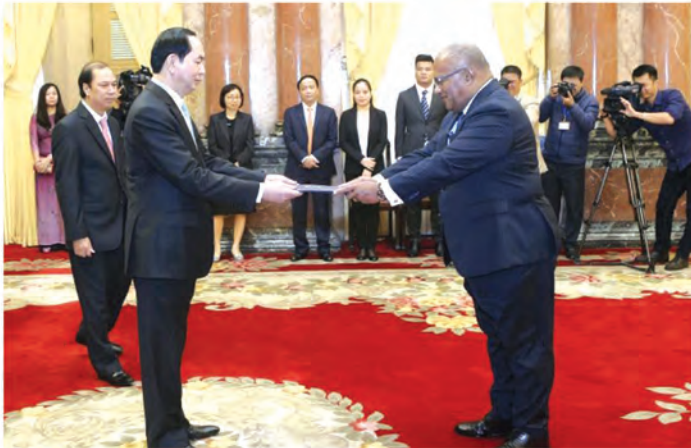




MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



ANNUAL REPORT 2016 - 2017

OUR VISION

A Better Fiji through Excellence in Foreign Service

OUR MISSION

To Advance Fiji's Interests through the Effective Formulation and Implementation of its Foreign Policy

OUR VALUES

Accountability	Honesty
Commitment	Loyalty
Courtesy	Professionalism
Integrity	Transparency

OUR CUSTOMERS

Internal	External
➤ Fiji's Diplomatic Missions abroad	➤ Office of the President
➤ Divisions/Bureaus in Ministry HQ	➤ Parliament
	➤ Prime Minister
	➤ Cabinet
	➤ Public Service Commission
	➤ Public Service Disciplinary Tribunal
	➤ Ministries and Departments
	➤ Members of the Public
	➤ Private Sector
	➤ Statutory Bodies
	➤ Non-Governmental Organisations
	➤ Diplomatic Missions
	➤ International Organisations
	➤ Unions and Employers
	➤ Providers of Goods and Services
	➤ Fijian diaspora
	➤ Media

Table of Contents

ACRONYMS	4
REFERRAL LETTER	6
PERMANENT SECRETARY'S FOREWORD	7
CORPORATE PROFILE.....	8
ROLE AND FUNCTIONS	8
ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE.....	8
DIVISIONS AND BUREAUS.....	9
POLICY BUREAUS AND MISSIONS	9
OPERATIONS TEAM	10
PROTOCOL AND CONSULAR DIVISION	10
LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK.....	11
MINISTRY'S APPROVED OUTPUTS FOR 2016/2017 FISCAL YEAR	11
REPORT ON PERFORMANCE - KEY ACHIEVEMENTS	12
MANAGEMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL RELATIONS.....	12
PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY	26
SECTORAL PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION.....	38
CLIMATE CHANGE AND OCEANS DIPLOMACY	44
MINISTRY'S APPROPRIATION.....	48
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.....	49
COUNTRIES WITH WHICH FIJI HAS FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS (FDR)	49
VISITS TO FIJI.....	52
PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS.....	61
MOUS/MOAS SIGNED	63
DISCLOSURES AND FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE	68
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE 7 MONTHS PERIOD ENDED 31 JULY 2016	68
Management Certificate.....	70
Statement of Receipts and Expenditure	71
Appropriation Statement.....	72
Statement of Losses	73
Notes to the Financial Statements.....	74

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017	77
Independent Audit Report.....	77
Management Certificate.....	79
Statement of Receipts and Expenditure	80
Appropriation Statement.....	81
Statement of Losses	82
Notes to the Financial Statements.....	83



ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION
ACP	Annual Corporate Plan
BACC	Budget Aid Coordinating Committee
BP	Business Plan
CPEIR	Climate Public Expenditure Institutional Review
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
CSD	Corporate Services Division
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
CTOG	Counter Terrorism Official Working Group
IWP	Individual Work Plan
FOSR	Foreign Officers Service Regulations [Public Service (Diplomatic and Consular Services) Regulations 2005]
FDR	Fomalised Diplomatic Relations
G77	The Group of 77 is a coalition of developing UN member nations, designed to promote its members collective economic interest in the United Nations
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
GIZ	German International Cooperation
HCA	Host Country Agreement
HRM	Human Resource Management
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MACC	Maritime Affairs Coordination Committee
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSG	Melanesian Spearhead Group

MTA	Multilateral Trade Agreement
NGO	Non-Government Organisations
ODA	Overseas Development Assistance
OAR	Oceania/Asia/Russia Regional Bureau
PCD	Protocol and Consular Services Division
PICs	Pacific Island Countries
PICTA	Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement
PIDF	Pacific Islands Development Forum
PSIDS	Pacific Small Island Developing States
RDSSED	Roadmap for Democracy and Sustainable Socio-Economic Development
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
TNA	Training Needs Analysis
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN/T & AAMEER	United Nations/Treaties & Africa/Americas/Middle East/Europe Russia Bureau
WTO	World Trade Organisation



REFERRAL LETTER



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Honourable Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs
Rear Admiral (Retired) Voreqe Bainimarama
Level 1 & 2 Vale ni Bose Vakaturaga
87 Queen Elizabeth Drive
Nasese
SUVA.

Dear Minister

Pursuant to the *Public Service Act* and the *Financial Management Act 2004*, I hereby submit the 2016/2017 Annual Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for presentation to Parliament.

The Report highlights the Ministry's performance in delivering services to the people of Fiji and contributing to the outcomes targeted by the Government.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ioane Naivalurua'.

Major-General (Ret) Ioane Naivalurua
Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs

PERMANENT SECRETARY'S FOREWORD



2016/2017 has been a period of many achievements with Fiji continuing to thrive in its pledge to adopting the SDGs. This included the mobilisation of efforts and initiatives in collaboration with the global community to end all forms of poverty, fight inequality, tackle climate change and promote sustainable development in all areas.

National efforts in support of this vision have been materialised through various plans, strategies and legislations to ensure our global commitments are domesticated for a safe, secure and prosperous Fiji. This included Fiji being the first country to ratify the Paris Agreement, the opening of a Fiji Mission in Ethiopia, Fiji's bid towards COP23 and the co-hosting of the UN Oceans Conference with Sweden.

As such, it gives me great pleasure to present the Ministry's 2016/2017 Annual Report which reflects our accomplishments together with the challenges we faced in the 2016/2017 period.

The Ministry's Annual Corporate Plan provided the framework for ensuring that the opportunities present were maximised to serve the people of Fiji and also to advocate for our fellow Pacific Island Developing States (PSIDS). The Ministry continued to capacitate its workforce to ensure an innovative and adaptable cadre of diplomats to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

Furthermore, the Ministry has been cognizant of the Government's reform agenda and has encouraged compliance and sustainability through the regular training of staff. This has ensured the diligent monitoring and evaluation of the Ministry's output areas to enable smooth execution of all strategies and targets.

The Ministry aspires to be dedicated in delivering tangible and enduring benefits for Fijians, in a changing and demanding international environment.

We look forward to continuing with this momentum beyond 2017 to enable the Ministry to climb to new heights in its performance and achievements to deliver its best on behalf of Fiji in the local, regional and international arena.

Major-General (Ret) Ioane Naivalurua
Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs

CORPORATE PROFILE

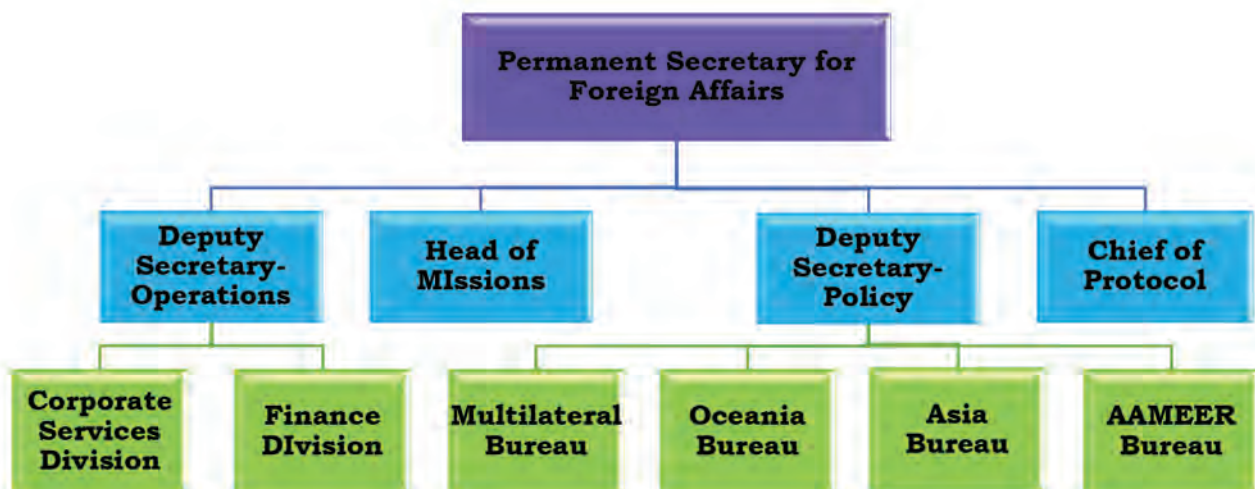
ROLE AND FUNCTIONS

The role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to lead the formulation and conduct of Fiji's Foreign Policy. This role covers a wide range of issues arising directly from all key internal and external customers in Fiji and dictates the strategic direction we must take that is based on the optimal utilization of limited resources including human and finance.

The Ministry is Fiji's window to the world. Consequently, it must be sufficiently cross-sectorial to perform a wide range of activities in order to serve all line ministries and departments, their target customers and all communities. The Ministry must be equally attuned to the needs of the private sector if it is to collaboratively achieve higher national benefits for Fiji. The Ministry is poised to contribute to the forecasted growth. This is indeed a challenge that not only requires the Ministry's own efforts, but moreover, through strategic partnership with all other key stakeholders of the Ministry. This will promote pooling of resources that safeguard any duplications and avoiding wastages.

The Ministry has seventeen Missions strategically placed across the globe. The Ministry Headquarters is based in the capital city of Suva and comprises of three (3) major functional teams, namely Protocol and Consular Services, Operations Team and Policy Team. The Operations Team consists of the Corporate Services and the Finance Divisions. The Policy Team comprises of four (4) Bureaus namely the Multilateral, Oceania, Asia and AAMEER (Americas, Africas, Middle East, Europe, Russia).

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



DIVISIONS AND BUREAUS

POLICY BUREAUS AND MISSIONS

Multilateral Bureau

The creation of the Multilateral Bureau is in recognition of Fiji's contribution and strategic role in the multilateral fora. The multilateral missions based in New York (USA), Brussels (Belgium) and Geneva (Switzerland) plays an important role in the implementation of Fiji's foreign policy at the multi-lateral and international forums. Furthermore, it recognizes the increasing volume of work generated from the engagements and commitments Fiji has in these forums. Important multilateral and international issues for Fiji include climate negotiations, inter-governmental consultations under the UNCLOS on BBNJ, Ocean's Conference in New York, UN peacekeeping commitments and the depositing of instruments for international treaties and conventions. The Bureau is also responsible for all multilateral and international issues from all Missions.

Oceania Bureau

The Bureau is responsible for the Missions in Canberra (Australia), Wellington (New Zealand), Port Moresby (PNG) and the Roving Ambassador's Division. Fiji's key traditional partners of Australia and New Zealand continue to provide support in the critical sectors of education and health, not to mention their contribution to the tourism sector. The Ministry will be looking to strengthen engagement with the vast Fijian diaspora communities in both countries.

Through the Mission in Port Moresby, the Ministry will continue to actively engage with Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Front de Liberation Nationale Kanak et Socialiste (FLNKS), and the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), in order to ensure that Fiji's role and contribution in the Melanesian region remains relevant.

The Roving Ambassador's Division is responsible for Pacific Regional Affairs (apart from the MSG issues, which are looked after by the PNG mission) and the CROP agencies. The Roving Ambassador is also the Special Envoy to the CROP agencies.

Asia Bureau

The Bureau serves the missions based in Beijing (China), Jakarta (Indonesia), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), New Delhi (India), Seoul (South Korea) and Tokyo (Japan).

As a region, Asia has the highest population in the world and not surprisingly, it has some of the biggest and fastest growing economies as well. Fiji's expanded 'Look North Policy' has been very successful in this region in terms of bilateral relations, trade and development aid and the Ministry will continue to maintain its strategic focus in strengthening relations in this very important region.

AAMEER Bureau

The AAMEER Bureau is responsible for the Missions in Abu Dhabi (UAE), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), London (United Kingdom), Brasilia (Brazil) and Washington (USA) and the bilateral issues from Cuba and Jamaica through the New York Mission. These Missions are Fiji's

windows to the continent of Americas, Africa, the Middle-East and Europe regions. They are significantly important regions since the USA, the UK and the Middle East continue to serve as source countries for remittances while the EU has been a major importer of Fiji's sugar.

Labour migration is something that Government is seriously considering as a means to address unemployment. The Ministry will identify and focus on specific areas to secure opportunities that will benefit the people of Fiji. It is noted that apart from the Middle Eastern countries of Iraq, Egypt (Sinai) and Israel/Syria (Golan Heights), the African countries of Liberia, Sudan and South Sudan also have placements of Fijian security personnel working under UN mandated missions. There are also a growing number of Fijian civilians employed in various countries on the continent. The Bureau is also responsible for the bilateral issues from the Brussels and Geneva Missions.

OPERATIONS TEAM

Corporate Services Division

The Division is responsible to the Permanent Secretary for assisting with facilitating key human resource management that involves the following: recruitment and selection, contracting, reward, motivation, remuneration, termination of the Ministry's human resource and management of assets. These key human resource activities involves additional activities that cover job analysis, human resource planning or employment planning, recruitment and selection, performance appraisal and human resource development, compensation and benefits, industrial or employee relations and effective health and safety programmes.

Finance Division

The Division report to the Permanent Secretary for financial matters. The Division provides financial oversight and management of financial resources and guarantees that all expenditures and revenue collections are in compliance with the budgetary provisions under the Finance Instructions, Finance Manual and the Fiji Overseas Service Regulations (FOSR). The Division also ensures the effective implementation and upgrading of the Financial Management Information System (FMIS).

PROTOCOL AND CONSULAR DIVISION

The Division ensures that diplomatic obligations are accorded to diplomatic missions, the diplomatic community, regional and international organizations. The work is guided by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963) and Fiji's Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act (1971). An important responsibility of the Division is to enhance Fiji's international standing and strengthen its diplomatic ties. The Division also ensures that diplomats including international public servants based in Fiji adhere to diplomatic conventions and laws under the Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act. The Division is also responsible for planning and coordinating regional and international conferences hosted by the Government of Fiji and carries out protocol arrangements for distinguished guests of the State and for dignitaries travelling overseas.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

Conventions

- Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961)
- Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963)

Laws

- 2013 Constitution
- Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act (1971)
- Extradition Act (Cap.23)
- Marine Spaces Act (Cap.158 A)
- Special Mission Privileges and Immunities Act (Cap.10)
- Public Service Act 1999
- General Orders 2011
- Terms & Conditions of Employment (TCE) for Government Wage Earners (GWE's)
- Public Service (Diplomatic and Consular Services) Regulations 2005
- Finance Act 2004

Policies

- Foreign Policy Statement
- National Development Plan
- Strategic Plan
- Relevant PSC & Finance Circulars

MINISTRY'S APPROVED OUTPUTS FOR 2016/2017 FISCAL YEAR

No	Description
1.0	Management and Strengthening of Bilateral and Multilateral Relations
2.0	Promotion of Economic and Public Diplomacy
3.0	Sectoral Partnership and Collaboration
4.0	Climate Change and Oceans Diplomacy
5.0	Provision of Protocol and Consular Services

REPORT ON PERFORMANCE - KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

MANAGEMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL RELATIONS

PROMOTION AND STRENGTHENING OF MULTILATERAL RELATIONS

22nd Session of the International Seabed Authority's (ISA)

The team in New York attended the International Seabed Authority's (ISA) 22nd Session from 11th to 13th July 2016 to handover the Presidency of the Council to Poland. During his term, Ambassador Peter Thomson placed great emphasis on the context of the significant events that have been occurring in the world each year; events which, depending on their outcome will inescapably shape the world in which the future generation must live in. There have been warnings of science, captured in the 2015 report by the Global Ocean Commission with the conclusion that the oceans and seas are in trouble.

The primary function of ISA is to regulate deep seabed mining and to give special emphasis to ensure that the marine environment is protected from any harmful effects which may arise during mining activities, including exploration.

50th International Sugar Organisation (ISO) Session



Hon. PM with the Fiji Delegation at the 50th ISO

The Fiji delegation led by the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Josaia Bainimarama attended the 50th ISO Session in London from 1 to 2 December 2016. The Fijian delegation focused on matters of great concern not only limited to Fiji's economy and livelihood, but relating to that of all SIDS. Cyclone Winston was mentioned as an example of what could be in store for environmentally vulnerable sugar producing nations

As a result, Fiji has made a commitment to champion the voices of all that are vulnerable to Climate Change at the forthcoming COP 23 in Bonn, for which Fiji will be assuming the Presidency. Others that attended the ISO meeting were in strong support of Fiji's initiatives, as it is becoming more evident that Climate Change is severely affecting sugar production worldwide.

