



FIJI NATIONAL
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NATIONAL TRAINING AND PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE

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APPRENTICES IN DEMAND

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Chand joins FNU's NTPC to become a fashion designer

Monika Poonam Chand's interest in fashion design motivated her to join Fiji National University's (FNU) National Training and Productivity Centre to fulfil her dream of fashion design.

"Fashion design is an exciting field, and I have always been interested in fashion since my childhood days. People from different walks of life are interested in what they wear at different functions, so there will always be a demand from the people, and we must fulfil it," she said.

The 26-year-old said she wants to become a fashion designer after completing her programme at NTPC.

"The fashion trend never stops, and people constantly desire to look different from others," she said.

"This is also a fascinating field as it keeps changing with innovative ideas and designs. What we wear today may change to something different tomorrow that people may prefer, so we must always keep



changing fashion in mind.

"If we are not up to par with the latest trend, people will definitely choose to go to a different designer who can cater to their needs and demand. The industry is not as easy as it may look, but one has to do constant research to stay up with the latest trends in the country or even globally."

Chand said she had always desired to create new things in fashion, and the programme she is currently enrolled in would assist her in becoming better in fashion design.

"NTPC is a great learning institution with the friendly instructors and the members of NTOC who are always there to help you in any need arises," she said.

"My message to the individuals who want to join the fashion industry is to be creative and always strive for excellence."

Chand has set her sight on becoming an experienced fashion designer in the next five years.

Good leadership vital to workforce development - Nair



After earning a qualification in Management Development and Leadership Skills in Hospitality from Fiji National University's (FNU) National Training and Productivity Centre, Vaishali Nair, a mother of two children, aspires to become a competent human resources leader to aid the workforce.

The 36-year-old stated that she had acquired an interest in assisting employees and providing advice on human resources issues.

"After graduating from India, I had always worked in administration and human resources, but I was not completely knowledgeable in employment regulations, so I opted to do a short course for a start in human resources," she explained.

She previously worked as a helpdesk coordinator and fleet manager for Jacks Manufacturing PTE Limited and as Manager Administration and Human Resources with Voicenet IP (Fiji) Limited.

"I've always wanted to assist others, and I like working with different individuals.. I felt that I could extend my study in the HR profession and tremendously assist them in improving other colleagues and building a balance between the company and workers," she said.

"This is a highly fascinating profession since I would get to meet

individuals from all walks of life and deal with various human resource concerns."

The Nacovi, Nadi resident, stated that her two boys, ages 12 and 5, motivate her to do well in her career.

"I have enjoyed every moment of my studies at FNU since joining last month. From enquirers being responded to on time to my instructor, Sheileshni Nair, who is always hands-on with anything that is fired her way," she stated.

"My ambition is to work in the tourism industry. I feel that excellent human resources officers are required to offer an equal playing field for all employees in our country's employment sector."

"I want to picture myself as a director of human resources in the next seven years, and for that to happen, I need to stay focused on my studies and grow my experience in the human resource sector."

Nair encouraged the other students to commit to their dreams and work hard to accomplish them.

"If you've ever considered pursuing what fascinates you, definitely go for it and always put in your 100 per cent devotion and hard work," she said.

Students interested in the short courses can contact **info.ntpc@fnu.ac.fj** or call on **2417779**.

NTPC conducts reskilling and upskilling courses



Fiji National University's (FNU) National Training and Productivity Centre in Japan International Cooperation Agency conducted a reskilling and upskilling courses for 100 participants in March.

The courses targeted individuals adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with the training held in the Central Division.

Viliame Cama, who is in charge of the project at NTPC, said the Centre was grateful for the assistance from JICA to fund these skills-based courses.

"JICA and NTPC collaborated in November 2020, where the idea of providing skills training to those adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic was discussed and confirmed," he said.

"NTPC conducted skills training within the greater Suva and Nasinu areas. The courses include Fundamentals of Baking and Patisserie, Floristry Designs and Techniques, Garment Construction Techniques and Procedures, Screen Printing Artwork and Designs, and Business and Computing Fundamentals.

"We could only cater to 100 individuals, and we hope to include others in future training."

