



FIJI NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR DISABLED PERSONS

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Special points of interest:

- ENDORSEMENT OF THE NATIONAL DISABILITY POLICY BY CABINET
- FVTTCPD RAISED \$20,000.00 DURING THEIR FUNDRAISING DRIVE.
- FIJI SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE DISABLED (FSAD) CHANGED ITS NAME TO "FIJI PARALYMPICS ASSOCIATION"
- SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION RAISES \$3,679.48

INTRODUCTION

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



SEASON GREETINGS FROM THE FNCDP SECRETARIAT, QARASE HOUSE.



FNCDP was able to take up a leading role in the consultation process of the Australian Disability Strategy in Suva also in the month of August. The Executive Director was invited to attend the Australian Disability Consortium in Canberra at the end of September. There was also a "touch base" visits conducted on the month of October that covered Ra to Navua District Committees.

A lot of issues was addressed with secretariats of district committees during this lightning visit, however the shining light of all the achievements in this quarter was the endorsement of the **NATIONAL DISABILITY POLICY by Cabinet on the 4th of November 2008**. This was probably the highlight of the month when the government of the day through Cabinet passed the National Disability Policy.

The National Disability Policy have grouped objectives to 12 Strategic Areas that covered key components in the lives of individuals who are physically, mentally, or intellectually challenged. Areas in education and data collection, advocacy, promoting rights of women with disabilities, Access to built environment and transport systems are some of the essential areas that needed urgent addressing. It also signifies to the council and its 33 affiliates, 6 advisory and 18 district committees that though this cabinet endorsement of National Disability Policy, the hard yards begins here. We hope that it will be enacted to our constitution in not too distant future.

All who have a heart for the care for disability persons will work extra hard to try and maintain and uphold the objectives of National Disability Policy. In the same context, preparation by the council for the signing of the conventions on the right for People with Disabilities and the Millennium Development Goals to be handed to cabinet for endorsement for Fiji to be a signatory for both UN resolutions. We hope to achieve this before the end of 2008.

The secretariat have also embarked on a 9 month detailed survey for the establishment of National Disability Registered from October, 2008. Currently there are two officers (with an additional 2) that will form the spearhead group for this project.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Director, Social Welfare, Alstair Wilkinson UNESCAP, the Legislation Advisory Committee, Chairperson Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons, Secretariat and those brave souls who have anticipated all these moves since 2006.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

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MAKING WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES VISIBLE

In Fiji, the lack of adequate disability data has been one of the most significant factors leading to the neglect of persons with disabilities. Women and girls with disabilities face multiple discrimination where they are always **"HIDDEN AWAY"** and are not given opportunities to develop.

With funding assistance from the British High Commission, AUSAID, UNIFEM Pacific Office and the Department of Social Welfare., FNCDP will be undertaking a nine months nation wide statistical research on persons with disabilities.

The FNCDP will also collect disability related data and information on the status and challenges of women and girls with disabilities within their families and communities.

The project is also aimed at gathering information on men and boys with disabilities which will be used as an effective tool in measuring the types and percentage of discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities compared to men and boys with disabilities.



Akanisi Latu from FVTTTC (sheltered workshop)

The FNCDP had recruited a project officer to lead this project and a support staff. The other researchers will be recruited in the near future.

NORTHERN TRAINING PROGRAMME

A Training and Awareness program was conducted in the northern division from 10th – 12th November 2008 for community and field workers of various community organisations. A three member team from the secretariat graced the northern shores to promote awareness on persons with disabilities and challenges they face. The aim of the program was to provide baseline information on the proposed nation wide statistical data research on Making Women with Disabilities Visible. The training was conducted in Savusavu and Labasa. The team also visited the two special schools in both province. An Awareness raising campaign in collaboration with Ex -Servicemen Remembrance Day Celebration was conducted in Nabouwalu. A big vinaka vakalevu to all social welfare officers and staff of the District Offices for your support.

We would also like to thank our participants and the community at large for your participation.



LEFT: Savusavu training with key field workers as participants



RIGHT: Vocational students of Labasa Special School with their Head Teacher



LEFT: Members of the community in Nabouwalu



RIGHT: Training session in Labasa

FIJI VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTRE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

VISION STATEMENT: TO PROVIDE QUALITY VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL TRAINING PROGRAM TO FACILITATE QUALITY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS IN ORDER TO ACCESS PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO DECENT EMPLOYMENT AND OTHER EARNING OPPORTUNITIES.

