

Vision: A Stronger, Safer and Prosperous Fiji through Excellence in Foreign Service

Mission: To Advance Fiji's Interests through the Effective Formulation and Implementation of its Foreign Policy

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FIJI AND AUSTRALIA VUVALE PARTNERSHIP



Australian Prime Minister Hon. Scott Morrison, with the Prime Minister Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama at the official signing of the Vuvale Partnership Agreement

The Vuvale Partnership between Fiji and Australia is already yielding positive outcomes, most recently with the announcement of the new limit of four kilograms of kava, twice the current limit allowed for import into Australia for personal consumption.

Australian Prime Minister Hon. Scott Morrison made the announcement following a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama who welcomed this positive development.

PM Morrison said that this recognises, "strong cultural and economic significance that kava has for Pacific communities, including those living in Australia, the Australian Government is stepping up its commitment to the Pacific by launching a kava pilot program." The commencement of the pilot program for commercial importation of kava is expected to be launched at the end of 2020.

PM Morrison added, "In addition to greater access to kava in Australia, particularly for

ceremonial and cultural purposes, the Pacific can soon expect new export opportunities to further maximise the growth potential of their own natural resources."

Whilst recognising the cultural significance of the use of kava for the Pacific community, PM Morrison emphasised that the pilot programme will also take into consideration the states and territories' regulatory role regarding the domestic supply and use of kava while securing strong social, cultural and health outcomes across Australia.

The pilot program will incorporate consultation on robust monitoring and evaluation arrangements to be put in place and that the Australian Government is also committed to seeking input from communities, including Australia's Pacific Islander communities, and businesses wishing to participate in the pilot. The pilot program will be evaluated at its conclusion at the end of 2022.

During his recent state visit to Fiji, PM Morrison also took time out to watch the Australian Prime Minister's XIII matches and also visited the Blackrock Training Camp in Nadi.



FIJI MISSIONS IN EUROPE - REGIONAL STRATEGY MEETING



(seated from left) Fiji's Ambassador to Brussels Deo Saran, Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Organisation in Geneva Ambassador Nazhat Shameem Khan with Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security, Inia Seruiratu and Fiji's High Commissioner to United Kingdom Jitoko Tikolevu with MOFA Team at the Regional Strategy Meeting held in Geneva.

The Fijian Missions based in Europe converged at the Regional Strategy Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, in July this year to deliberate on European strategic priorities. This meeting was attended by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Honourable Inia Seruiratu, together with Fiji's three Heads of Missions namely Ambassador Nazhat Shameem Khan (Geneva), Ambassador Deo

Saran (Brussels) and High Commissioner Jitoko Tikolevu (United Kingdom).

The Heads of Missions discussed Fiji's strategic priorities with Minister Seruiratu in an effort to maximize Fiji's presence in Europe with better returns in line with the Government's visions and priorities.

Minister Seruiratu acknowledged the efforts and contributions of the three Missions and reiterated on Fiji's global leadership for the next 5 years by further strengthening cooperation both at the bilateral and multilateral forums.

The Regional Strategy incorporates short to medium term foreign policy priorities and goals based on areas of mutual interests and principles that Fiji intends to achieve through close collaboration with the European countries, the United Nations (UN), the European Union, Commonwealth and other Europe-based international organisations.

It also focuses on enhancing the cooperation between Fiji's Missions in Europe to coordinate their priorities strategically and be well positioned to add value to the work of all the Fiji's Missions abroad. This strategy consolidates the priorities of the 3 Missions in line with Ministry's Operational Plan and it also streamlines the coordination and communication between all the Missions.



FIJI AND EU COMMIT TO STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP



(Left) Ambassador and Head of the European Union (EU) Delegation for the Pacific, His Excellency Sujiro Seam while paying a courtesy call to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security, Hon. Inia Seruiratu at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Office in Suva.

Fiji and the European Union (EU) as strategic partners have committed to further strengthen relations towards progressively achieving common goals and interests on democracy, human rights, multilateralism, climate change, sustainable development, defence and security, trade and economy. This was conveyed by the new European Union Ambassador for the Pacific and Head of the EU Delegation for the Pacific, His Excellency Sujiro Seam during a courtesy call paid to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security, Hon. Inia Seruiratu at the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Office in Suva.

