

FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

Sadly this edition acknowledges the departure from the Community Risk Programme of Atu Kaloumaira who has now taken up his appointment as a Senator in the new Fiji National Government. Atu has been a valuable member of the CRP team since he moved to SOPAC in 1999.

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT!

Vanuatu National Disaster Risk Management Workshop

As part of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network support to Vanuatu representatives from SOPAC, PIFS, SPREP, UNDP and the WB facilitated a national stakeholders workshop to initiate the process of the development of a Vanuatu Nation Action Plan.

The outcomes of the workshop included recommendations for strengthening the National Priorities and Action Agenda 2005 - 2015 and the creation of a taskforce to prepare an initial draft of the national action plan. Representatives of the partnership network are supporting this taskforce and the draft plan will be presented and discussed with the Director Generals on 23 August.



Participants in Vanuatu's recent National Disaster Risk Management Workshop

National Disaster Management Office Profile: Fiji

The Fijian National Disaster Management Office is located near the centre of Suva and consists of 12 staff members led by the Director Joeli Rokovada. The office is structured into three sections – Training, Education and Awareness led by Akisi Korodrau, Risk and Research led by Pajilia Dobui and Emergency Planning and Coordination led by Tom Mucunabitu.

Priorities over the next twelve months include completion of a review of the current National Disaster Plan and supporting legislation, strengthening emergency communications and implementing a multi-hazard approach to early warning systems. Challenges faced by the NDMO include a lack of human, financial and technical resources. In addition, the natural disaster act was reviewed one year ago, giving the NDMO responsibility for man made hazards as well. Over the last 3 - 5 years flash flooding has emerged as a recurring hazard with the latest flash flood killing 18 people.



From left: Akisi Korodrau, Viliame Tuimanu, Joji Satakala, Jim Pedro, Pajilia Dobui, Emele Matawaqa, Satya Singh, Joelle Rokovodo, Savita Chand.

Working with vulnerable communities and understanding what they face and where they have come from, together with learning new things everyday make working at the Fijian NDMO very interesting.

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT!**Farewell Atu Kaloumaira**

We would like to congratulate Atu on his recent appointment as a Senator with the newly elected Fiji government and thank him for his contribution to SOPAC and to the region as a whole. Atu came to SOPAC with the UNDP South Pacific Disaster Reduction Programme in 1999 after SOPAC was given the mandate by the Pacific Leaders to take over the reigns of disaster management coordination.

He has left a legacy behind him and can look back and reflect on a long and distinguished career. He will be remembered for many achievements but none more so than the development of the Comprehensive Hazard and Risk Management (CHARM) decision-making tool that is now being successfully adopted by a number of Pacific Island Countries.

We extend our best wishes to Atu in his future endeavours and thank him for a job well done.

**Partners in Community Development Fiji Reach Out to Communities**

A total of 313 people attended Disaster Awareness and Management Workshops organised by PDCF through a program funded by AUSAID and SOPAC. Through these workshops, 136 villages and settlements and 8 islands had drafted plans of action for disaster management. Several other organisations and government departments, including the Fijian National Disaster Management Office and Mineral Resources Department, contributed and provided facilitators.

First Issue of Partnership Network Newsletter Circulated

The Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network newsletter is intended to circulate news on the partnership initiatives and will be issued to all network members every quarter. The first issue provided an update on the development of the regional information database and the national action plans which were identified as key priorities in the February 2006 formation of the Partnership. For a copy, contact emit@sopac.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **21 - 25 August**
Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga
TAF/OFDA Introduction to Disaster Management and Initial Damage Assessment Courses
- **22 - 23 August**
Port Vila, Vanuatu
Presentation of Draft Vanuatu National Action Plan
- **28 - 31 August**
Suva, Fiji
Disaster Risk Management Unit of the Regional Policing Leadership Development Programme
- **16 - 27 October**
Bangkok, Thailand
Eight Regional Training Course on Flood Disaster Risk Management (FDRM-8)

**Farewell Monika Swamy**

Monika returned to SOPAC in 2004, after completing her masters in Environmental Science. During this time Monika has contributed to Pacific Disaster Risk Management Program run by The Asia Foundation/Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance and enjoyed developing new skills. She now looks forward to returning to her area of expertise. The team here at CRP wishes her all the best for her future endeavors.

MEDICINE FOR THE SOUL

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit.
Aristotle