



Asian Productivity Organization “The APO in the News”

Name of publication: Fiji National University Newsletter (5 February 2015, Fiji)
Page: p. 1



FNU

Fiji NATIONAL
University Newsletter
ISSN 2303-9779

Volume 7 No. 06
05 February 2015

Upcoming Events & Notices

Wellness Program
Every Tuesday and Thursday from 4pm on all FNU Campuses.

Zumba
Every Friday at 4pm at UniStudio Campus, Raiwal.

International Food Festival
10th - 17th October, 2015
Nadi Campus



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Government supports APO/NPO efforts

The Fijian Government has given its full support towards the Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) in Fiji that works closely in partnership with Fiji National University.

Honourable Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Jioje Konrote acknowledged this at the Rural Entrepreneurship Development held in Nadi.

14 Asian countries including Fiji were part of the weeklong training course organised by FNU in partnership with APO.

"The Bainimarama Government believes that strengthening rural Fiji really begins with entrepreneurship and to this effect we will continue to provide a range of benefits and incentives as required," said the Minister.

He said it was regrettably a sad reality that a lot of damage to our land and environment today, has stemmed from a combination of ignorance, and bad planning and the selfish pursuit of short-term gains by some entrepreneurs.

"This Government is very much aware of this problem in Fiji and is therefore very supportive of such an Asian Productivity Organisation Training Course which is primarily aimed at addressing the issue to improve the awareness and participant understanding of the applications of the various tools and techniques in strategic planning, management, monitoring and evaluation of rural entrepreneurship development projects. I wish to reassure our APO partners that this Government stands ready to work with you and we look forward to hosting more such training programmes in future," said Mr Konrote.

He further said Fiji has benefitted immensely from its participation in all APO projects in the past.

"I would like to thank the APO Secretariat for initiating the recent reforms and for working towards finalising the Strategic Plan 2020 to guide the productivity movement in the future," he said.
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Minister acknowledges FNU's efforts

The Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Honourable Jioje Konrote acknowledged Fiji National University's efforts and contribution in promoting a culture and tradition of rural entrepreneurship.

He said the present unemployment rate in Fiji is around 7% and the Government is committed to reduce this to 5% in 2015/2016.

"To this end a lot of effort and priority will be directed at our rural youth and school leavers in convincing them that entrepreneurship is one of the preferable career choices they should make because of the fact that we lack an entrepreneurial culture and tradition," said Minister Konrote.

"In this regard, I am glad and equally thankful that the FNU has played a key role in helping deliver business, financial literacy and trade related training through its National Training and Productivity Centre over the years. Encouraged by some of the previous results, this Government continues to provide incentives to generate rural entrepreneurship through a scholarship scheme at FNU with an
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FNU in the Media this Week

The Fiji National University Newsletter tracks media coverage of FNU events on a weekly basis. The following news can be found on the website which shows how FNU was featured in the media in the past week.

- Less skilled dental practitioners in the country
- Students, community benefit from solar energy
- FNU opens wellness center
- Fiji Maritime Academy Bullish on Prospects
- Maritime Offers New Seafarer Course
- Workshop for rural upgrade

JOB VACANCIES

FOR CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES
PLEASE VISIT
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Entrepreneurship key component to economic development: Konrote

Entrepreneurship is indeed the way to go, this notion was shared by Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Honourable Jioji Konrote at the recent Rural Entrepreneurship Development Workshop.

According to Minister Konrote, entrepreneurship was one of the key contributors towards creating economic development.

"The trend today is that rural development is intricately linked with entrepreneurship development to promote employment and create jobs. One of the key deliverables of my own Ministry is employment and job creation, and I am convinced entrepreneurship is a strategic development milestone that has the potential to accelerate the rural development process," said Minister Konrote.

According to the Minister rural entrepreneurship is vital for generation of employment and promoting income generating capacity, which assists in improving the standards of people.

"As the Productivity Minister, I see entrepreneurship as an important medium for improving the quality of life for individuals, their families and communities, promoting sustainable socio-economic development, thus lowering the level of poverty nationwide," he said.

The Minister described Entrepreneurs as risk takers and doers, not dreamers.

"They are innovative, for innovation is the specific instrument of entrepreneurship with which they create wealth. In this regard, entrepreneurs therefore, deserve our assistance and support."

14 APO member countries including Fiji are part of the weeklong training facilitated by three key international resource persons. Participating countries are Republic of China, India, Nepal, Indonesia, IR Iran, Pakistan, Philippines, Cambodia, Mongolia, Thailand, Vietnam, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

The objective of the training is to enhance participants' knowledge and understanding of the concepts and principles of and problems and challenges in entrepreneurship development. It is also to enhance participants' understanding of the applications of various tools and techniques in strategic planning, management, monitoring and evaluation of rural entrepreneurship development projects and to develop a conceptual policy framework and strategies for the development of rural entrepreneurship.



Participants during the workshop.

Government supports APO/NPO efforts

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APO representative Muhammad Saeed said Fiji has been the most active APO member country engaged in a lot of activities.

Mr Saeed said APO is pleased to note the Fiji in the only country that has a Minister for Productivity.

National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC) of the FNU is the National Productivity Organisation (NPO) of Fiji and Fiji joined APO in 1984.

Mr Saeed thanked FNU and NPO Fiji (NTPC) for its' keen support and active participation in promoting APO goals.

"Much of the work on promoting productivity and quality in Fiji has been spearheaded by us as the NPO over the past 31 years and this has seen many local companies improve their quality, products, service, safety, profitability and attain various standards and certifications.

Today, we have over 90 local organisations and over 30 public sector agencies that have been recognized under the Fiji Business Excellence Awards, which is benchmarked against the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards of the United States. The topic of this training course is central to the mission of the APO to contribute to the socio-economic development of its member countries," said NTPC Director Kamlesh Prakash.

The Minister also NTPC as the NPO for all the excellent work it has been undertaking to advance productivity and quality of services and products within Fiji.

APO as a regional intergovernmental organisation is nonpolitical, nonprofit, and nondiscriminatory with the mission to contribute to the sustainable socio-economic development of Asia and the Pacific through enhancing productivity.



Minister acknowledges FNU's efforts

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allocation of half million dollars since last year for development of young farmers," he added.

Rural entrepreneurship development he said is not only about developing the rural areas with infrastructural development and providing forward and backward linkages and access to all social and health services but it is essentially about bringing in innovative developments.

"In my view, rural entrepreneurship development is essentially about wealth creation in our economies," he said.

The Minister said rural urban drift is a universal problem with many leaving the farms for non-farm occupations in towns and cities, and the productivity of the agricultural sector is falling rapidly resulting in decline in incomes for farmers and the rural areas alike.

This he said is our greatest challenge in Asia and the Pacific.

"The challenge for us today is how to establish and promote a balanced and sustainable development framework that is both pragmatic and sustainable to help reduce the numbers of the world's poor which now stands at over 2.5 billion people," said the Minister.



Participants at the Asian Productivity Organisations workshop.