

FIJI EMBASSY TOKYO NEWSLETTER

Ambassador's Message

Ni sa bula vinaka. Konnichiwa.

Welcome to the third edition of our e-newsletter. In this edition, we share with you the work of the Fiji Embassy Tokyo, and Fiji-Japan relations amid the COVID-19 pandemic from April – June 2021.

Despite the continuous state of emergency declared in Tokyo and other urban prefectures, the Embassy renews its Outreach Programme with close local government ties and Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games preparation via virtual means.

The Embassy has been working closely with our Fiji nationals throughout Japan. You can read about the amazing contributions by some of our nationals working and living in Japan on "Questions with our Fiji nationals". It's a great way of staying connected and sharing one's experience to help build others.

I hope that you find this edition interesting. I also urge our fellow Fijians and friends to follow official health advisories and ensure your businesses and families are safe.

Vinaka vakalevu, Arigato gozaimasu.

H.E. Mr. Isikeli U. Mataitoga
Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary



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Key Highlights

JBIC and CEPCO Pays Courtesy Call

A courtesy call by Mr. Hiroyuki Nakashima, Director-General Equity Investment Department of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Mr. Koichi Tsunematsu, General Manager for Chugoku Electric Power Co. Inc (CEPCO) and representatives of JBIC, took place on 12 April 2021.

The Embassy, JBIC, and CEPCO discussed various issues, including recent CEPCO and JBIC's Share Sales Agreement with the Fijian Government on the acquisition of 44% shares of Energy Fiji Limited (EFL). Through this investment in EFL, CEPCO, the lead investor, will contribute to EFL's operation by utilizing its extensive expertise obtained through its global and Japanese operations. JBIC will be a focal point between the Fijian Government/ EFL and CEPCO. It will also seek the possibility of providing financial support to EFL's upcoming projects by collaborating with its partners. The meeting also noted that this partnership should facilitate the development of renewable energy projects and assist the Fijian Government/ EFL to achieve the targets and objectives (100% renewable electricity generation by 2036) set under the National Development Plan (NDP).



PIC Ambassadors Meet JPICPFL Members

The meeting with Japan-Pacific Island Countries Parliamentary Friendship League (JPICPFL) members hosted at the House of Representatives Building in Nagata-cho, Tokyo, took place on 22 April 2021.

The main issues discussed covered the GOJ's decisions to discharge the Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS) Treated Water from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station into the Pacific Ocean; Strengthening a foundation for sustainable and resilient economic growth; Security in the changing geopolitical environment in the Pacific; Labor mobility, and Education and Training.

*(l-r) Hon. Keiji Furuya MP, Ambassador Mataitoga and Hon. Daishiro Yamagiwa MP

Courtesy Calls & Meetings



(l-r) In April-June 2021, Ambassador Isikeli Mataitoga also had the opportunity to meet with 1.) Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) and Member of the House of Councillors, Hon. Kei Sato MP; 2.) Director General for International Affairs of the Bureau of Defense Policy in the Ministry of Defense Japan, Mr. Yasushi Noguchi; 3.) Ms. Junko Chano, Executive Director (Program) and Mr. Hideyuki Shiozawa, Senior Program Officer of The Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan (SPF); and 4.) Mr. Hiroshi Matsumoto, Chief Operation Officer of Mana Island Resort & Spa – Fiji.

Japan-Fiji Leaders Video Teleconference Meeting



Hon. Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with Hon. Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga at a virtual meeting on Tuesday, 29 June 2021 (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office, Cabinet Secretariat)

On Tuesday, 29 June 2021, Hon. Rear Admiral (Retired) Josaia Voreqe BAINIMARAMA, Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, held a Japan-Fiji leaders video teleconference meeting with Hon. Yoshihide SUGA, Prime Minister of Japan. This was the first bilateral meeting between the two leaders after PM Suga took office in September 2020.

At the outset, PM Suga highlighted the importance of Fiji's partnership with Japan. The meeting also discussed strengthening relations between the two nations and working closely towards a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific". PM Suga also underscored his government's intentions to continue supporting Fiji with measures against COVID-19, provide support for the recovery from damage caused by cyclones, contribute to disaster prevention measures, and deepen cooperation in areas such as infrastructure development.