11th Group of 20 (G20) Summit

The 11th G20 Summit, themed ‘Building an innovative, invigorated, interconnected and inclusive world’, was convened in Hangzhou, Zhejiang from 4 – 5 September, 2016. The Summit’s fundamental objective was to implement the consensus reached at the previous G20 Summits, and emphasized on innovation, reform and development.

The G20 represents 85% of global GDP, 80% of international trade and 65% of the world's population and is considered one of the most influential platforms for global financial governance.

Key Outcomes of the Summit included a blueprint for innovative growth; an action plan mapping out towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda; priority areas, guiding principles and a set of indicators for structural reform have been identified; a strategy for global trade, growth has been formulated; guiding principles for global investment policymaking have been outlined; international financial reform will be advanced; a well-rounded anti-graft cooperation framework has been established; support has been voiced for industrialization of the world’s least developed countries; an entrepreneurship action plan has been rolled out; and efforts have been made to push forward enactment of the Paris Agreement.

11th International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Council

IRENA is mandated to be the global hub for renewable energy cooperation and information exchange by 147 Members (146 States and the European Union). IRENA promotes the widespread adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy, in the pursuit of sustainable development, energy access, energy security and low-carbon economic growth and prosperity.

Fiji participated in the 11th IRENA Council meeting from 24 -29 May 2016 in Abu Dhabi. As one of the 21 members elected to serve on the Council; Fiji actively participates in the Council activities and liaison in collaboration with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport. Fiji was represented at the IRENA Council meeting in Abu Dhabi by Director Energy Paula Katirewa and FS Solo Momoivalu.

Fiji’s last act on the Council had been to deliver an Ethics Board Report as head of the Ethics Advisory Board of the Council together with Ethiopia and India.

72nd Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) Session

The 72nd UNESCAP Commission Session and meeting took place on 15-19 May in Bangkok. Fiji’s delegation to the Commission Session was led by the Prime Minister whose responsibilities included handing over the Chairmanship of the 71st Commission Session to the incoming Chair Prime Minister of Tajikistan.

On the margins of the 72nd Commission Session, the Prime Minister had three separate bilateral meetings with the Executive Secretary of UNESCAP, Ms. Shamshad Akhtar; the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, General Tanasak Patimapragorn; and the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for

Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Masakazu Hamachi. The Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism, Hon. Faiyaz Koya, also paid a working visit to Malaysia on 17-20 May. The purpose of his visit was to examine Malaysia's SME set up and to draw on useful lessons that could help Fiji improve its SME framework including his Ministry's support to local SMEs.

12th Session of APCTT

High Commissioner Malaysia, Kolinio Takali attended the 12th Session of the Governing Council of the Asia and Pacific Centre of the Transfer of Technology (APCTT), Islamabad, Pakistan from 9 – 12 December 2016. He was elected as Vice Chair and amongst his interventions included addressing Fiji's needs for efficient ICT infrastructure and tools for natural disaster risk reduction and technology for carbon foot print assessment. High Commissioner also sought APCTT's assistance in these areas. In this regard, the Trade, Investment and Innovation arm of the UNESCAP indicated its support to provide research capacity particularly to natural disaster risk reduction where it has expertise.

2nd Meeting of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

The Minister of Health and Medical Services, Hon. Jone Usamate chaired the 2nd meeting of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Bangkok, Thailand from 6 to 7 September 2016. He was supported by High Commissioner Takali and PR to ESCAP, Counsellor Tagicakirewa and Mr. Shivnay Naidu, Director IT with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services. The Regional Steering Group comprises of 30 members: 22 member States and 8 development partners. It provides guidance for the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific, and is entrusted to act as custodian of the Asia and Pacific CRVS Decade (2015 - 2024). During the meeting, the Regional Steering Group: i) reviewed the key findings of the baseline report under the Regional Action framework and the recommendations by the 72nd Commission session, ii) evaluated the main achievements of the Regional Steering Group and identified priorities (immediate and future); and iii) identified key priorities for regional support.

73rd UNESCAP Commission Session

The seventy-third session of the Commission was held from 15 to 19 May 2017 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok. The session comprised of the senior officials segment, which was held from 15 to 17 May, and the ministerial segment from the afternoon of 17 to 19 May. The Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries was also held on 16 May.

Fiji's delegation to the 73rd Commission Session was led by the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Hon. Jone Usamate, and included the Minister for Fisheries and Oceans Champion, Hon. Semi Koroilavesau; High Commissioner Malaysia, Kolinio Takali; Counsellor Pita Tagicakirewa; and Foreign Service Officer (FSO) Mr. Semisi Seruitanoa. Hon. Usamate delivered Fiji's country statement based on the theme 'Regional

Cooperation for Sustainable Energy'. He also took part in a high-level panel discussion based on ESCAP's flagship publication 'Economic and Social Survey 2017'. Hon Usamate was also one of the panelists for a side event sponsored by the Government of Sri Lanka on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Hon Koroilavesau was also elected as one of the Vice Chairs of the 73rd Commission Session. As Vice Chair, he also presided over some plenary sessions. He took part in a high-level panel discussion on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration, and was also a panelist in Fiji's side event. HC Takali and FSO Seruitanoa represented Fiji at the Committee of the Whole 1 during the Senior Officials Segment. HC delivered 3 statements under their respective agenda items.

Counsellor Tagicakirewa represented Fiji at the Committee of the Whole 2 where he delivered 2 statements under their respective agenda items. He was also elected Vice Chair of the Working Group on Draft Resolutions and negotiated Fiji's resolution titled 'Strengthening Asia-Pacific's support for the UN Conference in support of the implementation of SDG 14'.

Fiji sponsored Resolution on 'Strengthening Asia-Pacific support for the UN Conference in support of the implementation of SDG 14' was adopted at the 73rd Commission Session. A side event on 'Supporting the implementation of SDG 14' was also organised by Fiji during the Commission Session. Speakers to this session included the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Minister for Fisheries & Oceans Champion, Bangladesh's Ambassador to Thailand, and Thailand's Ambassador to the Russian Federation, UNEP and ESCAP. The Resolution and the main issues raised during the side event would be taken up to New York during the Oceans Conference in June and the HLPF in July.

The Minister for Employment, Productivity, and Industrial Relations Hon Jone Usamate also led Fiji's delegation to the 4th Thailand-Pacific Island Forum in Bangkok from 20 – 21 May 2017. He was accompanied by High Commissioner and Non-resident Ambassador to Thailand Kolinio Takali and Counsellor Tagicakirewa. The meeting discussed on-going cooperation between Thailand and PICs.

Peacekeeping – New York

The New York Mission through MPA's office received UNIFIL Troops Reimbursement to Fiji for the last 3 months only from Feb-April, 2016. The Fiji Government had been reimbursed for UNIFIL for the last 3 months with the sum of \$US583,416 which is equivalent to \$F1,166,832 million dollars. Therefore from 2014 – 2016, the Ministry of Economy through Fiji's Reserve Bank have received from the UN for the UNIFIL Troops reimbursement of approximately \$F15 million dollars. This troop reimbursement is for a total of 147 troops in UNIFIL only. UNDOF Troops has 342 RFMF UN peacekeepers with UNAMI has a total of 169 RFMF peacekeepers.

Visit by His Excellency the President: Lebanon/Iraq/Israel/Egypt/Ethiopia/South Sudan

His Excellency the President of Fiji Jioji Konousi Konrote accompanied by Ambassador Tikoitoga made a tour to the Middle East to visit the Fijian peacekeeping troops in Baghdad serving under UNAMI, the Golan Heights and those serving under the banner of the MFO in Sinai (Egypt) and South Sudan serving under UNMISS from 20 October to 1 November 2016.

HEP also made courtesy calls on the Prime Minister of Lebanon, President and Prime Minister of Iraq, President of Israel, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and President of the Republic of South Sudan during this tour. The President was also hosted for dinner by the President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

The President also visited the Mission where he was briefed by Ambassador Tikoitoga on the history of Ethiopia and current events in the country, the mission's role in the AU and UNEP with some information on African demographics in general.

2017 Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA '17)



Hon. Minister for Defence attending LIMA '17 with the High Commissioner

LIMA '17 exhibition in Langkawi, which was attended by the Hon. Minister for Defence and his officials, Commissioner of Police, and the High Commissioner Malaysia from 21 - 25 March 2017.

LIMA is the largest show of its kind within the Asia Pacific region. It serves as the perfect platform to encourage further cooperation between Malaysia and regional and global allies in both the maritime and aerospace industries, specifically on asset acquisition as Armed Forces around the world are modernizing their asset bases. The exhibition has been evolving in Langkawi for the past twenty-seven (27) years - and this year's exhibition included concurrent program of activities, live maritime and air displays, and static displays were the most impactful to date.

The delegation also visited and placed wreaths at the National Monument in Kuala Lumpur and visited the memorial site in Batu Pahat where the Fijian soldiers served during the Malayan war.

PROMOTION AND STRENGTHENING OF REGIONAL RELATIONS

PIDF Meetings in Honiara

The PIDF meeting was held in Honiara from 12 – 13 July 2016. This is the first PIDF meeting to be hosted outside of Fiji. Fiji has hosted the first three Summits since the inception of the PIDF in 2013. The hosting of this meeting in Honiara reflected their inclusivity and also the growing recognition of the PIDF as an international organization.

The PNG Mission attended the event on the advice of Minister to facilitate protocol matters pertaining to the Fiji delegation travels in and out of Honiara and traditional aspects of this visit with respect to the PIDF opening ceremony and engagements with the Fijian communities in the Solomon Islands.

The Fijian delegation was led by the Prime Minister, Hon. Frank Bainimarama and included Hon. Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, Foreign Minister; Mr. Yogesh Karan, PSOPM; Mr. Esala Nayasi, DS; Mr. Simione Rokolaqa (DOAR); Mr. Josua Tuwere and Miliana of OPM.

MSG Special Leaders' Summit in Honiara

The MSG Special Leaders' Summit was also held in Honiara on 14 July (back-to-back with PIDF meeting). The important resolutions from the meeting included the endorsement of the appointment of Mr. Amena Yauvoli as Director General for the MSG Secretariat; the implementation of the Formed Police Unit (FPU) Phase II activities as soon as possible and approved in principle the establishment of the Police Ministers' Meeting (PMM); MSG Humanitarian and Emergency Response Coordinating Center (HERCC) in terms of the expansion of the consultation process on the HERCC and cost implications and the formulation the HERCC Regional Response Strategy and Action Plans; leaders agreed to defer the consideration of the application for full membership by ULMWP until membership criteria and guideline are further developed by SCLII before end of September 2016; and the dissolution of Melanesian Solution Limited (MSL) and the reimbursement of all shareholders contributions.

9th Bali Democracy Forum



PM's Special Envoy to the IX Bali Democracy Forum, H.E Seremaia Cavuilati delivering his key note address

The 9th Bali Democracy Forum was held on 8-9 December with the theme “Religion, Democracy and Pluralism” and accompanied with the agenda to explore the new understanding on the rise of religious identities, the dynamics of pluralism and the question of democratic responses. The Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs appointed Ambassador Cavuilati as his Special Envoy to attend the meeting forum in Bali. The

dynamics of the changing social contours in major regions including Asia-Pacific, North Africa, and Europe have brought daunting tasks of finding appropriate and sustainable responses. Shifting demographics and increasing trends in public religiosity have prompted renewed concerns about religious freedom, nondiscrimination, and the role of the state. Furthermore, the need to develop democratic responses toward such issues, especially the perceived incompatibility between religion and civic pluralism, is not only faced by emerging democracies in the global south but also in many established democracies in Europe and America. Developing and understanding and collective democratic responses had been the focus of this year's strategic agenda in the BDF.

ILO 16th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting



Mr Felix Anthony (second from left) among the panel during the High Level Dialogue in Bali

A tripartite delegation consisting of the Fijian Government, employer's representative and worker's representative attended the International Labour Organisation 16th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting in Bali from 6-9 December 2016. The delegation was headed by the Minister for Employment, Hon. Jone Usamate and accompanied by his Permanent Secretary, Salaseini

Daunabuna, CEO of the Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation Nezbitt Hazelman as employers' representative and Felix Anthony the president of the Fiji Trade Union Congress as worker's representative. The ILO Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting brings together the ILO's tripartite constituents from throughout Asia, the Pacific and the Gulf and Arab States.

17th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement



Ambassador Tuiloma at the 17th NAM Summit

The 17th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was held at Margarita Island in Venezuela from 17-18 September 2016. The Fiji delegation comprised of Ambassador Cama Tuiloma, who represented the Minister of Foreign Affairs at the in the Leaders' Summit together with Mrs. Jojiana Cokanasiga, Principal Foreign Services Officer from headquarters. The Senior Officials meeting, the Ministers' meeting and the Leaders' Summit was well attended by some 1,000 representatives of the 120 member countries.

The Summit ended with the release of a 21-article Final Declaration in which the Leaders committed towards making joint efforts to the effective implementation of the Final Document of the Island of Margarita to address the challenges posed in the areas of peace, economic and social development, human rights and international cooperation.

1st World Conference on Tourism for Development



*HOM at the First World Tourism Summit,
Beijing*

Fiji Embassy China attended the 1st World Conference on Tourism for Development in Beijing themed “Tourism for Peace and Development” from the 18-21 May, 2016. This had been jointly organized by the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and had been attended by approximately 1000 delegates from 100 different countries and international organizations.

The keynote address by the Premier Li Keqiang highlighted that tourism is creating a window of openness, bond of friendship and a messenger of peace as it is a new driver of growth. It creates a major platform for mass entrepreneurship and innovation, an avenue for poverty alleviation and eradication, is a bridge of friendship and the most direct and natural way to enhance people-to-people exchange.

In the case of Fiji there is a need to improve infrastructure for transportation facilities, scenic spots, self-drive or village drive tour camps; eco-tourism visits etc.

Another fundamental pointer is ‘innovation’ and the need to align this to tourism development in Fiji; noting that it is the primary source of development and is therefore pivotal if this is inculcated in Fiji’s growth model which will thus raise the level of development.

As highlighted in the Summit, South-South tourism and North-South tourism dialogue should be increased as this would generate mutually beneficial cooperation; more importantly it will facilitate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda.

In contextualizing this to the natural resources that we have in Fiji, there is hope that this sector which has a unique ability to act as a powerful tool for sustainable, meaningful and inclusive national advancement could be utilized to reduce poverty and create employment.

2nd Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Police Ministers Meeting



Hon. Minister with the Chief of Indonesian National Police, General Tito Karnavian (2nd right) during the MSG Police Ministers meeting in Jakarta

The Minister for Defence & National Security (Hon. Ratu Inoke Kubuabola) attended the PMM on 14 March at Borobudur Hotel, Jakarta. This was preceded by the Police Commissioners Meeting on 13 March which was attended by COMPOL Brigadier General Sitiveni Qiliho. After the two days meeting, there was an organized site visit to Semarang for the delegates to visit the Police Academy. Whilst still in Jakarta, Minister Kubuabola had two bilateral meetings with the Indonesian Minister for Foreign Affairs (Madam Retno Marsudi) and the Chief of the Indonesian National Police (General Tito Karnavian) on 15 March. These sessions were initiated by the Indonesian authorities.

BOAO Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2017

The Minister for Fisheries, Hon. Koroilavesau attended the 21st Century Maritime Silk Cooperation Forum, initiated by the People's Government of Hainan Province and financed by the China-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation Fund, on 24 – 28 March 2017. In the margins of the forum, the Minister also paid a courtesy call to the Vice-Governor of Guangdong and other Government Officials in Guangzhou City on the invitation of the Guangdong Provincial Government from the 27th to 28th March. The latter also met a University President, Research Centers' Directors and potential investors that could assist in the development of Fiji's Marine Economy.

Key outcomes of the meeting included training and capacity building programmes for Fiji's Fisheries Officers; research networking; scholarships provided by the Hainan Provincial Government for twenty (20) foreign students from the Pacific to study at three (3) of its Universities: Hainan, Hainan Tropical Ocean and Sonya and an MOU between the Hainan Provincial Government and the Ministry of Fisheries.

Belt and Road Forum 2017



Participants of the Belt and Forum for International Cooperation

The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was held on May 14–15, 2017 in Beijing, and drew 29 foreign heads of state and government and representatives from more than 130 countries and 70 international organizations.

The purpose of the forum is to create a more open and efficient international cooperation platform; a closer, stronger partnership network; and to push for a more just, reasonable and balanced international governance system.

The Prime Minister made two interventions at the Belt and Road Forum, particularly on Day 2, 15 May at the Leaders Roundtable, Yanqi Lake where he spoke on People-to-people Bond and Connectivity Cooperation for interconnected development.

Head of Missions Meeting – Fiji



Fiji Head of Missions at GPH

All Fiji Head of Missions were in the country to attend the Head of Missions Forum from 6 – 12 April, 2017. The Heads of Mission meeting in Suva which was opened by the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon Josaia Bainimarama. The Prime Minister reminded the

Heads of Mission of the daunting task ahead for Fiji with the Oceans Summit and COP 23. PM Bainimarama highlighted that “*We must use the COP presidency to do what we can to persuade the world to step back from the abyss*”.

PROMOTION AND STRENGTHENING OF BILATERAL RELATIONS

Bilateral Meeting between Fiji/China Foreign Ministers



The Bilateral Meeting between Fiji and China Foreign Ministers convened at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Beijing on 13 April 2016 in Beijing where it was highlighted that the two countries are strategic partners who shared political mutual trust with engagements not only in the bilateral arena, but also in multilateral affairs.

