FNU Commits to Greener Fiji

Around 600 practitioners, consultants, trainers, instructors, environmental officers have been trained by the National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC) in the areas of Green Productivity and Environmental Management.

Fiji National University Chancellor Ikbal Jannif said NTPC aimed to train as many as possible to the extent that it has also sent participants from Fiji to be trained overseas in the Asia Productivity Organisation (APO) member countries.

He said NTPC has placed a strong emphasis on the development of “Green Productivity for Green Inclusive Development: A Commitment today for a greener tomorrow” not only in Fiji but the Pacific as a whole.

“We are very conscious that this event is principally designed to strengthen the understanding of Green Productivity (GP) and its suitability for Sustainable Development,” he said.

“I am confident we will witness lots of positive developments and steps forward initiated in this training organised by the APO and the NTPC.”

According to the International Standards Organisation (ISO) statistics, in Fiji, there were 24 ISO 9001 certified companies, 5 ISO 22000 certified companies and 3 ISO 14000 certified companies.

“I am certain that Fiji can do much better than this to meet the aims and objective of the National Green Growth Framework that was launched by the PM of Fiji last year,” he said.

“I realise and am sure we will also take time to enjoy the company and networking with colleagues from different institutions present here today.

Mr Jannif said however, the world summit on sustainable development identified three

Students lend helping hand

For the members of the Fiji School of Medical Students Association (FSMSA) scenes of devastation in Rakiraki will be imprinted in their memory for a long time.

These students took it upon themselves to find ways to contribute to those affected in the wake of TC Winston.

FSMSA President, Sekaia Niumataiwalu said the association started an appeal on February 29 that ended on March 14.

“This involved us going door to door asking for donations of any kind whether it was in monetary form or in the form of clothes or provisions and also involved us putting donation boxes all over the CMNHS campuses,” he said.

He said students gave
primary objectives in realising sustainable development, namely:
• Efficient productive use of resources
• Environmental protection
• Poverty reduction
He said in achieving the above, the key prerequisites include:
• Shifting away from the sectoral approach and adopting an integrated approach to development by recognising the cross-cutting nature of key development challenges we are facing
• Adopting an inclusive approach in each facet of development from planning to implementation to monitoring and evaluation
• Fostering genuine partnerships amongst all stakeholders
• Creating ownership of development initiatives
• Ensuring that solutions proposed are relevant to the local context, and
• Creating a conducive environment that encourages innovation.
Mr Jannif said although the world has made a lot of progress, it acknowledges that hot spots exist and are emerging in its development path.
“ I am also honoured to note the support and recognition given to this program of study to meet the diverse people working in the disciplines of Green Productivity, Environmental Management, Quality assurance and the same, to share ideas and find new and more effective techniques that will help us propagate GP as the way forward,” he said.
The FNU Chancellor said the Green Productivity was launched in 1994 in line with the 1992 Earth Summit recommendations that both economic development and environmental protection would be key strategies for sustainable development.
He said with the support from the government of Japan, the APO introduced GP as a practical way to answer the challenge of sustainable development.
The APO pledges to continue the progress in the Asia-Pacific Region and through cooperation extend GP to accelerate a growing green global marketplace.
Mr Jannif made the comments as he welcomed 26 delegates from 17 different APO member countries across Asia course together with 3 observers from Colombia.
The workshop was overseen by three experts from Malaysia, Singapore and India and a representative from the Asian Productivity Organisation, Japan.
This Training Course was conducted to increase knowledge of the participants as GP trainers/practitioners in resource management focusing on the strategic and production levels so that they will be able to better promote Green Productivity through training and consultancy.

Green Movement for Fiji

Green Productivity and the stimulation of green productivity awareness are of crucial importance to achieving sustainable development.
It is a strategy for simultaneously enhancing productivity and environmental performance for overall socioeconomic development which leads to sustained improvement in the quality of human life.
These were the comments from Director, Town and Country Planning, Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment Losana Rokotuibau (pictured) as she opened the Asia Productivity Organisation in partnership with the National Training and Productivity Centre’s Training Course on Green Productivity at the Tanoa International hotel, Nadi.
Ms Rokotuibau said green productivity was the combined application of appropriate productivity and environmental management tools, techniques, and technologies that reduce the environmental impact of an organisation’s activities, products, and services while enhancing profitability and competitive advantage.
She said no one would argue with the fact that Green Productivity and the stimulation of green productivity awareness were crucial to achieving sustainable development.
“I would like to, therefore, focus on addressing Green Productivity, and reflect on some of the strategies that are required to accelerate development while enhancing our ability to utilise natural resources in a sustainable and climate-resilient manner.

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Students studying under Department of Oral Health felt that it was time to give back to the people of Nataleira village in Tailevu ravaged by Cyclone Winston when they turned up with toiletries, household items, clothing and food.

Nataleira villagers had accommodated these students for a week in 2014 during a community outreach project which is part of the community dentistry course in Bachelor of Dental Surgery and Bachelor of Oral Health programmes.

Through this project the students were able to experience life in a remote village.

They also had the opportunity to provide dental services in the community whilst looking at their general health, oral health and the many different factors that contribute to this.

