

Takitaki

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Expressions through Mural Painting



REAL participants got together this month and pooled their ideas and skills to bring some colour to the prison walls.

Mural Painting was one of the activities identified by REAL program to mark World Literacy Day amongst the participants at Lautoka Prison.

REAL participants agree that the Restorative Education for Alternative Livelihood Education program has helped them to come out from their shells.

A big Vinaka Vakalevu to our sponsors for the event, APCO Paints, as without the supply of paints there could not have been any mural painting. We would also like to thank the Prison Department for allowing the program to take place within its walls.

New Product



We are thankful to Ms Leonie Smiley from Canada Fund, for spending her precious time with us, teaching how to make creative notebooks out of recycled paper and other local material. Leonie has been supporting us in many ways. The youths at the FRIEND garage workshop have been able to create unique designs using the techniques learnt from her. These note books and photo frames are now available in the market.



Nileshni Sekar

Guest Speaker from SOFITEL FIJI RESORT



Swasti FRIEND Youth Officer and Naomi with YEN youths.

Our first guest speaker for the YEN Mentorship Training Ms Naomi Navoce talked about the do's and don't of communication industry to her audience. Ms Navoce is a Telephonist Supervisor at Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa who has risen through the ranks despite being physically challenged. Her talk was embraced by the YEN participants as most of them are expressing an interest in joining the tourism industry. Ms Navoce footed numerous questions

Swastika Singh

Un monde en développement – Visit at FRIEND – Lautoka – Fiji – September 2008



We visited FRIEND at the beginning of September 2008 in the framework of the project that we have been developing and implementing for one year and a half now. Our initiative aims at underlining sustainable local development projects in about a dozen of countries worldwide, placing human being and environment in the very heart of their purposes.

FRIEND is the NGO we chose to discover in FIJI because it seemed to us that through six years of existence it did a very good job with young people' issues we wanted to focus on. Indeed, the little reports we are realising through the planet for ten months are followed by four High Schools we are working with in the suburbs of Paris.

They can ask any questions on the NGOs we are meeting as well on the specificities of each country visited. In this view, we have created for them a forum on our own website. After any meeting with a local partner, we write an article about its actions and its challenges and put it online to have the comments of the French pupils. When we will come back to France, we will communicate about these micro projects from all over the world. It will definitely be a good support to erase debates together with the partner students. By this means we aim at making them aware of important universal issues such as Poverty Alleviation, Children's Rights or Protection of the Environment.

In the particular case of FRIEND, we are working with a French High School (Lycée Marcel Cachin de Saint-Ouen) whose students are educated to later work with defavorised young people from the French

suburbs. The students are very eager to better understand the situation in Fiji regarding unemployment of youth. For this reason, they prepared a questionnaire for the organisation and for their beneficiaries. FRIEND gave us some highlights about Fiji's issues and challenges in this area. We also had the pleasure to meet and have a talk with some young beneficiaries from the organisation who were attending the YEN program (EU's financed workshop to be better prepared for job applications and interviews).

We were very surprised to discover that Fiji is actually facing the same kind of particularities as France : high rate of unemployment among young people; inadequacy between theory learnt at school and technical skills required on the field regarding the market's needs; jobs available only by means of a precise network; young people being employed for an under qualified job. No doubt that our French partner students will be more than curious to establish a comparison between the two countries.

We would like to thank once again FRIEND team and youth for its warm welcoming and wish the organisation success in realising its mission as well as all our best for the young's dreams .

Audrielle and Morgan

News from Lautoka Kitchen

Mango season is here. And FRIEND kitchen is abuzz with processing mangoes for its pickles, khatai and sweet mango chutney. On an average week around 200kg mangoes are received. Mango kuchlar is now available in 200g jars in our shop at Garden City. We also have a number of new products These include Tomato Relish, for those who like it sweet and Tomato Chutney for the hot food lovers.

We are currently looking for raw tamarind and are buying it at \$2.50 per kg. Brown and new tamarind is preferable. *Arti Mala*