The high-level reciprocal visits by leaders of both countries in 2014 and 2015 respectively provided the future-course of direction for the Fiji-China partnership.

*Hon. Ratu Inoke
Kubuabola &
Hon. Wang Yi*

The onus however is on the parties to implement agreements that were signed in the margins of the high-level visits.

Hon. Minister Wang reaffirmed China’s support towards Fiji’s rebuilding phase and Hon. Minister Kubuabola reaffirmed our stance in adhering to the One-China policy.

Fiji/Russia Relations



*Hon. Speaker to the Parliament of Fiji at the
Chambers of the Federal Assembly of the Russian*

In a historic meeting held in the Chambers of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on 12 October 2016 HE Madam V Matvienko, Chairperson of the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation hosted the Honorable Dr. Jiko Luveni, Speaker of the Fijian Parliament and members of the Fijian delegation. The Delegation members were: Honorable Mr. Inia Seruiratu, Minister of Agriculture, Regional Development and

National Disaster Management, the Honorable Josefa Dulakiverata MP, Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Robin Nair, Mr. Isikeli Mataitoga, Fiji’s Non-Resident Ambassador to the Russian Federation, Mrs. Anaseini Senimoli, Director Operations, Fiji Election Office and Mr. Vatimosi Delailovu Parliamentary Staff.

This was the first time ever in the history of the Fiji/Russia bilateral relations that such a meeting has taken place. It is further testament of the growing relations between the two countries since the official visit to the Russian Federation by the Honorable Mr. Josaia V. Bainimarama, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Fiji in June 2013.

Also on 14 October 2016, Fiji and Russia held their second Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), in Moscow. The first was hosted in Fiji on 2 February 2014. The SOM is the framework that provides for regular consultations between Fiji and Russia, with the undertaking to review bilateral relations when the need arises, and also map out new areas to diversify relations.

Fiji was represented by the Permanent Secretary Ambassador Robin Nair and Ambassador Isikeli Maitaitoga, Fiji's Non-Resident Ambassador to the Russian Federation. The Russian Federation was represented by HE Mrs. Liudmila Vorobieva, Director General, Third Asia Department and Oceania Division, Mr. Sergey Tolchenov, Director, Pacific Affairs Unit, Mr. Alexander Artamonov, Senior Counselor, Third Asian Department and Ms Lilia Dzhumagalieva First Secretary.

The issues for discussion ranged from bilateral relations, multilateral cooperation, defense cooperation, high level visits, trade, investment and tourism.

Opening of Embassy in Addis Abba



The Fijian community in Addis Ababa with the Hon Minister, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola after the opening of the chancery

Minister for Foreign Affairs Ratu Inoke Kubuabola officially opened the Mission in Addis Ababa on 26 May 2016. The opening ceremony was held at the Ellily Hotel in Addis Ababa in the presence of Ethiopian Government Officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps and invited guests. State Minister of Foreign Affairs Ato Regassa Kefale represented the Ethiopian Government.

In his statement, Minister Kubuabola had stated that he was honoured and grateful to the Government of Ethiopia for its support in the setting up of Fiji's Diplomatic representation in the country which would effectively service and forge partnerships in the region.

Ethiopia is strategically placed and is host to 116 diplomatic missions, regional and international organisations and it is fitting for Fiji to be represented in Ethiopia in order to reach to the rest of Africa.

Commissioning of Fiji's New Honorary Consul - Beppu City, Oita Prefecture



Mrs Hiroko Eto (Spouse of Hon Seiichi Eto, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister), Mr Kozo Kawamura

In yet another milestone development, the Fiji Embassy Tokyo, on the eve of 19 January 2016, successfully commissioned Mrs. Mami Kawamura as Fiji's Honorary Consul in Beppu City, Oita Prefecture in the Kyushu region, Japan. The inauguration event was marked by the official handing over of the Consular Commission that was signed by Fiji's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, by Ambassador Isikeli Mataitoga to Mrs. Mami Kawamura.

The appointment of the Honorary Consuls underscore Fiji's long standing policy in establishing and maintaining friendly relations with countries that have demonstrated genuine goodwill towards Fiji, using it to widen and deepen Fiji's diplomatic footprint in an important region of Japan. It is also a reflection of the goodwill enjoyed between Japan and Fiji since 1970 in the promotion of economic, commercial and people-to-people relations between the two countries. To that end, the Japanese scholarships awarded to many Fiji nationals and some of those fortunate to be graduates of Kyushu's renowned universities, and in the last few years were highlighted.

Ambassador Mataitoga stressed on the growth in the number of Fijian students studying in Ritsumeikai Asia Pacific University (APU), Beppu, to which we now have 14 Fijian students in Beppu alone, apart from the 16 Fijian students that are currently pursuing studies in graduate schools and specialized programs throughout Japan, under the Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Scholarship program.

With the establishment of the new Honorary Consul's Office in Beppu, Ambassador Mataitoga is confident that Fiji stands to gain much more from deepening its tourism, trade, and investment promotion in not only Oita but throughout the Kyushu region.

The presence of the new Consulate office is anticipated to also promote greater public diplomacy in the form of tourism, school and people to people exchanges and further boost economic and trade cooperation between Fiji and the people of Oita.

Fiji's prospects in Oita Prefecture are significant given their commonalities in the areas of agriculture and tourism. Oita hosts many important industries, including the steel, chemical, semiconductor, machinery, and oil, automotive and other related industries. Moreover, Beppu City in Oita is also home to a number of Fijian students, with easy access to other parts of the Prefecture, and the region of Kyushu, hence, will serve as an excellent outpost to launch and promote Fiji in the Southern part of Japan.

Fiji now has two Honorary Consuls and an Honorary Consul General in Japan, located in three different Prefectures. Ambassador Mataitoga in keeping with MoFA's vision intends to set up similar arrangements in other regions of Japan.

Other Honorary Consul Appointments



Hon. Kubuabola (left) with Fiji's Honorary Consul in Surabaya Dato Sri Professor Dr. Tahir (right)

Also on 16 March 2017 the then Minister for Defence and National Security, Hon. Kubuabola, officiated at the Inauguration Ceremony for Dato Sri Professor Dr. Tahir as Fiji's Honorary Consul in Surabaya at Mayapada Tower. The appointment had been timely and an important one as it further consolidated the Fiji – Indonesia formal diplomatic relationship that had been initially established in 1974. Having a successful business entrepreneur as Fiji's Honorary Consul, will potentially foster more trade and investment between the two countries and will also push for more private sector development and exchanges.



(L-R) Waisele Serevi, Fiji's new Honorary Consul in Burnaby, Mr. Pradeep Keshva Naicker, Mrs Naicker and High Commissioner Mara

In addition, Ambassador Solo Mara officiated at the handing over ceremony of the Commissioning documents of Fiji's new Honorary Consul in Burnaby, Mr. Pradeep Keshva Naicker better known as Bobby Naicker in April 2017. Mr. Naicker will be in charge of the province of British Columbia which covers fifty-one (51) cities including Vancouver.

Bilateral Meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand



Hon. Bainimarama with General Tanasak

The Prime Minister, Hon. Josaia Bainimarama, had a bilateral meeting with the Thai Deputy Prime Minister, General Tanasak Patimapragorn, in May 2016. The meeting provided an opportunity, amongst other things, to follow up on some of the issues that were discussed in 2015 following the exchange of high level visits. These included the visa on arrival, defence cooperation, and agriculture and fisheries cooperation. PM also requested Thailand to support Fiji in its climate change advocacy work. DPM

assured PM of Thailand's continuous support and requested Fiji to provide four (4) additional candidates to an upcoming TICA sponsored programme involving Disaster Risk Reduction.

2nd Fiji-Korea Friendship Association Forum

The 2nd Fiji-Korea Friendship Association Forum took place at the Pacific Hotel, Seoul on 2 February, 2016 with over 20 members including Honorary Consul for Daegu, Mr. Yong-Hee Song and faculties of universities of Handong Global University (HGU) and Korea Development Institute (KDI). The Chairperson of Fiji-Korea Friendship Association, Ms. Eun-Sook Kim thanked the guests and the Fiji Mission for their participation and continued support. In her speech Ms. Kim informed that the Fiji- Korea association will work towards the benefit of both Fiji and Korea in terms of expanding investment and business opportunities.

Ambassador Filimone Kau stated the expectation of the Fiji-Korea Friendship Association's role between two countries was to boost cooperation and to attract investment and tourists to Fiji. Ambassador Kau thanked the guests on behalf of the Fijian Government and said the Fiji Mission in Korea will cooperate with the Fiji-Korea Friendship Association and work closely with full support for both countries' interests and benefits to enhance investments and other development cooperation.

There had been two (2) presentations that enabled guests to better understand Fiji and Korea's relationship and current status on business opportunities and available investments to seek cooperation from both the public and private sectors.

PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

PROMOTION OF TRADE, TOURISM AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Korea International Tourism Show 2016

The Mission attended one of the biggest Tourism Exposition in Korea – Korea International Tourism Show 2016 which was held in KINTEX dome, Ilsan city, North of Seoul during the month. It was the first for the Fiji Mission in Korea to join the Korea International Tourism Show Committee in order to continue promoting Fiji not only tourism and culture but also sports sector in conjunction with the first Olympic gold medal in rugby. The organizer of the Korea International Tourism Show hosted 18 foreign countries and over 70 local governments and 250 tourism-related firms.

The Mission received lots of congratulatory remarks from Korean visitors during the three (3) days especially on the victory of the Fiji Rugby Sevens team at the Rio Olympics. Koreans acknowledged the teams' outstanding performance against Great Britain in the Gold Medal playoff. The Korea International Show 2016 was an additional channel for the Fiji Mission to promote beautiful landmarks in Fiji by handing out Tourism Fiji brochures and the introduction of well-known resorts and activities. The tropically decorated Fiji booth was set up to show visitors the Pacific Countries' atmosphere and give some thoughts of real Fiji through the presentation of Fijian made products as well as traditional artefacts.

MAHA Trade Show 2016



HOM and Fiji Delegates

The Fiji Mission in Malaysia supported a two (2) member delegation from the Ministry of Agriculture at the MAHA Trade Show from 1 – 11 December 2016, Malaysia’s largest agriculture show. The Fiji booth aimed to creating awareness and making Fiji and Fijian made products visible to the Malaysian market in order to attract potential Malaysian investors to Fiji and improving Fiji’s export base to Malaysia. Fiji was featured prominently during the show where Fijian made products were promoted and Fiji was also highlighted as an investment and tourist destination.

12th Kanku-Tabihaku Travel Showcase, Osaka



Fiji Booth at the 12th Kanku-Tabihaku Travel

The Fiji Embassy in Tokyo participated in the 12th Kanku Tabihaku Travel Showcase held in Kansai International Airport in Osaka prefecture from 4 – 5 June 2016 and also the pre-event workshop/seminar held in Ritz Carlton Osaka on 3 June 2016.

The travel showcase is one of the biggest events in Western Japan. The number of visitors for two days reached 4,100. Participants included people from Embassies in Japan, tourism offices, airline companies, hoteliers and inbound and outbound travel agents.

The Fiji Booth displayed the Fiji Flag, tapa, posters and tanoa. They distributed more than 3,000 Fiji Brochures. The Fiji Booth received very positive responses from visitors. Many visitors had highlighted that they have visited Fiji and their main purpose of visiting had included studying English, honeymooners and diving.

Fijian Projects under Global Environment Facility (GEF)

The Global Environment Facility had been established in 1992 to assist in addressing critical environmental problems being faced by the globe. Fiji has 13 approved National Projects, 35 approved Regional and Global Projects while 1 Project was cancelled. The projects are FSP (full size projects) MSP (medium size projects) and EP (Enabling Projects)

The 13 National Projects range from National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan, Clearing House Mechanism Enabling Activity, Renewable Energy Hybrid Power Systems, National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants for Fiji, Biodiversity Enabling Activity, Capacity Building, Review and update National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants for Fiji, etc.

The challenge is the slow execution of projects which needs to be addressed by the various coordinators of GEF-funded projects as the GEF Funding Cycle is on a 4-year basis and Fiji will not be able to access more funding if the current allocations are not fully utilised.

Kadavu Micro-Grid Solar Project

This US\$1.5 million pilot project on Smart-Grid Energy system on Namara village in Kadavu is co-funded by Woojin Industrial Systems Company of Korea and the Korean Government through the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy. The Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Fiji is fully supporting this Renewable Energy project.

The Company is now working with a Fiji Government Taskforce team on the implementation of this renewable energy –Micro-Grid System project. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on the project had been drafted by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport and has been endorsed by the Cabinet office. The container of equipment was also received by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport for the commencement of work.

Korea World Travel Fair (KOTFA) Busan Tour Expo

The Fiji Embassy Seoul participated in 19th KOTFA International Travel Fair in Busan city, Sothern Korea as a continuing effort since 2013 to increase Korean tourists to Fiji and to promote the exotic Fijian culture. Honorary Consul for Busan, Mr. Ho-Young Yeom participated in the VIP opening ceremony and had been stationed at the Fiji booth to support the Mission. He acknowledged the Mission's continuous efforts towards promoting Fiji not only increased public awareness but also attracted many Korean tourists to Fiji.

The Fijian booth which was tropically and traditionally decorated attracted many visitors, who enjoyed the friendly island atmosphere which was showcased. The Korean Travel TV show on Fiji was also played to give lively information to the visitors. Paradise Bio Sugar donated 250 packages of Fiji raw sugar to distribute to visitors as an introduction to the Fijian made product.

Tourism Fiji's Luxury & Couples 2016 Roadshow

The Fiji Mission in New Zealand facilitated and participated in the Tourism Fiji's Luxury & Couples 2016 Roadshow in Wellington on 8 September 2016 at the Intercontinental Hotel. The Luxury and Couples Roadshow gave travel agents an opportunity to meet and talk directly with operators from Fiji's Luxury and Couples products and destination. Operators at the Roadshow included Lomani Island Resort, Yasawa Island Resort, Grand Pacific Hotel, Tropica Island Resort, Blue Lagoon Cruise, Qamea Resort and Spa Fiji, Royal Davui Island Fiji, Jean –Michel Cousteau Resort –Fiji, Matamanoa, Sofitel, Yatule and Likuliku.

Other parts of New Zealand that the Luxury and Couple Roadshow visited included Palmerston North, Christchurch, Hamilton, Auckland city and North Shore Auckland

The roadshow updated travel agents about the Fiji tourism products that they currently sell, as well as details about exciting new destinations and Luxury & Couples products to help maximize selling opportunities. This will in turn entice more New Zealand tourists to Fiji ultimately having a positive multiplier effect on Fiji's economy.

Sugar Marketing - PBS Sugar

Paradise Bio-Sugar (PBS) held a trade promotion exposition in the Southern city of Busan, South Korea. The general aim of the trade exposition by PBS was to increase the marketing of the imported raw sugar to Fiji in all the regions of Korea.

The marketing promotion of Fiji sugar attracted more than five thousand visitors to the PBS booth. Fijians studying in South Korea, Mr. Ponipate Korovulvula and Ms. Lice Talemaivatuwiri volunteered to assist PBS in their trade exposition and promotion of raw Fiji sugar in Busan. Under the new signed contract PBS has the exclusive rights to import around 1,000 tons of raw sugar from Fiji every month. Fiji sugar is sold under the retail brand name FRAUSTA.

PBS had also signed a new contract with Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) on 11 February 2016. Under the new contract PBS will import one thousand tons of raw sugar per month from FSC to Republic of Korea for next five years.

7th Fiji Korea Friendship Association Forum

The 7th Fiji-Korea Friendship Association Forum took place at the Pacific Hotel, Myeongdong, Seoul, Thursday with over 30 members including Honorary Consul for Daegu, Mr. Yong-Hee Song, Honorary Consul for Busan Mr. Ho-Young-Yeom and other businessmen to share and discuss mutual interest towards Fiji. The Fiji-Korea Friendship Association had been established in April, 2015 and currently has over 70 members, consisting of businessmen, tourism companies as well as people from the public sectors. The members of the association agreed to hold regular forum once a month with the Mission's support to look at new strategies to increase tourism figures, bilateral trade and enhance involvement of Korean investors in Fiji.

Fiji: Crops, Livestock and Livestock Products

In Fiji, two projects have been funded by the European Union, Accompanying Measures for Sugar Protocol Countries (AMSP) Programme to support developing the supply and marketing of Fijian crop and livestock products to win new business: Improvement of Key Services to Agriculture (2012-2016) and Improvement of Key Services to Livestock and Livestock Products (2013-2016). Enterprises and farmers assisted by the projects should see higher year-round incomes as a result of more efficient market-led farming techniques, better organisation of supply, access to support services, market information and finance.

Through the projects ITC helped establish and reinforce the Fiji Crop and Livestock Council (FCLC) Secretariat. FCLC represents farmers and agri-food processing enterprises and advocates farmers' issues to policy-makers, provides them with market information, syndicates advisory services and coordinates technical assistance projects in agriculture.

9th Ethio-Chamber International Trade Expo



Fiji Booth at the 9th Ethio-Chamber International Trade Expo

Fiji Embassy Addis Ababa participated in the 9th Ethio-Chamber International Trade Expo at the Exhibition Center and Market Development Enterprise, Meskel Square, Addis Ababa from 10 to 14 November, 2016. The Trade Expo was organised by the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations (ECCSA). The overall objective was to contribute to the development of competitive industry and business sector mainly through the promotion of products and services.

