



Hon. Prime Minister opens Cautata Bakery

As part of the Fijian Government's continued efforts to encourage business at the grassroots level, the Hon. Prime Minister opened Cautata Bakery in Tailevu. The Bakery was supported under the Ministry's MSME Fiji, with grant of approx. \$84,000. The Cautata community contributed \$20,000, plus land and labour to the project. 8 staff from the community are employed at the bakery and expects profit of \$1,000 per week.

<https://mitt.gov.fj/publications-resources/press-release/prime-minister-commissions-cautata-community-social-enterprise-bakery/>

Boost for MSMEs

The Ministry, through the Co-operatives College and MSME Fiji, undertook training in various business aspects. That is, starting a business, enterprise training, advisory, specialised training in baking, to name a few. Over 50 Fijians in Kasavu, Cautata, Davuilevu, Lomaiviti, Bua Pine Trust Station and greater Central/Eastern Division were trained.

Unremitting mentoring and advisory services are also highly advocated by the Ministry.

To continue guiding MSMEs, engagements were also held with Bukuya Women's Co-operative, Navisikoso Duavata Co-operative, Homes for Hope residents, and Rewa Disable Association.

In addition, tourism awareness sessions were held in Nasavu, Serua and Levuka. The groups were advised on use of resources for the creation of livelihood and the new tourism products they could offer to visitors.



72 more vendors receive new Roadside Stalls

72 of new Roadside Stalls were handed over to vendors on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. Now they have structured stalls that are durable, presentable and protects the produces from the elements of nature. As at October 2019, total of 91 vendors have new stalls. 40% of the vendors are women, who are earning an average \$150 per week in profits.

“While my Government put forward nearly \$84,000 dollars to make this project a reality, it was truly a community effort; contributions of time and money were put in by your families and neighbours, recognising this would be an investment that not only filled your stomachs, but fueled the local economy. I hope that this will serve as an inspiration for the children of your school in how to put your best foot forward, offering lessons in life and business alike.”

Hon. Prime Minister at the opening of Cautata Bakery

Fijian Made at Green Action Week

Creative substitutes for single-use plastic bags made by MSMEs from Serua, Galoa and Saunivieuto featured in the Consumer Council of Fiji's Green Action Week. The Fijian Made-Buy Fijian Campaign supported the initiative, which was to promote the message of



“Harmful Effects of Plastics on Fiji's Marine Ecosystem and Provide Alternatives Available to Replace Plastic Bags”. The aim of the event was to create awareness, showcase and reward Fijian Crafted reusable alternatives to single-use plastic bags.



China-Fiji Tourism Symposium

At the inaugural China-Fiji Tourism Symposium, which was held from 23-24 August 2019 at the Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa, 19 Fijian tourism operators and 36 Chinese delegates from 9 Provinces in China, met and discussed potential future partnerships.

It laid the foundation to foster stronger relations in the areas of culture and tourism between Fiji and China, which will create and boost business opportunities for both

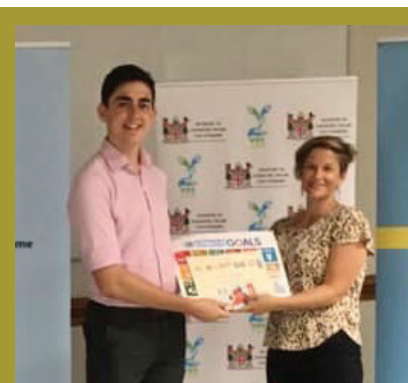
countries. The event also provided an opportunity for Fiji to highlight potential areas for cooperation with China and seek the Chinese Government's support to ensure continued collaboration in the areas of culture and tourism exchange programmes. Officiating the event were the Permanent Secretary for Education, Heritage and Arts, Alison Burchell and the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China H.E. Bo Qian.

