



# Pacific Dialogue Limited 2014 Annual Report



## Our Vision

A just, peaceful and democratic Fiji in the Pacific

## Our Mission

To promote dialogue and education on critical issues in Fiji and the Pacific as a means to resolve conflict, develop understanding and uphold basic human rights

Pacific Dialogue is an innovative and experienced NGO working in the fields of human rights and conflict resolution.

With a vision of a just, peaceful and democratic Fiji, Pacific Dialogue develops and delivers projects that promote dialogue and education on the issues of democracy and governance, traditional leadership, empowering youth and human trafficking.

Pacific Dialogue was founded in December 2009 by a group of civil society activists whose long experience of working in the fields of security, faith, justice and peace gave them a unique insight into the challenges faced by Fiji.

A not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, Pacific Dialogue is governed by a board of directors, with a team of staff and volunteers based in its office in Suva.

## Chairman's message



It gives me great pleasure to present Pacific Dialogue's annual report for 2014.

2014 marked our fifth year of dialogue, education and advocacy in the areas of human rights, civic values, democracy, good governance and conflict resolution.

It was also the year when Fiji held its first national elections since 2006, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September.

During 2014 Pacific Dialogue made achievements in a number of areas – we actively engaged with the national elections activity, embarked on a program of youth development, and launched a significant human trafficking awareness program.

We attended symposia, made several submissions to Parliament and international organisations, and our staff upgraded their skills.

Along the way we made friends in many places and continued to build on our reputation as a reputable and serious NGO promoting worthwhile objectives.

This annual report highlights the major achievements that our organisation has added to its portfolio, as well as the hurdles and challenges it has faced.

I thank all of Pacific Dialogue's partners, donors, stakeholders and friends for their support in 2014 and beyond, and also thank the Pacific Dialogue board members, staff and volunteers for their ongoing commitment to our vision.

The continuance of our program and its effectiveness can only be made possible through the ongoing support of the citizens of Fiji and of donors in the interest of Fiji's people.

Jone Dakuvula

Chairman  
Pacific Dialogue

## Projects

In 2014 Pacific Dialogue delivered successful projects in the areas of election awareness and capacity, human trafficking awareness and youth empowerment.

With a focus on operating at the grass roots level and in rural communities, Pacific Dialogue also developed project proposals to donors on other topics including good governance outreach, media support and training. Whilst not successful with these submissions their preparation has laid a foundation for future opportunities, and also builds capacity within the organisation.

### National Elections Awareness

Pacific Dialogue was as an active player in public education in the build up to the national elections.

This included being approved by the Fiji Electoral Office as a voter awareness organisation (one of just five CSOs in Fiji), a



result due in no small part to the efforts of our office manager, Imelda Joseph.

Pacific Dialogue was active in voter awareness in Suva, distributing copies of the 2013 Constitution in English, iTaukei and

Hindi, as well as how to vote pamphlets and our 'Even Dozen' democracy information sheets.

We also identified that voter awareness was needed by community members in the Nausori-Suva corridor, but unfortunately were unsuccessful in securing funding support for a basic awareness program.

Undaunted, and determined to carry out the Election Office's mandate, Pacific Dialogue itself funded mock voter sessions in six informal settlements in the Suva area.

During the national elections, and as a member of the CSO Observer Mission and the (later) CSO Coalition on Electoral Observation, Pacific Dialogue also engaged in monitoring voter turn-out and voter patterns.

### Human Trafficking Awareness

Pacific Dialogue's human trafficking awareness program falls under its mission to uphold basic human rights. Apart from some limited formal instruction to Police, lawyers and jurists, awareness-raising on what is trafficking, how to recognise it and so avoid traffickers, and the legal protection available in Fiji has scarcely been carried out. We believe that citizens have a right to know fact from fiction, and at the same time be able to put in place measures to protect themselves and their children from traffickers, paedophiles and trafficking practices.

### *Sigatoka project*

In early December, with the support of the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, Pacific Dialogue commenced a five-month project entitled “Human trafficking and child rights’ awareness in the Sigatoka area of the Fiji Islands”.



The project also involved the active engagement of the Fiji Police Force’s Human Trafficking Unit and Juvenile Bureau.

The Sigatoka project was aimed at children in school, local communities, places of learning, organisations, businesses, transport operators, market vendors and front-line staff of resort hotels in the area.

Although centred on Sigatoka, the project ultimately extended to Cuvu and along the Sigatoka valley roads well into the hinterland. The project’s first outreach in Sigatoka was an information session in the market - bus stand area which was supported by the Sigatoka Town Council and the Fiji Police Force’s Juvenile Bureau’s ‘Blue Light Boys Band’. Visits were also made to a number of nearby villages, and awareness information was distributed around the township.



### *Local engagement*



Pacific Dialogue was invited to attend the Catholic Women’s soli and annual meeting, which took place in November at Solevu, Bua Province, to speak on human trafficking in Fiji.

