

Annual Report *2011*



Chief Executive Officer

Jone Dakuvula

Board Members

Ratu Meli Vesikula

Surujmati Nand

Mere Walli

Leena Khatri

Prudence Rouse

Associates

Madam Nazhat Shameem

Ana Tuiketei

Staff

Seraseini Vulavou

Kartik Pratap

Ritesh Verma

Volunteers

William Monteith

Thomas Roberts

Zakia Rahman

Liah Koltoi

INTRODUCTION

Pacific Dialogue is a very new NGO with a Board and small staff from different backgrounds in business, trade unionism, academia , civil society and international actions.

We are all Fijians from different cultures and religions. For example, Ratu Meli Vesikula is a traditional High Chief, civil society volunteer, parliamentarian, and former soldier who served with distinction in the British Army in the nineteen-sixties and seventies; Prue Rouse is a businesswoman and civil society activist born in Britain, Suruj Mati Nand is an insurance agent, and former trade unionist and parliamentarian; Mere Walli is a travel agent; Mrs Leena Khatri is an international civil society worker; and I am a university administrator with work experiences in government and civil society in Fiji and overseas.

In 2011, Pacific Dialogue had a young and enthusiastic staff of women (Seraseini) and man (Ritesh). For at least half of 2011, Kartik Pratap was also a staff member; he contributed greatly before moving on.

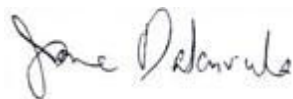
Pacific Dialogue was fortunate to have had the support of four excellent volunteers in 2011: William Monteith and Tom Roberts (both of whom have returned to the United Kingdom) and Zakia Zahera and Liah Koltoi, both local ladies. These volunteers have brought different skills and knowledge and their contribution to the foundation and growth of Pacific Dialogue into an NGO of vitality and good profile has been tremendous.

Professionals who associated themselves to Pacific Dialogue in 2011 were lawyer Ana Tuiketeei and also Nazhat Shameem, former High Court Judge and Director of Public Prosecution distinguished as the first woman to hold both these important positions.

Pacific Dialogue means to constructively engage with people in order to make a positive difference in our lives as Fijians. To that end, all staff, volunteers and associates are working together to establish programs and the professional and practical credentials of Pacific Dialogue.

Pacific Dialogue formed a very good team in 2010 and 2011 and even though PD is new on the scene, it is certainly 'going places'.

Vinaka,



Jone Dakuvula
Chief Executive Officer

ABOUT PACIFIC DIALOGUE

Introduction:

Pacific Dialogue was founded in 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.

Vision:

A just, peaceful and democratic Fiji in the Pacific

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.

Pillars:

Pacific Dialogue has three main pillars of work:



TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP

Governance and Development:

In January, Pacific Dialogue facilitated a dialogue with local communities in Natewa Vanua (Vanua Levu) on the critical issues of governance, natural resource management, and renewable energy initiatives.

Pacific Dialogue representatives Jone Dakuvula and Ratu Meli Vesikula were joined by agricultural and engineering experts from Fiji National University (FNU) Gaya Prasad (agriculture) and Dr Surendra Prasad (engineering).

The team held community consultations in Natewa, Buca and Muana to present new opportunities and collate local opinions on natural resource management. Both the Roko Tui Cakaudrove and the Tui Kama Ratu Seru Taqali were consulted during this process and threw their support behind the project.

Jone Dakuvula commented “We hope that the consensus generated during the trip will result in the creation of sustainable sources of electricity and profitable agricultural practices for a number of local communities, helping them to generate income and alleviate cycles of rural poverty,”

Disaster Management:

In June, Pacific Dialogue arranged for FNU to facilitate a disaster management workshop in the Natewa Peninsula for the rural communities there.

Pacific Dialogue is delighted to have assisted the facilitation of the largest and most successful workshop on natural disasters in Fiji with 80 participants from 17 villages around Natewa Bay and Buca Bay attending the workshop which was conducted by experts from FNU.

The landmark workshop marked the first time Vanuas of Natewa and Tuniloa had come together for a public gathering. Representatives of the 17 villages came to further their knowledge of disaster prevention and preparedness; the representatives comprised turaga-ni-koro, youth leaders and women’s delegates.

Mr Lal, lecturer at the College of Humanities and Education at Labasa Campus was invited to facilitate the workshop.

