



[July], 2020

Alumnus Information

Name: JOWELI TAURA

Country: FIJI

Organization, Position: Teacher

Training Period (Batch): 1st BATCH (2016 August – 2019 March)

University: Naruto University of Education

Research Theme: Practicality of Developing 21st

Century Competencies in Fiji Mathematics

Education

Hello everyone. Hope you are all safe and sound.

I am Joweli Taura, working as a teacher in the Ministry of Education. I graduated from Naruto University of Education in 2019 with a Master Degree of Education. During my stay in Japan I was also fortunate to bring my family over to experience firsthand Japan's unique culture, people, technology and landscape. It is an experience we will always cherish forever.



What I Acquired Through Pacific-LEADS Program

I am forever grateful to the government of Japan for its initiative to support Pacific countries' developments through its Pacific-LEADS educational program. As a teacher, acquiring new teaching skills that can jointly boost students' understanding of mathematical concepts and develop students' competencies in the learning process is highly warranted.

During my study in Japan, I was able to conduct an in-depth research on new teaching strategies which are dominantly child-centered in nature. From the research, I was convinced that a child-centered teaching approach is a way forward for holistic development of students in the classroom, where students are given opportunities to take ownership of their own learning and develop key competencies like critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, problem solving and intrapersonal skills as opposed to the traditional methods where teachers are usually seen as the main player in the learning process. On my return to Fiji, I was able to put these new teaching skills into practice and was overwhelmed by the outstanding results it has produced.



My students are more interactive, collaborative, communicative, and supportive towards solving problems together inside the classrooms. Their level of confidence to express their ideas has increased significantly. Positively noted, such behavioural changes has gradually transcends beyond the classroom boundaries. A great transformation has taken place.

However, this new teaching breakthrough cannot be confined in isolation but to serve as a platform for teachers to improve their classroom deliveries on and so my task now is to continue sharing these new teaching skills with other teachers through professional developments and working in collaboration with the ministry of education for its nationwide propagation, as I strongly believe that developing students' competence at a school level will contribute to the nation's growth.

Overall, Japan has taught me a lot. The experience in the Land of the Rising Sun has been overwhelming. Thanks to the tremendous support from JICA, Asia-SEEDS and the people of Japan, for this I am truly indebted. On this note, I wish all our past Pacific-LEADS participants huge success in your undertakings and it is my prayer that we will continue to flourish as agents of change in our respective communities. And to our active participants, do make the most of your study and learn as much as you can during your stay in Japan.