In response, Prime Minister Bainimarama expressed his gratitude for Japan's long-standing support. Both sides concurred on cooperating toward the success of the 9th Pacific Island Leaders' Meeting. The two leaders also exchanged views on regional issues, including the response to North Korea. Prime Minister Suga requested understanding and cooperation for the abduction issue and received support from Prime Minister Bainimarama.

Prime Minister Suga stated that Japan was taking all possible infection control measures to host the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in a safe and secure manner.

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 29 June 2021

https://www.mofa.go.jp/a_o/ocn/fj/page4e_001147.html

***Prior to Japan-Fiji Leaders Video Teleconference Meeting, HE Mr. Isikeli Maitoga joined Acting Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Yogesh Karan, and MFA HQ delegate for a virtual meeting for the Ninth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM9) Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on Tuesday, 11 May 2021. The meeting also included open discussions by participating members as it prepares for the PALM9.**

Questions with our Fiji nationals



* Vineet with his work colleagues

Mr. Vineet Vimlesh Chandra - Services Executive

Working as a Services Executive in an international company in Japan requires a broad spectrum of skills, capabilities, and practical experience. It also bears a weight of responsibility as you are as much an ambassador for your country as you are in the work that you do.

How did you come to Japan to work as a Services Executive?

While completing my tertiary studies here in Japan, graduating with a Masters in Information Sciences from Tohoku University, I received a job offer from an international IT corporation based here in Japan. I decided to pursue and develop my career here in Japan, as I had learned and received so much from this country, being grateful for all the experiences and lessons I had learned here in Japan that had made me a better person. I wanted to give back to this country in terms of contributing to the society and economy, taking on all challenges that came my way, overcoming them, whilst further growing, improving and developing myself in the process.

What are the backgrounds of the work that you do?

The work that I currently do requires a diverse set of skills, capabilities, and knowledge, culminating in all the previous work that I have done so far. I am currently working as a Services Executive, and my primary responsibilities are to sell our consulting and implementation services to our enterprise clients. We are a SaaS enterprise cloud company, and our clients are large to very large corporations, and our goal is to ensure the success of our clients after they buy our SaaS platform. Our client's success is our success, and my goal is to ensure that our clients get the return on investment and time to value at the earliest and realize their business goals using our cloud platform.

How well have you managed a team whose first language is not English?

It is a challenge managing a team comprising of members of diverse countries, cultures, languages, and backgrounds as you need to ensure that each and everyone's opinions are heard, and no one is left out. The key skills that you need are to be a good listener, have empathy, and have consideration of other's opinions. Language is only a part of the communication process. You need to ensure that the message you are trying to convey gets across clearly, that you understand what your team members are trying to convey, and that you are also clearly understood. I am grateful that I have near-native Japanese ability, so I really do not have any issues communicating to my Japanese team members in Japanese, both spoken and written, but as I mentioned, you also have a lot of non-verbal communication aspects that need to be careful of.

What motivates you for being a Services Executive?

As I have mentioned, I enjoy challenges that push me to give and do my best, and the work of a Services Executive is not easy, as we have quarterly and yearly targets that we need to achieve, selling our consulting services, and building and expanding the business here in Japan. No two days are the same, and there are always new challenges that come up, where you must think creatively on how you can resolve these challenges. In addition, I am trying to resolve our client's business issues and challenges by trying to understand their business goals, pain points, and business issues, and coming up with solutions that will help our clients to resolve their business issues and add value to their business. Seeing our clients happy and satisfied with our services is what motivates me, I would say.

What are the challenges you face and how have you cope with them?

Some challenges that I face on a daily basis are managing client expectations in terms of what we can deliver and what the client is expecting, coming up with the most appropriate services proposals that will meet the client's expectations, negotiating with the clients on the terms and conditions of the contract, price negotiations, justifying our cost, and ensuring that the clients understand the value proposition of the services that we are trying to sell to them. These can be tough, but with the right mindset of positiveness, hard work, perseverance, a sense of responsibility, discipline, and going the extra mile, I am able to overcome these challenges I face on a daily basis and learn from my wins and failures in terms of what I should do and what I should not do, to keep improving myself further, becoming a better person than the day before.

Mr. Jone Naikabula - Professional Rugby Player

Being a competent professional rugby player requires skills and abilities. Still, it also bears a weight of responsibility as you are as much an ambassador for your country as you are a rugby player.