Cama said the training would help the participants reskill themselves and earn through the skills and experience they gained from the training.

"The training assistance from JICA is very timely and considerate. The training will empower participants with alternative skill sets and knowledge that are considered relevant and necessary to improve their livelihood and promote self-sufficiency," Cama said.

"The training outcomes aim to reinforce existing skills and competencies so that participants become more productive. In doing so, it hopes to impart and address the effective and sustainable use of local natural resources to alleviate the economic impact of COVID-19 and introduce business ideas to encourage entrepreneurship and the setting up of homebased small micro-enterprises at minimal costs.

NTPC plans to conduct more training of this nature in the future.

Veronika's passion for becoming a fashion designer



Tina Veronika, a security officer by profession, has joined Fiji National University's (FNU) National Training and Productivity Centre to become a professional fashion designer and start up her clothing business.

The 31-year-old said her family had supported her in pursuing fashion design.

"Everyone needs to grow in their career, and I also want to do the same. I want to support my family and create a name for myself by being a fashion designer," she explained.

Veronika said that she had been looking at the work of other fashion designers, which motivated her to become a fashion designer.

"Young people have different tastes in fashion, so I know the fashion industry will thrive in the future. It will be a very competitive industry, so I believe that having relevant qualifications will help me prosper in my career," she said.

"I plan to open my own fashion design company, working towards it with complete dedication and commitment.

"To be a successful entrepreneur, one needs the proper training and skills so that they can help the business flourish. NTPC is helping me fulfil my career with the right environment to train in, highly trained instructors, and equipment and resources that students can use in their learning."

"If you have a dream, then you should work hard to ensure that you achieve your goal as it is not only about you, but it can also be linked to your family and loved ones. They also have high expectations of you to become a successful person in your life."

For more information on the fashion design courses, email info.ntpc@fnu.ac.fj or call **2417779**.

More apprentice recruitments expected

The Fiji National University's (FNU) National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC) anticipates the recruitment of 100 apprentices by June.

NTPC's manager Apprenticeship and National Trade Test Alvin Lal said the marked increase from employers is a positive indication for more apprenticeship opportunities.

"This year alone I think we have registered close to 36 apprentices and during this period we have seen that there is an increase of number of employers wanting to recruit apprentices as well," he said.

"If someone wants to come on apprenticeship and they don't have an employer they can always come and see us and meet with us. After a short interview we will assist them to find an employer. Some employers depend on us to screen the participants before we recommend them."

Lal also encouraged more female participation in trade related environments.

With more than 30 females currently recruited in apprenticeship positions enabled through NTPC, Lal said females were as capable as men in trade.

"Apprenticeship programs prove beneficial as it prepares workers for the organization and within the type of organization culture that they want them to be in."

"We have seen that females equally work well in these trade related work environments so if you are a female wanting to work in a trade related environment, then the apprenticeship can provide you with a head start," he said.



Session enhances leadership qualities



In collaboration with the Asian Productivity Organization, Fiji National University's National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC) hosted a virtual session on the leadership training programme from May 9-11.

Dr Archana Yemeshvary Ashok Upadhyia, a certified leadership and executive, was the guest speaker at the programme.

Dr Upadhyia is a Chief Manager of Capability Building, Human Resources Department, Mumbai Refinery, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited in India, with 2 years of experience in leadership and executive coaching.

NTPC's Department of Executive Management, Yashwant Sami, said the session allowed the leaders in Fiji to participate in the life-changing programme and adapt to the best leadership practises post-COVID-19 in Fiji.

"The programme is designed to help us improve our leadership skills in the workplace and deal with change management and new ideas in these difficult times," he said.

"The programme will enhance leadership skills and help cope with the changing management and innovative strategies during the challenging times."

The veteran trainer said excellent and effective leadership skills training is essential for the success of organisations, which include small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and large organisations. This class will help you improve your skills and knowledge, and you can see this in the way the leaders act.

"The session assisted and enlighten the participants on how to handle challenges faced by today's leaders and provide solutions, solve problems and make effective decisions. It would also recognise resilient leadership and its rewards and discuss success stories on leadership growth and organisational vision achievement. "

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

Build the future welcomes submission by staff and students for publication in the newsletter.

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