



Name: Salanieta Mataikabara

Group/Unit: UNDP Pacific Office
Effective Governance Team

Tel No.: +679 3227731

Travel Authorization #:

Approved Mission Itinerary:

Nadi-Christchurch- Nadi

Attachments:

From:
23 September 2017

To:
30 September 2017

Key Counterpart(s) in location:

UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub (BRH) Youth Unit,
ESCAP and Akina Foundation, Pacific Youth
Innovators selected by UNDP Pacific office in Fiji

Background and Objectives of Mission:

In support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recognizing the important role of youth in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and calls for action against challenges faced by young people that limit their economic, social and political inclusion, UNDP and ESCAP through the Regional Youth Project Leadership, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (Youth CoLab) as a mechanism to tackle the challenges young people, including the most marginalized, face today in the Asia-Pacific region. Its main objective is to “establish a common agenda for Asia-Pacific countries to invest and empower youth to accelerate implementation of the Global Goals through social innovation and entrepreneurship”. Specifically, the project focuses on establishing a network to foster youth-led social entrepreneurship, supporting youth leadership initiatives, and providing grants for incubation financial mechanisms to fund youth-led programmes aimed at achieving the SDGs. It also supports research and knowledge exchange activities to inform current and new youth initiatives. The efforts of UNDP, ESCAP and identified partners is directed at supporting young people with an emphasis on the following overarching priorities: catalyzing youth innovation; creating better access to data and participatory research; empowering young people through technology; fostering youth inclusion; and promoting youth leadership.

The UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub (BRH) Youth Unit together with UNDP Pacific Office, ESCAP and Akina Foundation developed a Pacific youth segment focusing on supporting youth social entrepreneurs from the Pacific region to learn, network and engage at the Social Enterprise World Forum. This is an annual international gathering for social enterprises (including policymakers, community leaders, investors, activists, academics to name a few) from all over the world to share wisdom, build networks and discuss how to create a more sustainable future. This year’s event was held in Christchurch, New Zealand (25-29 September 2017) on the theme “Ka koroki te manu-creating our tomorrow. The event hosted 1600 participants one of the largest conferences in Christchurch since the earthquake. Out of the 1600 participants UNDP & ESCAP sponsored 9 Pacific Youth Innovators from 6 Pacific Islands countries including Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, and Government representatives from Fiji and Samoa. The forum was hosted by Akina Foundation which is an organization that fosters the social enterprise ecosystem in New Zealand and the Pacific with the support from organizations such as SAP, Pacific Business Trust, Inspiring stories, Kiwi Bank, Christchurch local council and many other partners including UNDP (as per SEWF 2017 Programme attached).

Summary of the Mission:

In summary, the meeting schedule for the 5 days was as follows:

25 September 2017

6pm – Dinner Meeting with UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub Youth Unit

26 September 2017

9am – 5pm: UNDP – ESCAP side event for Pacific Youth, Lincoln University

6pm – 8:30pm – Networking Dinner and activities with Other Youth participants (inspiring stories)

27 September 2017

9am – 12pm: SEWF Opening

1:30pm – 5:30pm: SEWF Main event

5:30pm – 7pm: Dinner and recap of the day with Pacific participants

28 September 2017

9am – 12pm: SEWF Parallel sessions

1:30pm – 3pm: SEWF Parallel sessions

3pm – 5:30pm: Session for Youth Participants from Pacific Islands

5:30pm – 7pm: Dinner and recap of the day with Pacific participants

29 September 2017

9am – 12:30pm: SEWF Parallel sessions

2pm – 5:30pm: SEWF Closing Ceremony

6pm – 9:30pm: Dinner and recap of the Forum with Pacific participants

As an outcome of the SEWF 2017, our Pacific Youth innovators were introduced to the Regional Youth Project (Youth CoLab) and the Youth Policy Toolbox. The Youths had the opportunity to meet with the key SEWF 2017 presenters and shared their business projects. The presenters included the Honourable Minister Alfred Ngaro who is New Zealand's Minister for Pacific Peoples, Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, Associate Minister for Children, and Associate Minister for Social Housing, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) InnovationXchange assistant Director, the CEO of Inspiring Stories -Mr Guy Ryan, CEO of Social Enterprises UK – Mr Peter Holbrook, Ms Helianthi Hilman the Founder and CEO of Javara Indigenous Indonesia, the NZ Pacific Business Trust Chair – Mr Faumina Toni Pereira and other Entrepreneurs and Business innovators. This event also gave our Pacific Youth innovators to establish business network in New Zealand for direct trading opportunities. Furthermore, this event allowed an opportunity to connect with Global Alliance of all the Mobile Operators (GSMA) where Youth is one of their priority areas and they work with DFID and DFAT on supporting the eco-system. GSMA are keen on working in the Pacific and doing a joint kick start in Q1 next year in Fiji. As DFAT, British Council, Akina Foundation, Oxfam, GSMA, ADB and AIESEC have shown keen interest at the SEWF 2017 to partner with UNDP Pacific (and Fiji's Ministry of Youth and Sports rep to the SEWF 2017 willing to lead the activities from his end), it seems like that the planning phase is ready to begin.

Immediate follow-up actions by UNDP Pacific Office

Based on the discussions with various stakeholders, the following activities listed below have been identified for follow up actions:

- Next steps is to develop a Youth Co:Lab for the Pacific.