What brought you to play rugby in Japan?

I was blessed enough to receive a scholarship to further my studies and rugby at Setsunan University after high school at Kelston Boys, New Zealand.

How is playing professional rugby in Japan different to playing in Fiji?

Professional rugby in Japan is different from playing rugby in Fiji because the teams here are well drilled by coaches from all over the globe. Facilities are well provided and upgraded whereas in Fiji we have limited facilities and not enough qualified coaches. In Japan the tempo is high compared to Fiji's physical rugby.

How well have you managed a team whose first language is not English?

It was quite hard to communicate for the first couple of years. But with the help of having Japanese classes and communicating with teammates on daily basis I managed to pull it through.

What would your advice be to upcoming Fijian rugby players planning to come to Japan to be aware of?

My advice is to embrace the culture and be open minded.

What are the challenges you face playing rugby in Japan and how did you overcome them?

Injuries, foreigner rules and playing in different weather (4 seasons) were some of the challenges i faced. Every time I got injured, I made sure to work even harder after recovery. Train a bit harder so that I can be available for selection when the season kicks off. Managed to adapt to this weather (4 seasons in a year) after 2-3 years since moving to Japan.

Do you see future opportunities for Fijian rugby players to play in Japan?

Of course, I see a future for Fijians in Japan because the last World Cup in 2019 has tremendously lifted the spirit of Fijians wanting to come to Japan. There is a lot of opportunities here and plenty things to learn as well.

The Fiji Embassy is negotiating with Japanese High Schools for more Fijian students to be offered scholarships to come to Japan, attend high school, and play rugby. What do you think of this initiative?

I think this is a very good and helpful initiative, especially for my people back at home looking for opportunities like this. And be able to show case their talents if given the opportunity.



* Jone Naikabula currently plays for Toshiba Brave Lupus Rugby Club, Japan. (left-image) In the middle, Jone represents Japan in a match against Germany at the Hong Kong Sevens 2018 Qualifying Games.

Mr. Tevita Takayawa – Judoka

Being a competent judoka requires skills and abilities. Still, it also bears a weight of responsibility as you are as much an ambassador for your country as you are a judoka.

What brought you to being a judoka in Japan?

I started judo when I was 3-4 years old, my father and brothers all arrived in Japan to improve their judo skills and from a young age I was already dreaming of coming here to train.

How is doing judo in Japan different to Fiji?

Obviously, the level of training, the number of people to train with and less distractions.

How well have you managed a team whose first language is not English?

It didn't seem easy at first but the rate that I was learning was faster than other foreigners because I lived in the dormitory full of Japanese boys and I also practiced a sport that was made here and was deeply involved with the Japanese culture.

What would your advice be to upcoming Fijian judoka planning to come to Japan to be aware of?

Well, most importantly remind them that they're here for a purpose and to be selfish in their pursuit to greatness. Judo is an individual sport and everything you do has to benefit you; you can't rely on others to carry you during training like most team sports. To also remind them that what they do here doesn't only reflect on them but also to their families, schools and finally Fiji. Be aware of everything and learn the language as fast they can because it makes living here much easier.

What are the challenges you face as a judoka in Japan and how did you overcome them?

The challenges I faced here were mostly internal and nothing about the people or things around me. I had to get over the fact that it takes time and a lot of beating to get stronger and respected by your seniors and juniors.

Do you see future opportunities for Fijian judoka in Japan?

There are so many opportunities for Fijian judokas. It's more about having the will to sacrifice and being dedicated to the sport.



*Tevita Takayawa is currently a business law student at Ryutsu Keizai University in Ryugasaki, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan. (left-image) Tevita posed for a photo with Japanese Judo legend and Olympic Gold medalist Yamashita Yasuhiro at the birthplace of Judo, Kodokan Judo Institute in Tokyo.

Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games Preparation

1st Joint Virtual Meeting

The first virtual joint meeting among the Fiji Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee (FASANOC), Fiji Rugby Union (FRU), Fiji Embassy Tokyo (FET), and City of Oita in Oita Prefecture, Japan, was hosted on Thursday, 27 May 2021. The meeting was chaired by Oita City.

