

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT



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FIJI NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR DISABLED PERSONS

Greetings from the Secretariat on this edition. This quarter had been a dynamic and enterprising one for FNCDP as 2009 draws to a close. We completed 2 workshops in Bua and Macuata as the National Disability Survey rounded up its data gathering process. There was also the discussions on the preliminary works for the Northern Disability Centre in Labasa. The Secretariat was also busy with the final process of getting Fiji sign the UN Convention for the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD) and its optional protocol. It received a lot of intervention advise and direction from the office of the Permanent Secretary for Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation.

We are able to form a regular professional connection with our line Ministry (Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation) through attendance of senior managers meeting and related workshops and training forums. FNCDP as the government focal point on disability in Fiji, did not attend the Cook islands disability focal point meeting in the Pacific and the coordinating body (PIFS) did not have the courtesy to notify us appropriately. The highlight of this last quarter 2009 was the celebration of the International Day for People with Disabilities on the 27th November, 2009. It was held at the Gimit Centre in Lautoka after a march pass through the city. The celebration was attended by all the special schools in the West except Sigatoka and they performed variety of items to entertain us who attended on the day.



Left: Executive Director (Dr Sitiveni) delivering his speech during the IDPD celebration @Lautoka.



Right: Chief Guest & invited guest all seated during the celebration.

The celebration had two guest speakers (morning/afternoon) with Ms Florence Eyre (DEALER CHANNEL, Manager of Digicel) delivery the keynote address in the morning and Mr Peter Drysdale, the afternoon guest speaker. Everyone had a beautiful and wonderful time as the district committees, DPOs and parents and caregivers all enjoyed the days proceedings.

A big vinaka vakalevu to the hard working group of the Lautoka FNCDP district committee led by Ms Atu, Mrs Premila Kumar and Mr Ali. The Secretariat wishes to convey its best wishes and also compliments to all those who assist in any way the lives of people who are physically or intellectually challenged. **MAY GOD BLESS US ALL!!!!!!**



Left: Ready for the March pass



Middle: Ms Florence Eyre, Chief Guest, opening the IDPD celebration



Right: FVTTCDP students enjoying the sun, ready for the march pass

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FUTURE PLANS FOR DISABILITY CAREGIVING TRAINING PROGRAMME

The FNCDP has secured funding of \$50,000.00 from the United Nations Development Fund for Women Pacific Regional Office (UNIFEM) to conduct a series of Care giving Training on Persons with Disabilities in eight provinces in Fiji including Rotuma.

A recent research conducted by the FNCDP found that most people with disabilities that live in rural and most remote areas, squatter settlements and cane farms live in unhygienic conditions where there is no adequate caregiving support provided for them either by their

family members or community.

The lack of caregiving services in these areas and the inadequate care provided by their families' forces people with disabilities to live in isolations and unhealthy living conditions.

Furthermore the lack of knowledge in caring for people with disabilities exacerbates both their health and physical conditions.

Women and girls with disabilities are more disadvantaged in areas of education, employment, accessing

health care services and facilities and adequate information.

They are further discriminated in their own families where they are not given the opportunity to make decisions for themselves.

People with disabilities who are well cared for by their families live in restrained environment where their family members are overprotective therefore limits people with disabilities from participation in decision making, social and recreation including family and community activities.

FNCDP DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Director and the Executive Officer of the council held a series of meetings with the District Committees in Nausori, Vunindawa, Korovou, Navua, Sigatoka, Nadi, Lautoka, Tavua, Ba, Rakiraki, Savusavu, Bua, Macuata, Taveuni, Levuka and Lau.

The purpose of these meetings were:

- ◆ The National Disability Policy 2008-2018
- ◆ Highlight the role and the functions of the committees in addressing the needs of persons with Disabilities within their Districts
- ◆ The International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- ◆ The existing legislation of disability in Fiji for e.g. FNCDP Act, access for Disable people, Employment for Disabled Persons
- ◆ Financial and Annual Reports
- ◆ Appointments of new or existing members
- ◆ Update on the Statistical Data Survey

The theme of this workshop was on "Making the MDGs Inclusive: Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and their Communities around the world".



Executive Director (Dr Sitiveni) and Executive Officer (Mrs Kush) During the DISCOM meeting

AFFILIATES COLUMN

2009 FIJI PARALYMPICS GAMES

The 2009 Fiji Paralympic Games was held at the National Sports Complex on Suva for a Period of three days, October 27th, 28th and 29th.