Mr Lal said “It provided vital information to participants on natural disasters such as tropical cyclones, storm surges, floods, earthquakes and tsunami, the likely impacts on people, agriculture and on the economy overall. It looked at ways to reduce the impacts and the costs of such disasters. The costs of natural disasters continue to escalating worldwide and in Fiji too.”



DEMOCRACY AND ELECTIONS

In November, work got underway with a project funded by the European Union entitled 'Vanua Dialogue on Electoral and Parliamentary Reform'.

The project aims to prepare the people of Macuata and Cakaudrove provinces — in particular women, first time voters and rural communities — to participate and play active roles in the democratic process.

Working with women, youth, community leaders and specifically-trained community facilitators, the project will conduct a civic education campaign, the aim of which is to increase the knowledge of participants on democratic issues. A radio campaign will also run alongside the workshops to spread the message of the project.



LAW AND JUSTICE

Human Trafficking:

In February, Pacific Dialogue organised and facilitated a workshop for officials from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Prosecutors travelled from around the country to receive training on human trafficking in the wake of Fiji's first ever conviction for trafficking in 2010.

Participants gained knowledge on Fiji's laws regarding trafficking, international conventions, and case studies from other countries. They were also given the opportunity to participate in a mock court scenario, during which they were required to summarise a case, present evidence, and defend and/or prosecute.

Madam Shameem commented that it had been a "great success," and expressed her hope that "it will mark the start of many similar training initiatives for our state institutions."

Gender Justice:

In July, Pacific Dialogue continued its work with state prosecutors by organising a training day on how to combat gender-based crime. Gender crime is a violation of basic human rights, and stems from inequalities in economic, social and political status. The approach taken during this workshop was to improve the capacity of the law enforcement bodies to identify and respond effectively to gender-motivated offences. Leading psychiatric experts gave presentations on the unseen effects of these crimes; prosecutors were trained on overseas cases and given the opportunity to participate in a mock court case.

Project Manager William Monteith commented that "the medical and psychiatric impacts of gender violence are not commonly understood, but they are critical to comprehending the nature and severity of the crime."

Rights of persons in custody:

In August and October, Pacific Dialogue held workshops on the rights of people in police investigations. The first workshop was conducted at the Nasova Police Academy for senior police investigators, and aimed to strengthen the capacity of the police to uphold the civil and political rights of those in custody. Officers were first introduced to Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which sets out the rights of those involved in police investigations. This theoretical grounding was then linked to practical cases including domestic violence, robbery, corruption and murder. With this training, the officers will be able to ensure that victims, witnesses and suspects are treated with the necessary respect, and thereby ensure that justice is advanced.



The second workshop was conducted with candidates for the Fiji Police Force C.I.D Investigators Qualifying Course. Associate Madam Nazhat Shameem conducted the training, which focused on the various international conventions that Fiji has ratified, and their relationship to the decrees in force in Fiji. Participants were informed about the rights they must strive to uphold when taking people into custody, and given 'hands-on' training on how best to investigate and prosecute cases while still ensuring that people's rights are not violated.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Income:

Income	Total (FJD\$)
Grant Funding	\$57,336
Workshops	\$2,300
Fundraising	\$634
Total Income	\$60,270

Expenditure:

Expenditure	Total (FJD\$)
Wages	\$2,044
FNPF	\$281
Volunteer Expenses and Allowance	\$5,500
Rent	\$1,450
Internet	\$1,562
Telecom	\$89
Depreciation	\$1,419
Hire Of Hall	\$300
Claims	\$1,885
Printing and Stationery	\$1,420
Unpaid Invoices	\$4,392
Visa Immigration	\$330
Petty Cash	\$833
Administration	\$397
Business Licence	\$126
Audit Fees	\$800
Bank Charges	\$129
Total Expenditure	\$22,597

Assets:

Assets	Total (FJD\$)
Assets	\$39,718
Total Assets	\$39,718

CONTACT PACIFIC DIALOGUE

If you are interested in finding out more information about the work of Pacific Dialogue, please get in touch using the contact details below:

(a) Unit 5, Floor 3, Carnavon Building, Carnavon Street, Suva.

P.O. Box 11549, Suva, Fiji Islands

(p) +679 363 3095

(e) info@pacificdialogue.com.fj

(w) www.pacificdialogue.com.fj