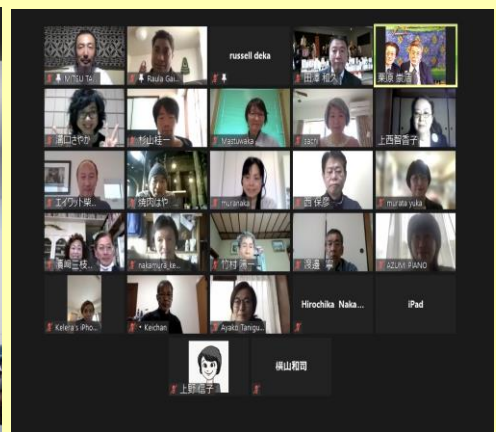
The main issues discussed covered the Team Fiji - Tokyo 2020 Olympic pre-games training camp in the City of Oita, Oita Prefecture.



2nd Joint Virtual Meeting

The second virtual joint meeting among the Fiji Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee (FASANOC), Fiji Rugby Union (FRU), Fiji Embassy Tokyo (FET), and City of Oita in Oita Prefecture, Japan, was hosted on Thursday, 24 June 2021. The meeting was chaired by Oita City, with the objective to further discuss the Team Fiji - Tokyo 2020 Olympic pre-games training camp in the City of Oita, Oita Prefecture.

Virtual Meetings



In April to June 2021, the Embassy also had virtual consultations with various agencies, including 1.) the Mayor of Kamaishi City in Iwate Prefecture regarding Kamaishi's financial assistance of JPY400,000 towards the FET – TC Yasa Relief Appeal Fund. Ambassador Mataitoga thanked His Worship Takenori Noda and hailed the support of Kamaishi City and its people; 2.) the Working Committee (WC) comprising of officials from Investment Fiji, Fiji Embassy Tokyo (FET), Embassy of Japan in Suva (EOJ), Pacific Island Countries Office in Japan (PIC), and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) regarding the proposed Fiji-Japan Trade Expo 2021; and 3.) The Association of South Pacific Area (ASPAC) 40th Anniversary celebration. Since its founding, ASPAC has supported the Pacific Island Countries (PIC), particularly in grassroots and international cooperation exchange programs between Japan and the PICs.

FET Diplomats Training - The Law of The Sea Workshop & Climate Change Negotiations and Health – Webinar 1



*Dr. Valentin Ade, Founder of The Negotiation Studio

On **28 April and 29 April 2021**, the Faculty of Law at Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington and the Embassy of Japan in Wellington co-organized a two-day online webinar on the Law of the Sea. The panelists presented in the two-day workshop were university professors, senior government officials, legal advisers, and professionals in the Law of the Sea.

In the two-day workshop series, the panelists explored some key issues for countries in the Asia Pacific region and the law of the sea. The special sessions covered were as follows:

1. Biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction and its implications for the region
2. Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing
3. Climate change and marine environmental protection in the Pacific; and
4. Maintaining the rule of law at sea.

The workshop was an excellent opportunity to develop more understanding about the oceans and the legal framework on which human activities at sea are based. It is crucial to promoting a peaceful, prosperous, and environmentally sustainable future. Regarding IUU fishing, the expertise shared by the Forum Fisheries Agency Director-General was useful in understanding the challenges of Pacific Island Forum States in this important sector.

Also, on **31 May 2021**, the World Health Organization (WHO), in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the United Nations Climate Change (UNCC), co-organized an online webinar on Climate Change Negotiations and Health. The webinar was conducted by Dr. Valentin Ade, Founder of The Negotiation Studio, and teaches political negotiations at Science Po Paris and the University of St. Gallen.

The webinar discussed the key principles of negotiations and techniques to negotiate towards mutual gain were as follows:

- i) Anchoring Effect
- ii) Framing
- iii) Logrolling

Some of the Characteristics of Climate Change and Health Negotiations in Politics/Diplomacy highlighted during the webinar were as follows:

- i) Public interests
- ii) Multilevel accountability
- iii) Value conflicts
- iv) International politics
- v) Diplomatic appraisal culture
- vi) Parallel communication channels

HE Mr. Isikeli Maitoga encouraged the diplomatic staff to also participate in their continuing education for their personal and professional development. Whether face-to-face or virtually, FET diplomats participated in the two-day workshop and WHO/UNITAR/UNCC webinar. The workshop allowed FET diplomats to appreciate the opportunity extended by Ambassador Maitoga and gained exclusive insight from professionals in the Law of the Sea with specific examples regarding countries dealing with these legalities and their difficulties right now. The webinar also allowed FET diplomats to further gain insights on diplomats' analytical and interpersonal skills in their continual negotiations. The diplomats were also able to strengthen their understanding of the interlinkages between climate and health, particularly the international climate change policy process.