Minister Seruiratu congratulated Ambassador Seam on his new appointment and reaffirmed Fiji's commitment to closer working relations with the EU towards successful completion of the post-Cotonou Agreement negotiations and to build on close cooperation in the areas of common interest, effective implementation of trade priorities and development assistance. The meeting presented an opportunity to take stock of Fiji and EU cooperation progress as well as other outstanding issues, follow up on commitments made during the EU-Fiji 4th Enhanced Political Dialogue of May 2019 and map the way forward to strengthening Fiji-EU partnership.

Ambassador Seam said he was looking forward to working with Fiji over the next four years to further deepen the bilateral relationship beyond development cooperation, including in the economic and security areas as well as in the multilateral fora.

Ambassador Seam praised Fiji's leadership at global and regional level on addressing climate change, oceans and resilience issues, and the important role played by Fiji as Vice-President of the UN Human Rights Council. He welcomed in this regard Fiji's accession in August 2019 to the two core Human Rights conventions.

"As we discussed, climate change is the single

greatest security threat to the Pacific region. The EU stands shoulder-to-shoulder with Fiji and our Pacific allies in the fight against this existential threat. The EU remains more committed than ever to the Paris Agreement. We discussed in particular technology and innovation available to address security in the Pacific, notably the EU's Copernicus satellite earth observation programme that we can share with the Pacific Island Countries.

"We also discussed maritime surveillance preparedness and resilience in response to natural disasters and this is also an area in which, Fiji leads in the region and certainly we can step up bilateral cooperation," Ambassador Seam elaborated.

The ongoing negotiations of a successor Agreement to the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Cotonou Partnership Agreement are also on top of the agenda.

"The post-Cotonou negotiations are ongoing, the goal is to reach an agreement next year and to put in place the upgraded framework of our cooperation. The negotiations are progressing well with the Pacific, there will be a new architecture with regional strategies and framework, and that's the good news," Ambassador Seam said.

Enhancing visa accessibility for the Pacific Island States also remains high on the EU priority list.

With his new leadership role as the Head of the European Union (EU) Delegation for the Pacific, Ambassador Seam is committed on advancing Fiji's and the Pacific's prosperity and development aspirations.



(Left) UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji Resident Representative Mr. Levan Bouadze during the courtesy call paid to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security, Hon. Inia Seruiratu

Fiji's dynamic leadership geared towards the advancement of climate change, human rights and peacekeeping at the global stage has been applauded by the United Nations Development Programme. The UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji Resident Representative Mr. Levan Bouadze, says that Fiji represents the power of a Pacific nation that is punching above its weight at international stage.

"Protection of human rights is crucial, and it is great to see Fiji intends to play a role at the global level. We congratulate Fiji on becoming the vice-president of the UN Human Rights Council, and for being the first Pacific island country to take a seat on the Council", said Mr Bouadze said.

He added that Fiji has an impressive track record on making its voice heard globally on the challenges associated with climate change and UNDP is proud to have been able



UNDP COMMENDS FIJI'S ACHIEVEMENTS AT GLOBAL STAGE

to play some role in supporting that. Mr Bouadze said that Fiji's Presidency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) CoP23 showed how powerful Pacific voices can be on the global stage.

"This year's UN General Assembly in New York in September, which included climate themed summits and high-level events once again showed how mobilized and consistent Pacific voices have been around most pressing global challenges."

He agreed that Fiji remains one of the leaders both within the Pacific, as well as the larger Small Island Developing States (SIDS) community behind the UN Secretary General's ambition to implement the Paris Agreement which, proves to be rather challenging.

"There is an important regional aspect to this too, and through regional initiatives like the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific, Fiji's engagement can help to carve out a context-appropriate approach to development in the Pacific that recognizes the many risks in the region," Mr Bouadze said.

