



FIJI EMBASSY TOKYO NEWSLETTER

Ambassador`s Message

Ni sa bula vinaka. Konnichiwa.

I am delighted to bring forth the first edition of the newsletter of the Fiji Embassy in Tokyo. In this edition, we share with you a glimpse of the Embassy's work and Fiji-Japan relations amid COVID-19 from October – December 2020. Due to social gathering restrictions and disruption in flight continuity, I hope this newsletter can help fellow Fijians stay connected with home as well as the Embassy.

While the pandemic has affected international connectivity and destroyed Fiji's major industry, "tourism", the Fijian Government is committed to working with key industry stakeholders to develop solutions to sustain our industries.

I would like to extend my gratitude to those who have supported our work during these challenging times in the direction of recovery.

I hope you enjoy our first quarter edition.

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



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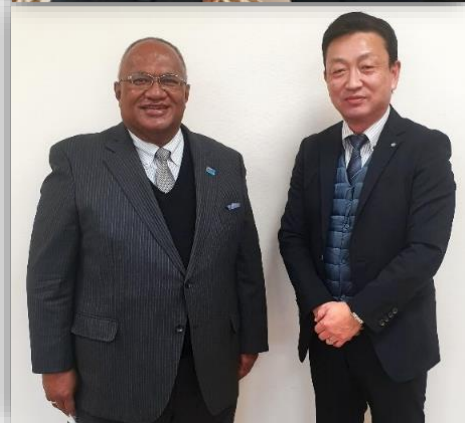
Ambassador's Key Highlights

Prefectural Visit

On 17 December 2020, H.E. Mr. Isikeli Maitoga paid a courtesy visit on His Excellency Tomikazu Fukuda, Governor of Tochigi Prefecture (*top-r photo*), and His Worship Kimihiro Kato, Mayor of Takanezawa Town (*bottom-r photo*).

Takanezawa Town happens to be the first municipality in Japan to start the people-to-people exchange program with Fiji, which began in 2007. Noting the success of the people-to-people exchange program between Fiji-Takanezawa, the City of Akita, Oita, and Saga have engaged in a similar program with Fiji.

Key exchange priorities inclusive of trade and investment, people-to-people exchanges, and employment/training opportunities in agriculture were discussed at length. These exchanges are valuable in building cooperation ties between Fiji and Takanezawa Town, and Tochigi Prefecture.



Pacific Ambassadors Meet Hon. Satoshi Nakanishi, Parliamentary Vice Minister (PVM) for Foreign Affairs of Japan



In the month of December, the new Parliamentary Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs [PVMFA] Hon. Satoshi Nakanishi hosted a working lunch for the Pacific Island Countries Ambassadors resident in Tokyo. This was the first meeting with the Parliamentary Vice Minister Nakanishi since his appointment to the post and with specific responsibilities for the Oceania region. The Ambassadors representing FSM, Fiji, RMI, Palau, Samoa, and Tonga were in attendance.

The main issues discussed covered the PALM 9 Heads of State and Government meeting in 2021 in Japan, the Tokyo Olympics 2020 and assistance for COVID19 health and economic recovery of Pacific Island Countries. Most of the Ambassadors present expressed their respective countries appreciation for the assistance provided by Japan.

Courtesy Calls



In December 2020, Ambassador Maitoga also had the opportunity to meet with (l) Hon Fukushima Nukaga MP, Chairman of the Japan-Fiji Parliamentary Friendship League, and (r) the Ambassador-designate of Japan to the Republic of Fiji, Mr. Fumihiro Kawakami.



Fiji - Japan Stories

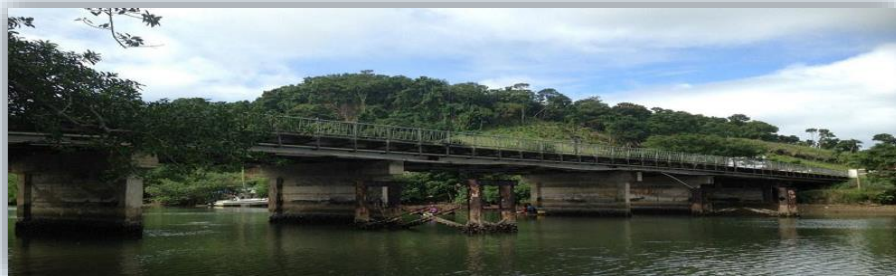
Fiji Embassy in Tokyo Celebrates Fiji-Japan's 50th Bilateral Anniversary



In October 2020, Fiji celebrated its 50th Independence Anniversary and, together with Japan, marked the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. On this historic occasion, we can look back with pride because of the development of closer bilateral relations between Fiji and Japan. Japanese development assistance to Fiji over the last 50 years has been directly responsible for much of the infrastructure development that today underpins Fiji's socioeconomic development and makes it what it is today. In times of natural disaster rehabilitation, Japanese development assistance has always been available for rebuilding Fijian lives destroyed and building back better infrastructure to support Fiji's economic resilience. The good and close bilateral relations between our two countries have seen an increase in high-level visits between our respective leaders and people-to-people exchanges.