The Trade Expo was attended by 166 organisations with about 55 representing international organisations including the Fiji Mission. It was a good opportunity to introduce the Mission to the business communities in Addis Ababa and to create business linkage and forge partnership with potential investors.

The Fiji Display Booth had been decorated with masi, ibe kuta, iris, waus, ulas, and miniature tanoas with a video display showing the picturesque sights and beautiful sounds of Fiji surrounded by sandy beaches, blue turquoise clear waters, cascading waterfalls, long winding white water rivers and natural dark thick forests.

On display were Fijian-made items like Pure Fiji Spa products, Fiji Water, Aqua water, Island Chill, Fiji Gold Beer, Fiji Bitter, Bounty Over-proof Rum, Noni and assorted tourism industry brochures. The interests generated over the Fiji made products were immense with the potential to secure local distributors and investors.

Ethiopia's economy is based on agriculture with coffee as its major export crop. Other agricultural commodities include cereals, oilseed, cotton, sugarcane, vegetables, khat, cut flowers, hides, cattle, sheep, goats and fish. The country is looking towards diversifying into manufacturing, textiles, and energy generation. Given this, Fiji may explore investment opportunities in textiles and commercial agriculture.

Fiji Made Promotion – Bati Rum, Coconut Vodka and Vonu Beer

The Fiji Embassy Tokyo hosted the “Fiji Rum Night and End Year Party” reception, at the Nippon Foundation Building in Tokyo on, 2 December 2016.

The objective was two-fold. Firstly to thank the embassy’s counterparts including the Japanese Government and its agencies, Prefectural and City governments/officials, NGOs, academia and various organisations for their continued support to FET throughout 2016 in so many different and important ways. The second objective was to promote Fiji’s new alcohol beverages like BATI Rum, Fiji Coconut Vodka and Vonu beer, testing the waters, in an effort to enter the Japanese market.



Fijian Made products – Bati Rum, Coconut Vodka, Spices and coconut

The reception was well received, with over 110 people from Tokyo and Regional Japan attending the 2-hour event, including; politicians, senior government officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps, representatives of business sector, representatives of non-government organizations, friends of Fiji and the Fijian community in Japan. The embassy had received very encouraging and positive feedback from the event, including some expression of interest to start importing Bati Rum, Coconut Vodka and Noni Juice.

Canterbury Rebuild Initiative



Meeting with Trades Employment Officials

On 29 February 2016, Relationship Manager Lafaale.Lupo- RSE: SPP, Relationship Manager Pacific Labour Mobility, Mr. Sean Torbit and Senior Advisor (Christchurch Rebuild initiative) Ms. Stacy Kwant advised the Fiji Mission in New Zealand of the Canterbury Trades Employment Initiative Pilot programme which Fiji is a part of.

This initiative underpins PACER Plus negotiations which New Zealand has committed to, supporting labour mobility opportunities for Pacific Island workers in sectors beyond horticulture and viticulture.

The construction sector is one of the sectors where the skill of Pacific Island workers matches with domestically unmet demands of New Zealand employers. This initiative was expected to bring an initial cohort of 20 carpenters from Samoa, Fiji and Tonga of which 50% Fiji workers had been expected. The New Zealand Aid Programme will fund the initiative and facilitated by the New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

Meeting outcomes included confirmation on the workers visa, pay rates that would be offered (market rate of NZ\$25 – NZ\$30/ hour), working conditions, accommodation, transportation, capacity building programmes and the expected time of arrival of Fijian workers in New Zealand (May 2016).

Relief Efforts for TC Winston

All the Fiji Missions abroad worked tirelessly on channeling in relief efforts to support the recovery of Fiji from the devastating effects and aftermaths of the TC Winston Assistance. Based on the requests from HQ the Missions undertook a number of initiatives for collection of donations towards the victims of cyclone Winston. The Fiji High Commissions and Embassies relayed requests from the various governments, units of international humanitarian aids, development partners and international organisations.

7th Eco-Agriculture and Food and Safety Forum



Ambassador Naivalurua at the 7th Eco-Agriculture and Food and Safety Forum for the Belt

Fiji's Ambassador to China, Ambassador Naivalurua attended the 7th Eco-Agriculture and Food and Safety Forum for the Belt and Road Initiative in Xiamen, Fujian Province from 6 – 9 September, 2016. The forum was attended by over 500 delegates including SPAC delegates from Tonga; Samoa; Nauru and Solomon Islands. Ambassador Naivalurua delivered a speech on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Inia Seruiratu.

The objective of the forum was primarily to promote the central theme of 'Belt and Road' focusing on the four main areas: 1. Strengthening Agriculture Cooperation; 2. Sharing the fruits of development; 3. Food security and Safety; and 4. Agriculture and Food Enterprise "Go Global". The Chinese Belt and Road initiative is key strategy to China's effort in engaging and strengthening cooperation with the countries with the main objective of increasing China's all-round integration and connectivity with Europe, Asia, Africa and the Pacific.

Fiji was the only country from the Pacific, invited as a speaker in one of the sessions. This speaks volumes on the strategic roles of Fiji and China and also China's role as a key player in the trade and development of the Pacific.

Tourism Roadshow Organised by Tourism Fiji and other Tourism Stakeholders

Fiji Embassy China (FEC) worked in collaboration with Tourism Fiji, Fiji Airways, Rosie Tours, Tour Managers, Grand Pacific Hotel, Nanuku Auberge Resort, Captain Cooks Cruises, Mana Island Resort etc. to support the Fiji Tourism Roadshow in China. The Roadshows were staged in four separate cities: Taipei, Shenzhen, Beijing and Shanghai with FEC represented at the Beijing and Shanghai shows, respectively whereby Fiji's Ambassador to China Major General Ioane Naivalurua provided the main remarks at both the shows. HOM's remarks regenerated a lot of positive interest, particularly amongst the potential Chinese investors who were present at the Roadshows.

FEC continues to advocate that China provides Fiji with a huge tourism market and if coordinated well, Fiji should be receiving triple the statistics that it is receiving from this market; 49,000 tourists in 2016.

PROMOTION & AWARENESS RAISING OF FIJI THROUGH PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Jadeine Whiteside Design Fashion Show, Shanghai



Ambassador Naivalurua at the Fijian Fashion Show in Shanghai

Public Diplomacy took an interesting turn in Shanghai with the first ever Fijian Fashion Show showcased by one of the Fijian students (studying in Shanghai), Ms. Jadeine Whiteside, who made her debut show to a crowd of 150 people on 7 July 2016. This event was also attended by Ambassador Naivalurua.

The creative designs depicted Chinese characters on Fijian masi provided an insight on Fijian culture, as well as a fusion with the rich Chinese culture. This was the first time that such a show, purely depicting Fijian masi was being done in China and also symbolizes the types of engagement that the Embassy encourages when doing business in China. It is vital that there is reciprocal understanding of China and the Chinese people, as well as Fiji and the Fijian people.

2016 Pasifika Festival



Fiji's Booth at the 2016 Pasifika Festival

The Fiji High Commission New Zealand participated at the annual 2016 Pasifika Festival on the 25 January with the aim to promote all things Fijian. As the usual trend in the last three years, 'Wellingtonians' flocked the Fiji booth to get a sneak peak of Fiji.

The Pasifika Festival provided the platform for the Mission to promote numerous Government initiatives. This includes advocating for the Fijian Made and Buy Fijian Campaign in particular

the Fijian Crafted brand. There were also questions on Fiji's tourism sector, which enabled the staff to promote Fiji as a tourist destination.

The festival also provided the opportunity for people to buy Fiji's niche products such as Pure Fiji, traditional artifacts, and products from Fiji's creative industry underpinning Fiji's focus on empowerment of women in business and development and poverty alleviation

Korean Community Hosting H.E. the President



H.E. the President with the Fijian community in Korea

The Fijian community in Korea hosted HE the President of the Republic of Fiji-Major General(Retired) Jioji Konusi Konrote to a colorful traditional Fijian dinner and Talanoa Session at the Ambassador's residence on the evening of Tuesday 11 October, 2016. The Fijian community fully enjoyed the session as it gave them the rare opportunity to discuss both personal and national issues directly with H.E. the President. The two trainees who attended the recent

Saemaul-Undong in Seoul also briefed H.E. the President on the issues learned at the recent training and also the two projects that they would implement upon their return to Fiji.

Fiji Rio Gold Victory Celebrations in Canberra



Rio Gold Victory Celebrations in

The Fiji High Commission Canberra, in recognition of the Fiji Seven's Team's historic win at the Rio Olympics, invited all members of the Fijian Community (Diaspora) in Canberra to come together to celebrate at a function on Saturday 20 August 2016. The Fiji High Commission and its partners hosted around 120 people that could watch the projection of the semi-finals and the final game against Great Britain. It was a great night that elevated national spirit — sportsmanship, humility, and love of our country. Even though the event mainly targeted the Fijian community around Canberra, it also included the participation of the Charge' from the Brazilian Embassy and other Pacific Island leaders.

VOU performs for London



VOU Dance Group in London

VOU the renowned Fiji Dance Company visited the Fiji High Commission London to pay a courtesy call to the High Commissioner. The Mission in partnership with Tourism Fiji and with the support of the Pacific Islands Society of the United Kingdom and Ireland (PISUKI) and the Fijian Diaspora successfully hosted an evening that enabled the VOU to mesmerise the crowd with their brilliant performance allowing tourism bloggers to write about Fiji and its amazing culture.

Rugby Cooperation/Development in China



Ambassador Naivalurua with the Chinese Rugby Football Association

Fiji and China have very good political relations as indicated by the high level visit to Fiji by President Xi Jinping in November, 2014 and the reciprocal visit by Hon. Prime Minister Josaia V. Bainimarama in July, 2015. Whilst Formal Diplomatic Relations (FDR) between China and Fiji was established in 1975, Chinese settlers were recorded to be in Fiji for almost 160 years. These relations can be further enhanced through sports diplomacy.

Fiji Embassy China had a meeting on Rugby Cooperation/Development with the Chinese Rugby Football Association on 10 May 2016. Rugby is the heart and soul of Fiji and the MOU on Sports Cooperation established in 2015 sets the platform on which sports in general can be enhanced; rugby cooperation and development qualifies under this umbrella MOU.

According to the Alibaba deal, China intends to develop one million rugby players in the next decade. Fiji has the human resource assets to assist China in developing its cadre of one (1) million rugby players in the next decade; e.g. includes the former Fijian Rugby superstar, Tomasi Cama Senior, who was the 2014 National Team Technical Advisor for China and is currently the coach of the Anhui Women Provincial team, the women rugby champions in China.

Rugby is a commodity which Fiji can market in China. The potential is there for this product to become a niche product in a massive market in Fiji. The onus is on the FRU to take advantage of this opportunity and ride on the ambit of the umbrella MOU on Sports Cooperation which was signed in 2015.

Database for All Fijians in America

A database recording all Fijians in the United States of America, Canada and Mexico has been established and is updated regularly as the Embassy in Washington receives information from the diaspora. One of the challenges of this exercise is that some people (especially the undocumented ones) are reluctant to provide their details, with the fear that the Embassy might disclose their details to the U.S. authorities.

The Embassy has assured them that this is merely to keep a tab on the number of Fijians in the U.S.A, Canadian and Mexican regions. This will also enable the Embassy to update them on important events or announcements. In addition, the Embassy now keeps a record of all Fijians detained at U.S. penitentiaries or ports of entry.

Fiji-Queensland Trade and Investment Symposium



Hon. PM and Fiji Delegation at the Symposium

The Fiji-Queensland Trade and Investment Symposium had been held on, 20 July, 2017 at the Stamford Plaza, Brisbane. The theme of the event was *'Building a Resilient Fiji-Queensland Economic Partnership'*.

The Hon. Prime Minister, Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama was key speaker at the event and led the Fijian delegation including Minister of Industry, Trade, Tourism, Lands and Resources, Hon. Faiyaz Siddiq Koya, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Inia Seruiratu and key government agency heads of departments and staff. The senior delegation inclusive of both government and private sector officials attended the event and provided perspective on Fiji's trade support mechanisms, government support systems and explained how all these in turn leads to a favourable investment climate. They also highlighted opportunities that will strengthen the appeal through interlinked objectives and facilitated face to face connections between prospective interests.

Cultural Diplomacy in Korea

Fiji's Embassy in Korea participated in various different initiatives throughout 2017 that promoted cultural diplomacy.

This included participation in the annual World Cooking Festival, May 30, 2017, was held at the Gwanghwamun Square in Seoul where the Embassy promoted Fiji Bitter and Fiji Water at the

event. Mission made a request to distributors of Fiji Water and Fiji Beer in Korea for sponsorship.

Another event, the 32nd Korea World Travel Fair, 1 - 4 June 2017 in Seoul where the Mission showcased Buy Fiji Made, Fiji Grown and Fiji Produced items in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism.

In addition the Embassy participated in the 32nd Korea World Travel Fair, 1 - 4 June 2017, held at COEX in Seoul. The four-day exhibition concluded with over three hundred (300) visitors to the Fiji booth and an overwhelming response and queries about the sale of Fiji Bitter, Fiji Gold and Fiji Water. Fiji's presence at the event helped to promote Fiji not only as a romantic travel destination but also as an ideal destination for a relaxing family holiday. According to the Korea Statistics, nearly eight thousand (8,000) Korean citizens visited Fiji in 2016 and this figure has seen an increment since 2014.

SECTORAL PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

PROACTIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science 'Sakura Science Program 2016'



Ambassador Mataitoga and Ambassador Tupou with respective reps from Fiji and Tonga

Five (5) Form-Six students from Jai Narayan College (JNC) represented Fiji in the Sakura Science Program 2016 in Tokyo, Japan. This was organized by the Japan Science and Technology Agency under the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). The five students namely Neha Raj; Adi Ruci Raiwalui; Gurdish Kaur; Jope Nainoca and Prashant Chand were also accompanied by JNC Science Teacher, Mr. Leanaitasi Qionimacawa.

The programme was initially launched in 2014 for Asian Youths, however expanded to Central Asia and Asia-Pacific regions from 2016. Participating countries in the week long programme

included Science students from China, Fiji, Marshall, Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, and Tonga.

In giving his remarks at the Farewell Reception on 22 July 2016, Ambassador Mataitoga, (Fiji's Ambassador to Japan) stressed on the importance of such science and technology exchanges for our high school students.

28th Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APPC)



Ambassador Mataitoga with Fiji JAs at Narita

Four (4) students from Draiba Primary School (DPS) represented Fiji as Junior Ambassadors (JAs) to the 28th Asian-Pacific Children's Convention 2016 in Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan. The four students namely Josefa Matawalu; Savirio Waqa; Alisi Rayawa and Loise Lalabalavu were also accompanied by DPS Head Teacher Mrs Teresia Suka and Doctor Ashna Murti from Labasa Hospital.

It was noted that this is the twenty-sixth time Fiji

has participated in the APPC grass-roots intercultural exchange program designed for 11 year old children from various countries and regions in the Asia-Pacific, with the objective to promote mutual understanding between the Asia-Pacific regions and countries; and to nurture an international perspective in youth and foster a supportive environment. Fiji JAs thoroughly enjoyed their two-week stay in Fukuoka, which included a performance event on the 18 July and home stays from 15 – 23 July 2016.

Ambassador Mataitoga whilst bidding farewell to the team at Narita International Airport had highlighted the importance of such cultural exchanges and learning.

Study Tour on Public-Sector Reform by Kiribati

A delegation from Kiribati had been in-country undertaking a study tour in order to learn from Fiji's Civil Service Reform as the Kiribati Government is currently undergoing a public-sector reform aimed at improving efficiency and productivity within the public sector in March 2017. The delegation included the Kiribati Permanent Secretary for Public Service, Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and two officials from the Public Service Office. Meetings were organized by the Roving Ambassador's Division with the Ministry of Civil Service, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health.

Bio-Security Authority of Fiji – New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industry

Bio-Security Authority of Fiji (BAF) and their New Zealand Counterparts signed action items on 7th June 2017 paving the way for Fiji's agricultural products accessing the New Zealand market. At this meeting, a major announcement made was the lifting of the ban imposed on all exports of egg plants from Fiji to New Zealand in April 2017.

The BAF CEO also stated that the two agencies will strengthen cooperation and BAF Fiji will be committed towards utilising capacity building programmes offered by the NZ MPI as an avenue to strengthen cooperation between the two authorities.

This had been the result of the various meetings between the Fiji High Commission in Wellington, Senior Management from Bio-Security Authority of Fiji and New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

16th Asia Security Summit



Minister of Defense, Hon Ratu Inoke Kubuabola with the Fiji delegation during bilateral meeting in Singapore

Fiji's First Secretary to Indonesia Pauliasi Tokasaya facilitated the participation of the Fiji Delegation that was led by the Minister for Defence & National Security, Hon. Ratu Inoke Kubuabola to the Shangri La Dialogue, from 02 – 04 June 2017. It is a forum where issues on Asia-Pacific security and cooperation will feature strongly with expectations that increased diplomacy will drive successful discussions. Certain development issues surrounding the US Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) systems, the fight against terrorism, the China proposed Belt and Road Initiative were some of the issues that were discussed.

The Belt and Road Initiative is seen as a platform to the region to achieve common development which will also contribute to regional peace and security. It is the first time for Fiji to participate in the forum. Other members of the Fiji Delegation were the Commander of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces, Rear Admiral Viliame Naupoto and three other Defence Officials

RSE Visit - Minister, Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations

The delegation from the Ministry of Employment headed by the Minister, Hon. Jone Usamate, and accompanied by Fiji's High Commissioner to New Zealand Filimone Waqabaca visited various regions in New Zealand from 20th to 24th February 2017 where Fijian workers from Fiji are employed under the New Zealand RSE and the pilot Christchurch Rebuild Labour Mobility Schemes. The visit enabled the team from Fiji and the Mission to market the Fijian workers to current and potential employers.