The new Resident Representative is also

appreciative of the strengthened partnership between the UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"Let me use this opportunity to once again thank Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security, Inia Seruiratu for the opportunity to meet me in the first days of my arrival. I appreciate very much his welcome and assurances of the government's cooperation with UNDP and larger UN family led by the Resident Coordinator Mr Sanaka Samarasinha. There's clearly a lot of opportunities in the face of global scale challenges that we are facing in the Pacific and I was very impressed by Minister Seruiratu's openness to jointly explore those", Mr Bouadze added.

Mr Bouadze has assured the Minister Seruiratu that they will be an active member of the diplomatic community based in Suva and will cooperate with the Ministry on various initiatives to advance multilateralism and international cooperation. The UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji is a part of the 170-country office UNDP network, working with countries and territories to assist in the implementation of their own solutions to global and national development challenges.

FIJI'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT THE UNGA 74TH SESSION

The 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) marked a considerable boost to Fiji's diplomatic outreach with the international community. The Honourable Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama led Fiji's delegation to 74th session of UNGA in New York from 22nd through 30th September 2019.

Fiji delegation to UNGA 74 included the Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Mr Inia Seruiratu, Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications, Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum and the Honourable Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mrs Mereseini Vuniwaqa joined the delegation for few days.

The historic feature of the UNGA 74 was the participation of over 160 Heads of States and Prime Ministers who attended the UNGA High level sessions of the General Debate and five specially convened summits. These comprised of Climate Action Summit, High Level Meeting on the Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit, High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development (FFD) and High Level Midterm Review of the SAMOA (Small Islands Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action) Pathway. Each of these

summits were uniquely important for Fiji and Small Island Developing States.

The Honourable Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama was the only world leader to have addressed all the summits in an integrated and in a cohesive manner. Fiji on behalf of the Pacific Island Developing States called on World Leaders to allow middle income small states to be able to access finance on concessionary terms for climate related disaster recovery and adaptation.

At UHC Fiji presented the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) region's progress in providing universal health care. At the FFD, Fiji provided an overview of progress and challenges faced by Fiji and PSIDS in achieving SDG's. Financing, technical and capacity needs for meeting the SDG's remains worrisome for most PSIDS. The UN has agreed to reposition and strengthen the UN agencies to improve the timeliness and quality of support to across the region.

The Honourable Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama and President of



Honourable Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama with Fiji delegation to 74th session of UNGA in New York.

Ireland co-facilitated the Mid-Term Review, which was the most energetic and impactful of summits at UNGA 74. New, innovative, durable and long-term partnerships between SIDS and developed countries were announced along with the expansion of existing partnerships.

Fiji's young climate champions included Timoci Naulusala, who rose to prominence as a leading voice in combatting the climate crisis during Fiji's presidency of COP23. Naulusala was joined by Tyler Rae Chung, a student in marine studies at USP; Komal Karishma Kumar, represented the youth-led Alliance for Future Generations- Fiji; Ann Mary Raduva, an environmentalist and legal activist who attends Adi Cokabau School; Maanvick Gounder, a volunteer at Project Survival Pacific who attends Penanag Sangam High School; and Genevieve Jiva, coordinator at the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network.

Fiji's Permanent Representative to United Nations, Ambassador Satyendra Prasad said that both from the perspective of Fiji's leaders and Fiji's young climate champions, Fiji's voice was well projected across these summits and contributed to strong outcomes for Fiji and other developing countries at UNGA 74.



FIJI - NEW ZEALAND FORGE STRONGER BILATERAL RELATIONS

The bilateral relations between Fiji and New Zealand are envisaged to soar to greater heights through the official visit to Fiji by Honourable David Parker, New Zealand's Attorney-General, Minister for the Environment, Trade and Export Growth, and Associate Minister of Finance.

During the 3 days visit to Fiji in October 2019, the high powered NZ delegation met with the Fijian Government Ministers and Fijian Business Leaders with the aspiration to enhance New Zealand and Fiji's partnership in trade, economic and business links.

Minister Parker paid a courtesy call to the Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Fisheries, Hon. Semi Koroilavesau. Bilateral meetings were also held with the Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Mahendra Reddy along with the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development, Industry, Trade & Tourism, Premila Kumar.

