



*Build
the Future*

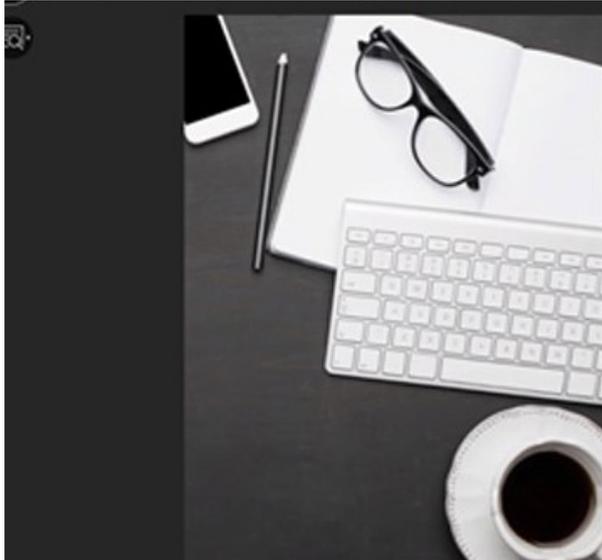


**NTPC IT
experts partake
in international
seminar**

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NTPC IT experts participate in international seminar



Ethics in Information Communication & Technology

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Two senior Training Instructors Swaran Ravindra and Ashutosh Maharaj from Fiji National University's (FNU) National Training and Productivity Centre's (NTPC) were guest presenters during an online seminar hosted by the University of West Indies earlier this month.

The IT professionals spoke about Ethics in Information Technology to 70 university students.

In his presentation, Maharaj highlighted the important role ethics play in the daily lives of people and the information technology domain adding computer technology should not be used to harm people, the environment and society.

"There are four ethical elements in IT which are the privacy, accuracy, accessibility – making the online service within reach of the people and the fourth is property – pertains to making enabling provisions for the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)," Maharaj said.

"Understanding about Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the constitution and legislation about the use of ICT help users make sound ethical decisions in the use and practice of ICT, regardless of their area of discipline."

During the presentation, participants raised questions relating to cyberbullying, and misinformation relating to COVID-19, defamation through social media.

Maharaj informed participants that authorities regularly provided awareness on the rights of people and new laws that governed cybercrime.

"There were concerns raised about the number of fake accounts created and hate speech spread on social media. These are being monitored and investigated by the Online Safety Commission."

The guest lecture was made possible through the collaboration between the Fiji National University (FNU) and the University

of West Indies (UWI) under the Education for Climate Change Adaption and Mitigation (ECCAM) Staff Exchange Program. Ravindra, who visited the University in 2019, said she cherished the noteworthy opportunity to work with the dynamic team of academics and professionals at the University of West Indies through the ECCAM staff exchange program in 2019.

"During my stay, I taught students from first-year bachelor's degree programs to master's degree level in Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Special Inclusive Education," she said.

"It was a great learning experience for me as the students were from all over the Caribbean and West Indies region. In addition, the academics, management, and international office were helpful, and I have been able to contribute to the agreement between the two universities through conducting online guest lectures and collaborative research."

"Our focus was the sound understanding of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Constitution, and Legislative systems in the country to help frame ICT-based legislation, policies, and code of practice, which participants can use to make ethical ICT assessments."

NTPC Director Dr Isimeli Tagicakiverata said online seminar part of the organisations wider contribution to knowledge sharing with international students.

"We always encourage and motivate staff to strive for excellence in their fields of expertise. The international presentation by our staff speaks volumes of the work NTPC does in terms of educating and raising awareness on Information Communication Technology (ICT)" he said.

NTPC supports a digital Fiji and is keen to continue training Fijians and the region with industry-relevant ICT courses and consultancy to support national progress in this technology-driven era.

ICT Policies design for companies

Organizations may find it useful to benchmark their Information Communication Technology (ICT) policies with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the country's legislation in ICT pertaining to fair use, fraudulent activities such as computer/cyber-based crimes, sustainable ICT practices, greener methods of work, responsible recycling and disposal of computer items, phones and gadgets and responsible use of data and information. Learning about ICT legislation will help form a better understanding of privacy, misinformation, intellectual property, and ethics.

Having ICT policies, standards and procedures will provide an ethical framework in places where legislation may not be entirely clear. We must also encourage the consented inclusion of every citizen in the digital spaces. Hence, our people have access to e-health, e-education, e-commerce, and social protection through their digital reach. Fiji has privacy legislation, copyright, and intellectual property laws. All workforce sectors, including micro, small and medium enterprises, realize the gaps in the ethical behaviour of employees pertaining to the use of ICT.