About 700 children and adults from around the country came to participate in this National Game. The game was sponsored by the following agencies:

- DIGICEL FIJI LTD
- TFL (TELECOM FIJI LIMITED)
- MINISTRY OF YOUTH & SPORTS

The following special education schools participated in the games.

A. WESTERN REGION

- ◆ SIGATOKA SPECIAL SCHOOL
- ◆ SUNSHINE SPECIAL SCHOOL
- ◆ LAUTOKA SCHOOL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION
- ◆ BA SPECIAL SCHOOL
- ◆ RA SPECIAL SCHOOL

B. NORTHERN DIVISION

- ◆ LABASA SPECIAL SCHOOL
- ◆ SAVUSAVU SPECIAL SCHOOL

C. CENTRAL EASTERN DIVISION

- ◆ EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRE
- ◆ FIJI VOCATIONAL CENTRE
- ◆ FIJI SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND
- ◆ HILTON SPECIAL SCHOOL
- ◆ GOSPEL SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
- ◆ SUVA SPECIAL SCHOOL
- ◆ NAUSORI SPECIAL SCHOOL
- ◆ LEVUKA SPECIAL SCHOOL

Total of 15 school teams

DISABLED PEOPLES ORGANISATION

- ◆ FIJI ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEAF
- ◆ SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION
- ◆ REWA FDPA

◆ WESTREN DISABLED PEOPLES ASSOCIATION

Total- 4

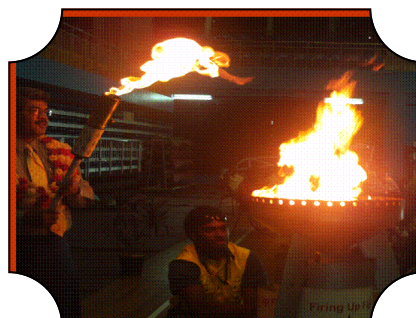
DAY 1 -TUESDAY 27/10/09

MARCH PASS-

Teams paraded at the flea market for a march pass through the city led by the Fiji Police Bark to Albert Park.

This was followed by the opening ceremony held at the Vodafone Arena. The game was opened by the Permanent Secretary for Education , Filipe Jitoko, with special address from the Acting Australian High Commission, Mr. Sarah Roberts and , CEO DIGICEL Mr. John Delves.

This was followed by social items presented by teams members. The opening ceremony was colorful with the lighting of the games flame.



DAY 2-

Competition began for athletics championship at the TFL Station. It was a whole day program .



The athletics championship was officiated by 80 students from the School of Sports Science at the Fiji Institute of Technology .

DAY 3- FRIDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2009

The second day of sports was played at various venues of Fiji Sports Council Complex. The following sports were completed for

- ◆ Rugby x v
- ◆ Rugby 10's
- ◆ Soccer 7
- ◆ Sitting Volley Ball
- ◆ Standing Volley Ball
- ◆ Bocua
- ◆ Goal Ball
- ◆ Table Tennis
- ◆ Darts
- ◆ Netball
- ◆ Pacific Junior Sports

AFFILIATES COLUMN

2009 FIJI PARALYMPICS GAMES

DAY 3-



The 2009 Fiji Paralympics games was "UNIQUE" in nature. It was designed to be inclusive for the first time, 3 institutions from the mainstream regular schools in Suva participated in the games.

This raised the competition to a higher level. The schools are Vatuwaqa Primary, John Wesley College, and Marcellin Primary School.

2009 FIJI PARALYMPICS GAMES WAS DESIGNED FOR SOCIAL MODEL OF INCLUSION

THE SOCIAL MODEL OF INCLUSION STATES THAT DISABILITY IS NOT CAUSED BY PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

INSTEAD, DISABILITY IS CAUSED BY SYSTEMIC BARRIERS, NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OR EXCLUSION BY THE SOCIETY.

OUR FOCUS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARDS CHANCES TO INCLUDE EVERYONE APPROPRIATE.

EVERY PROGRAM SHOULD INCLUDE EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO PLAY.

THE " INCLUSION" REFERS TO HOW YOU DO IT.

THIS OVERALL APPROACH TO INCLUDE EVERYONE IS CALLED SOCIAL MODEL OF INCLUSION.

