



NTPC HOSTS *Productivity* TALK

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P-Talk to discuss ways to improve efficiency

The Fiji National University's (FNU) National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC) hosted the inaugural Breakfast Session Productivity Talk (P-Talk), a platform to share discuss challenges, share ideas and knowledge on ways to improve productivity in the workplace post-COVID-19 pandemic.

Some of the key points of discussion during the 3-hour session centred around the exodus of skilled workers overseas, working smart, strategic planning, digital transformation, impact on productivity due to traffic congestion, allocation, and availability of learning resources and the FNU levy for the training.

Award-winning entrepreneur Mark Halabe was the chief guest and shared valuable insights into modern challenges faced by businesses and the need to expand on existing advantages that Fiji must realise its full potential.

Halabe is the Mark One Apparel owner and the Chairman of the Fiji Business Excellence Awards Review Panel.

"Fiji is in the middle of the South Pacific, and it is a big ask for us to compete internationally, but we can compete with other established nations. If we work smarter and efficiently and find ways to lower our production costs, not by cost-cutting, which would create more pain and hurt the organisation, but we need to work smarter and not harder to raise productivity," Halabe mentioned.

"When you make a cup of coffee, you will try to be better the next time you make coffee, and you will try to be smarter in terms of putting in less effort but ensuring you make a good cup of coffee. Similarly, when you work smarter and learn from the previous task, you will get better and more experienced, so this is how you can raise productivity. You might want to do the same with your work



by being smarter in carrying out your duties, and through doing this, you would be able to spend more time with your families."

FNU's Acting Vice-Chancellor Dr William May said Productivity Talk is the first of many P-Talks that NTPC plans to host in the coming months and has been benchmarked against the success of Asian Productivity Organisation's (APO) Productivity Talks.

"Your attendance this morning is indicative of the value the leaders place on productivity and quality issues which can be the key guiding principles of your organisations in this country as we forge ahead amidst one of Fiji's most challenging times," Dr May said.

"The Productivity Talk is designed to motivate all sections of the community for more discussions on productivity at workplaces and ensuring its sustainability."

"In line with the Government's vision that no Fijian should be left behind – whether during the better days of continuous positive economic growth or when we are working through recovery post-pandemic, NTPC continues to work in the national interest by assisting Fijian organisations in developing human capital, facilitating productivity improvement initiatives, and assisting Fijian organisations in raising productivity and excellence."

NTPC committed in raising the productivity bar



Fiji National University's (FNU) National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC) Director Dr Isimeli Tagicakiverata believes holding P-Talk session will help improve the productivity at the workplace.

NTPC hosted a P-Talk session last month at the Grand Pacific Hotel with guest speakers talking to the attendees on the productivity.

Dr Tagicakiverata said the session was very fruitful, with the discussions and contributions from the stakeholders, industry, and government that would assist in enhancing productivity.

"As the designated National Productivity Organisation for the Fiji Government, NTPC has a key role in conducting in-service training and promoting productivity in Fiji. We hope to continue to increase and improve productivity in all sectors. The session was also in line

with our new FNU strategic plan, education for employability," Dr Tagicakiverata said.

The session included Fiji Employers and Commerce Federation Chief Executive Officer Kameli Batiweti, Post Fiji CEO Anirudha Bansod and Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations Director for Labour Standards Division, Atish Kumar as the panellist.

Bob Mitchell, Manager Quality Awards, said the session was important for the business leaders as it was a platform to share ideas and learn from each other's experiences.

"Productivity is about making today better than yesterday and tomorrow better than today. That is indeed the spirit of prosperity," he said.

"It is about working smarter today for better outcomes tomorrow. Today it is widely agreed that quality, productivity and innovation are the drivers that help create wealth in our economies."

NTPC will hold more P-Talks in the coming months.





Vocational students successfully complete attachment with NTPC

Nineteen women from Makoi Vocational Training Centre are in a better position to systemically carry out tasks as per garment industry standards following a weeklong attachment with the Fiji National University's National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC) Fashion Incubation Centre in Nabua.

To complement the training with the Vocational Centre, the women were provided with the experience of utilising industrial-based machines.

The Head of Training, Department of Tourism, Hospitality, Fashion and Travel Dr Akash Gupta said NTPC was always willing to provide industry-based experience to help students better assimilate to working environments.

"Our team helped the women to learn new skills and enhance old ones, to translate them into proper ventures," he said.

"It is a proud moment for NTPC as it gives us great satisfaction to see Fijian women who have taken up this opportunity available

to them, to put their skills, traditional knowledge, entrepreneurial abilities, and artistic aptitudes to use, which can later assist them to generate income."

Makoi Vocational Training Centre manager Shazna Khan said the collaboration with NTPC, and the Australia Pacific Training Coalition (APTC) allows students to achieve higher standards in fashion and broaden technical knowledge and advance fashion locally and internationally.