To commemorate Fiji's 50th Independence, the Fiji Embassy in Tokyo hosted a luncheon on Friday, 9 October 2020, to celebrate this momentous occasion. Due to COVID-19 restrictions on large gatherings and space constraints, only a few stakeholders were extended an invitation to participate.

Fijian Government signs \$1.2m grant agreement with Japan for the design of the reconstruction of the Tamavua-i-Wai



The Fijian Government on 29 October 2020 signed a grant agreement of \$1.2 million with the Japanese Government for the design of the reconstruction of the Tamavua-i-Wai Bridge to improve the flow of traffic and better accommodate the transport of goods and services from the port throughout the country.

The agreement was signed by the Minister for Infrastructure, Hon. Jone Usamate and Ambassador of Japan to Fiji, HE Mr. Masahiro Omura. Hon. Usamate stated that the reconstruction of the Tamavua-i-Wai Bridge will improve the lives of the 90,000 people who use the Suva-Lami corridor daily and for those people who travel to and from the Western Division through the Queens Road. He further elaborated that the general grant is for the design phase, which has begun, and it will take a few months to complete. Thus, the Fiji Roads Authority will work with the consultants from Japan to design the project, and then they will tender for the construction. He thanked the Government of Japan for their support on this project.

Source/Photo credit: Old Tamavua-i-wai Bridge/Fijivillage.com



Fijian High School and University students stood out in their classrooms and on the rugby fields as well – featured here are some of our students studying in Oita Tomei High School (Oita), Tenri University (Nara), Hakuoh University (Tochigi), and Yamanashi Gakuin University (Yamanashi), Japan.





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 - Paradise Beverages

- ✓ Paradise Beverages, the leading manufacturer of beer, distilled spirits, and alcoholic ready-to-drink (RTD) beverages in Fiji and Samoa.
- ✓ Their distillery is Fiji's second city, Lautoka, which is home to the much-loved Bounty Rum and the globally awarded Rum Co of Fiji range.
- ✓ Their premium brands are enjoyed by over a million consumers through more than 1,000 customers.

Interest in New Markets

To expand and connect with the global distributions.

- China, Japan, USA, Australia, New Zealand

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Fijian Made Product Profile - Fiji Kava Limited

- ✓ Fiji Kava Limited is a publicly listed company on ASX (20 Dec 2018) as ASX:FIJ.
- ✓ Head quartered in Brisbane, Australia (96 Victoria Street, West End).
- ✓ HACCP Australia Certified Factory (& FDA registered) in Levuka, Ovalau, Fiji.
- ✓ Fiji Kava products are compliant as a complimentary medicine or dietary supplement.

Interest in New Markets: Japan

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Tropical Cyclone Yasa Struck Fiji – December 2020



TC Yasa, a category 5 storm cyclone, brought gusts of wind of up to 345km per hour, causing flooding and landslides. Fiji's second-largest island Vanua Levu and coastal areas of many islands were impacted by storm surges and flooding during the height of the storm on the 17th of December 2020.

In the aftermath of the cyclone and flooding, there has been a loss of lives, many people left homeless, massive destruction of buildings, schools, hospitals, public infrastructure and businesses, villages and some maritime islands were flattened, and livelihoods destroyed. The full cost of the damage suffered by the people of Fiji will not be known for a few weeks as the relief assessment teams are currently working hard with the limited resources they have and with the assistance from donor countries to span the whole of affected Fiji. However, the cost of damage is estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars. It was the strongest storm in the basin since TC Winston in 2016 and the strongest in the cyclone season 2020-21.

The Fiji Embassy in Tokyo welcomes any financial contribution/donation towards the TC Yasa Relief Appeal Fund to support the Fijian Government's work in the rehabilitation efforts and assistance for those whose homes and livelihoods have been affected. Your contributions will go a long way in making a difference to someone's life in Fiji in the next coming weeks.

Bank account details:

Name of Bank: Mizuho Bank

Branch Name: Kamiyacho Branch

Account Number: 3043244 [Ordinary]

Account Name: FET Natural Disaster Relief Appeal Fund

*Photo credit: Fijian Government Facebook Page



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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