Environmental Committee representative from Votua. "We are truly thankful for the great assistance provided by New Zealand's Aid Programme and hope that other villages and coastal developments in Fiji will follow our lead and work to eliminate wastewater pollution."

The monitoring of water use and its quality, training in basic plumbing maintenance and activities designed to educate villagers about family health have supported the development of new infrastructure and built knowledge and capacity in the village.

Mr Taula said the project had captured the interest of many individuals and organisations, both within Fiji and internationally, and he believes that there is potential for it to be replicated around Fiji. He hopes other villages will look at what has been achieved and develop similar programmes.

The Votua village Sustainable Waste Treatment project reflects the best of what New Zealand's Aid Programme hopes to achieve in Fiji, by working alongside communities and those with technical knowledge to improve livelihoods and create new economic opportunities.

JAPAN'S POLICY ON THE PACIFIC

Ambassador of Japan to Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, H.E. Mr Yutaka Yoshizawa presented a lecture on 'Japan's Policy on the Pacific' at the University of the South Pacific's Lower Laucala Campus in Suva on 27 October, 2010. The lecture focused on the relationship between Japan and the Pacific as well as Japan's regional cooperation with Pacific Island countries.

During the lecture, Mr Yoshizawa made reference to the Chair's summary issued by the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Japan, H.E. Mr Seiji Maehara after the PALM Ministerial Interim Meeting. This meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan on 16 October, 2010 in order to follow up the outcomes of the Fifth Pacific Islands Leaders meeting (PALM 5) as well as to prepare for PALM 6.

According to the Chair's summary highlighted by Mr Yoshizawa, the Ministers at the Meeting con-

firmed that "the traditional economic ties between Japan and Pacific Island countries with a focus on areas such as fishery and tourism have recently expanded to the area of natural resource development. The Ministers expressed their hope to further enhance economic ties between Japan and Pacific Island countries. In this context, the Ministers reiterated their commitment to working together to ensure that the region's development occurs in an environmentally-friendly manner, through the sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit of all Pacific Island citizens."

The Chair's summary also stated that "Japan had already provided assistance in the area of environment, climate change and human security such as health and education amounting to approximately 32.3 billion Yen out of the 50 billion Yen pledged at PALM 5. This includes 6.8 billion Yen worth of con-

tribution to the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) under the Pacific Environmental Community (PEC) fund."

Furthermore, Mr Yoshizawa explained that the "Japanese side expressed its continued commitment to assisting the efforts of Pacific Island countries in their endeavor toward self-sustained socio-economic development in the spirit of equal partnership." On the same note, "Pacific Island countries expressed their appreciation for Japan's continued assistance and explained their efforts for the development of their countries and the importance of the Pacific Plan in steering regional development aspirations."

The Ambassador expressed that they would rein-vigorate political-level visits from Japan to Pacific Island countries to further strengthen relationships. The next PALM (PALM 6) is scheduled for 2012 in Nago, Okinawa in Japan.

Professor Hooper with Year 1994 journalism students at the USP Laucala Campus in Suva.

USP JOURNALISM TO BENEFIT FROM US STATE DEPARTMENT TRAINING GRANT

The Journalism Division at the University of the South Pacific (USP) has been awarded a U.S. Department of State training grant. Journalism students stand to benefit from the grant which will be used to strengthen the capacity of TV journalists and expand independent media and education in Fiji.

Professor Robert Hooper, former Fulbright Senior Scholar to the USP Journalism Programme (1994), is Project Director. This 24-month programme seeks to strengthen journalism capacity in Fiji's broadcasting industry and expand journalism education at its premier university, the USP.

The grant will provide capacity building support and investigative journalism training and assist production of current affairs, documentaries and other program contents. It will also assist USP on journalism course development and instructor training to help to build a stronger future genera-

tion of independent journalists in Fiji.

The Head of Journalism at USP, Mr Shailendra Singh said that USP Journalism was pleased to have secured the training assistance. He said that Professor Hooper will be in Fiji next year to conduct the training and USP Journalism was privileged to have someone of his calibre running training programmes for students.

"Professor Hooper is vastly experienced and highly qualified," said Mr Singh. "He knows the Pacific and he understands Pacific Islanders, having worked here before. This is a great opportunity for our students."

A former producer for the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), U.S.A., Professor Hooper is based at the University of California, San Diego.

USP's award-winning Journalism Programme has so far produced over 100 graduates working in various media sectors throughout the Pacific

region. The Journalism Programme was approved by USP in 1991 and implemented through a grant from the Government of France in February 1993.