In an exclusive interview with Fiji Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Minister Parker highlighted key areas of collaboration that Fiji and NZ are keen to strengthen including coordination of the Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme (RSE) Programme and Fiji-New Zealand Business engagements. Fiji joined RSE programme in 2015, and since then many Fijians have been able to take advantage of this programme through

both work opportunities and skills development.

"Issues that we discussed included trade agreements like PACER Plus and also other issues like migration and the Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme (RSE), which is important to New Zealand and Fiji. About 900 Fijians participate in that and they earn money to bring back to Fiji."

"Minister Kumar emphasised the collaboration around business practices, and that governments want to improve effectiveness of business regulations. We have somewhat slightly different systems to New Zealand and we are actually ranked first in world for ease of doing business, so we are cooperating with some help in that regard and some funding to go alongside the work being done by the Fijian government with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank to try and improve the systems to make it easier for business development.

"Areas we also cooperate in include climate change, a very important issue for the Pacific. Of course Prime Minister

Bainimarama and Prime Minister Ardern signed a new negotiation agreement on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) last week. We are trying to lead the world in having climate change and trade friendly policies, by reducing the tariffs on environmental goods to try and encourage the growth of renewable energy sources to replace fossil fuels around the world," Minister Parker said.

The two nations are exploring stronger cooperation in key trade and investment areas like tourism.

"Tourism is vitally important to both the economies and I am sure we can learn more from each other. The New Zealand and Fiji relationship has been the strongest since, I have been a politician, and I have been in parliament for 17 years. There are really strong efforts made by the Fijian Government and the New Zealand Government to build the depth of that relationship that we have developed," Minister Parker elaborated.



(Left) New Zealand's Attorney-General, Minister for the Environment, Trade and Export Growth, and Associate Minister of Finance, Honourable David Parker while paying a courtesy call on the Minister for Fisheries, Hon. Semi Koroilavesau at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Office in Suva.



FIJI MISSION IN JAPAN PROMOTES TOURISM INITIATIVES



Prime Minister, Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama (second from left) with Honorary Consul Shimizu, Fiji's Ambassador to Fiji's Mission in Japan, Mr Isikeli Mataitoga (fourth from left) and MANA meke team at the Fiji Tourism Promotion in Japan.

The Fiji Embassy in Tokyo organized a Fiji Tourism Promotion initiative in the margins of the 2019 Rugby World Cup. Four promotional events were organized in Akita, Sapporo, Higashi and Oita. The first promotional event in Akita City

was held between 7th to 8th September which coincided with the Rugby World Cup 2019 pre-camp training whilst the second event was hosted by Sapporo Station on 21st

September which saw many visitors from Sapporo, Hokkaido visiting the Fiji booth. The third event was hosted in Higashi, Osaka City from 3rd to 5th October and the final event in Oita City from the 7th to 9th October.

Fijian manufacturers namely; Punjas Company Ltd, FMF Ltd, Frezco Beverages, Pure Fiji, Kula Palm Soap, Noni Tea Ltd, Fiji water, Aqua Pacific and Vai Wai participated at the exhibition. Like all Tourism Promotion initiatives, the Fijian culture and art was also on display attracting a lot of attention. This was led by the meke (Fijian traditional dance) team from Mana Island Resort.

The Fiji Tourism Promotion demonstrates a good model of private-public partnership.

Hon. Prime Minister Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama also visited the Tourism Promotion booth on his way to New York to attend the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly. He was briefed by Fiji's Ambassador to Japan, Mr Isikeli Mataitoga, on the promotional activities undertaken by the Embassy in close collaboration with Fiji Honorary Consulates in Japan.

In Osaka, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security, Hon Inia Seruiratu also visited the Tourism Promotion booth and appreciated the efforts by the Fiji Embassy in Japan, towards nurturing stronger relations with the Japanese counterparts.

TUVALU MEET FINDS COMMON GROUND



The 50th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Tuvalu. Photo Credit: PIFS

The 50th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting held from 13-16 August this year in Funafuti, Tuvalu has been symbolic, as it was first time for Fiji to be represented at the Head of Government level after 10 years. Fiji reaffirmed its role as a regional hub in progressively pursuing Sustainable Development Goals, both at the regional and international stage.