Every time you buy Fijian made products; you are helping to provide for our Fijian families. A very substantial number of Fijians are employed by Fijian manufacturers. When these Fijian companies grow, they hire more people, contribute to taxes, and even export more products, bringing in more income into the country. It means we have a strong economy and a stable financial environment for all of us.

You can help our economy grow!

Fijian Made Product Profile - Loloma Fiji

- ✓ Loloma is a Fijian born company created by a mother's plight to soothe her children of uncomfortable eczema. Daunted by the amount of chemicals in various pharmaceutical creams, steroids and its irreversible side effects, she looked towards nature for answers.
- ✓ Loloma is derived from coconut oil through a totally natural process to reach its purest form. Through unique pioneering technology, they are able to reduce the scent to a light natural fragrance and improve texture to be lightweight and highly absorbent, making it nature's purest moisturizer, 100% chemical and additive free and 100% pure nature.

Beauty Benefits:

Face: Anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and moisturising. Made up of mainly nourishing fatty acids, high in lauric acid, also contains vitamin E and healthy fats. It makes a natural make up remover. Body: High in anti-oxidants, helps to restore skins PH levels, making the skin feel velvety smooth and non- greasy. Hair: Use as hair moisturizer.

Interest in New Markets:

To expand and connect with the global distributions.

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Fijian Made Product Profile - Coffee Farms Fiji

- ✓ Coffee Farms Fiji (CFF) is a private company which has also been developing corporative arm of coffee farmers/suppliers and has its own plantations - 1000m above sea level and network coffee farmers all over Fiji.
- ✓ CFF processes 3 varieties of coffee - Arabica, Liberica (rare species), Robusta which are growing all over Fiji.
- ✓ The company harvests and processes coffee within a 12-hour wet process for high quality coffee during May – November and retails roasted coffee under the retail brand Single Origin Coffee Cafe. CFF can also supply green coffee beans based on the grade requirements of the buyers.

Interest in New Markets:

To expand and connect with the global distributions.

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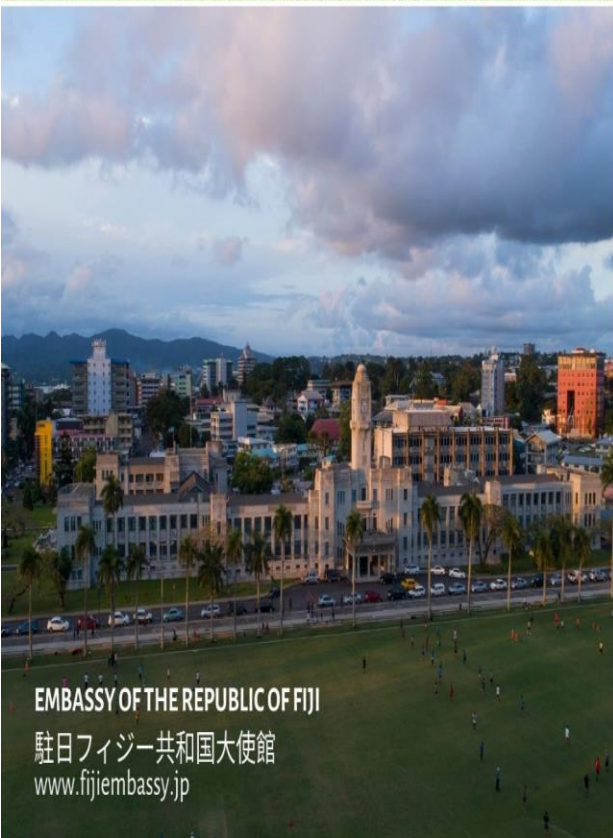
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FEEL THE NATURE & HAPPINESS, TAKE ME THERE

大自然と笑顔が待ってるよ。フィジーへ飛ぼう。



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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