We were also invited by the Homes of Hope (Wailoku) to contribute to a plan on human trafficking awareness and sexual exploitation.

### *International engagement*

In April, the acting CEO of Pacific Dialogue gave a presentation at the ‘People Preventing Trafficking’ conference in New Zealand (hosted by the New Zealand Salvation Army and NZ Police Force), entitled ‘Labour exploitation in Fiji and the Pacific Islands region’. Pacific Dialogue also engaged with Australian Federal Police, the American Bar Association, and the Anti-Slavery Unit of the University of Technology, Sydney.

### **Youth Forums**

In late 2014, Pacific Dialogue commenced a series of Youth Forums, led by the chairman Jone Dakuvula, who spoke at the first forum on the topic ‘Future of liberal democracy in Fiji’. The second forum in early December was addressed by Professor Wadan Narsey, who spoke on economic and political concerns. The forums were held in St Andrews’ Church Hall.

# Our people

## Board members



Jone Dakuvula  
(chairman)



Ratu Meli  
Vesikula



Ratu Seru  
Mataidrau



Suruj Nand Mati



Chantelle Khan



Mosmi Bhim



Manjula Prasad

## Staff and volunteers

Patricia Kailola - Acting CEO

Imelda Joseph - Office manager

Shoma Prakash - Finance officer

Sau Naceva - Office assistant

Mikhail Dominico - Office assistant

Salvador Nseng Ada - volunteer

Sister Monica- volunteer

Benjamin Christopher - volunteer

Desmond Tona - volunteer

Felicity Sertori- volunteer



## Coming and going

Late in 2014, two members of Pacific Dialogue departed. Board member Mosmi Bhim moved to Australia to take up the challenge of attaining another higher degree, and our able office assistant Sau Naceva moved to another part of town and a new direction. We wish them well and thank them for their contributions to our organisation.

Two new board members were elected - Ms Chantelle Khan, and Ms Manjula Prasad. Pacific Dialogue welcomes them warmly.

Mikael Dominico arrived to assist in the office, was made welcome and has been a great asset, and toward the end of 2014, volunteer Patricia Kailola became the Acting Chief Executive Officer.

Volunteers are a vital part of the Pacific Dialogue team – we couldn't deliver on our mission without them.

In 2014 we welcomed Salvador Nseng Ada, a student from Bath University in London. Salvador's arrival interestingly coincided with national election day, and his immense thirst for knowledge coupled with his curiosity about Fiji's past, his research into youth and his advocacy for better conditions for child workers, all helped set a firm foundation for many of our organisation's activities.

Pacific Dialogue also hosted three University of the South Pacific social work volunteers In 2014. Sister Monica who worked on child rights, Benjamin Christopher who worked on disabled peoples' equality during the national elections, and Desmond Tona who focused on the actions of the Fiji government and of civil society organisations regarding human trafficking awareness.

These three students' placements at Pacific Dialogue were kindly facilitated by Dr Kate Saxton, who also secured for us the assistance of a La Trobe University (Melbourne, Australia) senior student, Felicity Sertori. Felicity spent three months with us and was a willing and delightful assistant on all manner of our organisation's activities, especially with internet and electronic media.

## Our community

Pacific Dialogue is part of the local, national and international human rights community - we play an active role, engaging with, supporting and learning from a wide range of individuals and organisations.

In 2014 we connected with the local branch of the International Labour Organization regarding child labour in Fiji. Our office manager Imelda and volunteer Salvador became concerned about a lack of adult supervision of children, observing that children selling food parcels were often on the streets alone at night, sometimes until 3am.

Some of our other connections and activities in 2014 were:

- meeting with the Bua Urban Youth group
- dialoguing with the Roko Tuis of the Nadroga-Navosa, Bua, Macuata and Cakaudrove
- sharing common ideals with Transparency International's Fiji branch
- joining in the Human Rights' Day march
- participating in International Volunteers' Day
- attending the welcoming of Prime Minister of India, Mr Narendra Modi
- enjoying the wisdom and friendship of Marilyn Evans from the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)
- participating in a session on the role and work of parliament
- showing a series of human rights films on Monday evenings at our office
- allying with the Vodafone Fiji Foundation's 'World of Difference' program to conduct human trafficking and sex exploitation awareness

## Supporters

The activities identified in this report are witness to Pacific Dialogue's staff, volunteers and Board members' strong belief in democracy, human rights, conflict resolution, peace and stability being grown through dialogue, empowering people, awareness-raising and education.

They are also the result of the support we receive from our partners and funders, and to them and all our stakeholders we say a heartfelt vinaka vaka levu.

- Canada Fund for Local Initiatives
- Vodafone Fiji Foundation
- University of the South Pacific
- Fiji Electoral Office
- Sigatoka Town Council
- 2 Way Development
- Fiji Police Force

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### Pacific Dialogue Limited

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