



# FIJI NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR DISABLED PERSONS

## HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD FOR FNCDP

### Special points of interest:

- **PACIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD 2010**
- **PDPEPS PROJECT FUNDED BY EUROPEAN UNION.**
- **FIJI GOVERNMENT SIGNED THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN JUNE 2010.**
- **11402 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN FIJI.**
- **FNCDP WILL BE SIGNING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE FIJI POLICE FORCE ON THE PROVISION OF DISABILITY TRAINING TO POLICE OFFICERS.**
- **A SERIES OF UNIFEM FUNDED CAREGIVING TRAINING WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN 8 PROVINCES.**

The Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons scooped two awards during the human rights awards day celebration which was held on International Human rights day in December 2010.

The theme for this year's award was "Advancing Women's Equality,

FNCDP took the special award in the organization category in recognition of the research the organization conducted last year on 'Making Women with Disabilities Visible', a staff member Ms Sainimili Tawake was recognized for her leadership commitment and advancing the rights and issues of women with disabilities.

FNCDP Boss, Dr Sitiveni

Yanuyanutawa received the award on behalf of FNCDP, its 34 affiliate organizations, 6 advisory committees and 18 district committee and says that 2010 has been a very constructive year for the FNCDP where it saw the signing of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the Government in June, the launching of the survey report on Making Women with Disabilities Visible in September, the securing of a three year funding from the European Union for Promoting Disabled Persons Equal Participation in Society and the commitment made by government for the completion of the disability centre in the Northern Division. The Human Rights Award for



FNCDP Executive Director receiving the award

both the organisation and one of its staff was the "icing on the cake"

The human rights award was organized by the Regional Rights Resource Team of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in partnership with the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre.

## PROMOTING DISABLED PERSONS EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY ((PDPEPS)

### EU FUNDED PROJECT

The Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons (FNCDP) has secured a three year funding from the European Union under its European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)

The Project is to promote the equal participation of Persons with disabilities in society and titled "PROMOTING DISABLED PERSONS EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY (PDPEPS) . The overall objective is to achieve an enhanced inclusiveness of people with disabilities civil society in Fiji and to allow them to participate better and equality in the Fiji Society.

It is also to increase understanding and promote an accepting and supporting attitude of the general public and government towards people with disabilities issues, needs and concerns to enable their equal par-

ticipation in civil society processes.

The PDPEPS project will empower the organizations and bodies representing disabled people in the country, through capacity building initiatives (workshops, trainings) that will structure to enable them to better represent their members through advocacy and project activities.

The project will increase awareness among transport sector union members on the needs of persons with disabilities and how they can be best assisted. It will train medical and nursing staff, welfare and community workers, police, army and security personnel to help

understand these needs and concerns, and how they can be cared for.

And finally, the project will help drafting into law of the National Disability Policy, and advocate its subsequent enforcement that will enable the more than 10,000 people with disabilities in Fiji to more fully participate in the society as equals.

The signing of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is an added advantage to the including the provision of education and training on the CRPD to relevant government and civil society stakeholders.

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### Greetings from the Secretariat

We are at the final quarter of our work calendar for 2010 and things are progressing well in the development of different processors of making disability visible in Fiji.

The major achievements so far for the disabled community and its advocates in Fiji was the signing of the UN Conventions on the Rights for Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) which makes us bound in principle with this 50 article document and its optional protocol, an adjacent 18- article document that provided special provisions for challenged individual to access.

The second quarter can also be remembered for the reactivation of the Rotuma

DISCOM. The third quarter provided a lot of movements for the Secretariat staff in the delivery of workshops and district meetings with the exception of Bua DISCOM.

It also released the first National Disability Survey Report that was jointly launched by the British and Australian High Commissioners.

In this edition of the newsletter, it will capture the main activities undertaken by the Secretariat and some of the affiliates of FNCDP.

