

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



Transparency International Fiji

OUR VISION

We envisage a Fiji free of corruption.

OUR MISSION

We seek to eradicate corruption by mobilizing stakeholders to promote and strengthen integrity and ethics.

OUR VALUES

Our core values include transparency, accountability, integrity, honesty, courage and solidarity.

COVER PICTURE: Student leaders from Vanua Levu secondary schools gather at the Hot Springs Hotel, Nasavusavu for civic education and leadership training.



ANNUAL REPORT 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	1
About TI Fiji	2
TI Fiji Members	3
Organisation Chart 2013	4
Board of Directors	5
Staff	6
TO ENSURE A MORE EFFECTIVE & EFFICIENT TI FIJI	
Board Governance	7
Staff Challenges	7
Research-Based Activity	8
Fundraising	9
Monitoring & Evaluation	9
TO STRENGTHEN TI FIJI THROUGH THE EXISTING NIS (NATIONAL INTEGRITY SYSTEMS) PILLARS	
ALAC Research	10
Integrity System	10
Engaging Methodist Youth	11
Advocacy Work	11
Principled Leadership	12
TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE AWARENESS & COMMITMENT ABOUT ETHICS & INTEGRITY	
National Duty for Students	13
Youth Gear Up for Poll	14
Talk Back Show	14
Social Media	15
Corruption Victims/Witnesses	15
TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS & REGIONAL PROGRAMMES & COMMITMENT	
Engaging FICAC	16
Volunteer Network	16
TO SUPPORT TI GLOBAL EFFORTS TO HAVE FREE & FAIR ELECTIONS	
“Partly Free” Media	18
Commission Meets CSOs	18
FINANCIAL STATEMENT	19

Foreword

IT was a *Year of Constructive Engagement*, with significant actors and institutions, in building awareness against corruption and promoting transparent and accountable leadership (TAL) in Fiji. The 2014 election loomed large on the horizon, as we started the year. A scoping study on TI Fiji's electoral strategy was done in April by a consultant, under the movement's Pacific Islands Network Strengthening Programme (PINSP).



We are grateful for support from our donor partners – the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Canada Fund for Local Initiatives in Wellington, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). I take this opportunity to thank the Transparency International Secretariat in Berlin for its leadership of the TI global coalition and support for the Fiji chapter.

I took over as Chairperson towards the end of the financial year, during the first quarter of 2014. The Chairperson, Mr Apisalome Tudreu, had taken on the added position of Executive Director to relieve a staff shortage, resulting from maternity leave and the resignation of a senior staff. During the year, we conducted a series of workshops – in the Central, Western and Northern Divisions – for senior students selected by 74 schools for their leadership potential, with the support of the Ministry of Education. We engaged senior officials in the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the Divisional Offices, to open the workshops. A workshop participant said it was the first time he had learnt about the rule of law. One of the workshop objectives was to prepare these young leaders for voting for the first time in the 2014 election.

We undertook four (4) research projects, one to process results from a 2012 survey on youth perceptions on corruption, and the other three (3) were related to our Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC), including an analysis of case files and Fiji's anti-corruption landscape. These research activities encouraged us to carefully consider the nature of our work. The youth survey showed that lack of integrity is a major problem for young people and for the development of businesses and the economy. We also addressed TI Fiji's relation to the legally-mandated anti-corruption institution, the Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC).

Rather than dealing only with anti-corruption, we focused from the positive side on the promotion of integrity – and on developing transparent and accountable leadership (TAL). Mr Tudreu took advantage of the opportunity to speak to the FICAC Annual Seminar in Suva in August. He proposed the role of TI Fiji in an anti-corruption coalition in these terms: public education; independent evaluation; systemic reform, and solidarity and coalition building. We want to work with FICAC and its partners in these areas.

In October 2013, Transparency International conducted a review of the work of chapters in the Asia Pacific region, including Fiji. Immediate feedback on Fiji suggested that this chapter is poised to raise its profile and impact in creating anti-corruption awareness, and promoting transparent and accountable leadership (TAL). We want to begin fulfilling this prophecy, from the second quarter of 2014, as we prepare for our organisational review. I am pleased to present TI Fiji's Annual Report for 2013, on behalf of the Board of Directors.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Donasiano Ruru'.

Donasiano Ruru, Ph.D.
Chairperson

About TI Fiji

The TI Fiji Chapter was set up in March 1999 by a small group of businessmen and women. We are an independent, non-political and non-partisan membership organisation dedicated to promoting a culture of zero tolerance for corruption at all levels of society in Fiji. Our core values include transparency, accountability, integrity, honesty, courage and solidarity.

TI Fiji works with schools, community groups and government organisations, providing them with information, tools, skills, training and confidence to better understand and fight corruption. TI Fiji also engages with individuals and groups via specialized workshops, outreach activities, school visits, media engagement, social media networks, membership drives, and one-on-one discussions.