The three-year grant was supervised by Mr Francois Turmel, Former Editor for the BBC World Service, London, U.K. Professor Hooper served as a Fulbright Senior Scholar attached to the Journalism programme and University Media Unit at USP in 1994. He taught the first section of TV Journalism in 1994 and assisted Mr Turmel in designing and developing the TV Journalism course, JN 203, introduced in 1995.

Between 1993-1996, Professor Hooper conducted television journalism workshops at annual conferences of the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA) in Fiji, Samoa, Papua New Guinea and Tonga. He trained the journalism staff at EM-TV (PNG), Televisi Samoa, Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation (VBTC) and Fiji-TV during its first year of operation.

ALUMNI PROFILE | HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER | JAYNEN MANGAL

Which programme did you graduate in and which year?

Foundation Studies in Science in 2000; Bachelor of Laws Degree (LLB) in 2004; Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice (PDLP) in 2005; Postgraduate Diploma in Development & Governance in 2010; Currently enrolled in Masters in Governance – in progress.

What is your current occupation?

Human Rights Lawyer.

What did you enjoy most about being a student at USP?

I enjoyed studying at USP. I have many great memories. I started off as a Foundation Pure Science student in USP's Laucala Campus in Fiji and then pursued my Law Degree in USP's Vanuatu Law Campus, and after that returned to Fiji to complete my PDLP at the USP's Marine Campus. What I enjoyed most was the teaching style at the University. The lecturers, tutors and visiting teachers were all so passionate about what they were teaching us and the University always sourced the best of the lecturers! Many of our law lecturers have their own text books, which we referred to and this was such an honor, that is, to be taught by them. Another aspect I enjoyed greatly was getting to know so many students from different countries, cultures and backgrounds. The University truly does advocate for multiculturalism and breaks barriers in our plural society!

What was your greatest achievement whilst studying at USP?

Everything that I did was an achievement. Getting into USP was an achievement; being awarded my Law Degree and followed by getting admitted to the High Court in Fiji was a great achievement too. I was also awarded the Vice Chancellor's Award in 2004 during my graduation and this too was a great achievement, and one that was recognised by the University. During my time at the University in Vanuatu I also gave my life to the Lord Jesus Christ and this would have to be one of the greatest achievements! Had I not attended the University I would not have met such wonderful friends and now colleagues and would not have changed my life to becoming the better man that I am today. A big Vinaka Vakalevu to USP for being there with me every step of the way.

How do you think USP helped you in your career?

I know for a fact that USP made me the lawyer that I am today. USP always provided the forum for students like me to express ourselves in, and brought out our full potential. I was always nervous and often very scared to go before crowds and speak etc. However with all the training and teaching at USP I learnt to defeat this weakness and today I am known as one of the 'loudest lawyers', and also known for my confidence. USP has also helped me in my career as it is a recognised University and recently I made an application and was assessed by the New Zealand Continuing Legal Education and they accepted my University Degree and experience and provided me with an option to sit for the New Zealand Law & Practice Examination and thereafter I will be admitted also to the High Court of New Zealand.

What inspires you and why?

First of all striving to becoming a better Christian and serving God, this, therefore means that I do everything to the best that I can so that my perseverance and hard work can become a testimony to other students, workers and people. I am also inspired by my Mom and Dad and finally inspired by the desire to become successful.

After graduating from USP what has been your greatest achievement?

Getting married. But in a more serious note, again I have had many. I have become a successful lawyer and also became an executive member of the Fiji Young Lawyers Association. Together with another colleague we were the youngest (in terms of practice) executives of the Association. I also became the Principal Legal Officer of a large corporate organization within two years of being an admitted lawyer and thereafter I was hired as Manager Legal for an international corporation and later promoted to Acting Head of Legal & Regulatory for this corporation, looking after the Legal Departments of at least two different Pacific Island Countries where the corporation was based out of. I have also assisted with and have my name down on a publication that was launched by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and was chosen by the Univer-

sity in Vanuatu to attend to the research and assistance towards the publication, and I was also asked to speak at the official launching of the publication.

Your advice to current and future USP students?

I would simply say this that if you work hard to reach your goal you can do it, however you will need to recognise that there will be barriers, there will be mountains and there will indeed be obstacles along the way. I did not always have the best of grades and did not always have such a great time at USP because life as it is has its ups and downs. But one thing you must never do is to give up. Do not quit. Also failing in a unit is not the end of the world, the key is to pick yourself up again and strive to doing better the next time. I even remember failing two units in one semester as I felt I needed to pay more attention to my social life and having fun. I then learnt to balance these lifestyles and after failing, shedding tears, getting frustrated and even at times just not wanting to go on, I still pushed on and today I am the man that I am because in all things I have learnt that as long as you still have breathe you can still do better and you have been given another opportunity by God to do more with your life.