The highlights of the 4th quarter includes the first ever training of police officers in the northern division that was held in Labasa, Training of caregivers and capacity building

workshops to affiliates as mapped out in the log frame on that same week in Labasa which culminated in the celebration of International Day for Disabled on 3rd December at the judiciary grounds.

Another major milestone achieved to complete 2010 when the FNCDP family took out two awards in the RRRT organized 2010 Pacific Human Rights Awards in both the individuals and organizations categories.

We would like to wish you all in all your undertakings that includes the service you provide to Persons with Disabilities.

**HAPPY READING AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.**

*The signing of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the government on 2nd June this year is an achievement for persons with disabilities and the FNCDP.*

## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

### PDPEPS ACTIVITIES

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### AWARENESS UP NORTH

FNCDP organized a one week awareness raising program from 29th November to 3rd December 2010 in Labasa in collaboration with the International Day for Persons with Disabilities on 3rd December 2010. The program which includes two pilot training programs for police officers and caregivers for persons with disabilities. A capacity building program on empowerment was organized for a group of persons with disabilities including strengthening networks with civil society organizations. The actual day was celebrated with a march through the Labasa town followed by a public forum.

### FNCDP CHAIRPERSON OPENS DAY



FNCDP Chairperson and P.S. for Ministry of Social Welfare and Women Mr. Govind Sami giving an opening speech during the ceremony

The Chairperson for Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons and Permanent Secretary for Social Welfare and Women, Mr Govind Sami launched the International Day for Persons with Disabilities on 3 December 2010 at a public forum after a march through the Labasa Town.

Mr. Sami in his opening address mentioned the great need for more disability awareness in our community. He also stressed the importance of persons with disabilities understanding their rights.

### KEEP YOUR PROMISE!



People with disabilities and supporters march through Labasa Town

The FNCDP urged on the government to continue keeping its promise in committing to the "principles of human dignity, equality and equity, especially for people with disabilities" as stipulated in its second MDG Report 1990 – 2009.

FNCDP believe that the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) could only be achieved if persons with disabilities including women and children with disabilities' issues are addressed accordingly.

FNCDP calls on relevant stakeholders to establish partnership for disability development on key areas such as disability research, disability audit, implementations of disability policies and legislations and the formulation and delivery of inclusive programs.

*"Keeping the promise: Mainstreaming disability in the Millennium Development Goals towards 2015 and beyond"*

# "MAKING WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES VISIBLE"

## LAUNCHING OF NATIONAL DISABILITY SURVEY REPORT

### SURVEY REPORT LAUNCHED

Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons has officially launched a report on the findings of the Nation wide Disability Baseline /survey on "Making Women with Disabilities Visible". The launching ceremony was held at FNCDP Complex on 31st August 2010 by the British High Commissioner Mr. Mac Mclachlan in the presence of Acting High Commissioner Ms Judith Robinson, Chair person of the Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons and more than fifty guests. The survey which was funded by the British High Commission, Australian Aid for International Development (AUSAID), United Nations Development Fund for Women Pacific Regional Office, Minis-

try of Health, Ministry for Social Welfare and Women and the Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons,

At the launching, the high level of discrimination faced by persons with disabilities in particular women and girls was highlighted. Case studies shows that people with disabilities further live in total isolations, where they face multiple discrimination and their rights violated every day of their lives.

whole exercise and commended for braving all odds to gather statistics and information on the status of persons with disabilities. While it was a challenging task, both researchers and staff enjoyed the work as they had opportunity to visit new places and meet new friends. Furthermore they were able to learn more about Fiji. A special acknowledgement was

given to Mr Joshua Mevareka from PNG who assisted FNCDP in cleaning the data.