Fiji Vocational & Technical Training Centre for Persons with Disabilities embraces a "Barrier Free, Inclusive and Right Based Society "for persons with disabilities. The centre has a total enrollment of about 110 trainees every year. At any one time we normally have 80-90% attendance. The Vocational Technical Training centre has 9 different sections and that includes Cooking,, Sewing, Offset Printing& Bookbinding, Agriculture, Woodwork, Screen Printing and Sheltered Workshop and Computer .

The major objective of the centre is to secure sufficient capital in order to establish two new programs which will facilitate earning opportunities for adult females and males with intellectual disabilities. In recent past individuals as these have always been deprived form being granted employment opportunities.

To expand and improve the existing facilities at the centre, the management decided to conduct a National Fundraising Drive .

EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE DURING THE FUNDRAISING DRIVE WERE:

- ◆ **LAUNCH OF NATIONAL FUNDRAISING DRIVE (OPENING)27th OF JUNE 2008**
- ◆ **CORPORATE DINNER AT HOLIDAY INN HOTEL 9th OF AUGUST 2008**
- ◆ **WALKATHON — 19th OF JULY 2008**
- ◆ **FETE AND OPEN DAY(CLOSING) —5th SEPT**

Money collected from this fundraising is aimed to improve the existing Vocational and Technical Programs at the centre which will turn upgrade the students with quality knowledge and skills to facilitate the promulgated 2% Employment Relation Bill which enhances direct employment, self employment and other development opportunities for persons with disabilities.

OTHER AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION INCLUDES:

- ◆ **RENOVATION OF THE SEWING ROOM FOR WORKSHOP AND SEMINAR HIRE.**
- ◆ **IMPLEMENTING THE LAUNDRY PROJECT.**
- ◆ **PURCHASE OF SOME ADDITIONAL WOODWORK POWER TOOLS.**
- ◆ **PURCHASE OF KITCHEN FACILITIES TO GENERATE INCOME.**
- ◆ **PURCHASE AND UPGRADE OF COMPUTERS.**

The centre appealed to all business houses and individuals. They raised a sum of \$15,000.00.

The centre would like to acknowledge to all those who have helped and to all the business houses and individuals who have donated generously. They would also like to thank the staff of FNCDP, staff of FVTTCPD, and to the volunteers (Mrs. Raturi, Mrs. Pauline Orikasa, Mrs. Irish Freeman,)

THANK YOU ALL FOR THE OVERWHELMING SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE FUNDRAISING DRIVE...VINAKA VAKALEVU.



TOP LEFT: Mr Nagaiya from the Dept of Social Welfare delivering his speech during the launching of Fundraising Drive. TOP RIGHT: Dr Sitiveni Yanuyanuyawa (ED) of FNCDP during walkathon.



BOTTOM LEFT: Mrs. Orikasa & Shirley Tagi @ the Charity Dinner Night. BOTTOM RIGHT: Students of FVTTC dancing away during the closing ceremony of the Fete & Open day



THE FIJI GAMES
PACIFIC PARALYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIP - SPONSORED BY DIGICEL

The 2008 Fiji Games was history for sports for people with disabilities.

FSAD invited elite athletes from neighboring Pacific island nations to participate in the Pacific Paralympic Championship.

The tournament was held at the national stadium with participating teams from Samoa Tonga, PNG and Fiji.

The main aim of this game was to promote sports for the disabled in the Pacific Region, develop young elite athletes and to prepare qualified athletes for the 2008 Beijing Paralympics Games.

It was a great success because the game also attracted the attention of a large number of interested organisation who want to support sports for the disabled. The one week program began with wheelchair tennis competition at Victoria Court. This was followed by a tennis competitions at YMCA.

The reception and welcome night was held at FVTTC in which the chief guest was Mr. Vidya Lokan, President of FASANOC.

This was followed by speeches from the representatives and a reception dinner afterwards.

The Fiji games also the participation of junior paralympians. These are selected teams from special education schools around Fiji.

The Paralympics sports we played for namely, soccer, goal ball, at sitting volley ball. Medals were presented to winners. The athletics championship was the highlight of the tournament which was hosted and officiated by athletic Fiji.

A closing ceremony was held at the New Peking restaurant, before the teams returned home, the next day.



Special Schools Students showing off their skills of Sitting Volleyball



Team PNG posing after the Reception

FSAD ANNUAL FENERAL MEETING
CHANGE OF NAME & OFFICE BARRIERS

The Fiji sports association for the disable has changed its name. The change was made during the Annual General Meeting held at FVTTC on April, 26th 2008. The new name was proposed according to the guidelines of the International Paralympics Committee. All disabled sports organisation under IPC around the world should include the word "Paralympics" in its name.



The Australian High Commissioner being garlanded during the Regional Games at the Vodafone Arena

Hence the aggregated delegates of FSAD present at the AGM voted to change the name to "FIJI PARALYMPIC ASSOCIATION ". The process to register this name with the register of titles is already in the pipeline.

