

NTPC commended for strengthening Fiji's workforce



NTPC Director Dr Isimeli Tagicakiverata with the Director of Marketing at Tourism Fiji, Emma Campbell and Acting Head of Training Tourism and Hospitality, Dr Akash Gupta.

The Fiji National University's (FNU) National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC) has been commended for its work in upskilling the workforce of the nation.

Speaking at the opening of the week-long inaugural Tourism and Hospitality Fair organised by NTPC, Chief Guest Emma Campbell the Director of Marketing at Tourism Fiji said it was great to see NTPC placing a strong emphasis on growing the tourism sector by hosting Hospitality Competitions, Workshops, Cultural Performances, and Fashion Symposiums.

"It is also encouraging to know that NTPC offers major training programs for its industry partners in the field of culinary skills training, food and beverage training, travel and recreational and tourism programs, hospitality supervisory and management programs, housekeeping and room divisions management - not forgetting our own hair and beauty academy," said Campbell.

Campbell said collaboration between FNU and the industry is critical for skills development, for sharing knowledge, and promoting entrepreneurship.

"This collaboration is essential for a thriving industry which in turn creates more opportunities for individuals to upskill themselves and contribute positively to Fiji's economy."

The Director Marketing also urged industry personnel to actively take part in these types of events as "they create a platform for all industry personnel to meet and share best practices, ideas and knowledge on the way forward for the tourism industry."

Campbell also stated there has been a record number of 88,834 tourists visiting Fiji in September. She said the last 12 months has seen a three percent increase in visitor arrivals to our shores.

"This puts us on the right path to achieve the Government's goal to grow our Tourism sector from a 1.9-billion-dollar industry in 2017,

to a 2.2-billion-dollar one by the year 2021," she said.

Tourism Fiji is the Fijian government's tourism marketing arm and is responsible for promoting Fiji as a visitor destination around the world.

Campbell said she was excited to be invited to speak at the festival. "What a great way to celebrate the Tourism Industry and highlight just how important this sector is for our economy."

"Festivals such as these bring people together from different areas of the Tourism and Hospitality sector and provides a platform for us all to share our ideas. To see so many people considering a career in tourism and hospitality truly makes my heart sing," Mrs Campbell said.

"Tourism is the highest foreign exchange earner and contributes a significant 30 percent to Fiji's Gross Domestic Product. Tourism, directly and indirectly, employs an estimated 45,000 people in Fiji and is the fastest growing industry in terms of employment."

The Hospitality and Tourism Festival will be held between 23 – 27 September. The event opens its doors at 10 am and ends at 10 pm. Entry is free.



Emma Campbell and NTPC's Acting Head of Training Tourism and Hospitality, Dr Akash Gupta view entries in the festival's poster competition.