Training of researchers and staff

### RESEARCHERS HONOURED



Maritime team with Sub-divisional medical officer for Lomaiviti, Dr Tukuna Korovou

A group of researchers and staff of the FNCDP were honoured during the launching of the National Disability Survey Report on "Making Women with Disabilities Visible" Both researchers and staff conducted the first ever baseline survey on disability in Fiji. They were acknowledged for their hard work, commitment and dedication during the

### FACTUAL FINDINGS

- ♦ 11402 people with disabilities
- ♦ 5222 Women and girls
- ♦ 6180 Men and boys
- ♦ 7604 Fijians with 3608 women and girls and 3996 men and boys with disabilities.
- ♦ 3408 Indians with 1458 women and girls and 1950 men and boys with disabilities. surveyed.
- ♦ Close to 40% of persons with disabilities live (Continued on pg 5)

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### POLICE TRAINING PROGRAM FUNDED BY EU

A pilot training program was organised in Labasa on the 29th November 2010 to coincide with the weeklong awareness program and International Day for Persons with Disabilities which is celebrated on 3rd December of every year. With the aim of promoting disability issues amongst the community policing, the training saw the participation of forty one police officers from all around Labasa. The training which is part of the PDPEPS project is funded by the European Union.



Demonstration of guiding a blind person

### LABASA AWARENESS

A two day care giving program was organised from 30th November to 1st December 2010 at the Friendly North Inn for carers of persons with disabilities. Topics that were discussed included disability issues, human rights and gender. Practical approaches on caring for persons with disabilities were also demonstrated. This program is funded by UNIFEM Pacific Regional Office and with the same funding opportunity, FNCDP will be organising and facilitating a similar program in eight provinces.



### Caregiving Program funded by UNIFEM

### KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

A half a day capacity building program on empowerment and advocacy was organised for the Executive Committee of the Labasa Branch of Fiji Disabled People's Association. The training was held at the Labasa Special School on 2 December 2010.

The training focussed on understanding disability issues, human rights and advocacy. People with disabilities were reminded of their rights and how to promote their rights to enhance equality.

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## DUAVATA CENTRAL/EASTERN GAMES

The 2010 Central/Eastern Games was held at the TFL stadium on Friday July 6th, 2010. Seven schools from the Central, Eastern division participated such as, Levuka, Nausori, Suva, Hilton, Gospel, FVTTC, Early intervention and Fiji school for the Blind.

The games theme is Building Bridges and Bringing People together through Sports, in the sense, we use sports as a vehicle to bring everybody together away from the segregated little empires to come together in sports.

The game was funded by the Ministry of Social Welfare. About 400 children with disabilities converged to the TFL stadium on Thursday to play, rugby, soccer, netball, volley ball, table tennis, Pacific Junior Sports, Table Cricket, Athletics and poly bat.

The games was officially opened by the Director, Ministry of Social Welfare. Prior to the opening, all teams marched around the oval led by the National Youth Band.

Generally, the standard of our sports has developed to a height where we can gauge our performance equal to mainstream school invited to participate with us.

In as far as the philosophy or impact of the central Eastern Games, we have been able to achieve our aim in Building Bridges and enriching the lives of people with disabilities through sports.

*FNCDP would like to sincerely acknowledge the Fiji Paralympics Committee for their continuous contribution to our newsletter publications. Vinaka Mr Nainoca and team. We would also encourage all affiliate organisations to publicise your news through our newsletters.*

### INSPIRING FIJI RUGBY-FIJI PARALYMPICS COMMITTEE DUAVATA INTEGRATION SPORTS PROGRAM

INTERGRATION  
SPORTS FROM  
WITHIN TO WITH-  
OUT



"I am very proud of my son playing sports with mainstream schools"



*The 2010 games enabled the community to understand persons with disabilities and at the same time empowered persons with disabilities leaving them with high self esteem and a positive feeling about themselves.*

#### SIMPLY THE BEST

A lot of water has gone under the bridge in our sports development program designed to improve the wellbeing and social development of our children with disabilities in Fiji.

The introduction of our Duavata Integration Sports program saw the emergence of the Inspiring Fijian Rugby Team playing mainstream secondary schools Teams in the Suva area and Lautoka.