China-Fiji Tourism Symposium

In order to ensure issues and needs of Fiji and the Pacific are raised at the international and regional levels, the Ministry represented Fiji at the 29th Council of Tourism Ministers Meeting in Niue. At the Meeting, the Ministry actively participated in the revision of the South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) and the renaming of SPTO to "Pacific Tourism Organisation" to reflect the representation of Northern Pacific

members.

The theme "Sustainable Tourism – Our Future" focused on sharing and learning from the challenges and achievements of Small Island Destinations in sustainable tourism development. Included along the margins was the SPTO Board of Directors Meeting and subsequent Board sub-committee meetings.



Young Entrepreneurs Share Innovative Solutions to SDGs

The Ministry officiated at the United Nations Development Programme organised Sustainable Development Goals (SDG+) Youth Social Entrepreneurs Pitching Event, held at the University of the South Pacific on 12 August 2019. The objective of the event was to allow youth to share innovative solutions that will contribute towards possible resolutions of the SDGs at grassroot level, provide mentorship opportunity and connect them to available finance and grants.

The event was a platform for budding entrepreneurs to pitch various business proposals that are consistent with the SDGs. A panel of judges identified innovative ideas with potential. Representatives of the Ministry spoke to the entrepreneurs on innovation-driven programmes of the Fijian Government, specifically raising awareness on the Young Entrepreneurship Scheme.

Tourism industry recruitment drive at World Tourism Day

Fiji joined hundreds of countries from around the world in commemorating the official 2019 World Tourism Day. This year's theme, '*Tourism and Jobs: a better future for all*' has affinity with Fiji's commitment to the sustainable development of the Fijian tourism industry, and the economy.

The Ministry took part in the University of the South Pacific's School of Tourism, Hospitality Management (STHM) Careers

Fair. A total of 99 students (62 graduating and 37 interns) and 42 industry representatives, including HR Directors, HR Managers and Training Managers, participated.

In addition, the Ministry and the STHM TS 208 students held a coral planting and fish house building activity at the Outrigger Resort. The activity was used as a platform for creating awareness on the links between tourism and the SDGs.



Preparatory work Underway for Expo 2020

Fiji will next year take part in the Expo 2020, which will be hosted by Dubai from 20 October 2020 to 10 April 2021. This will be the first of such an upscale World Fair to take place in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia region.

To oversee and guide preparation for Fiji's participation at the Expo, a National Coordinating Committee (NCC) has been established. Discussed at the NCC Meeting was Fiji's story at Expo 2020, Fiji's National Day and other operational matters.



Fiji participates in the Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda Cluster Week

With the United Kingdom's (UK) pending exit from the European Union, there has been efforts by the UK to elevate its intra-Commonwealth economic and trade relations. Therefore, trade officials from across the 53 Commonwealth member countries met in August 2019 to discuss how members could work towards improving trade and investment linkages. The key outcomes from the officials will be fed into Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting.

Enhancing trade and investment relations with Asia

The 2019 Guangdong 21st Maritime Silk Road International Expo took place on 23 August 2019, at the Guangzhou Baiyun International Convention Center, China. The Fijian delegation was led by Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism, Hon. Premila Kumar.

The Fijian delegation also met with the Chief Executive of Hong Kong, H.E. Carrie Lam and other executives of the Hong Kong Government, Macau and Guangdong, Jiangmen and Conghua. These meetings focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation, potential collaboration in areas of technology, infrastructure development, business and community development.

Doing Business Reforms

The Ministry, through the mandate of the Cabinet, as the Chair of the Ease of Doing Business (EODB) Taskforce, is leading a number of doing business reforms. One such reform initiated in quarter 1 was business licensing review.

In addition, an audit of the reform recommendations was undertaken by the World Bank Group. This was done to assess the level of implementation of reforms by the relevant agencies to improve processes to ease doing business in Fiji.

The audit findings were taken on board by the Taskforce, as basis for immediate reforms that will lead to improvement in processes and create a conducive and business friendly environment.