During this visit the Fiji delegation met with their counterparts in New Zealand, the Ministry of Business Immigration and Employment (MBIE). The meeting confirmed that RSE workers from Fiji have increased from the pilot of 30 workers in 2015 to now a quota of 321 by the end of the 2016/2017 year.

MBIE confirmed that this has been the fastest growth seen since RSE started and is due to the aggressive promotion and marketing by the Mission to existing and particularly potential new employers, which has reaped results and in close coordination and partnership with the Ministry of Employment & Industrial Relations.

The visit also provided a platform for MFAT to highlight New Zealand's position on PACER PLUS negotiations. The MFAT officials emphasized that only signatories to PACER PLUS will participate in the new labour mobility initiatives and the Labour Mobility Annual Meeting - a platform for cooperation.

Thailand's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy

Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) was introduced as an approach for sustainable development which espoused moderation, reasonableness and prudence as development framework based on knowledge and virtue. The Philosophy attaches great importance to human development at all levels and emphasizes the need to strengthen community's capacity to ensure a balanced way of life and resilience, with full respect for the environment.

The concept of SEP aligns with many goals and targets across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, some of the more prominent applications of the SEP in our sustainable development endeavor include poverty eradication, food security, sustainable economic growth, sustainable industrialization and sustainable consumption and production. As an approach and mindset framework, SEP can be applied with all 17 SDGs and therefore could support and complement the successful implementation and realization of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

Over the recent years, Thailand has been able to share with international community the application of SEP, our home-grown approach to sustainable development. A partnership had been finalised between the Macuata Provincial Council and the Thailand International Cooperation Agency on the implementation of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP). The implementation of the SEP will focus on sustainable agriculture.

Rural Development-Saemaul-Undong Project – South Korea

There are three (3) projects under the Samael-undong Project mainly, the Nabavatu Project, Silana, Tailevu Project and the Navatuyaba Project. The 3 villages of Nabavatu, Silana and Navatuyaba have continued to push for their two projects. The villages are now embarking on their second project which is the utilization of unused land close to the village.

An inspection was carried on the works of the Nabavatu Project. The waste recycle extraction point has already been identified in a previous report whereas the land utilization has already commenced with phase one being the fish pond. The second stage of the project is centered on cassava planting for subsistence and commercial purposes. Phase 2 of the project is currently underway.

In respect to the Silana and Tailevu Project, both of these are on waste recycling and land utilization have been implemented and are ongoing. For the Navatuyaba Project, the first project on waste disposal is currently underway with the assistance of the Department of Environment on awareness-raising.

Fiji's Membership to the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB)

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) began operations in January 2016 and is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia. The Bank's headquarters is located in Beijing.

The AIIB is an international financial institution which is focused on supporting infrastructure construction. It is regarded by some as a rival for the IMF, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

The Board of Governors of the AIIB approved Fiji's application to join the Bank on 23 March 2017. Fiji is now a prospective member and will officially join the AIIB once the required domestic processes are completed and deposit the first installment of capital with the Bank.

Wood Pellet for Export - GIMCO Project

GIMCO, a biomass energy company has undertaken an estimated USD 200 million (FJD 413.06m) project. The project aims to export 500,000 ton of wood pellets (renewable energy) annually to South Korea and other countries. The processing plant will be constructed in Dawasamu, Tailevu and the company has highlighted other places such as Luvunavuaka and Tanavuso and Saioko on the coast of Ra for construct a jetty to ease with the exporting process. It would also include 24 MW biomass power plant reducing diesel import by 11 million gallon per year. The wood pellet project is expected to commence in May 2017.

Commissioning of GIMCO's Biomass Factory



Commissioning of the Biomass Factory

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum officiated at the opening ceremony as chief guest of the Nabou Green Energy New 12MW Biomass Power Plant on 27 July, 2017 in Nabou. The forty eight (48)-million USD project aims to strengthen Fiji's energy sector by using biomass (wood) to produce electricity. This is in line with Fiji's stance in combatting climate change and will be an added boost for COP23.

This is the first time Fiji has a biomass plant that will supply electricity to the Fiji Electricity Authority electricity grid. Government has allocated over \$29million for the Grid Extension Projects to ensure Fijians are connected to the electricity grid.

There are many people in Fiji who do not have access to electricity and the aim remains towards ensuring that Fijians are connected to electricity, connected to good roads and connected to water. In fact, the Fijian Government has an objective that by 2030 Fiji will have renewable energy.

Mr. Sayed-Khaiyum had stated during the commissioning that Fiji is committed towards creating an environment, where it is not only good for foreign businesses but for the betterment of landowners and all Fijians.

Naval Officers Undergo Echo-Sounder Training



Fiji Naval Officers undergo skills training to operate a multi-beam echo-sounder

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Ministry of Defence and Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency, the Marine Information Technology (MIT) delegation had been Fiji during July 2017 to conduct 30-day training with the Fiji Hydrographic Office. The joint hydrographic training between the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency

(KHOA) and the Fiji Hydrographic Office was conducted at the Pacific Harbour, Fiji, supported by KHOA. The survey was conducted using a multi-beam echo sounder, which had been donated to Fiji afterward. Fiji has only had a single-beam echo sounder but the survey training and the equipment will enable them to have full bottom coverage that the international maritime community requires to visit Fijian ports.

Following this initial training in Fiji, MIT has now invited two (2) representatives, namely Mr. Ben Wilhelm Cavuilati and Mr. Abel Lagivola from the Fiji Navy to continue developing their technical skills and expertise by offering hands-on technical training for the next two (2) months in Korea. The costs associated with training including accommodation and meals will be covered by the MIT office in Geumcheon-gu, Seoul.

Hooxi Water

W-Foundation has formed a business partnership with Aqua Fiji to produce bottled water called Hooxi water from Fiji. Y.G. Chang is in the process of constructing a large-scale factory in Tavua (171 ha) to extract mineral water. The Embassy has been informed that Hooxi Water would be solely used a promotional product to promote shopping at Lotte Duty Free Store this year, however, it is yet to be determined when the product will be released in the Korean retail market. The Fiji Mission in Korea received 2 boxes of Hooxi Water on 2 August 2017. W-Foundation, a non-profit organization (NPO) established in May 2012 in Korea, started production of bottled water in Fiji under the

HIGH QUALITY
CLEAN WATER FROM
FIJI (FJI)

HOOXI WATER is extracted and bottled from Fiji, Fiji's purest source of water.

WITH SILICA

HOOXI WATER contains largest amount of silica compared to other products in the market. Silica helps human body with the absorption of calcium, skin/hair care and prevention of Alzheimer's disease.

TYPICAL ANALYSIS

Silica	79-97
Calcium	15-38
Sodium	7-15
Potassium	0.2-2
Magnesium	9-22
Fluorine	0.1-0.3
TDS	250-287
pH	8.0

HOOXI WATER is the creating shared value business (CSV) that helps the climate refugees in South Pacific countries.

name of Hooxi Water and the first shipment of 15 containers of the water had arrived in July in Korea. The domestic distributor of the water is W-HAT, a company run by W-Foundation.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND OCEANS DIPLOMACY

CLIMATE CHANGE DIPLOMACY

Fiji is the First Country in the World to Ratify Paris Agreement



Fiji is among the nations most vulnerable to the effects of climate change

Fiji became the first country in the world to formally approve the UN climate deal agreed by 195 nations in Paris in December, 2015 after the Parliament ratified the Paris Agreement in February, 2016. Tackling climate change is a major priority for the nation, which could face wide-scale flooding, fiercer tropical storms, and depleting fish stocks as a result of the world's changing climate.

The Paris agreement in order to formally take effect needs at least 55 countries, representing at least 55% of the world's climate emissions, to ratify the treaty. During the 2016 Opening for Signature of the Paris Agreement, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 22 April, 175 Parties (174 countries and the European Union) signed the Agreement, and 15 States deposited instruments of ratification.

Fiji has pledged to generate 100% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030 and also promised to cut overall emissions from its energy sector by 30% by 2030 compared to business-as-usual, conditional on it receiving climate finance from industrialised nations under the National Climate Action Plan.

32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries, Italy

The Thirty-second Session of the Committee on Fisheries was held in Rome from 11-15 July. In light of the leading role Fiji plays with regard to SDG14, the Mission in close consultation with the Department of Fisheries prepared a National Statement to be delivered at the COFI Meeting on the Oceans Conference. This statement was delivered at the COFI Meeting by H.E Ambassador Deo Saran on 13 July.

Yeosu International Oceans Forum

First Secretary-Joreti Dakuwaqa attended the Yeosu International Oceans Forum 2016 which was held in Yeosu City, South Korea from 24 to 25 October 2016. The Republic of Korea had adopted the Yeosu Declaration at an international Expo held at the same venue in 2012 with the

Theme “The Living Ocean and Coast”. The Yeosu project was aimed at promoting sustainable development of the ocean at the Global level and the expo was the launchpad for the International Oceans project as it prepares to implement projects in developing countries around the world. So far 24 developing countries and 7 international organizations have been supported through the initiative and the 2016 forum is organized to review the results of those programmes that have been implemented and seek further ways to increase the programs under the Yeosu project.

The 2016 forum also provided a platform to reflect on the significance of the ocean partnership with developing countries based on the advanced marine technologies of Korea and an opportunity to keep abreast with the related global trends and Marine and Oceans information.

UN Oceans Conference 2017



The high-level United Nations Conference on Oceans, co-hosted by Fiji and Sweden, was held in New York from 5 – 9 June 2017 and coincided with the World Oceans Day 2017, on 8 June. The Conference had been in support of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. The overarching theme of the Conference had been ‘Our Oceans, Our Future: Partnering for the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14’. Topics discussed ranged from plastic pollution in the oceans and seas to ocean acidification and illegal fishing – which tie in with topics of alleviating poverty, ending hunger, promoting health, ensuring access to water and sanitation, and so on. The Conference had a total of eight (8) plenary meetings and seven (7) partnership dialogues, 150 side events and 41 exhibitions and interviews at the SDG Media Zone.

The outcomes of the Conference included the adoption by consensus of a 14-point Call for Action where the participating Heads of State and Government and senior representatives affirmed their strong commitment to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

In addition to the political Call for Action, participants including civil society representatives, academics, artists, financial institutions and other practitioners and activists pledged actions to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.

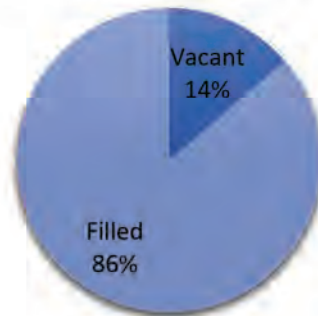
OUR PEOPLE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs values its people very much. Our workforce is our greatest strength in achieving our vision.

For the 2016/2017 year our workforce comprised of 146 positions including Headquarters and Missions. The bar graph below illustrates the workforce strength for the Ministry during the year.

Figure 1: Strength of MOFA Workforce:

Workforce Strength for MOFA

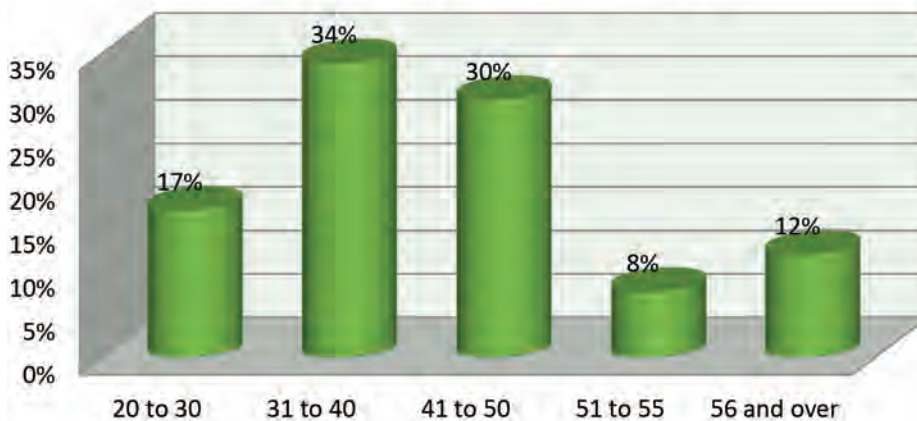


Of the 126 filled positions the Ministry had a workforce that had been male dominated with 54% Males to 46% Females. The Ministry is an equal opportunity employer and committed to ensuring that initiatives and activities implemented have a good representation of both genders in the processing of vacant positions in future.

Figure 2 below illustrates the age demographics for the Ministry's workforce during the 2016/2017 period. The Ministry had a well distributed workforce that is a combination of well experienced and new and young people on board.

Figure 2: Age Profile of MOFA's Workforce:

Age Demographics for MOFA



The Ministry is committed towards maintaining a highly capable workforce that is able to deliver to the best of their ability. There are various training and capacity building initiatives that the Ministry encourages to ensure a right fit workforce.

In the 2016/2017 period a total 94 trainings were provided to staff. Figure 3 illustrates the overseas and local trainings include reform trainings that had been attended by the Ministry staff.

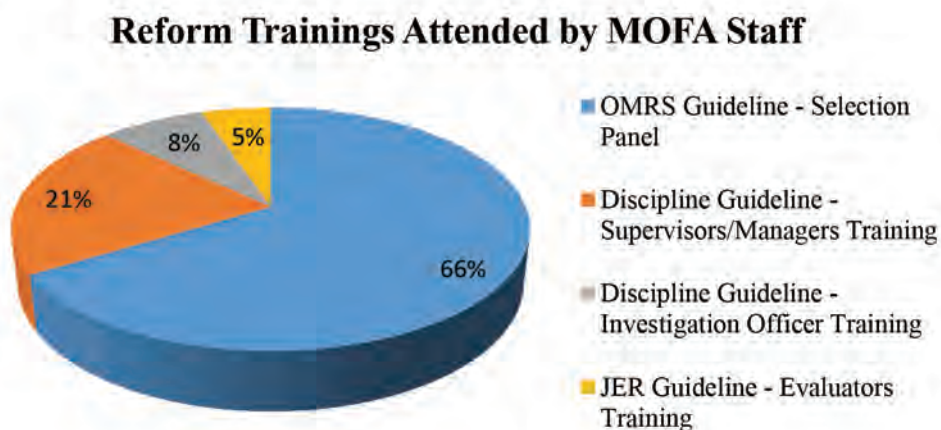
Figure 3: Total Trainings Conducted:



In April 2016, the Civil Service Reform Unit (CSRMU) introduced the Open Merit Recruitment and Selection System (OMRS) and Job Evaluation Review (JER) Guidelines. This had been part of the Government’s reform agenda towards a more efficient and effective public service where the service could attract, recruit and retain well qualified personnel to enhance the productivity and efficiency of the service.

The Ministry has been committed towards training staff on the reforms that have been on-going in the civil service to ensure sustainability in the implementation of the relevant processes.

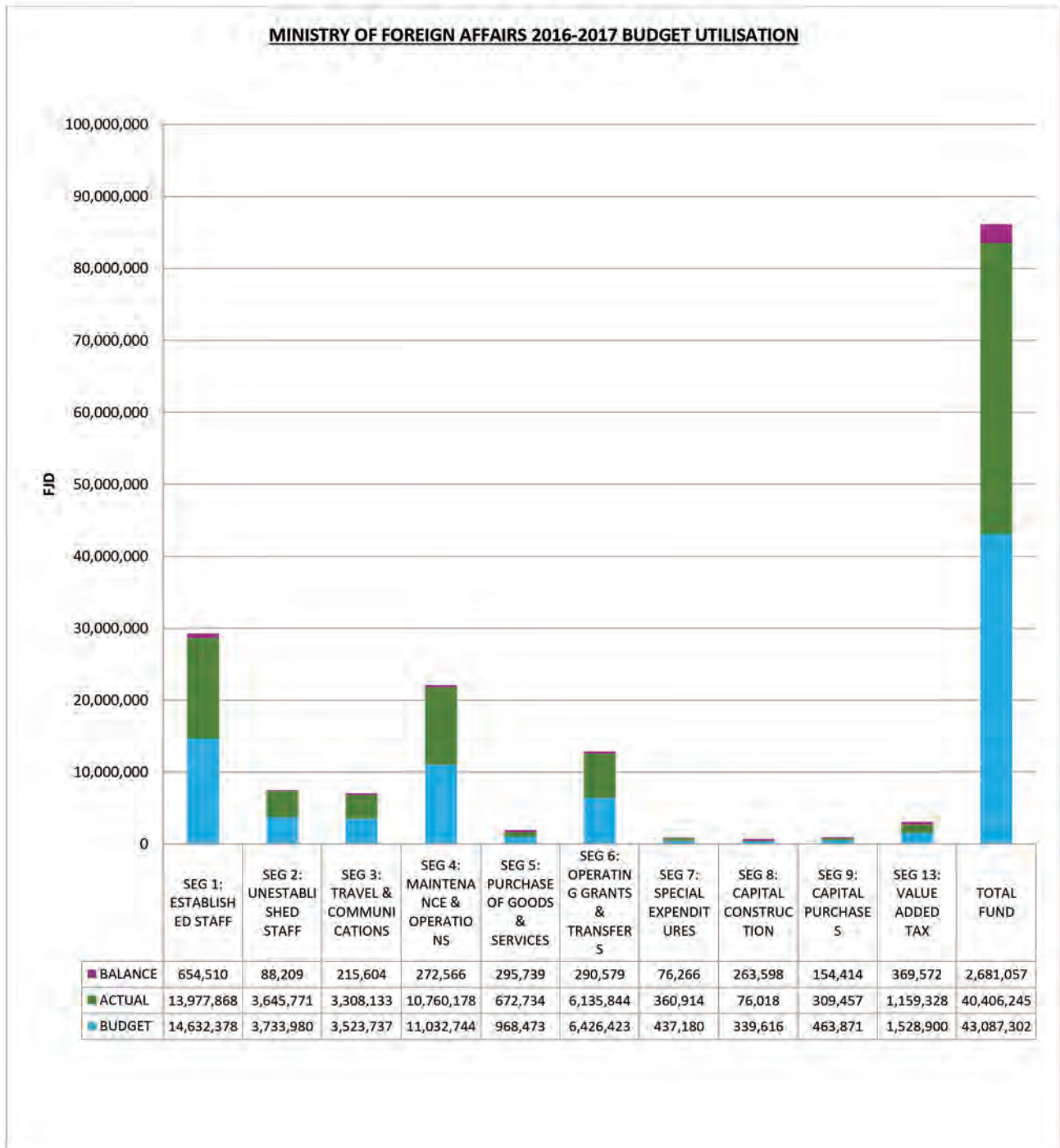
Figure 3: Reform Trainings attended by the Ministry Staff:



Staffs have been encouraged to attend training programs that address competency gaps to ensure that they perform to the optimum. The workforce learning and growth shows the commitment of the Ministry towards investment in its workforce which leads to high performance rates.