"The fashion industry in Fiji is growing rapidly and I am thankful to the management of NTPC and APTC, who had the vision and invested in the opening of the Fashion Incubation Centre in 2020, to provide fashion design and technology training to the people in Fiji," she said.

"We will always welcome partnerships such as this in the future to help improve access to education services, particularly for disadvantaged segments of the population, including women living with disabilities."

Industrial experience helps Vulimaidavuilevu

For Arieta Vulimaidavuilevu completing her week-long attachment with the Fiji National University's (FNU) National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC) Fashion Incubation Centre was critical to her hopes of starting a business.

The 54-year-old Lovoni, Ono-i-Lau native said she intended to transfer what she learnt on to her eldest son and daughter in law it will assist them in creating a revenue stream.

"I am grateful for this experience because it provided me with an opportunity to create a revenue stream that could assist my family, particularly my eldest son and his wife who are mute," she said.

"By transferring what I have learned and working with them to start their own business, they will become more independent. My husband and I will not always be around, and we want to prepare them for the inevitable."

Prior to joining the training with the Training Centre in Makoi, Vulimaidavuilevu said she had been mulling over several options that could assist her family, particularly her son.

"I'm so grateful for this experience. Before joining the Makoi Vocational Centre, I was thinking of ways to help my family, more so my son, and took the chance when I heard about the training they offer."



"Prior to the attachment at FNU I didn't know how to handle sewing machines properly and I'm grateful that now I have something to take back home to teach my son and daughter in law."

Vulimaidavuilevu was part of 19 women undergoing training with the Makoi Vocational Training Centre who completed the weeklong industrial attachment with NTPC's Fashion Incubation Centre.

The attachment ensured the women were in a better position to systemically carry out tasks as per garment industry standards. They were also provided with the experience of utilising industrial-based machines.

The industry-based experience helps students better assimilate to working environments.

The role of ICTs and business opportunities in the context of ageing trends

While Digital Rights is a fundamental human right, it is evident that our senior citizens face various barriers in digital inclusion.

These challenges include computer, information and internet literacy which leads to the spread misinformation and disinformation. Due to limited skills in the use of technology, such users become more security related vulnerable. Transitioning from legacy technologies to contemporary versions. However, in the wake of the pandemic, imperative need to resort to technology particularly in times of crisis.

The fact that many elderly people live alone, makes it necessary for them to rely on technology for all tasks and errands such as buying groceries, medication, and payment of utility bills.

Thus, a reasonable level of digital literacy becomes vital for our ageing population.

ICT plays a critical role in creating suitable environments to promote healthy conditions and overcome any obstacles, which may come with ageing by keeping older generations empowered. ICT can act as an enabler for the social inclusion of older persons, if due consideration is given to their needs and expectations, before and

when designing products and services.

There is a need for digital literacy and inclusion, to ensure the potential enabling factor of ICT's. To do so, the basic digital inclusion elements are digital infrastructure, ICT accessibility and the adoption of technology.



FNU's NTPC to conduct outreach programme

Elderly persons across the country who are not familiar with using smart devices will soon have an opportunity to undergo training to learn more about navigating technological gadgets.

The tailor-made ICT education programmes will be conducted by the Department of Information Technology of the Fiji National University's (FNU) National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC).

This was announced by the Director NTPC Dr Isimeli Tagicakiverata during the World Telecommunications and Information Society Day (WTISD) celebrations held at Derrick Campus, Samabula.

The initiative is part of the department's corporate social responsibility and is designed to help older persons appreciate how digital technology can enhance their quality of life.

The outreach is held in line with the WTISD 2022 theme *Digital Technologies for Older Persons and Healthy Ageing*. All training conducted will be free.

Older persons will receive encouragement and assistance in adopting digital technology to broaden their social circles and integrate them into the community.

"This group of the population, which is growing larger and larger, has greatly contributed to the social and economic achievements of our time," said Dr Tagicakiverata.

"With time passing, they are now facing new opportunities and challenges and they deserve our care and help."

Dr Tagicakiverata added that it was crucial to ensure there were no disparities in access to technology.

"Electronic communications cannot resolve all the key issues of today, but they do improve the quality of life, from economic, social, and cultural points of view. Our task and the task of those who are engaged in this field is to ensure the access to electronic communications for every person in the country."

The outreach programme will be provided in three rounds nationwide and will be held simultaneously in NTPC centres in Suva, Nadi, and Lautoka.

Proposed dates for the training are 27 July and 23 November this year and 29 March 2023.

Registration details will be announced prior to the first round of training.



The National Training and Productivity Centre's Build the Future is a monthly newsletter which aims to promote the Centre's activities to the wider community. This newsletter is produced by the Centres Customer Service, Research and Promotion team.

For views or comments please email mcsrp@fnu.ac.fj

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