TI Fiji has 11 corporate members, 18 individual members, two civil society members, two family members and a youth member. The chapter has a 6 member Board of Directors that has been very supportive in developing, guiding and steering the chapter towards the achievement of its objectives.

Since its establishment in 1999, the organisation has grown in capacity, programmes and activities. TI Fiji employs 10 staff.

The Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) and Youth Integrity Promotion (YIP) Programme are TI Fiji's current programmes.

The ALAC programme provides legal assistance to victims and witnesses of corruption. The centre has provided enabling mechanisms and avenues for citizens to register for and seek preliminary legal assistance.

The YIP Programme commenced in 2012 with the aim of "encouraging and enabling youth and young leaders to act with integrity and reject corruption". The main activity in the first year of the YIP programme was the Youth Integrity Survey, which looked at young people's ideas about what is right or wrong, which acts they recognize as being corrupt, whether or not they understand the concept of integrity and where integrity is positioned in their value system.

TI Fiji welcomes individuals, families and organizations from all walks of life to join the fight against corruption by becoming members or supporting various initiatives, including the above programmes, and work in corruption awareness, civic education and capacity building.

TI Fiji Members

Corporate

BSP Life (Fiji) Ltd

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Punja & Sons Ltd

Reddy Group of Companies/

Reserve Bank Of Fiji

Westpac Banking Corporation

Williams & Goslings Ltd

University of South Pacific

Quality Prints Limited

Office of the Auditor General

Australia New Zealand Banking Corporation

Family

Mr Venkat Ramani

Mr Nirenjeev Kumar

Civil Society

Naroko Women's Association

YWAM - Teen Challenge

Youth

Monica Aguilar

Individual

Professor Rajesh Chandra

Mr Rustam Ali

Mrs Roshni Pal

Mr Daryl Tarte

Mr Hamendra Nagin

Mr Mark Halabe

Mrs Premila Devi Kumar

Dr Donasiano Ruru

Mr Robin Yarrow

Mrs Rosie Langi

Mrs Suliana Siwatibau

Mr Apisalome Tudreu

Mr Peter Campbell Johnston

Mr Timothy Raju Fong

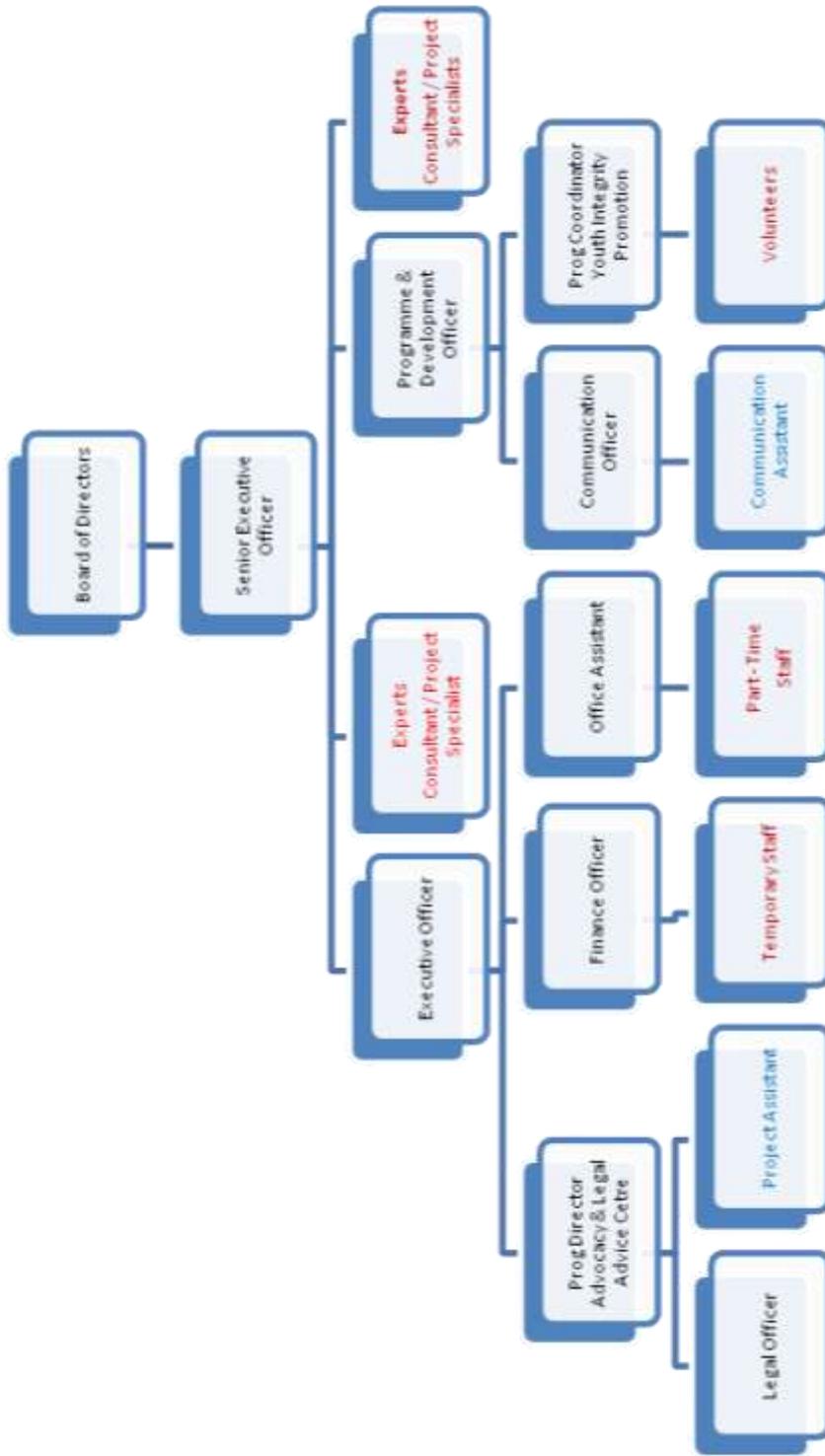
Mrs Hamidan Bibi

Dr Joseph Veramu

Mr Nitish Nirranjan

Mr Winston Thompson

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL FIJI ORGANISATION CHART 2013



Board of Directors	Senior Executive Officer
(Human resource committee, Finance committee, Programme committee)	Operational discipline, strategic liaison – TI-S, etc
TI coalition mandate, chapter responsibility	Board policy advice, quality development programmes
Policy, strategic goals, performance standards	Performance and systems management, reporting