KRISHNEER SEN GETS AN OPPORUNITY TO STUDY IN USA

A 22 year old Deaf Student, Unitec Graduate has won the World Deaf Leadership Scholarship Award to Gallaudent University in Washington, DC. He now resides in New Lynn.

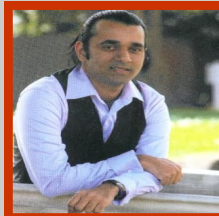
Krishneer was born deaf and raised in the small Fijian village of Korotogo in Sigatoka.

He moved to New Zealand and gained a certificate in information technology because he was having difficulties in learning with his disability in his homeland.

He has worked with deaf commu-

nity in Auckland.

In future Krishneer plans to study for a bachelor of science degree in computer science at Gallaudet University .



AWARD WINNER: KRISHNEER SEN

He wants to become an IT teacher for deaf students.

Krishneer is Ex Marist Brothers High

School student , and he has helped in improving communication between students and their interpreters at his former secondary school.

His parents has always supported and encouraged him .

He really appreciates the help of his sign language interpreters and his note takers.

Gallaudent is the only University in the world where all the programmes and services are specially designed to accommodate deaf and hearing impaired students.

WHEELCHAIR DONATIONS

A group of Disabled Japanese came to Fiji island together with volunteer helpers in March 1997. They were deeply impressed by our warm welcome.

Upon returning to Japan they established a small volunteer group and named themselves the Vinaka Club to keep the good memory forever.

They happened to learn from Fiji Embassy in Japan that late Mr Jokatama Toga, then Executive Director of the council was seeking some assistance to obtain wheelchairs.

The Vinaka Club since then has assisted the council by collecting second hand wheelchairs and repaired them and sending them to Fiji at their own cost.



Top: wheelchair ready to be donated to FNCDP

Bottom: Vinaka Club members in Japan

The humble donation is a symbol of a very strong bonds of friendship and mutual understanding not only between the government of our two countries but also between our people. The Council is thankful to its donor, the Vinaka Club of Japan. The Vinaka has donated 20 wheelchairs last year. To date donated 234 Wheelchairs and Air Pumps.

We thank the Vinaka Club in Japan for their generous assistance and support to our people with Disability in Fiji.

We are proud of these contributions from the Vinaka Club and this a testimony of the goodwill from the people of Japan towards our disadvantaged people in Fiji.

FLASHBACK 2009



FVTTCDP students received shoes, donated by Jyoti Tap poo of Tap poods Group of companies



Supervisor Incharge of Suva Prison delivering his speech during the Yellow Ribbon Campaign



Students posing during the sports day in Nausori



Participants sharing their information during the DISCOM meeting



Di Tui of FVTTCDP receiving a certificate on behalf of FVTTCDP for participating in the IDPD celebration



Oratory contest winner receiving her certificate during the IDPD Celebration



Presentation by Sainimili Tawake (Project Officer) in Savusavu



Sainimili Tawake (Project Officer) delivering a speech in Nabouwalu



Executive Officer(Mrs Kush Prasad) conducting an interview in Rakiraki



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UPCOMING EVENTS- 2010

The year 2010 will include the following:

- ◆ Round tables for Making Women with Disabilities Visible
- ◆ Disability Care giving Training Programmes
- ◆ District Committee Awareness Programmes
- ◆ Workshops and Training
- ◆ National Awareness Week
- ◆ International Disability Day Celebration

EDITORIAL MESSAGE

Happy new year!!!! The staff of Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons would like to wish you much happiness and prosperity in 2010.

As to disability perspectives, it is important for all of us to look at and consider things comprehensively. We can then believe that persons with disabilities can participate in society.

In 2010, we promise to work harder to build a better society for persons with disabilities. Your continuous support for FNCDP activities is highly appreciated. Let's keep in touch!!!

SHOULD YOU WISH TO USE OUR AFFILITES

COLUMN,

PLEASE CONTACT:

MS KUSH PRASAD

(EXECUTIVE OFFICER)

**WITH OUR BEST
WISHES AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

OUR VISION

"TOTAL EMPOWERMENT, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND FULL PARTICIPATION IN A BARRIER-FREE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN FIJI".

AND, THAT A FULLY/TRULY INCLUSION SOCIETY BECOME A REALITY.