Meanwhile, the association has also had a change of the executive members voted by the accredited delegates from affiliates present. The new office bearers are as follows:

PRESIDENT: MR. DANIELE VAKALAGILAGI (FDPA)

VICE PRESIDENT: MR. FUATA FAKTANFON (UBP)

VICE PRESIDENT: MR. DEEPAK SINGH (SUVA SPECIAL SCHOOL)

SECRETARY GENERAL : MS. ROSIE BALEIWAI (EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRE)

TREASURER : MR. JONE ROBANAKADAVU (FVTTC)

EX-OFFICE MEMBER: MR. SAM VILISONI (PDF)

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICE: MR. SAIMONI NAINOCA (FSAD)
ASST SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICE: MRS. SAINIANA TUKANA (FSAD)

The new office bearers have begun working together and there are signs of successes.

FIJI PARALYMPIC TEAM TO BEIJING

There were a four member team from Fiji, consisting of the Chef De Mission, Doctor, Coach and Athlete. The Team departed at the airport on the morning of August 30th and due to visa complication one of our members was left behind then came over the next day. For the earlier arrivals one of the luggage's went walkabout and was not found till the next day and our uniform inspection, the design failed the test.

The team managed to overcome those problems and was back to business like morning training and competition.

Please note that even we are going in, on a wild card basis he did rather performed well.

Even he did not win a medal Ranjesh was privileged to run in the same lane No.3 allocated to Usain Bolt, the guy that won the "Blue Ribbon Event" and also broke and set a new 100 metres world record during the Olympics.

The security, accommodation and other amenities in the Games Village and competition were all first class and for our team from Disabled Sports to be there was an experience that will remain till the day we die.

Below the four members Paralympics team to Beijing.
 Chef De Mission: Daniele Vakalagilagi
 Doctor: Jagdish Maharaj
 Coach: Sainiana Tukana
 Athlete: Ranjesh Prakash



Members of the Paralympics Team



Ranjesh in Beijing

FIJI NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR DISABLED PERSONS DISCOM AWARENESS WORKSHOP

Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons Rakiraki/Ba District Committee observed the National Awareness Week.. The awareness was provided to the general public by the means of pamphlet and a letter was written to Ra Rural Local Authority to consider freedom of mobility to persons with disability in the buildings proposed to be constructed. A disability awareness workshop was also conducted based on Disability Development in Fiji on 27th May 2008 in Education Conference Room.

The theme of the workshop was Human Rights for Persons with Disability. The Director of Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons Dr. Yanuyanutawa was the presenter for the workshop where there were participants from Governments Departments, Non Governments Organization, Church Pastor and individuals.

The workshop presentation was based on the following: Role and Function of FNCDP, Role and Functions of District Committee, Existing Legislation of Disability in Fiji, Convention on Rights of Persons with disability, Biwako Millennium Framework, Corporate Plan and Stress Management.

The workshop concluded successfully. We thank the Disable District Committee (DDC), Ba and Ra for the excellent support.



THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE WORKSHOP

OBITUARY

This quarter had been a "Mixed Bag" for the Qarase House community. We lost one of our hardworking staff, Security Officer, Asivurusi (Bruce) Tavaga who have passed on the 17th of August 2008. He worked for Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons (FNCDP) from 2005 to 2008.

The staff of Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons and all the affiliates around the Qarase House complex would like to convey their deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

MAY HIS SOUL FIND PEACE AND SOLACE.

FIJI NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DISABILITY STRATEGY FOR AUSTRALIA'S AID PROGRAM



LEFT: Invited stake holders



RIGHT: Group Discussion

The Australian Governments commitment that persons with disabilities are an inherent part of all aspects of AusAID's Program Planning and Development, the Fiji National Consultation was staged at the Southern Cross Hotel in Suva on Wednesday, 6th of August 2008 to provide the relevant responses and perspectives from different stakeholders groups in Fiji to the Australian Governments first disability strategy for its overseas Aid Programme.

The Director of Social Welfare, Ilisapeci Rokotunidau was the chief guest for the opening of the consultation. She commented that the consultation provided a vital opportunity for the Department of Social Welfare to contribute to the development of the Australian Disability Strategy as it is responsible for the area of disability in Fiji, working with FNCDP as the governments focal point in this area. Romaine Kwesius, Counselor, from the Development Corporation Section of the Australian High Commission provided additional background on the draft development strategy highlighting that this was a specific initiative of the Rudd Government reflecting its strong commitment to ensure disability, and assistance programmes for persons with disabilities is fully incorporated into AusAID's overall aid strategy.