Establishment, structure, budget, resources	Appropriate resources, facilities
Coalitions, contracts, agreements, discipline	Programmes and Development
Corporate services & collaboration	
<u>Advoc & Leg Advice Centre</u>	
Finance Donor / grants contracts	Secretariat services HR and admin Contracts, MoAs
Complaints service, referrals	Comm Youth Integrity Promotion projects
Community participation	Research Development projects System dev
Advice on advocacy and systemic reform	

Board of Directors

Dr Donasiano Ruru
(Chairperson)



Professor Rajesh Chandra



Mr Nirenjeev Kumar



Mrs Janine Penjueli



Mrs Nanise Nagusuca



Mr Apisalome Tudreu



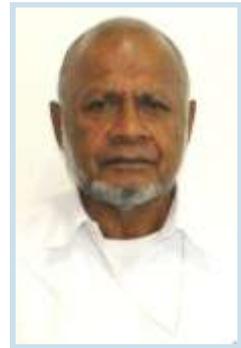
STAFF



Apisalome Tudreu
Executive Director



Koila Kabu
Executive Officer



Savenaca Nacanitaba
Programme &
Development Officer



Davina Chan
Programme Director
ALAC



Tokasa Alefaio
Programme Coordinator
(YIP)



Nazeem Kasim
Communication Officer



Romila Prasad
Finance Officer



Jone Siqila
Communication
Assistant

Villiame Tuivaga
Project Assistant
ALAC



Laisa Bavai
Office Assistant



TO ENSURE A MORE EFFECTIVE & EFFICIENT TI FIJI

AN effective and efficient TI Fiji is the first of six (6) strategic goals of the organization. We report on activities and results for the year under these six goals.

Board governance

THE Board of Directors met seven (7) times during the year. These meetings were supported by 20 meetings of the three (3) Board Committees. The Committees: Human Resources; Finance, and Programme. We have an active Board which governs the organization. Mrs Janine Penjueli is Chairperson of the Programme Committee, Mr Nirenjeev Kumar of the Finance Committee, and Dr Donasiano Ruru of the Human Resources Committee.

Dr Donasiano Ruru took over as Chairperson towards the end of the financial year in March 2014. Mr Apisalome relinquished the position to lead the staff team as Executive Director.

Staff development

WE began the year with staff challenges.

The Executive Officer (EO) was due to take maternity leave in the first month, and the next senior officer, the Programme Officer (PO), resigned that month. The Board decided that the TI Fiji Chairperson take on the additional role of Executive Director. He recruited a new PO, and because of his experience, took on the added development responsibility for organisation and programme development.

In mid-May, some TI Fiji Board members and staff attended a workshop on Electoral Systems and the 2014 Election, as part of the civil society preparation for the election. Lynn Sferrazza, Programme Director of the American Bar Association (ABA) Rule of Law Initiative (ROLI) Fiji, conducted the training. The training, held in Suva, was sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). We are concerned about the high proportion of invalid vote in the 2006 election.