The Honorable Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama officiated as the chief guest at the Tuvaluan Government organised high level climate change talanoa, "Securing of our future in the Pacific." In doing so, Fiji set the platform for climate change discussions for the week and called for a decisive and ambitious response to climate change in

relevance to Fiji's national commitment to climate and oceans (Climate Change Act, National Oceans Policy, 10 year moratorium on sea-bed mining).

Pacific Island Leaders made a call on Australia to take tougher action on climate change, citing its heavy reliance on coal-fired power.

Honourable Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama emphasised that Pacific Heads of Government will continue to push the region's largest carbon emitter to

transition from coal to clean energy, and continue to be a voice for all climate-vulnerable peoples.

The main meeting of Forum Leaders Retreat enabled high level decisions on a range of regional policy issues such as the "2050 Strategy for Securing our Future in the Pacific", Leaders Priorities (climate change and disaster resilience, regional security, oceans and maritime boundaries and nuclear contaminants), collective engagement under the Blue Pacific and strengthening of institutional arrangements for the Forum.

A key achievement emanating from Fiji's participation at the 50th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting is the opportunity for Fiji to effectively manage its relations with regional actors from within to enhance its regional hub and leadership status.

In line with Fiji's strong leadership in the region, the Pacific Island Forum Leaders endorsed Fiji's bid to host and chair the 52nd Pacific Islands Forum in 2021. The region's confidence in Fiji's leadership was earlier demonstrated by the Leaders of the Pacific Islands Development Forum during their meeting in Nadi in July. Fiji was delegated the role of chair with Ambassador Solo Mara (Fiji's Former Ambassador to the United States of America) being appointed as the new Secretary-General for the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF).

In Tuvalu, Fiji also made a bold call to re-examine the regional architecture in order to support the implementation of the Leaders intent for a long term vision and strategy for the Pacific. Fiji maintains its momentum on climate and oceans issues and continues to stand in solidarity with the Pacific in the fight against climate change.

DIPLOMAT ASPIRES TO ADVANCE FIJI'S INTERESTS AT UN



(Pictured eighth from left) Deputy Permanent Representative (DPR) for Fiji's Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office in New York, United States, Mrs Agnes Ali Harm with Hon. Prime Minister Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama and delegation during the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York

Fiji's 2013 Constitution reflects the Government's commitment towards achieving equality of women and girls, it is a fundamental right and social and economic imperative. For the first time in our history, the Constitution guarantees equal rights to both men and women in the full and free participation in the economic life of the nation (section 32). This provision highlights how essential it is for a paradigm shift in Fiji to seeing women as agents of change. (source: Fiji's State report on CEDAW)

Fiji's vibrant diplomatic service recognises the importance of gender equity and in enabling passionate and dynamic women leaders to pursue a career in Fijian diplomacy. This commitment has seen the recent appointment of a Fijian woman to represent Fiji at the United Nations.

Mrs Agnes Ali Harm was appointed as the Deputy Permanent Representative (DPR) for Fiji's Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office in New York, United States. Fiji's Permanent Mission to the United Nations (UN) has an important global mandate in promoting Fiji's interests at the multilateral level.

Mrs Agnes says she is proud to represent Fiji at the UN and the role she holds is an important one in harnessing Fiji's global leadership and to capitalise on the opportunities UN multilateral system has to offer for Small Islands Developing States. "We are living in an era where there are shifts in global world order and this

changing architecture should also be reflected in the way we think about international cooperation for development, most notably in ensuring that we can achieve the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The SDG's has been designed in a way that promotes integration at all levels and encourages us to think and work differently. It binds rather than separates us and for me, this is an excellent opportunity for Fiji to push for climate change related issues at the highest levels."

Already 5 months into the new role, Mrs Agnes has been part of Fiji's important engagements such as the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

"I consider myself privileged and honored to serve in this position and I sincerely thank the government's efforts in advancing gender responsive line up in terms of senior leadership within civil service be it diplomatic missions, ministries and ministerial portfolio. Fiji has come a long way compared to the Pacific Region and we are positively progressing in terms of women's representation in senior management role, I am certain that the government continues to champion this," said Mrs Harm.