The Fiji consultation brought together about 60 participants a cross section of stakeholders such as individuals, communities and governments, women, men, children, families, carers, rural urban and or/ organizations that are involved in the field of disability in the country.

This consultation enabled persons with disabilities themselves, Government officials, service providers, regional organisations and development partners, those with the relevant experience and to define what priorities made and actions taken through the new development assistance program to assist people with disabilities.

SPINAL INJURY ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISING DRIVE

Spinal Injury Association of Fiji (SIA) had a week long fundraising drive and awareness program from the 16th to the 21st 2008. The awareness program was concentrated to the secondary schools. A team of SIA executives and members went out to five different secondary schools in the greater Suva area addressing staff and students on all aspects related to the office and was later pick up by personal from SIA. The contribution, support and attentiveness from this schools visited was over whelming.

Spinal Injury Fundraising was in a form of a street and other affiliates of Qarase House came together to assist SIA in this worthy cost. SIA couldn't be more great full to the different offices at Qarase house and individual through out the week long street appeal. Support of the public was beyond words. From the three to four location through out the week, SIA manage to raise three thousand six hundred ninety seven dollars forty eight cents (\$3,679:48) aside from this a kind donation from the Columban Father of two thousand dollars (\$2,000:00) and further one thousand dollars (\$1,000:00) from carpenters Fiji Ltd.

This much needed fund will go toward in addressing urgent needs of the association. Purchasing medical supplies, funds for wheelchair maintenance bills and other administration cost. Due to its success Spinal Injury Association plan to have this as an annual event.



FNCDP STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS DURING THE STREET APPEAL.





STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

**VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.
WORKSHOP MANAGEMENT - 2008, 17th JUNE- 2nd AUGUST IN JAPAN.
ETONIA-TIKO RATU(SUPERVISOR) SCREEN PRINTING DEPARTMENT – FVTTC**

INTRODUCTION

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Promotion of Persons with Disabilities course was conducted in Tokyo International Centre and included observation tasks, lectures, writing, ideas, visit various special educational schools, rehab centres, homes, factories, social welfare office and other government officers. The course was fully funded by the government of Japan through Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA.

The participating countries were as follows: Fiji, China, Bangladesh, Nepal, Vietnam, Lao.

PROJECT PLAN (OVERALL GOALS)

Finding employment for persons with disabilities in service industry like working in supermarket.

OBJECTIVES

*To do some of the research on 10 companies and to need their needs. *Train students according to their employment. *Persuade companies to encourage to open for trail employment. *Talk to companies to encourage employing more People with disabilities. *Talk to families to give their full support.

CONCLUSION

To conclude after visiting places in Japan some employers like Swan Bakery & 1 Setan Soleil they know that the abilities is not their disability, People with disabilities have the support from the government ,family, community in order for them to have a economically independent life and happy future.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I would like to take this time to thank those who have helped me through this group training course-

- FNCDP (Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons).
- JICA (FIJI) -(Japan international cooperation Agency) JICA (Japan)
- Friends and family
- FVTTC (Fiji Vocational Technical & Training Centre for Persons with Disabilities).



The training crew in Japan.



During the training sessions

SPORTS-ILIESA DELANA –15TH OF SEPT– 1ST NOV 2008



I was invited to participate in a Promotion of Social Participation of People with Disabilities through sports This course was conducted in Tokyo, Japan. This was a 1 month course program. during this period I was invited to participate in a sports competition.

It was Habataki Track and Field which was also held in Oji, in Tokyo.

From this course I have leant that People with disabilities are to be included into societies and they should be given a chance to participate in normal day activities and sports. Disabled people should never think that their lives are over just

because they cant move like normal people and they should always look for ward and feel better on the brighter side of things.

I would like to acknowledge the assistance of FNCDP for facilitating my participation.

I would also like to acknowledge friends and family members for their support. I would also like to thank PSC Training, JICA-Fiji, JICA-Japan for giving me an opportunity to participate in their programme.

STAFF OF FNCDP

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (DR SITIVENI YANUYANUTAWA) DURING AUSAID CONSULTATION WORKSHOP



EXECUTIVE OFFICER (MRS KAUSHILYA DEVI PRASAD) AND EKA LOCO



PROJECT OFFICER (SAINIMILI TAWAKE) DURING THE VISIT TO LABASA SPECIAL SCHOOLS



WORKSHOP AT MACUATA DURING THE STATISTICAL DATA RESEARCH



THE STAFF OF FNCDP

THE STAFF OF FNCDP WOULD LIKE TO WISH OUR READERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR



SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY NEWS FOR OUR NEXT EDITION, PLEASE CONTACT Ms KUSH PRASAD [EXECUTIVE OFFICER]