



### *Alumnus Information*

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 Training Period (Batch): 2016-2018 (First batch)  
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 Research Theme: Traditional Knowledge on Disaster  
 Risk Reduction in Fiji

### Post Pacific LEADS

The Pacific Leads has not only provided me with a Masters' Degree in Regional Development but it has instill in me another level of confidence to be proactive and more passionate so as to achieve the vision of the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs. In addition to this, the opportunity has upskill me academically and has helped me mature personally (and financially lol).

I would like to encourage all Pacific-LEADS participants to make the most of the opportunity in living and studying in Japan as it has been one of my most treasured memory.



The Fiji Islands consists of 1,171 villages located in 192 districts that makes up the 14 provinces. In regards to Traditional Knowledge, each one is unique however most of these villages have less than ten elders who are knowledgeable of their history and customs that celebrate their uniqueness. Hence, the role of the Cultural Mapping Programme (CMP) which documents and archives these knowledge. However, in some instances, officers identify Living Human Treasures (LHT) who are privy to certain Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) synonymous to the village/district. The LHT in this case is the sole holder of the knowledge.

### What I do now?

**Facilitate revitalization workshops to allow for the continuation of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) practices in Fiji.** The LHT share the knowledge in these workshops to 20+ villagers who are the rightful heir to the knowledge. Since returning, I have facilitated two revitalization workshops;

- *Ta waqa vakaViti* (Canoe building for the Jafau clan, originally from Tonga) and;
- *Taravale Cokotu* (traditional architecture synonymous to the Highlands of Viti Levu).



Traditional Knowledge on reducing vulnerability in the events of a Natural Disaster is a new concept. However as of date, I have had the opportunity to attend consultation/workshop including the "Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Natural Disasters" held in 7-9 December 2018 in Sendai, Japan. Locally, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) in collaboration with the Fiji Meteorological Services have undergone talks on documenting Traditional Knowledge on Disaster Risk Reduction in Fiji.