The program is designed to integrate our children in sports in the mainstream schools competition around the country. With our theme Building Bridges and Bringing People Together through sports. We have been able to build a complete double lane bridge from writing special schools to mainstream schools.

Members of the inspiring Fijians comprise children under 16 years who have hearing impairment and children with Intellectual disabilities. They are selected from special education schools around the country.

During the Rugby season they played the following schools in the Suva area winning two and lost 3 games.

**Inspiring Fijians Vs John Wesley college- won 16-8.**

**Inspiring Fijians Vs Dudley High School- Lost 13-6**

**Inspiring Fijians Vs Ratu Sukuna Memorial lost- 21-16**

**Inspiring Fijians Vs Gospel High School- Lost 10-5**

Inspiring Fijians Vs. Nadroga Provincial High School-13-12

These five games have certainly brought about awareness, advocacy, greater inde-

pendence increased self esteem, removal of barriers and stigma to our players and community people.

"One parent commented, "This is the untold story, I never expected my son to reach this higher standard of sports playing with other prominent secondary schools Teams in Suva".

Another parent, commented, "I am very proud of my son playing rugby in mainstream schools."

A Fiji Times reader called me after he saw the inspiring Fijians article in the paper, he said 'keep up this program, its best news I have ever read recently'.

The Inspiring Fijians will feature in the coming 2010 Fiji Paralympics Games against Nadroga Provincial High School under 16 squad.

The program continues in 2011.

#### INTERGRATION SPORTS-FROM WITHIN TO WAYOUT

By SR Nainoca  
PROGRAM-Coordinator/Senior Sports Development Officer

#### 2010 Paralympics Games

Over 1000 children from special education schools in Fiji and mainstream schools from the Sigatoka region participated in the 2010 Fiji Paralympics Games, held at Lawaqa Park on 27th - 29th October 2010. The games was organized by FPC in partnership with the FNCDP Sigatoka District Committee.

It was sponsored by Digicel and was believed to be one of the best national games ever organized. Opening the games was Ms Sarah Gouldings of the Australian High Commission in the presence of invited guests such as Makereta from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the High Chief of Nadroga, FNCDP Director Mr. Sitiveni Yanuyanutawa and Digicel Chief Mr. David Butler.

Days program included, day one - opening ceremony; day two - athletics championship and day three - team sports competition. His Excellency the President of Fiji, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau closed the games with the emphasis that **Sports is a vehicle or instrument to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities.**

PROMOTING DISABLED PERSONS EQUAL PARTICIPATION

**PDPEPS ACTIVITIES  
CONTINUED**

**INCEPTION WORKSHOP**

An inception workshop was organised to raise greater awareness of the PDPEPS to all FNCDP affiliates and stakeholders. was held at the Tanoa International Hotel in Nadi from the 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> August 2010 with the following objectives;

- ◆ Familiarize major stakeholders with the project and strengthen ownership of the project by FNCDP affiliates;
- ◆ Preparation of a detailed activities implementation timeframe and work plan;
- ◆ Review initial Log frame;
- ◆ Discussing EU procurement and implementation procedures, including reporting requirements;
- ◆ Establishing a Project Coordinating Committee (PCC).

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**CAPACITY BUILDING**

The FNCDP conducted a two day Capacity Building Workshop for its affiliate organizations at the FNCDP Complex on the 30th –31st August 2010.

With the aim of strengthening organizational and operational system within FNCDP and its affiliates organizations.

The workshop also focused in areas which included:

- Strengthening Organizational and Operational Systems with FNCDP in relation to their affiliates.
  - Comparative procedures at similar institutions.
  - Accountability and Reporting Systems.
- FNCDP continues to assist Disabled Persons Organizations in providing capacity building on proposal writing skills. Approximately five Disabled Persons Organizations and three Disability Service Delivery Organizations are involved in this process.