MINISTRY'S APPROPRIATION

The Ministry's appropriation for the year was \$43.1m. Total budget utilisation for the year ended 31st July 2017 was at 93.8%. The column chart below illustrates the financial expenditure summary for 2016/2017 fiscal year:



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

COUNTRIES WITH WHICH FIJI HAS FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS (FDR)

Total of 182 FDR's established as off 31/07/17

AFRICAN GROUP

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1) Algeria | 22) Kenya |
| 2) Angola | 23) Liberia |
| 3) Benin | 24) Malawi |
| 4) Botswana | 25) Mali |
| 5) Burkina Faso | 26) Mauritania |
| 6) Burundi | 27) Mauritius |
| 7) Cape Verde | 28) Morocco |
| 8) Central African Republic | 29) Mozambique |
| 9) Chad | 30) Niger |
| 10) Comoros | 31) Senegal |
| 11) Cote d'Ivoire | 32) Seychelles |
| 12) Congo | 33) Sierra Leone |
| 13) Djibouti | 34) Somalia |
| 14) Egypt | 35) South Africa |
| 15) Equatorial Guinea | 36) South Sudan |
| 16) Eritrea | 37) Sudan |
| 17) Ethiopia | 38) Swaziland |
| 18) Gambia | 39) Tanzania |
| 19) Ghana | 40) Togo |
| 20) Guinea -Bissau | 41) Uganda |
| 21) Guinea | |

ASIA-PACIFIC GROUP

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1) Afghanistan | 9) Cyprus |
| 2) Bangladesh | 10) Democratic People's
Republic of Korea |
| 3) Bahrain | 11) India |
| 4) Bhutan | 12) Indonesia |
| 5) Brunei Darussalam | 13) Iran, Islamic Republic of |
| 6) Cambodia | 14) Iraq |
| 7) China, PR | 15) Japan |
| 8) Cook Islands | |

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 16) Jordan | 35) Papua New Guinea |
| 17) Kazakhstan | 36) Philippines |
| 18) Kiribati | 37) Qatar |
| 19) Kuwait | 38) Republic of Korea |
| 20) Kyrgyzstan | 39) Samoa |
| 21) Lao People's Democratic
Republic | 40) Saudi Arabia |
| 22) Lebanon | 41) Singapore |
| 23) Malaysia | 42) Solomon Islands |
| 24) Maldives | 43) Sri Lanka |
| 25) Marshall Islands | 44) Syria |
| 26) Micronesia | 45) Tajikistan |
| 27) Mongolia | 46) Thailand |
| 28) Myanmar | 47) Tonga |
| 29) Nauru | 48) Turkmenistan |
| 30) Nepal | 49) Tuvalu |
| 31) Niue | 50) United Arab Emirates |
| 32) Oman | 51) Uzbekistan |
| 33) Pakistan | 52) Vanuatu |
| 34) Palau | 53) Viet Nam |
| | 54) Yemen |

GROUP OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES (GRULAC)

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1) Antigua and Barbuda | 16) Grenada |
| 2) Argentina | 17) Guatemala |
| 3) Bahamas | 18) Guyana |
| 4) Barbados | 19) Haiti |
| 5) Belize | 20) Honduras |
| 6) Bolivia | 21) Jamaica |
| 7) Brazil | 22) Mexico |
| 8) Chile | 23) Nicaragua |
| 9) Colombia | 24) Panama |
| 10) Costa Rica | 25) Paraguay |
| 11) Cuba | 26) Peru |
| 12) Dominica | 27) Saint Kitts and Nevis |
| 13) Dominican Republic | 28) Saint Lucia |
| 14) Ecuador | 29) Saint Vincent and the
Grenadines |
| 15) El Salvador | |

- 30) Suriname
- 31) Trinidad and Tobago

- 32) Uruguay
- 33) Venezuela

EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP

- 1) Albania
- 2) Armenia
- 3) Azerbaijan
- 4) Belarus
- 5) Bosnia & Herzegovina
- 6) Bulgaria
- 7) Croatia
- 8) Czech Republic
- 9) Estonia
- 10) Georgia
- 11) Hungary
- 12) Latvia
- 13) Lithuania

- 14) Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic of)
- 15) Montenegro
- 16) Moldova
- 17) Poland
- 18) Republic of Kosovo
- 19) Romania
- 20) Russian Federation
- 21) Serbia
- 22) Slovakia
- 23) Slovenia
- 24) Ukraine

WESTERN EUROPE AND OTHERS GROUP (WEOG)

- 1) Andorra
- 2) Australia
- 3) Austria
- 4) Belgium
- 5) Canada
- 6) Denmark
- 7) Finland
- 8) France
- 9) Germany
- 10) Greece
- 11) Holy See
- 12) Iceland
- 13) Ireland
- 14) Israel
- 15) Italy

- 16) Liechtenstein
- 17) Luxembourg
- 18) Malta
- 19) Monaco
- 20) Netherlands
- 21) New Zealand
- 22) Norway
- 23) Portugal
- 24) San Marino
- 25) Spain
- 26) Sweden
- 27) Turkey
- 28) Switzerland
- 29) United Kingdom
- 30) United States of America

VISITS TO FIJI

Date	Visits	Purpose	Outcomes
14-17 February 2016	The Thai Minister for Agriculture	To hold meetings with his counterpart on Agricultural assistance from Thailand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MOUs signed in December, 2015 has been the first step to many possibilities that we can explore cooperation in Agriculture and Fisheries. • The Thai Minister has announced that Thailand will host the first meeting for both MOUs in April, 2016
7-8 March 2016	3 rd Joint Military Cooperation talks between the UAE and Fiji	To visit the Blackrock Academy, a centerpiece of civilian-military cooperation that will encompass integrated regional peacekeeping and disaster management response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing on the post Cyclone Winston rebuilding process and bilateral discussions on capacity building, reciprocal visits and RFMF's interest in specialized equipment for disaster response
20-22 May 2016	Fujian Agriculture Department Exploratory Visit	part of the exploratory visit by the Fujian Agriculture department with potential investors intending to invest in the processing of Sweet potatoes and Breadfruits for exporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two of the Fujian companies established a Terms of Reference with the JUNCAO Mushroom Project, Legalega Agriculture Research Station for the processing of breadfruits and sweet potatoes. • The delegation also visited some farms in Nadi and Naitasiri area to assess the quantity and varieties of breadfruits and sweet potatoes.
11 – 22 July 2016	Scoping team from the Government of Chile through the ITC-EU donor support Programme	Conduct a scoping study towards the improvement of key services to agriculture, livestock and livestock products with focus on the areas of food safety and quality as well as sanitary inspection and certification processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions focused on the provision of technical support through the Chilean Agricultural and Livestock Services and the Chilean Agency for Food Safety and Quality (ACHIPA) in the areas of food safety and quality as well as phytosanitary inspection and certification processes

Date	Visits	Purpose	Outcomes
24 - 29 July 2016	Fukuoka Prefectural Assembly Members, Chairman Hidetoshi Shiokawa, and the Assembly Members together with OISCA Japan Officials	Conduct annual inspections on the projects supported by the OISCA International Activity Promotion Fukuoka Prefectural Assembly League.	Meeting with the Hon. Laisenia Bale Tuitubou MP, Minister for Youth & Sports Handing-over of a cheque of JPY300,000 to the Hon. Minister, as contribution towards the TC Winston Relief Appeal.
12 August 2016	Australian Foreign Minister, Hon Julie Bishop	Attend the 1 st annual Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Suva, Fiji	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Island countries have a close and important relationship - working together to enhance economic growth, sustainable development, good governance and security in our region • increase cooperation to combat illegal fishing in the region through aerial surveillance, delivered through Australia's Pacific Maritime Security Program • the significant progress made by the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) and the Solomon Islands Government in advance of RAMSI's scheduled conclusion in July 2017
12 August 2016	Australian Senator and Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Hon Concetta Fierravanti-Wells	to hold bilateral talks with senior government officials as well as visit areas affected by Severe Tropical Cyclone Winston	Reaffirm the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia's strong and enduring friendship with Fiji, which is based on extensive people-to-people links and important trade and investment ties • Australia's commitment to supporting Fiji's longer-term recovery and reconstruction following Tropical Cyclone Winston
17 to 20 August 2016	Members of the Australian Defence Force	HMAS Canberra, one of the two largest ships ever constructed by the Royal Australian Navy,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted combined training exercises with members of

Date	Visits	Purpose	Outcomes
	(ADF)	deployed to Fiji as part of Operation FIJI ASSIST 2016, conducted a port visit to Suva	the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) to further enhance the two countries' strong defense co-operation partnership, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The visit provides an opportunity for the ADF and RFMF to build on the friendships made in the aftermath of Severe TC Winston and enhance Australia and Fiji's strong defense co-operation partnership.
20 – 24 September, 2016	China's National Under-18 Women's Basketball Team	attests to the implementation of the MOU signed in July 2015 with "Basketball" being utilized to spearhead the initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The visit connotes the implementation of the MOU on Sports Cooperation signed between Fiji and China during the visit to China of the Hon. Prime Minister Bainimarama in July, 2015. Basketball therefore is being utilised to spearhead the implementation of the MOU.
25 – 28 September, 2016	Vice-Minister of Agriculture Of PRC Mr. Zhang Taolin	The 3rd Meeting of Fiji-China Joint Committee on Agriculture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rapid growth of bilateral trade of agro-products between Fiji and China. • A strengthened cooperation would serve the fundamental interests of both parties. • It would not only promote the agricultural development in the two countries, but also help to maintain world food security, and speed up the recovery of global economy.
12 – 13 October 2016	The Vice-Governor of Shandong	Explore opportunities of further strengthening and enhancing cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To explore opportunities of further strengthening and enhancing cooperation between Fiji and the Province, with a focus on the two cities Lautoka and Suva.
7 – 10 November 2016	The Mayor of the City of Oita, Mr Kiichiro Sato and 22-member delegation including Fiji's	To strengthen bilateral relations between Fiji and Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions on sports and education cooperation prospects • Emphasis on the invitation by the City of Oita for High School students to visit Oita

Date	Visits	Purpose	Outcomes
	Honorary Consul in Beppu, Prefectural and City officials, and representatives from the Business community, Tourism industry		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> on a sport exchange program • Fiji and Oita to continue engagement and implementation of the Japan Exchange Teaching (JET) Programme • Ministry of Youth & Sports Fiji and the City of Oita Signs Declaration of Intent • Exploration of Business Opportunities in Fiji
9 – 12 November 2016	The Governor of Akita Prefecture, Mr Norihisa Satake and 19-member delegation including the Mayor of Akita City, Speaker of the Akita Prefectural Assembly, Chairman of the Akita Chamber of Commerce & Industry, President of the Akita Rugby Football Association, the Prefectural and City officials, and Spouses	To strengthen bilateral relations between Fiji and Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiji Ministry of Youth & Sports Inks Declaration of Intent with Akita Prefecture/City • Offer by Akita Prefecture in hosting Fiji during the 2019 Rugby World Cup and the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. • The cooperation between Fiji and Akita, Japan is focused on both Youth and Sports development and enhancement • Exploration of Business Opportunities in Fiji
15 – 23 January, 2017	Potential Investors from the Qinhuangdao Decheng Commercial Trading Co. Ltd, Beijing	<p>Explore interest/intent to invest in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offshore Fishing; • Building wooden and steel fishing boats; • Cold Storage with the capacity of 600 tons of Fish per year; • Fish Powder Product line (supplement feed for livestock including fish reserves); and • Agricultural farming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties agreed on the establishment of the a Fish Powder Factory which is envisioned to add value to Fiji’s marine resources; • Investment Fiji supported the initiative but advised on wider consultation with the Ministry of Fisheries and the customary owners.
16 – 25 January 2017	The President of Kiribati, H.E Taneti Maamau and his delegation	One of the purposes of the visit was for the Kiribati delegation to explore ways in which the Natoavatu Estate could be best	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration of the Northern Division and in particular, the Natoavatu Estate and Rabi Island.

Date	Visits	Purpose	Outcomes
		utilized.	
January 2017	Delegation from Korea Appraisal Board	Follow up on the project proposal that was submitted to Lands department in November 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reassured the key stakeholders on the need for the new system to be adopted by Fiji due to its efficient and effective provision of land and real estate information to clients and even the general public • The Ministry of Lands has since taken the lead role in working with us and the KAB team in Seoul to finalize the draft project proposal which will be submitted to KOICA for possible funding
February 2017	Pax & Partners, Korea	Biomass plant and Port Development in Vanua Levu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions on the purchase of land for the proposed site.
February 2017	Mokpo Maritime University delegation	To confirm potential sites for shipyard building in Fiji	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for shipyard building project in Fiji
7 – 13 February 2017	Delegation from the Korea-Fiji Friendship Association (KFFA)	The objective of the trip was to promote the development of trade and economy relations between small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in both countries and to gather information on processes involved in running a business in Fiji.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First official business trip to Fiji • Continued support to enhance the business cooperation between Fiji and Korea
6 – 10 March 2017	Jakarta Fire and Rescue Visit	The Indonesian Officials visited Fiji to conduct a survey on the training needs of the NFA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indonesian Government will then on their return analyse the training and equipment requirements then send a team again to Fiji in July, to conduct the actual training. • The NFA and the Fiji Government has a lot to benefit from these trips as it will increase capacity building and assist in the provision of equipment the NFA lacks
12 – 17 March 2017	Ministry of Public Works and	The Indonesian Officials visited Fiji to conduct a survey on its	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon the completion of the survey, the team will

Date	Visits	Purpose	Outcomes
	Housing	infrastructure needs.	evaluate and assess the needs and provide a list of areas of cooperation that Indonesia can assist Fiji, this may include provision on expertise, aid assistance, machines etc., that will assist Fiji's infrastructural needs, in areas such as urban development, governance, green Initiatives, human resource development and human settlements
25 – 29 March 2017	The Chairman of the China Poly Group	Explore on five major areas of business: international trade , real estate, culture, business, energy and commercial explosive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to contribute extensively to the disciplines listed
25 March to 3 April 2017	South Pacific Chiropractic Clinic Abroad	U.S. based group made up of 35 doctors of chiropractic on their trip to Fiji to conduct free healthcare checks, treatments, and screenings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinics conducted in Rewa, Nausori, Dilkusha Home, Sigatoka and Nadi • Courtesy call on H.E the President of Fiji, Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote.
3 – 7 April 2017	The Indonesian Government in partnership with the Ciputra Entrepreneurship Centre	Conduct Ciputra Entrepreneurship Phase III Training on Entrepreneurship Mentoring and Evaluation Workshop in Suva	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The workshop provided a platform for the participants to share their views, expand their business and marketing skills and review Phase I and II training previously conducted in Jakarta. • Business sites visited in Fiji included Iskaeka'e Weaving (Lokia), "Oilelei" Designs (Nakorovou), New Venture Forest (Wainadoi), Passion Fruit Farm (Deuba), Tadra Flowers (Martintar), Vee's Organic Farm (Sabeto), Tifui Nursery (Sabeto) and Fiji Corrections Service. • The training is also a networking opportunity for Fijian business women to co-operate with partners from other countries outside of Fiji.

