

## femTALK in Fiji. The Experience Continues

19-01-2005 (New Delhi)

When femLINKpacific first interviewed Sashi Kiran for the pilot community video “Not Just Sweet Talk”, she shared a vision for taking micro enterprise projects beyond the production stage; she had a vision for product design, quality control and marketing; she felt women’s micro enterprise initiatives if given the appropriate assistance bloom and grow to macro enterprise. Have her policy objectives changed since?

This Saturday, as femLINKpacific, Fiji’s first mobile women’s community radio project, stages its second trial broadcast with the “suitcase radio” Sashi Kiran, the Coordinator of the Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises 'N' Development (FRIEND) will give more insight into the policy vision behind the community work of FRIEND, together with Board members Sister Satya Bali and Vilimone Nailotia.

The Lautoka broadcast, which will be staged at the FRIEND Office at 8 Mana Street which is a telecentre of asorts, housing offering internet and other computer based services for a fee. This Saturday will be the first time for some of the project staff of FRIEND to share their stories on radio.

And just two months since attending a UNESCO-sponsored community radio consultation, femTALK 89.2fm’s western division focal points Kimberely Nand and Mereani Lomaivere, who are both staff members of FRIEND will be taking to the airwaves in the west on femTALK 89.2FM for the first time together this Saturday.

They will introduce listeners to a host of activities that are transforming the FRIEND Vision into practical projects including the Governance project Grassroot Opportunities, Action and Leadership (GOAL); the inspiration and creativity behind Income Generating Project (IGP) which ranges from card making with hearing impaired youth. This Saturday, Mereani’s very first field interview will also air for the first time!

The interviews which will air on Saturday will also be re-broadcast in Suva on January 30, when femLINKpacific will stage its first broadcast in the capital city for 2005.

Tomorrow, the femLINKpacific/femTALK 89.2FM team travel to the Senior Citizen’s Centre in Ba to interview participants of the FRIEND Save Scheme and “femTALK 89.2FM” will also take a look behind the “chutney” production scene.

fem’TALK 89.2FM is Fiji’s first mobile women’s community radio project, and uses a low power (100 watt) transmitter to broadcast within local communities. It is supported by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC).

*(By Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Coordinator/Producer-Director, fem'LINKpacific).*

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