Having worked at the international

and regional organisations, Mrs Agnes comes with the wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise which are of great value as a Fijian diplomat. Prior to joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, she served at the United Nations Pacific Office in a senior role as the UN Coordination Specialist.

Among other work experiences acquired over the last 18 years, Mrs Agnes dedicated 5 years of service at the Fiji Human Rights Commission as the Manager Education and Training facilitating human rights training at all levels in Fiji. Prior to joining the United Nations, Mrs Agnes also worked at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in a key position in the Office of the Secretary General.

Mrs Agnes attests her journey and learning to the many encounters during her working life from the humble beginning as an educator to the various leadership roles she took on at the UN and Regional organisations.

"Whilst I was studying at the University of the South Pacific, I volunteered in different roles including women's organisations. I recall being part of the Nuclear Free Independent Pacific Campaign, a Pacific-wide movement towards independence and de-nuclearization. I learnt from senior women in different capacities including my own mother who helped shaped some of my own understanding on social and economic issues. For me, learning is a lifelong process and I would encourage our young people to pursue their passion."

Mrs Agnes has become an inspiration for many women who have the passion of becoming a Fijian diplomat.

"I felt that as a Fijian national my skills and experiences will add value to the work of Fiji's Mission in New York. I am humbled to be here and I look forward to engaging with the different sectors of government that have a role to contribute globally. I have Fiji's interests at heart and I would like to see that our country continues to progress with the unprecedented success it has achieved at the global front, I recognize the hardwork and commitment made by those dignitaries that have served before me. As a Fijian, I am committed and honored to be able to contribute to that success," Mrs Harm elaborated.

Agnes's upbringing has groomed her humble personality and leadership. She attributes her success to her parents, her mother hails from Lasakau, Bau in Tailevu while her dad is Fijian of Indian descent. She is also grateful to her husband and children who have been her pillar of strength and motivation throughout her personal and professional journey.

LEADERSHIP FIJI TRAINEES LEARN ABOUT FIJI'S FOREIGN SERVICES

Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Esala Nayasi presented at the Leadership Fiji 2019 Seminar on the topic, "Fiji and the World." This was an opportunity for Fiji's aspiring leaders to learn more about Fiji's international relations and diplomacy.

The presentation provided an overview of Fiji's global leadership, foreign policy strategies, regional and international cooperation. The seminar also provided an opportunity for the aspiring leaders to appreciate the breadth of Fiji's foreign policy relations.

The 2019 Leadership Fiji Program participants are from diverse working backgrounds, government ministries, non-government organisations, private sector and media. The program is designed for Professional, Personal and Community Development.

Leadership Fiji Chief Executive Officer, Sharyne Fong said that "Fiji and the World" is an important awareness session for its trainees and that Leadership Fiji is grateful to Mr Nayasi for providing an eloquent presentation which has enhanced the

participants' knowledge and appreciation on the importance of Fiji's foreign services in building national prosperity through developing foreign relations.

Ms. Fong said that Leadership Fiji is proud

of its 19th year of service and looks forward to expanding its reach. Since its establishment in 2002, the Leadership Fiji has trained over 400 graduates through its 9 months Leadership programme



(back row- seventh from right) Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Esala Nayasi with the participants of the Leadership Fiji 2019 Program

PARTNERSHIP PROMOTES CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

A new initiative has been created to promote cultural diplomacy to enhance knowledge and understanding of the Fijian language, culture and heritage for the Fijian diaspora living abroad.

This has been made possible through the Fijian Cultural Programme, UK, developed through a partnership between iTaukei Trust Fund Board (TTFB), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fijian Communities in the UK and the Sainsbury Research Unit of the University of East Anglia in the UK.

This pilot programme has been initiated based on the request of the Fijian Diaspora in UK to revitalise cultural diplomacy through the Fiji's High Commission in United Kingdom. Upon discussions, a preliminary research exercise was conducted in 2018 through the partnership of the Sainsbury Research Unit of the University of East Anglia (UEA) and the iTaukei Trust Fund Board, to determine the need for a sustainable Fijian cultural programme.