THE PRELIMINARY REPORT ON POVERTY AND INCOME DISTRIBUTION IN FIJI 2008-09



Standing (left to right): Dean of FBE, Professor Biman Chand Prasad, Professor Waden Narsey, and Government Statistician of the FIBOS, Mr Timoci Bainimarama. Sitting (left to right): Mr Toga Raikoti and Mr Epli Waqavonovono from Household Survey Unit of FIBOS and AusAID representative, Mr Padric Harm.

The University of the South Pacific's (USP) School of Economics, which is part of the Faculty of Business and Economics (FBE) in collaboration with the Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics, (FIBOS) launched 'The Preliminary Report on Poverty and Income Distribution in Fiji in 2008-09' on 1 October, 2010. The report, which is a collective contribution of Mr Toga Raikoti and Mr Epli Waqavonovono, from the Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics, and Professor Waden Narsey from USP, was launched at USP's Lower Laucala Campus in Suva, Fiji.

The report provides extensive data on the incidence of poverty in Fiji, and will be useful for development research and the formulation of policy

relating to poverty alleviation in Fiji.

The Dean of FBE, Professor Biman Prasad, delivered the opening remarks and stressed the importance of such studies with regards to policy implementation and academic research, stating that "the Faculty of Business and Economics, together with the Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics, is very pleased to assist with the development of Fiji and its people, especially in addressing poverty through serious research data collected by the Fiji Bureau of Statistics".

The Chief Guest and Fiji Government Statistician, Mr Timoci Bainimarama launched the report by stating that "the findings and format of the report ensure that stakeholders interested in poverty in

Fiji are quickly able to use the report to formulate their policies regarding poverty alleviation and social protection."

The report's main findings were presented by Professor Narsey and includes: a comparison of the incidence of poverty in 2002 - 2003 versus 2008 - 2009; a comparison of the experiences of different communities in society (with specific focus on urban versus rural communities); an examination of how poverty effects various ethnic groups; and also a future projection.

The report is an excellent initiative that will be very helpful for all interested in addressing the social implications of poverty.

CAMPUS DIARY

International Conference on 'Future Challenges, Ancient Solutions'

29 November -3 December 2010
USP Laucala Campus

Future Challenges, Ancient Solutions: What we can learn from the past about managing the Many challenges face the peoples of the Pacific Islands in the 21st century. Solutions are needed that are both effective and acknowledge the cultural context in which they will be applied. Many solutions that have

been applied to the Pacific Islands have failed because they have been neither culturally sensitive nor environmentally appropriate. In this regard, it is possible that earlier generations of Pacific peoples came up with solutions to similar challenges that were successful because they were developed by key stakeholders who knew the context intimately.

For more information contact conference@usp.ac.fj

International Conference on Renewable Energy and Climate Change - Focus on the Pacific (ICRECC2010)

6-8 December 2010
USP Laucala Campus

ICRECC2010 will, for the first time, provide a common venue where the peoples of the Pacific will sit down together and device their own strategies for solving their common problems. ICRECC2010 will necessarily be multi-disciplinary in nature. It will cover topics ranging from renewable energy resources, to technologies and their relevance to the development of the region and cross-cutting socio-economic and policy issues. It will also include a comprehensive discussion of the impact of climate change as experienced by the people of the Pacific nations themselves.

For more information contact energy@usp.ac.fj

STAFF PROFILE | LUSIANA TAVAKATURAGA | STUDENT OFFICER-STUDENT SERVICES

What is the length of time you've been employed at USP?

Four years.

What is your home country?

Fiji.

How do you usually begin your working day?

By checking my staff email on any urgent issue to attend to and making sure that the front office work stations are ready before opening.

What is the best part of your current work?

When students go back after being attended to, satisfied with the information given to them.

What is your best practical remedy for work and life stress?

Having a good support group of friends and family and a good laugh.

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

Being invited to attend my niece's graduation in UK.

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

There is no substitute for hard work and to be diligent in everything that you have been asked to do. Having God as the compass and guide in your life.

Who inspires you and why?

Career women who are able to juggle between work responsibilities, studies, family and other extracurricular obligations/commitments.

What have been your main career highlights?

Serving students from this institution who will be future leaders of the Pacific region.

What book are you reading at the moment, and why?

I've just started reading this book by Robin McGraw- Inside my Heart. It's about choosing to live with passion and purpose.

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

Being at the crossroads between tradition and modernity, between traditional and western knowledge.

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

To have a very safe and cleaner environment for all and for young academics of the region to bring positive and holistic changes.

