



Takitaki

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4, APRIL 2008

CAMBODIAN EXPERIENCE



Mereani in Siem Reap, Cambodia with course participants

It was my first trip overseas and it really changed my life. I learnt how to fully appreciate and be thankful of whom we are and where we come from. I attended the Asian and South Pacific Bureau of Adults Education (ASPBAE) Basic Leadership Development Course in Cambodia in the last week of March, 2008 that also included representatives from countries around Asia and the Pacific. Among the many things I gained from this course, I learnt that to be a good leader one must be a good learner and be able to advocate for those whom we serve. We learnt to listen better so we would be able to understand the issues that our vulnerable and marginalized communities face daily. Our field trips around the city of Siem Reap were eye openers for me. I saw and understood the human struggle for land, for clean water, basic food items we in Fiji take for granted. This experience had recharged my passion for my work. It was also great getting to know the other participants especially as most did not even know where Fiji was. We were all similar in our commitment to our underserved communities.

Mereani Lomavere

WHY MOM IS FUN

This is a special promotion aimed at moving our handmade cards this Mothers Day. Almost everyone knows of the special youths that churn out these cards at our garage workshop. These include the Deaf, the disabled and the skilled, majority who rely solely on income from these cards for their living.

While the promotion offers attractive prizes put together by help from our friends, everyone putting in their entries will be a winner. All the entries will be put together in a special Fiji Book dedicated to the mothers of Fiji. If you have a story to share about why your mom is fun, get a Friend's Fiji Style Handmade card from participating outlets, obtain an entry coupon and send your entry to:

FRIEND OFFICE, or Box D623
8 Valetia Street Lautoka.



OBSERVING PROTOCOL

It was an exciting experience, being part of a sacred ceremony that I've always heard of. The FRIEND team, Sashi, Eunice, Adi Vasu and myself arrived at the Ba Provincial Council office around 3pm. Adi Vasu presented the sevusevu on behalf of FRIEND. The purpose of this sevusevu was to let the Roko- Yasana, Ba know what FRIEND was doing within the Ba communities. Our Director, Sashi informed him about the various programs FRIEND was involved in and also the communities we were working with.

It was an eye-opener for us as well because we were doing almost similar activities with the respective communities and were not aware of it. The Roko acknowledged our efforts in helping the communities improve their quality of life.

Swastika Singh

TEA WITH OUR STAKEHOLDERS

Successful partnerships exist where all parties concerned have the same clear understanding of objectives pursued and outcomes achieved. It is with this in mind that FRIEND hosted a morning tea for its stakeholders on the 4th April. FRIEND counts as stakeholders individuals, organizations and/or institutions who at various levels have interests in the work that FRIEND does. Those that attended the morning tea included representatives of the Lautoka Community Police, the Roko Tui Ba, Fiji Military Force, Prisons Department, District Officer Western and the resident Magistrate, Lautoka. FRIEND's Programs team presented about the organization and its community based programs that are currently being conducted in the greater Lautoka area. All present were appreciative of the organization's inclusive approach to community development and pledged their continued support for FRIEND.

UNDERSTANDING ISO 22000:FOOD SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

“Food safety hazards, food chain, end products, good manufacturing practices” were some of the words used in the two day training organized by TPAF in collaboration with the Asian Productivity Organization. ISO 22000 is specifically designed for the food industry and it is applicable to all organizations regardless of size. In this day and age where food poisoning is common and takes the lives of many people, food safety is essential.



As a Quality Controller for an organization which is helping grass root community to make a living through different kinds of food production I feel this course was a very knowledgeable one and has helped me to understand the International Standard better. In any food product, quality is paramount but we also have to keep in mind that the product is safe for consumption.

When people hear and see the different kinds of products FRIEND has in the market, they tend to think that it is a **money making organization**. However most of these people do not know that the money generated through these programs goes towards the different communities involved and caters for more people by assisting them to start up income generating programs.

Aarti Mala,, Quality Control Officer

What's Happening?

3rd May
World Press Freedom Day

11th May
Mothers Day

15th May
International Day of Families

21st May
World Day for Cultural Diversity for dialogue and Development

REAFFIRMING OUR NETWORKS

FRIEND showcased its products and programs at the Waterfront Hotel as part of the NGO showcase organized by Australia Fiji Community Justice Sector Program (ASFCJP).

Stakeholders such as NGOs, religious groups, and government departments made presentations on community programs and activities they were engaged in. Those who attended the workshop included the Salvation Army, Virtues, NSCMED, Pacific Counseling and Micro Finance Pacific.



This was another great opportunity for networking amongst community stakeholders and a valiant effort from ASFCJP enabling collaboration amongst these stakeholders. FRIEND staff that attended reaffirmed network contacts and support with other organizations working in the same field.

Devina Devi

UNDP'S N.I.C.E. INITIATIVE.

More than 45 participants arrived at the Tanoa Waterfront Hotel to attend the NICE (National Initiative on Civic Education). Community leaders from the western region were present to understand good governance, democracy and the consequences of it. The facilitators provided the participants with simple and yet real examples of situations where democracy is not practiced.

Lessons learnt:

- Basic human rights of an individual under democratic government
- Vision of NICE project was clarified
- Build new contact list
- Community leaders PACE has worked with showed interest in their country's development.
- We can work towards a democratic nation if we cooperate towards the same goal as community leaders
- Governance Program to do more work on human rights for the communities to understand.



Swastika, Mereani and Kini