TTFB then decided to develop an Educational Resource Kit in collaboration with important stakeholders in Fiji. The Educational Resource Kit development programme will be implemented in three stages, the first being the Writing Workshop for professionals, practitioners and artisans in Fiji. The second phase of the programme will involve a trial and review process and the publication of the Educational Resource Kit. The final stage includes the Training of Trainers for key resource people in UK, who will be trained to facilitate awareness workshops for Fijian youths in the community.

In progressively developing this programme, the Educational Resource Kit Development workshop was organised this week from Monday 4th to Friday 6th November at GCC Complex Conference Room.



(third from left) Fiji's Roving Ambassador Mr Esala Teleni with the representatives of iTaukei Trust Fund Board and the experts in Fijian language and culture at the official opening of the Educational Resource Kit Development Workshop.

The workshop saw 20 participants who are experts in the Fijian language and culture develop an educational resource kit, which will be instrumental in the Training of Trainers programme for the Fijian communities next year in England.

Speaking at the official opening of this workshop, Fiji's Roving Ambassador Mr Esala Teleni expressed appreciation towards this initiative to promote the Fijian language and culture, which is recognised as an important tool for migrant communities around the world to maintain links with their countries of origin. Ambassador Teleni said that the cultural values and heritage are important components of cultural diplomacy in strengthening diplomatic relations and in promoting cultural diversity and unity. He

reiterated to the participants the importance and gravity of their task in developing the Educational Resource Kit.

The Senior Culture and Heritage Specialists at the iTaukei Trust Fund Board (TTFB), Dr Apolonia Tamata said that given the significance of the programme, there is potential for it to be rolled out for the Fijian Diaspora in other parts of the world. Dr Tamata said that the Fijian Cultural Programme complements the TTFB's vision on developing and facilitating initiatives to improve the quality of life and enhance appropriate cultural traditions and values of iTaukei and Rotumans, through mandated objectives regarding the promotion and preservation of language, culture, heritage and the arts.



PARTNERSHIP YIELDS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR FIJI

The strengthened cooperation between the People's Republic of China and Republic of Fiji continues to yield significant capacity building and leadership training opportunities for senior government officials. Fifteen senior government officials attended trainings at the China Executive Leadership Academy Pudong (CELAP) and Guizhou Institute of Public Administration (GIPA) in Shanghai from 23rd June to 3rd July 2019. The delegation from Fiji was led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Chief of Protocol, Mr Jonetani Tagivetaua.

The training empowered senior officials by creating innovative development strategies, and through appreciating and nurturing the cultural values and traditions. According to the CELAP facilitators, the 2019 6th CELAP Cohort scored the highest rating. The senior officials also had the opportunity to meet with Fiji's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Ambassador Manasa Tagicakibau to draw on the experiences of the work carried out by the Mission in terms of the best practices, in advancing Fiji's interests within the Asian region.



(Pictured in front row-fifth from left) Fiji's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Ambassador Manasa Tagicakibau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Chief of Protocol, Mr Jonetani Tagivetaua (sixth from left) with the senior government officials at the China Executive Leadership Academy Pudong (CELAP) and Guizhou Institute of Public Administration (GIPA) in Shanghai.

The CELAP is a national institution that administers leadership development training jointly approved by the Central Committee of CPC and the State Council. It was officially opened in March 2005. It comprises of eight departments: General Office, Department of Teaching

Affairs, Department of Participant Affairs, Department of International Exchanges and Program Development, Department of Academics, Department of Research Administration, Department of Information and Technology and Department of Human Resources

FIJI MISSION INAUGURATES PACIFIC DIASPORA PROGRAM



(seated eighth from left) Ambassador Nazhat Shameem Khan with the Pacific Diaspora event in Geneva, Switzerland

Fiji Mission Geneva in collaboration with other Pacific Missions accredited to the United Nations and Other International Organisations successfully co-hosted an unprecedented Pacific Diaspora event in Geneva, Switzerland. The turnout of Fijian diaspora was overwhelming which included Fijian families and communities from different parts of Switzerland such as Zurich, Bern, Basel, Geneva including those living in France.