Therefore, ICT policies need to be done in consultation with stakeholders to ensure inclusive and relevant policies that outline the acceptable use of ICT and act as a benchmark for ethical practice. We must realise that we are not exempted from the land law just because we are only virtually represented. Having a smartphone, a laptop, and internet access in these trying times is indeed a privilege as we are part of the 600,000 out of less than 900,000 citizens who have a smartphone. It not only puts us on a platform for information sharing, but citizens are getting together to combine relief efforts and helping each other out in these unfortunate times.

If everyone could afford one or be provided with one, contact tracing would be more efficient. Having internet access means we are among the fortunate 65% of the population who can use digital spaces to hold positive discussions, get online education, free apps for health/education, pay their bills, and get other errands done to support their physical efforts isolation by increasing virtual presence. They can create opportunities to help others bridge the digital divide. For our communities who are still marginalised, being "digitally visible", through access to gadgets plus quality digital/information literacy could open new avenues for business and help our struggling economy.

ICT students struggling to complete their education should hang on to the thought that once they complete, they will join the ICT workforce of Fiji who will make "work from home" possible through technology. They are equally important as essential workers.



Our department supports a digital Fiji and is ready to train Fijians and the region with the best ICT courses and consultancy to help them continue to work from home in this digital era.

Technologies play an important role in our society, and at the same time, they should be used responsibly.



Kumar gives credit to NTPC for his success



National Training and Productivity Centre's Trade Test Officer Ronald Ashwin Kumar is an exemplary workforce model who has proven that continuous learning and bridging skills gaps through NTPC short courses can lead to career progression.

Mr Kumar has completed a total of 17 courses from NTPC since 2006. It was passion for his work and striving at it that drew him closer to NTPC.

While working at a hardware company in Suva for 14 years, he upgraded his qualification at the NTPC.

Today, his certificates are a testimonial of his hard work, commitment, and dedication. From a humble beginning from a farming community in Valley Road Sigatoka, Mr Kumar moved to Suva in 1982 in search for a better future in the trade industry. Destiny had better plans for him to work in an academic institute, playing a pivotal role in imparting knowledge and helping other tradespeople gain qualifications and certificates in their respective trades.

"I worked at a hardware company for 14 long years. I thought that I would. However, I did not know that time that I would one day work at NTPC where I gained my qualifications," he said.

In 2014, he joined NTPC, where he worked as a technical assistant, and after conducting classes, he worked as a part-time training officer.

"There was a position of Trade Test Officer advertised at NTPC in 2018, and I did not delay and made the most of the opportunity. This was done through the normal recruitment process whereby I submitted my application for this position, and then I was shortlisted, interviewed, and offered the post."

"I was inspired by my father to gain qualifications and certificates in the trade as he was a carpenter, and I grew up watching his skills and techniques in the construction field. In addition, my mother has been a motivator in my life, especially from childhood days as she taught my other four siblings and me many things that hold value in our lives."

The 40-year-old encourages others never to lose hope and to continue to strive for excellence in their career and become a better person who contributes to the country's development.

"Struggle is simply a part of life, but at the end of the day,

struggles are inevitable, and there is nothing one can do to keep the struggle out of their life. We are all going through to struggle in life or feel down at times," Kumar said.

"Struggle is always what makes the reward much more satisfying. With the right mindset, I can do anything and have been coping with work and studies, which is the biggest challenge, but I manage the situation by planning and organizing my daily routine."

Kumar has attributed his success to NTPC for developing him into a better person with trade certificates.

Still so passionate about his growing his knowledge and expertise in his trade and career, Mr Kumar is currently pursuing a Diploma in Building from Fiji National University.

"Learning is a never-ending process, and I would like to grow further in my field to advance my career growth".

Kumar's certificate attainment with NTPC

Courses/Trainings	Year
Basic Furniture Making	2019
Kitchen Fitment and Fitting	2019
Training of Trainers Module 2	2019
Trade Test Certificate (Painter & Decorator) – I	2018
Fabricate Assemble Door and Windows	2018
Training of Trainers Module 1	2018
Quality Circles Training	2016
3-Dimensional Design	2016
Fundamental of Computer Aided Design	2016
2-Dimensional Design	2016
Trade Test Certificate (Painter & Decorator) – III	2014
Trade Test Certificate (Painter & Decorator) – II	2014
Customer Services	2012
Construction Management Skills Training	2008
Welding Arc Class 1, Class 2 Modules 1,2,3	2006
Painter & Decorator Modules 1,2	2005
Gas Metal Arc Welding (MIG Welding)	2002

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 pravin.narain@fnu.ac.fj.

Build the future welcomes submission by staff and students for publication in the newsletter. Please send your suggestions, comments or articles for consideration to pravin.narain@fnu.ac.fj