Head of Department, Dr Leenu Mainamanu said the appeal was coordinated by staff, Dr Tevita Naivalu and all staff and students contributed towards it.

She said three staff travelled to the village with Year V students to distribute the donations.

Dr Mainamanu said Nataleira village suffered very strong winds and extremely large tidal waves that went on for over three hours and hoped that this kind gesture would provide some sense of relief to these villagers.

The students took with them toiletries, food items including fresh vegetables such as rourou, tubua and eggplants, household items and clothing,” she said.

President of the Dental Students Association Ralphen Vinane said it was an emotional trip for them.

“We saw people with no shelters, their beloved homes were all swept away by the cyclone and as well as the tidal wave,’ he said.

He associated the situation to portraits of an aftermath of a war.

“All we could see is smoke and bits and pieces of what’s left. It’s amazing how these people survived through the cyclone period. Despite having this, the villagers were very happy to see us and have also welcomed us in their respective refugee camps,” he said.

Vinane said the villages of Nataleira, Tailevu have extended their sincere gratitude for everything that the team was able to donate for them.

He said DSA was also planning to do further cleanings and maintenance within this beautiful village.

Students lend helping hand
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their own stock of food and many their own clothes.

“We had also been asked by Training Interns (TIs) working along the northern corridor of Viti Levu for donations which they would take back with them. We managed to fill up two large boxes with the dry rations we collected along with the public was phenomenal.

He thanked the public who took the initiative to walk 25 kilometres in a bid to raise funds for people affected by the tropical cyclone Winston.

College Dean’s personal assistant, Mrs Gangamma Naidu joined the Communications Fiji Limited (CFL) cyclone appeal walk from Nausori to Suva on March 5.

She managed to raise $525 which was handed to Radio Navtarang Programs Director, Satya Nand.

Speaking to the newsletter team, Mrs Naidu said she was deeply saddened to see first-hand the suffering of people after the cyclone.

She said people in Suva were fortunate that they were not affected and the power and water supply was restored as soon as it could.

“I felt that if the victims (children, mothers, elderly and others) can stand those many hours of fear, suffering and loss of lives and their lives earnings, why can’t I spend only five and half hours to walk and assist them,” she said.

She said the response from the college staff during her fundraising was overwhelming.

Mrs Gangamma Naidu (left) handing over cash to Radio Navtarang Programs Director, Satya Nand (right) at CFL’s Navtarang Programs Director.

N a v t a r a n g

Programs Director, Satya Nand said the response from the public was phenomenal.

He thanked the public who took the initiative to walk with the CFL team.
Green Movement for Fiji
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“To hasten this process intraregional knowledge exchanges, technical collaborations, sharing of know-how and capacity building for the promotion of Green Productivity is required. Through trainings such as this, the best green practices of one country can be shared with other APO members. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the APO for continuing to spearhead the Green Productivity movement in the Asia-Pacific and for choosing Fiji as your venue for the training. An important training such as this is not only very beneficial to us but to all other member countries whose representatives are here today.”

Ms Rotokautau said green technologies, eco-products and eco-services, and green innovations were critical for the promotion of green economic growth in the region and strengthening the eco-competitiveness of businesses. The term “Green Growth” has been adopted globally to describe a path of economic growth which uses natural resources in a sustainable manner.

The Director Town and Country Planning said green energy was growing within the various industries as many realise its advantages. She said several projects are in the pipeline such as the 12 Megawatt Biomass Power Plant in Nadroga due to be completed by the end of 2016. She said in the near future, Rooster Poultry is set to become Fiji’s first solar powered poultry operations along with Radisson Blu Resort Fiji, who would have the Pacific Islands’ largest roof mounted solar system for a resort. She said the Government of Fiji has also put in place various policies such as the reduction of import duties on hybrid/gas vehicles as a means to support their use. Such initiatives were the key to promoting green growth as well as bringing Fiji closer to its sustainable development goals.

“I wish to thank NTPC as the National Productivity Organisation (NPO) of Fiji for all the excellent work they are undertaking to advance productivity and quality in the country. Over the years, the NTPC has delivered a number of trainings in Green Productivity and Environmental Management. They have trained thousands of individuals from many walks of life. I also wish to thank the APO for past GP projects from which we have benefitted immensely and I wish to assure that Fiji stands ready to work with other member countries of the APO,” she said.

Swarti Sandhita Devi graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting and Human Resource Management & Industrial Relations) from the Fiji National University in 2012. Her educational journey continued as she pursued her Post graduate diploma in Management and Public Administration from the University of the South Pacific. Swarti joined FNU as Executive Assistant-Finance in 2014 and later appointed as Executive Officer - Engineering in 2015.

Swarti’s education at FNU motivated her to pursue her dreams and grow in her professional career. Her education at FNU has been the highlight of her career as studies opened the world of learning for her and she has been able to reach greater heights.

She states her time at FNU was very enjoyable as she had good lecturers and professors who were good examples to her. Working for her alma mater allowed her various opportunities to work with great supervisors that inspired Swarti to perform better each day.

While she enjoys working for her alma mater and adding to the growing University, Swarti reflects on her time as a student and her proud achievement of scoring a GPA of 3.63. Her lasting impression of FNU is the quality education the university provides and the receptive work environment it creates for its employees.