Key to this diaspora engagement is the opportunity to welcome and hear from our Heads of Missions as well cultural

promotional and awareness. The event also promotes future initiatives to enhance the presence and recognition of the Pacific group. This includes tourism, investment and internship opportunities.

As the event unfolded, a Fijian traditional ceremony of welcome was accorded to the Ambassadors in attendance at the time, Ambassador Nazhat Shameem Khan of Fiji, Ambassador Doreen Debrum of Marshall Islands and Ambassador Chitra Jeremiah of Nauru. The traditional welcoming ceremony also introduced the two new Pacific Ambassadors from Nauru and

Marshall Islands who just opened their Missions in Geneva this year. The ceremony though being a cultural promotional initiative, serves to inform of the strength that binds us at the UN and Other International Organisations irrespective of our geographical uniqueness.

Further, Heads of Missions had the opportunity to address the community on their visions and priorities including avenues to strengthen partnership and coordination as we have identical issues such as Climate Change and the wreath of climate extremes.

Most families whose children have resided in Switzerland and Europe participated in traditional and cultural performances.

"The Fiji Mission in Geneva capitalises on such diaspora events to enhance awareness and advocacy on the priorities of Government as informed in our strategic plans. Key of which is to strengthen coordination and efforts on climate change," said Ambassador Khan.

Switzerland is an affluent society, tourism and business promotional initiatives is also a priority. Fiji Mission is committed to enhance its visibility and leadership in this regard.

There are now five Pacific Permanent Missions based in Geneva which are Nauru, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji. We also have the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat which is accredited to the World Trade Organisation.

GALLERY



(Pictured 4th from left) Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security, Hon. Inia Seruiratu during the UNGA74 session in New York during the meeting held between the Pacific Island Leaders of Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) and US Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo



(Pictured sixth from left) Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security, Hon. Inia Seruiratu and Fiji's Ambassador to Japan, Isikeli Mataitoga (pictured eighth from left), at the event for the presentation of official jersey to the Flying Fijians for the Rugby World Cup 2019, in Japan



(second from left) Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security, Hon. Inia Seruiratu with the Australian Prime Minister, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, (pictured third from left) during the recent visit to the Blackrock Training Camp in Nadi.



(seated from eighth) Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security, Hon. Inia Seruiratu at the Forum Ministers Meeting at PIFS in Suva. Ministers discussed a range of issues focused on the theme, "Securing Our Future in the Pacific."
Photo Credit: PIFS



(Pictured 7th from left- front row) Fiji's Ambassador to Korea, H.E. Peniana Lalabalavu with the Korean officials during the Fiji Day celebrations, Fiji's 49th Independence Day held in Seoul, Korea



Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff got together as a team to celebrate the Fiji Day 2019, with the theme of this year's celebration as "A Progressive and Sustainable Fiji for All"



Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Hon. Inia Seruiratu (seated 9th from left) and the Acting Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Yogesh Karan (seated 10th from left) with Resident Heads of Missions and Non-resident Ambassadors and High Commissioners accredited to Fiji from Canberra and Wellington at the official opening of Fiji's First Familiarisation visit programme to Fiji



(seated third from left) Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security, Hon. Inia Seruiratu with President of the Republic of Kiribati, H.E. Taneti Maamau (seated second from left) with the Pacific Youth Leaders and Climate Advocates at the UN Youth Climate Summit in New York



(front row Left to Right) Acting Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Yogesh Karan (fifth from left) with Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Esala Nayasi (sixth from left) with the MOFA staff during the farewell of former Deputy Secretary Operations, Mrs. Arieta Moseica.



(from left) Fiji's Roving Ambassador, Mr. Esala Teleni, Acting Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Yogesh Karan, Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Esala Nayasi, Fiji's Ambassador to PNG, Moses Tikoitoga while lighting the diya during the Diwali celebrations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Esala Nayasi while presenting to the Parliament Steering Committee on the Annual Reports of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



New Zealand's High Commissioner to Fiji, Jonathan Curr with Dr. Satendra Singh of Auckland while reading through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Newsletter first issue of, "The Fijian Diplomat."



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