

Water, power solution - Fiji Times Online

Prasanna Krishna, the owner of the Welfare Harvesters. Picture: ATU RASEA

Fiji should make use of its tropical nature to produce power for the country and at the same time solve its water problems.

Welfare Harvesters proprietor Prasanna Krishna says the country is blessed with abundance of rain and sun and people have to take advantage of this.

Mr Krishna focuses his business on residential solar lighting, rainwater harvesting, water conservation and waste management.

He is working with the Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises and Development (FRIEND) on a solar energy project which led to the 100 per cent reliance on solar energy for its administration building.

"I came in contact with FRIEND because I do some meditations to provide health and spiritual well-being of many communities here," Mr Krishna said yesterday.

"They also mentioned that they want to do solar energy harvesting. Last Monday it went live with solar energy.

"FRIEND is also planning to implement rainwater harvesting.

"Rainwater harvesting definitely applies for Fiji because you see there are floods and drought in such a small period and we are losing water as it flows to the ocean.

"That's a big potential here and I understand that as a small islands, you try to set a desalination plant which is very expensive and difficult to maintain."

He says all good water come in the form of rain which goes right to the sea.

"I think there is a need for it. I think it is just water management which would lead to this. Fiji as a tropical country, rains every second day. I think a lot can be done to take care of the water problem in Fiji.

"We are doing a pilot project with FRIEND with one of the buildings and ultimately to other couple of buildings.

"Solar energy is quite simple that you have panels on the roof. You take the energy DC from the sun and convert it to the energy we use."

He adds solar energy implementation and rainwater harvesting do not cost much money and Fiji can benefit tremendously from it because of the tropical nature of its climate.