**DARWIN TRIP** - The Project Officer Ms Sainimili Tawake was invited to represent the FNCDP to a three day disability consortium which was organised by Australia Disability Development Consortium in Darwin Australia from the 15th–18th September 2010. The aim of the forum was to promote the implementation of inclusive disability development in the Asia and Pacific region including the presentation of new and innovative research in the field of disability. Ms Tawake was also part of the panel which discussed disability research methodologies for the Asia and Pacific Region and her trip was funded by CBM Australia.



Ms Sainimili Tawake FNCDP Project Officer

**Factual Findings**

(continued from pg 3)

in the northern division.

- ◆ More people acquire disability in old age that is from the age of 51 years and over with a total of 4876 with 2454 women and 2422 men.
- ◆ 41% of women with disabilities live with their families and rely on their families for livelihood and support.
- ◆ 19% of women and girls with disabilities have caregivers compared to 21% of men and boys.
- ◆ 25% of women with disabilities acquire their disability compared to 23% of men and boys.
- ◆ 13% of women with disabilities acquire their disability through sickness compared to 10% of men and boys with disabilities.
- ◆ Figure shows that over 7% of women and girls with disabilities live in institutions much more longer than men and boys.
- ◆ 52% of people with disabilities who were institutionalised are not treated with respect by their carers.



Western Team with Ba villagers

- ◆ Whilst more women and girls with disabilities acquire primary education, there are less attainment for women which resulted to less being qualified; 48% and 52% respectively.
- ◆ 89% of the employable persons with disabilities are not employed with 47% of men and 54% of women with disabilities.
- ◆ 20% of persons with disabilities suffer some sort of abuse with 12% of men and boys and 8% of women and girls. 14% of the 20% know the perpetrator.
  - ◆ 2% of women with disabilities have a history of unwanted pregnancy.
  - ◆ 14% of people with disabilities live in isolation with 9% of men and boys with disabilities and 5% of women and girls.
- ◆ 55% of people with disabilities participate in making decisions in the family with 25% of women and girls with disabilities. These



FNCDP researcher interviewing a client

decisions are minor and are limited to issues such as food and clothing. Most decisions made are not adhered to by members of the family.

- ◆ More than 60% of people with disabilities live in accessible homes. Finding showed that most people with disabilities are adapted to their home environment which are not accessible.
- ◆ Only 10% of people with disabilities receive family assistance and more than 30% finding it difficult to access the scheme.
- ◆ People with disabilities have very low self esteem and lack the understanding and knowledge of their own human rights issues.
- ◆ There is very little awareness on disability and both people with disabilities and their families were reluctant in providing relevant information and preferred to answer selected sections of the questionnaires.

## District Committee Meeting

FNCDP Executive Officer held a series of meetings during the last quarter of 2010 with the District Committees in Sigatoka, Nadi, Lautoka, Ba, Rakitaki, Savusavu, Bua and Macuata. The purpose of these meetings were to highlight the functions of the committee in addressing the needs of persons with disabilities within the districts, the International Day for Persons with Disabilities discussing the financial and annual report. The team also distributed the reports on National Disability Baseline Survey.

## Vunidawa Training

A one day awareness training was held in Nabena village in Vunidawa and the main aim was to mainstream issues of persons with disabilities in particular women and girls with disabilities to the community.

*FNCDP and its affiliate organisations would like to wish you all a very meaningful and joyous festive season.*

## FNCDP WALL OF COLOURS 2010

## STAFF COLUMN

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

- Ms Karishma Singh our Project Assistant who finally tied the knot with her Mr. Right, Kapil Chand in November this year.
- Mr Ajendra Marcus our Technical Assistant for finally tying the knot with his Mrs Right Ms Anshu.
- Ms Sainimili Tawake for winning the Pacific Human Rights Award.
- Ms Kaushilya Devi for being re-elected as General Secretary for the JICA Alumni.
- Dr Sitiveni Yanuyanutawa for being reappointed as Executive Officer for FNCDP.



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