EU-Pacific Trade Committee meets for first time in the Pacific Region

For the first time, the Interim Economic Partnership Agreement (IEPA) Trade Committee met in the Pacific Region. The Trade Committee is established under the IEPA, which currently governs trade between the European Union (EU) and Pacific parties, such as Fiji, Papua New Guinea and newest party, Samoa.

Tonga and Solomon Islands have declared interest to accede to IEPA.

The Permanent Secretary for Industry, Trade and Tourism, Shaheen Ali, was the presiding co-chair of the meeting. The Trade Committee discussed matters pertaining to IEPA implementation, and other matters such as trade and sustainable development, Pacific Regional Integration Support Programme, capacity building on Rules of Origin and the Pacific Kava project for the ACP commodities funding support.

“In order for the IEPA to be the best instrument of trade between the EU and the Pacific, we need to consider incorporating the gains made in the Comprehensive EPA negotiations, as a first step, apart from looking at new areas like Trade in Services under the IEPA.”

Permanent Secretary, Shaheen Ali



Regional Quality Infrastructure Workshop

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) convened the first Regional Quality Infrastructure (QI) Workshop in the Pacific from 2-6 September 2019 in Nadi, Fiji. The Ministry participated as part of a broader initiative to promote quality assurance throughout the Pacific. The purpose of workshop was to encourage robust discussions with Forum Island Countries (FICs) to share skills and experiences in QI. Issues discussed included the need to build QI systems, quality requirements demanded by local and overseas buyers/markets, and appropriate quality enforcement actions.

FICs agreed to strengthen QI systems, such as quality related policies, legislation, metrology, standardisation, accreditation and conformity assessment system in the Pacific. These will lead to enhanced systems and processes for easier trade across borders, recognition of Fijian Made products and services and improvement in doing business.

Commemorating World Standards Day

The Department of National Trade Measurement and Standards (DNTMS) celebrated the World Standards Day (WSD) on 14 October 2019, at Grand Pacific Hotel. This day marks the formation of the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) and pays tribute to the efforts of the thousands of experts who develop Standards worldwide.

The purpose of this event was to create awareness on the importance of Standards and to enhance engagement with local and international stakeholders. Presentations were given by Standards representatives from ISO Regional Office in Singapore, Standards Australia, DNTMS Fiji, as well as, local consumer advocates and Standards users.

Fireworks Inspections

Given that fireworks were declared dangerous under the Trade Standards and Quality Control Act 1992, in 2004, there are restrictions on the importation and manufacture of certain types of fireworks. There is also a mandatory labelling requirement in place pursuant to the Trade Standards (Fireworks Labelling) Standards Order.

To ensure traders are selling permitted fireworks that are properly labelled in the Fijian market for consumers' safety, the DNTMS undertook inspections from 21 – 28 October 2019.

Verification of Transportable Fuel Dispenser

The first Transportable-Container Fuel Dispensers in Nausori were verified and certified by the Department. These dispenses can be transported from one location to another, depending on the demand and gives opportunity to remotes areas to access fuel easily. All fuel dispensers are regulated under the National Trade Measurement Act 1989. The calibration and verification of all fuel dispensers is undertaken to ensure that Fijian consumers have confidence that they are receiving correct quantities of fuel at any outlet.

Our Commitment to CSR



Visit to Dilkusha and Saint Christopher's Home



Visit to the Oncology Unit at CWM Hospital

Utility Meter Verification

Under the Trade Measurement Act 1989, all electrical and water utility supply (including domestic and commercial) meters must be pattern approved and verified. Pattern approval assesses the meter design, ensuring it is fit for purpose and suitable for the environmental conditions in which it is operating in. All utility supply meters must be verified (through a mark or certificate of verification) and sealed appropriately. If the meter has been tampered with, repaired or changed in any another way, the meter must be re-verified before being used for trade. Meter verification ensures that consumers can have confidence that they being charged accurately for electrical and water utilities.