Date	Visits	Purpose	Outcomes
5 – 12 April 2017	Representatives of Korea Environment Corporation (KECO)	Discuss the Project concept paper (PCP) on “Improvement of Small-Scale Sewage System in the Republic of Fiji” and the data for the pilot project area in the Dawasamu Medical zone so they can finalize the proposal before it is submitted for funding by the Korean Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitation and Hygiene Development Project in Dawasamu Medical zone
18 – 22 April, 2017	China’s Special Representative on Climate Change, Ambassador Xie Zhenhua	Bilaterals with PM. Hon. Bainimarama, Minister for Agriculture, Hon. Seruiratu, Minister for Local Government, Hon. Bala and Chief Climate Change Negotiator, Ambassador Khan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened relations and more support towards Fiji’s bid towards COP23
20 – 28 April 2017	3 member delegation with representatives from Korea Energy Agency (KEA) and Woojin Industries	To determine target areas for Feasibility Study after having preliminary consultation with respective Fijian Government Departments and other relevant authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micro-grid System project called “Village Micro-grid (VMG) System” either in Viti Levu or Vanua Levu
April 2017	Eight member delegation from the Court of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who is also Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces	A week-long scoping mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made a call on the President Jioji Konrote and the Hon Prime Minister. • MITT facilitated the group’s visit to several agricultural, tourism, water project sites, several niche market producers and schools affected by TC Winston for which a donation of US\$5 million was announced by the Emirates Red Crescent. • The delegation also explored sites for one of the Abu Dhabi Government owned hotel chains operating under the renowned brand, Four Seasons hotels.
15 - 19 May 2017	The High Commission participated in the New Zealand Fiji Business Council’s (NZFBC) business mission	The programme included a business investment seminar as depicted below where the delegation was given insights into the business environment and into doing business in Fiji. The business mission coincided with the Super Rugby game	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twelve New Zealand companies drawn from diverse sectors as engineering services, consulting engineers, training, construction and manufacturing materials supplies, shipping, aluminum

Date	Visits	Purpose	Outcomes
	to Fiji through the High Commissioner who was part of the 20-member delegation.	between the Chiefs and the Crusaders.	<p>products, legal services and energy were part of the delegation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Such a Mission has been an annual initiative in the last four years, indicating the growing interest in Fiji as a business hub and the opportunities it has for NZ businesses.
26 May 2017	Canadian Ministerial Visit – Hon. Ms Carolyn Bennette, Minister for Indigenous and Northern Affairs of Canada accompanied by Canada’s High Commissioner to Fiji based in Wellington and a four-member delegation	The purpose of the visit was to explore areas of mutual interest pertaining to the development and provision of services to the indigenous community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration of areas of mutual interest pertaining to the development and provision of services to the indigenous community.
24 – 28 May, 2017	Agricultural Mechanizations Management Bureau of Guangxi Autonomous Region	Exploratory Visit to Fiji	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guangxi Officials briefed by - Ministry of Sugar; Fiji Sugar Cooperation; Sugar Tribunal; Sugar Research Institute; Fiji Sugar Cane Growers Council. • The delegation visited Mr. Reddy’s sugar cane farm in Labasa, with discussions focusing on ways in which Guangxi can assist in the mechanization of the farm to increase yield
31 May 2017	New Zealand Foreign Minister, Hon Gerry Brownlee	First official visit to Fiji as Foreign Minister	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilateral talks with Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama. • The discussion was on a range of issues including climate change, in particular the UN Oceans Conference and COP 23 Presidency, Defence, disaster risk reduction ties, New Zealand’s aid and

Date	Visits	Purpose	Outcomes
31 May 2017	New Zealand Foreign Minister, Hon Gerry Brownlee	First official visit to Fiji as Foreign Minister	<p>development programme, the Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme and Super Rugby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handing over of 4 amphibious boats to the Fiji National Disaster Management Office. • New Zealand and Fiji have agreed to a 2-year trial (\$1.2 million) of the Sealegs boats in emergency response situations and natural disasters. The trial is a partnership between the governments of New Zealand and Fiji and is another indication of the strengthening bilateral relationship
14 – 16 June 2017	The Kiribati Minister for Women	Fiji's 3 rd National Women's Expo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance to the Expo • Courtesy call on Fiji's Hon. Minister for Women as well as Fiji's Hon. Minister for Youth and Sports
30 July – 2 August 2017	6-member delegation was led by the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) Director General	Visited Labasa on to discuss the implementation of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy with Tui Macuata, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy in Macuata
31 July – 6 August 2017	Sixteen member Indonesian National Rugby 7s Team	This Visit stems from the Fiji - Indonesia Memorandum of Understanding on Youth & Sports that was signed in 2014, which encourages more sporting development and opportunities of exposure for both sides so as to further strengthen the bilateral relations of the two countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indonesian Team worked with the Fiji Rugby Union and the Ministry of Youth and Sports in improving its 7s rugby skills through coaching clinics.

PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

Date	Presented By	Presented To
28 January 2016	Sri Lanka	Fiji
28 January 2016	Cyprus	Fiji
4 February 2016	Algeria	Fiji
10 February 2016	Fiji	The President of Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR)
15 February 2016	Fiji	The Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai
19 February 2016	Colombia	Fiji
12 April 2016	Fiji	Director-General of IRENA
19 April 2016	Uganda	Fiji
21 April 2016	Canadian Envoy	Fiji
12 May 2016	Fiji	The President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
May 2016	Fiji	The Emir of the State of Qatar
4 October 2016	Fiji	Pretoria, Republic Of South Africa
October 2016	Fiji	The King of the Kingdom Bahrain
9 November 2016	Fiji	Vietnam
15 December 2016	Fiji	Holy Father, Pope Francis, at the Vatican
14 February 2017	Tuvalu	Fiji
27 February 2017	Fiji	Israel
5 March 2017	Fiji	Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
5 to 8 March 2017	Federal Republic of Germany	Fiji
13 June 2017	Fiji	Kenya
June 2017	Fiji	Sultanate of Oman

CROSS ACCREDITATION OF FIJI MISSIONS

Mission	Bilateral Accreditation	Multilateral Accreditation
Abu Dhabi	UAE, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Iran (Gulf Countries)	International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Abu Dhabi
Addis Ababa	Ethiopia, Israel, Kenya, (including responsibilities for Golan Heights), Nigeria, South Africa, Lebanon (including UNIFIL), Iraq (including UNAMI), South Sudan (UNMISS)	African Union, UNEP (Nairobi)
Brussels	Belgium, Germany, Netherlands Luxembourg, France, Italy and Poland. These are again key countries for Fiji in Europe.	ACP, EU, FAO, UNFCC, UNESCO, IFAD
Brasilia	Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago and Barbados	
Beijing	China, North Korea, Kazakhstan and Russia	Asia Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB)
Canberra	Australia, Maldives and Mauritius	
Geneva	Switzerland, Egypt, (including Sinai) Saudi Arabia, Turkey	All UN Agencies in Geneva, World Economic Forum (Cologny, Switzerland), Arab League in Cairo
Jakarta	Indonesia, Singapore, Pakistan, and Myanmar	ASEAN, Bali Democracy Dialogue
Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia and Thailand	UNESCAP (Bangkok)
London	UK, Ireland, Morocco, Holy See	Commonwealth Secretariat, ISO and IMO
New Delhi	India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan	Colombo Plan
New York	Cuba, Jamaica	All UN Agencies in New York, International Seabed Authority (Kingston)
Port Moresby	Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Timor Le Este	Regional: MSG, FFA
Roving Ambassadors Division	Countries in Polynesia and Micronesia: Cook Islands, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu Territories in Polynesia and Micronesia: American Samoa, Guam, French Polynesia, Northern Marianas, Tokelau, Wallis and Futuna	
Seoul	South Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia	Green Climate Fund
Tokyo	Japan, Philippines, Brunei	Regional: PALM, ADB
Washington	USA, Canada, Mexico	World Bank, IMF, GEF, ITSO, ICAO
Wellington	New Zealand, Chile and Peru	

MOUS/MOAS SIGNED

The table below details the highlights of MOUs and MOAs signed during the 2016/2017 period.

MOUs/MOAs	Parties	Subject	Dated Signed
MOU	Hon. Inia Seruiratu, Minister of Agriculture, National Disaster Management and Rural Development Dr. Honorio M. Soriano Jr, the President of Pampanga State Agricultural University [PSAU], Magalang, Pampanga, Philippines	The Ministry of Agriculture [the Ministry] of Fiji will be able to use the expertise of PSAU to identify Fijian agricultural products for commercial development and actually assist the private sector in Fiji, to fully develop these for commercial markets in Fiji and overseas.	13 January 2016
MOU	Fiji and Thailand	Agriculture Cooperation	January 2016
MOU	Development Cooperation Arrangement between MFA Fiji and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade New Zealand	Strengthening bilateral relation and to contribute to Fiji's sustainable economic development through practical use of NZ's resources and expertise.	17 February 2016
MOU	Signed on between the General Election Committee of Indonesia and the Fiji Elections Office	Cooperation in the Field of Election Management: Exchange of information/expertise and knowledge in Election Management Capacity building in promoting democracy and good governance	31 March 2016
MOU	Minister of Defence (Mr. Natuva) and SG of National Security Council of Russia, Mr. Nikolai Patrushev	Framework establishing regular consultations and exchange of views on matters of common interest related to national, regional and international security	May 2016
MOU	Indonesia and Fiji (NDMO)	Technical cooperation (exchange of expertise), Capacity building – on Disaster Risk Management	June 2016
MOA	Vanuatu and Fiji (Fiji Volunteer Scheme)	Covers regional component of FVS and in which Fiji provides the assistance to Vanuatu through Volunteer scheme	5 June 2016
MOU	Fiji Govt and MSG Secretariat on Secondment of the DPKO Officer (Department of	Secondment is based on outcome of 6th Police Commissioners Conference	16 June 2016

MOUs/MOAs	Parties	Subject	Dated Signed
	Peacekeeping Operation Division established at the 19 th Leaders' Summit in Noumea (June 2013)	held in Suva on 7-8 May 2016 whereby Fiji agreed to second DPKO Officer to advance formal establishment of DPKO. Secondment to MSG Secretariat commenced from July 2016 for period of 3 months and renewed based funding availability. The contract of the officer was last extended in December 2016.	
MOA	Agreement Establishing the Regional Police Academy (RPA)	Advances the establishment of RPA. Fiji is going to commence consultations with members on specific technical/tactical trainings	14 July 2016
MOA	Framework Agreement on the Formed Police Unit (FPU)	Fiji will be undertaking special training on FPU and related activities. Fiji is also pursuing consultations with members on training and deployment under the MSG flag.	14 July 2016
MOU	Ministry of Education, Heritage, Culture and National Archives of the Republic of Fiji and Korea's National Institute for International Education of the Ministry of education of the Republic of Korea	The dispatch of "Korean Government-sponsored Volunteer Teachers" to the Republic of Fiji.	26 July 2016
MOU	Republic of Indonesia and Fiji	Disaster Management	July 2016
MOU	Cooperation between the Ministry of Public Security of Jiangsu Province and the Southern Division of the Fiji Police Force for another 5-year term.	Peace and Security	Renewed in September 2016
MOU	Fiji/Russia	Cooperation on National Disaster Management & Emergencies	12 October 2016
MOU	Fiji Election Office with Central Elections Commission of the Russian Federation	This MOU provides a platform for the two parties to strengthen its relationship and commitment in the field of elections by promoting democracy in free and fair elections through their	13 October, 2016

MOUs/MOAs	Parties	Subject	Dated Signed
		electoral processes	
MOU	The Fiji Rugby Union and the Chinese Rugby Football Association	Sports Cooperation	18 October 2016
MOU	Fiji and Russia	Enhancing Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation – to strengthen principles of peace and justice in their inter-parliamentary relations	October 2016
MOU	South-South Cooperation Project - Kiribati Head Teachers Attachment Training Ministry of Education	The purpose of the "Kiribati Head Teachers Attachment Training" is that the Kiribati head teachers learn primary school management, system and policy directly from Fiji's Head Teachers and witness how they run the primary schools through attachment of 10 Kiribati Head Teachers to 10 selected primary schools in Fiji	1 November 2016
MOU	Fiji and Thailand	Visa on arrival (VOA) in Thailand	30 December 2016
MOU	Ministry of National Defence of Korea and the Ministry of Defence and National Security of Fiji	Defense Cooperation	25 January 2017
MOU	India and Fiji Elections Office	Cooperation in Elections	January, 2017
MOU	Republic of Korea and Fiji (Ministry of Defense)	Defense Cooperation: ROK's assistance in UN Peacekeeping operations to Fijian peacekeeping forces such as in UN standby arrangements	January, 2017
MOU	Republic of Korea and Fiji (Ministry of Youth & Sports)	Sports cooperation on sports between Fiji and ROK in areas such as rugby, soccer and taekwondo - the MoU also focuses on initiatives for youth development programs through regional and international sporting events such as Asian games, world tournaments and Olympics.	January, 2017
MOU	Fiji Elections Office and Australian Electoral Commission	Exchange of information and materials, exchange visiting experts and	March 2017

MOUs/MOAs	Parties	Subject	Dated Signed
		employees and sharing experience in election management	
MOU	Fiji and Nauru	Development Cooperation: Framework for initial development cooperation assistance. Areas include bilateral trade/investment, education, labor mobility, immigration, commerce/retail/taxation, fisheries cooperation, air/sea transportation, health & pharmaceuticals, climate change, environment, security, energy.	1 February 2017
MOU	Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism Fiji with China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT)	Promotion of Trade	17 May 2017
MOU	TERI (India) and Fiji (MoIT)	Development Cooperation on Energy for Sustainable Development	26 May 2017
MOA	Ms Meagan Fallone, CEO Barefoot College (India) and Dr Josefa Koroivueta, PS - Ministry for Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation in presence of Hon. Minister for Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation and Indian High Commissioner (Fiji and India)	Youth Cooperation	26 May 2017
MOU	Federative Republic of Brazil and Fiji	Visa Exemption Agreement effective from 29 June 2017	30 May 2017
MOU	Fiji and China	Sister City between Jiangmen City and Lautoka City.	May 2017
MOU	Israel and Fiji	Cooperation	25 July 2017
MOA	Tuvalu	FVS Nurses	July 2017

N.B.: This list is may not be conclusive of all MOUs/MOAs signed in 2016/2017 period

2016 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

DISCLOSURES AND FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE 7 MONTHS PERIOD ENDED 31 JULY 2016

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Audit Opinion

I have audited the agency financial statements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which comprise the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure, Appropriation Statement and Statement of Losses for the 7 months period ended 31 July 2016, and the notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying agency financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004, Financial Management (Amendment) Act 2016 and the Finance Instructions 2010.

Basis for Opinion

I have conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). My responsibilities under those standards are described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities* paragraph of my report. I am independent of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Fiji and I have fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Management's Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The management of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are responsible for the preparation of the agency financial statements in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004, Financial Management (Amendment) Act 2016 and the Finance Instructions 2010, and for such internal control as the management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of agency financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities

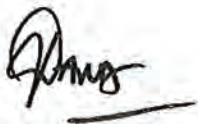
My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the agency financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISA will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud and error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISA, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the agency financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and related disclosures made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

I communicate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Ajay Nand
AUDITOR GENERAL



Suva, Fiji
15 May 2017

Management Certificate

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE


FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 JULY 2016

We certify that these agency financial statements:

- a.) fairly reflect the financial performance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the period ended 31 July 2016; and
- b.) have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act 2004, Financial Management (Amendment) Act 2016 and the Finance Instructions 2010.



Yogesh Jitendra Karan
Acting Permanent Secretary



Josefa Tuima
Director Finance

Date: 12/05/17 -

Date: 12/05/2017

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 JULY 2016

	Notes	2016 \$	2015 \$
RECEIPTS			
State Revenue			
Operating Revenue		6,512	49,506
Total State Revenue		<u>6,512</u>	<u>49,506</u>
Agency Revenue			
Miscellaneous Revenue		228,862	10,836
Total Agency Revenue		<u>228,862</u>	<u>10,836</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	3 (a)	<u>235,374</u>	<u>60,342</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Operating Expenditure			
Established Staff		8,112,472	12,714,226
Government Wage Earners		2,314,685	3,623,754
Travel & Communication		2,213,025	3,753,378
Maintenance & Operations		7,866,241	11,576,284
Purchase of Goods & Services		439,574	858,013
Operating Grants & Transfers		3,709,985	3,472,083
Special Expenditure		622,943	2,325,599
Total Operating Expenditure		<u>25,278,925</u>	<u>38,323,337</u>
Capital Expenditure			
Capital Construction		46,927	60,621
Capital Purchases		252,278	562,340
Total Capital Expenditure		<u>299,205</u>	<u>622,961</u>
Value Added Tax		593,476	2,309,032
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3 (b)	<u>26,171,606</u>	<u>41,255,330</u>

Appropriation Statement

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

APPROPRIATION STATEMENT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 JULY 2016

SEG	Item	Budget Estimate (\$)	Changes (\$) Note 4	Revised Estimate (\$) a	Actual Expenditure (\$) b	Carry Over (\$)	Lapsed Appropriation (\$) (a-b)
	Operating Expenditure						
1	Established Staff	14,001,156	(410,253)	13,590,903	8,112,472	—	5,478,431
2	Government Wage Earners	3,966,645	22,000	3,988,645	2,314,685	—	1,673,960
3	Travel & Communication	2,790,014	142,343	2,932,357	2,213,025	—	719,332
4	Maintenance & Operations	11,305,027	(598,318)	10,706,709	7,866,241	—	2,840,468
5	Purchase of Goods & Services	932,510	3,631	936,141	439,574	—	496,567
6	Operating Grants & Transfers	4,107,066	1,060,393	5,167,459	3,709,985	—	1,457,474
7	Special Expenditure	2,297,900	(444,988)	1,852,912	622,943	—	1,229,969
	Total Operating Expenditure	39,400,318	(225,192)	39,175,126	25,278,925	—	13,896,201
	Capital Expenditure						
8	Capital Construction	1,256,973	—	1,256,973	46,927	—	1,210,046
9	Capital Purchase	586,456	225,192	811,648	252,278	—	559,370
	Total Capital Expenditure	1,843,429	225,192	2,068,621	299,205	—	1,769,416
13	Value Added Tax	1,725,200	—	1,725,200	593,476	—	1,131,724
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	42,968,947	—	42,968,947	26,171,606	—	16,797,341

Statement of Losses

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

STATEMENT OF LOSSES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 JULY 2016

Loss of Money

There was no loss of money recorded for the period ended 31 July 2016.

Loss of Revenue

There was no loss of revenue recorded for the period ended 31 July 2016.

Loss of Fixed Assets

There was no loss of fixed asset recorded for the period ended 31 July 2016. However, the following items worth \$196,301 were written off, following the Overseas Mission's Board of Survey for the period ended 31 July 2016.

Section	Write-Off Amount (\$)
FHC New Delhi	5,071.33
Fiji Consulate General, Sydney	4,280.00
FE Brazil	189.46
Fiji Mission to New York	938.09
FHC London	16,267.64
FE Washington	6,213.34
FHC Wellington	28,136.00
FE Brussels	31,586.33
Pretoria	6.03
Protocol Office	4,500.00
FE Abu Dhabi	1,086.45
FHC Canberra	2,109.00
FE China	10,552.17
FHC Malaysia	4,040.03
FE Japan	3,436.28
FE Indonesia	4,230.58
FE Korea	8,188.52
Headquarters	65,470.00
Total	196,301.25

Notes to the Financial Statements

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE AGENCY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 JULY 2016

NOTE 1: REPORTING ENTITY

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs promotes Fijian interests in other nations and on the world stage. This includes a broad range of activities from providing consular services to Fijians living overseas to from organising high level visits to Fiji.

The Ministry develops and carries out Fiji's foreign policy and manages Fiji's relationships with other nations and with multi-national and sub-regional organisations like the United Nations and the Melanesian Spearhead Group. The Ministry is focused on securing the maximum benefits for Fiji from these relationships.

NOTE 2: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Accounting / Presentation

In accordance with Government accounting policies, the agency financial statements of the Ministry is prepared under the cash basis of accounting. All payments related to purchases of fixed assets have been expensed.

The agency financial statements are presented in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004, Financial Management (Amendment) Act 2016 and the requirements of Section 71(1) of the Finance Instruction 2010. The preparation and presentation of a Statement of Assets and Liabilities is not required under the current Government policies.

(b) Accounting for Value Added Tax (VAT)

All expenses and revenue are VAT exclusive. The Ministry on a monthly basis takes out VAT output on total money received for expenditure from Ministry of Economy. VAT input on the other hand is claimed on payments made to the suppliers and the sub-contractors for expenses incurred.

The VAT payment as per the Statement of Receipts and Expenditures relates to VAT input claimed on payments made to the suppliers and sub-contractors for expenses incurred and VAT payments to FRCA. Actual amount paid to FRCA during the year represent the difference between VAT Output and VAT Input.

(c) Comparative Figures

The Ministry changed its reporting period from 1 August to 31 July as per the Ministry of Economy circular number 04/16 due to a change in the whole of government reporting period.

Hence, the 2016 financial reporting period is for 7 months effective from 1 January 2016 to 31 July 2016. In comparison, the 2015 financial reporting period is for 12 months effective from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015. This was provided for in the Financial Management (Amendment) Act 2016.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE AGENCY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 JULY 2016 (continued...)

(d) Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognised when cash is actually received by the Ministry.

NOTE 3: SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS

- (a) Revenue figures increased by \$175,032 as compared to year 2015. The increase in revenue was due to the introduction of new posting whereby revenue earned from the services rendered in Missions reflected in Revenue allocation (SLG 27) and not in Operating Trust SLG86 as initial practice.
- (b) The Total Expenditure cost for 2016 was \$26,171,606 or 63% of 2015 expenditure. The variance was due to the change in government financial reporting period. The 2016 financial period was for 7 months effective from 1 January 2016 to 31 July 2016 in comparison to 2015 which comprised of 12 months period (1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015).

NOTE 4: Appropriation Movements

There were no redeployments of the Ministry's funds during the financial period ended 31 July 2016. Other movements were made through virement as follows:

Virement Number	From	To	Amount (\$)
V01/2016	SEG 1	SEG 7	321,252.73
V02/2016	SEG 1	SEG 1	1,049,440.00
V03/2016	SEG 6	SEG 6	10,693.21
V04/2016	SEG 1	SEG 7	67,000.00
V05/2016	SEG 4	SEG 9	184,811.00
V06/2016	SEG 1	SEG 1	142,475.98
V07/2016	SEG 9	SEG 9	24,194.21
V08/2016	SEG 4	SEG 4	28,623.27
	SEG 4	SEG 3	142,343.53
V09/2016	SEG 7	SEG 6	260,393.00
V10/2016	SEG 7	SEG 6	800,000.00
V11/2016	SEG 4	SEG 7	193,658.00
V12/2016	SEG 4	SEG 4	169,974.67
V13/2016	SEG 4	SEG 9	38,012.00
V14/2016	SEG 1	SEG 2	22,000.00
	SEG 1	SEG 1	17,000.00
V15/2016	SEG 4	SEG 7	15,000.00
	SEG 4	SEG 5	6,000.00
V16/2016	SEG 6	SEG 6	10,478.86
V17/2016	SEG 5	SEG 9	2,369.00
V18/2016	SEG 4	SEG 7	18,494.00
V19/2016	SEG 1	SEG 1	15,183.00

2017 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Excellence in Public Sector Auditing



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

I have audited the financial statements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which comprise the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure, Appropriation Statement and Statement of Losses for the year ended 31 July 2017 and the notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Financial Management Act, the Finance Instructions 2010 and Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016.

Basis for Opinion

I have conducted my audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISA). My responsibilities under those standards are described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities* paragraph of my report. I am independent of the Ministry in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Fiji and I have fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Management's Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The management of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Financial Management Act, the Finance Instructions 2010 and the Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016, and for such internal control as the management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISA will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud and error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISA, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

Auditor's Responsibilities (continued)

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and related disclosures made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

I communicate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Ajay Nand
AUDITOR-GENERAL



Suva, Fiji
20 June 2018

Management Certificate

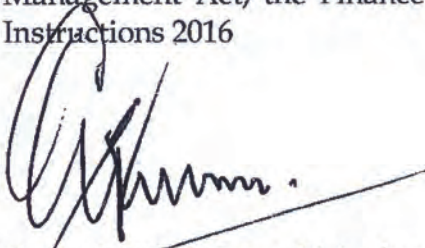


MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

We certify that these financial statements:

- (a) fairly reflect the financial operations and performance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the year ended 31 July 2017; and
- (b) have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act, the Finance Instructions 2010 and Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016



Major General (Ret'd) Ioane Naivalurua
Permanent Secretary



Josefa Tuima
Director Finance

Date: 13/06/2018

Date: 12/06/2018

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

	Notes	12 months 2017 (\$)	7 months 2016 (\$)
RECEIPTS			
State Revenue			
Operating Revenue		10,310	6,512
Total State Revenue		<u>10,310</u>	<u>6,512</u>
Agency Revenue			
Administration Fees & Miscellaneous Revenue		380,969	228,862
Total Agency Revenue		<u>380,969</u>	<u>228,862</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	3 (a)	<u><u>391,279</u></u>	<u><u>235,374</u></u>
EXPENDITURE			
Operating Expenditure			
Established Staff		13,977,868	8,112,472
Government Wage Earners		3,645,770	2,314,685
Travel & Communication		3,308,133	2,213,025
Maintenance & Operations		10,760,180	7,866,241
Purchase of Goods & Services		672,734	439,574
Operating Grants & Transfers		5,467,608	3,709,985
Special Expenditure		1,029,149	622,943
Total Operating Expenditure		<u>38,861,442</u>	<u>25,278,925</u>
Capital Expenditure			
Capital Construction		76,018	46,927
Capital Purchase		309,456	252,278
Total Capital Expenditure		<u>385,474</u>	<u>299,205</u>
Value Added Tax		1,159,328	593,476
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3 (b)	<u><u>40,406,244</u></u>	<u><u>26,171,606</u></u>

Appropriation Statement

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

APPROPRIATION STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

SEG	Item	Budget Estimate (\$)	Appropriation Changes (\$) Note 5	Revised Estimate (\$) a	Actual Expenditure (\$) b	Carry Over (\$)	Lapsed Appropriation (\$) Note 4 (a-b)
	Operating Expenditure						
1	Established Staff	15,439,533	(807,155)	14,632,378	13,977,868	—	654,510
2	Government Wage Earners	3,439,925	294,055	3,733,980	3,645,770	—	88,210
3	Travel & Communication	2,757,529	766,208	3,523,737	3,308,133	—	215,604
4	Maintenance & Operations	10,817,451	215,293	11,032,744	10,760,180	—	272,564
5	Purchase of Goods & Services	906,159	62,314	968,473	672,734	—	295,739
6	Operating Grants & Transfers	5,691,486	(8,180)	5,683,306	5,467,608	—	215,698
7	Special Expenditure	1,708,222	(527,925)	1,180,297	1,029,149	—	151,148
	Total Operating Expenditure	40,760,305	(5,390)	40,754,915	38,861,442	—	1,893,473
	Capital Expenditure						
8	Capital Construction	798,097	(458,481)	339,616	76,018	—	263,598
9	Capital Purchase	—	463,871	463,871	309,456	—	154,415
	Total Capital Expenditure	798,097	5,390	803,487	385,474	—	418,013
13	Value Added Tax	1,528,900	-	1,528,900	1,159,328	—	369,572
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	43,087,302	-	43,087,302	40,406,224	—	2,681,058

Statement of Losses

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

STATEMENT OF LOSSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

Loss of Money

There was no loss of money recorded for the year ended 31 July 2017.

Loss of Revenue

There was no loss of revenue recorded for the year ended 31 July 2017.

Loss of Fixed Assets

There was no loss of fixed assets recorded for the year ended 31 July 2017. However, the following items worth \$185,011 were approved by Permanent Secretary Economy to be written off, following the Ministry's Board of Survey for the period ended 31 July 2017.

Fixed Assets Category	Amount (\$)
Motor Vehicle	81,107
Office Equipment	12,794
Furniture & Fittings	48,358
Others	42,752
Total	185,011

Notes to the Financial Statements

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

NOTE 1: REPORTING ENTITY

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs promotes Fijian interests in other nations and on the world stage. This includes a broad range of activities from providing consular services to Fijians living overseas to organising high level visits to Fiji.

The Ministry develops and carries out Fiji's foreign policy and manages Fiji's relationships with other nations and with multi-national and sub-regional organisations like the United Nations and the Melanesian Spearhead Group. The Ministry is focused on securing the maximum benefits for Fiji from these relationships.

NOTE 2: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Accounting/ Presentation

In accordance with Government accounting policies, the financial statements of the Ministry is prepared under the cash basis of accounting. All payments related to purchases of fixed assets have been expensed.

The financial statements are presented in accordance with the Financial Management Act and the requirements of Section 71 (1) of the Finance Instruction 2010 and the Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016. The preparation and presentation of a Statement of Assets and Liabilities is not required under the current Government policies.

(b) Accounting for Value Added Tax (VAT)

All expenses and revenue are VAT exclusive. The Ministry on a monthly basis takes out VAT output on total money received for expenditure from Ministry of Economy. VAT input on the other hand is claimed on payments made to the suppliers and the sub-contractors for expenses incurred.

The VAT payment as per the Statement of Receipts and Expenditures relates to VAT input claimed on payments made to the suppliers and sub-contractors for expenses incurred and VAT payments to FRCS. Actual amount paid to FRCS during the year represent the difference between VAT Output and VAT Input.

(c) Comparative Figures

The Ministry changed its reporting period from 1 August to 31 July as per the Ministry of Economy circular number 04/16 due to a change in the whole of government reporting period.

Hence, the 2016 financial reporting period is for 7 months effective from 1 January 2016 to 31 July 2016. In comparison, the 2017 financial reporting period is for 12 months effective from 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017. This was provided for in the Financial Management (Amendment) Act 2016.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued...)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

(d) Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognised when cash is actually received by the Ministry.

NOTE 3: SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS

- (a) The Total Revenue increased by \$155,905 or 66% in 2017 compared to 2016. This was attributed to the change in government financial reporting period. The 2016 financial period was for 7 months effective from 1 January 2016 to 31 July 2016 in comparison to 2017 which comprised of 12 months period (1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017).
- (b) The Total Expenditure increased by \$14,234,638 or 54% from \$26,171,606 in 2016 to \$40,406,244 in 2017. This was attributed to the change in government financial reporting period. The 2016 financial period was for 7 months effective from 1 January 2016 to 31 July 2016 in comparison to 2017 which comprised of 12 months period (1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017).

NOTE 4: SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS

Significant Savings for the financial year ended 31 July 2017 are as follows:

No.	Expenditure	Revised Budget (\$)	Actual Expenditure (\$)	Savings (\$)	Percentage Savings (%)
(a)	Capital Construction	339,616	76,018	263,598	78
(b)	Capital Purchase	463,871	309,456	154,415	33

- (a) The savings of \$263,598 was made under the Capital Construction allocation. The focus of the allocation was on those Missions where Ministry own the properties - Canberra, Wellington, London and Brussels. For 2016-17, a major challenge faced, particularly from the Mission was the collation of relevant documentation to ensure compliance with the RIE requirements/checklist and eventual release of funds.
- (b) The savings of \$154,415 under the Capital Purchase allocation was attributed to some purchase request by the Mission not facilitated by end of the fiscal year due to insufficient information and documentation provided.

NOTE 5: APPROPRIATION CHANGES

There were no redeployments of the Ministry's funds during the year. In 2016 - 2017, a total of 33 virements were processed as follows:

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued...)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

NOTE 5: APPROPRIATION CHANGES (continued)

Virement Number	From	Amount (\$)	To	Amount (\$)	Approved By
DV0801	SEG 4	5,390	SEG 9	5,390	PSFA
DV0801	SEG 1	50,000	SEG 7	50,000	
DV0802	SEG 6	26,344	SEG 6	26,344	PSFA
DV0803	SEG 1	206,200	SEG 3	151,500	PSFA
			SEG 4	54,700	
DV0804	SEG 6	8,180	SEG 7	8,180	PSFA
DV0805	SEG 6	5,001	SEG 6	5,001	PSFA
DV0806	SEG 6	45,198	SEG 6	45,198	PSFA
DV0807	SEG 4	10,000	SEG 5	10,000	PSFA
DV0808	SEG 4	50,826	SEG 4	50,826	PSFA
DV0809	SEG 7	6,775	SEG 7	6,775	PSFA
DV0810	SEG 1	14,157	SEG 1	14,157	PSFA
DV0811	SEG 7	135,000	SEG 3	91,000	PSFA
			SEG 4	25,000	
			SEG 5	9,000	
			SEG 7	10,000	
DV0812	SEG 6	14,577	SEG 6	14,577	PSFA
DV0813	SEG 1	306,200	SEG 3	240,100	PSFA
			SEG 4	27,000	
			SEG 5	34,100	
			SEG 7	5,000	
DV0814	SEG 6	92,810	SEG 6	92,810	PSFA
DV0815	SEG 4	233,212	SEG 4	233,212	PSFA
DV0816	SEG 1	368,000	SEG 3	33,000	PSFA
			SEG 4	297,000	
			SEG 5	38,000	
	SEG 4	20,000	SEG 3	20,000	
	SEG 7	27,238	SEG 7	27,238	
DV0817	SEG 7	30,000	SEG 3	30,000	PSFA
DV0818	SEG 1	5,972	SEG 2	5,972	PSFA
	SEG 3	190,643	SEG 3	356,551	
	SEG 4	1,116,268	SEG 4	1,246,251	
	SEG 5	175,196	SEG 5	146,410	
	SEG 7	267,105			
	SEG 8	62,927	SEG 8	62,927	
DV0819	SEG 1	885,273	SEG 1	1,009,290	PSFA
	SEG 2	423,712	SEG 2	267,695	
			SEG 7	32,000	
DV0820	SEG 4	51,000	SEG 3	34,700	PSFA
			SEG 4	16,300	
V08001	SEG 8	72,030	SEG 9	72,030	PSE
V08002	SEG 8	19,183	SEG 9	19,183	PSE
V08002	SEG 8	47,795	SEG 9	47,795	PSE

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued...)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

NOTE 5: APPROPRIATION CHANGES (continued)

Virement Number	From	Amount (\$)	To	Amount (\$)	Approved By
V08003	SEG 7	30,000	SEG 1	30,000	MFE
V08004	SEG 8	16,381	SEG 9	16,381	PSE
V08005	SEG 8	90,329	SEG 9	90,329	PSE
V08006	SEG 8	43,984	SEG 9	43,984	PSE
V08007	SEG 8	64,150	SEG 9	64,150	PSE
V08008	SEG 8	104,629	SEG 9	104,629	PSE
V08009	SEG 1	233,212	SEG 1	233,212	PSE
	SEG 9	233,212	SEG 9	233,212	
V08010	SEG 1	1,591,050	SEG 1	1,146,950	PSE
	SEG 2	362,200	SEG 2	806,300	
V08011	SEG 4	248,300	SEG 1	419,300	MFE
	SEG 7	171,000			