Later in the year, staff training on aspects of management was carried out in two (2) sessions involving 10 officers, based on a TI Executive Leadership programme held in Berlin. Executive Officer Koila Kabu attended the Berlin training, and shared lessons with TI Fiji staff on her return to Fiji.

Research-based activity

WE took a clear emphasis on research during the year, to enhance an evidence-based approach to our work. We undertook the following activities:

- processed information gathered in 2012 from a survey on youth perceptions about integrity in the TI Asia Pacific region,
- reviewed an Electoral Strategy document, produced by another consultant in April, to prepare an expanded Electoral and Civic Education Strategy document,
- conducted research on integrity systems at local government level, through a selection of municipal councils and the Rabi Council,
- helped students at TI Fiji's leadership development workshops, in three (3) divisions – Central, Western and Northern -- use primary research material from a study, conducted by the Institute of Research and Social Analysis (IRSA) at the Pacific Theological College in Suva, on the perceptions and preconditions of democratic development, and
- applied findings in the TI and other global reports [Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), Global Corruption Barometer (GCB), Global Corruption Report (GCR), and review of the report on the United Nations Convention on Anti-Corruption (UNCAC)].

organised the survey, to capture attitudes, values and experiences that respondents have on corruption. Transparency International's working definition of Corruption is "the abuse of entrusted power for private gain". Corruption hurts everyone whose life, livelihood or happiness depends on the integrity of people in positions of authority.

YIP surveyed the involvement of young people and stakeholders in building integrity and advocacy against corruption. There were 1,146 youth respondents (15-30 years of age) and a control group of 1,095 adults (more than 30 years old). TI Fiji was involved in this activity as part of a Transparency International project involving TI chapters in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, South Korea, Vietnam and Fiji, representing the four (4) Asia Pacific subregions. In a sense, however, we made the YIS our own by using it to inform thinking about the future of engaging Fiji youth in anti-corruption and integrity promotion activities and advocacy. During the year, we engaged Dr Joseph Veramu to align the recommendations to the findings of the research and to provide a literature review.

Two (2) key findings of the survey are:

That 88 per cent of youth respondents consider the lack of integrity, including corrupt acts, as a major problem for young people, and 84 per cent consider it a major problem for the development of businesses and the economy.

Two (2) out of three (3) survey respondents consider that young people have a big role to play in building integrity and fighting corruption.

Key recommendations were endorsed by the Programme Committee on behalf of the Board.

Youth Integrity Survey

In this section, we report on the Youth Integrity Survey (YIS). We completed a report on the YIS which was conducted in 2012, and launched the report in 2013. TI Fiji's Youth Integrity Promotion (YIP) Programme



Photo break... for interviewers in the Youth Integrity Survey.

Fundraising

MORE attention is being given to diversifying our funding base. In addition to the TI Pacific Institutional Network Strengthening Programme (PINSP) core and project funding, projects have included sponsorship by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Canada Fund. Partnership with other organisations is expanding opportunities for budgeted programmes and resources. New proposals are in the pipeline for funding sources into the new financial year.

Monitoring & Evaluation

A workshop on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL), organised by Transparency International's Asia and Pacific Division (APD), was held over three (3) days in November, which was facilitated by a consultant, Dr Dwight Ordonez. The workshop provided professional support to staff and directors in project and organisational management. It will help strengthen the focus of staff coaching and sharpen work plans that we want to finalise for the new year. Implications on other aspects of TI Fiji operations are emerging and can be addressed in a organisation review to be done early in the year.



Executive Director Apisalome Tudreu makes a point at the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) workshop for staff.

TO STRENGTHEN TI FIJI THROUGH THE EXISTING NIS (NATIONAL INTEGRITY SYSTEMS) PILLARS

ALAC research

RESEARCH on the Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) experience and on the anti-corruption (AC) landscape which was conducted in June and July has given new direction and emphasis to the programme, particularly its expanding role to achieving the organisation's strategic goals, under an integrated/ collaborative approach across all programmes and with TIFiji stakeholders. Harnessing the local government structures, which includes cultural and religious and other unregulated integrity systems, and providing a citizen-friendly directory of services for consumer and AC/IP complaints, were addressed in follow-up research exercise.

A public survey was conducted by ALAC earlier in the year to gauge people's awareness on the programme, and involved about 2,000 people. Its findings have been used for the PINSP funded research and proposed development initiatives for the programme and for other TI Fiji activities.



Interview for the Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) Survey...

Integrity systems

THE concept of the National Integrity System (NIS) has been developed and promoted by TI as part of its holistic approach to countering corruption. The NIS consists of the principal institutions and actors which contribute to integrity, transparency and accountability in society. An NIS assessment provides a framework which anti-corruption organisations can use to analyse, both the extent and causes of corruption in the country, as well as the effectiveness of national anti-corruption efforts.

Such an assessment for Fiji is considered premature, under a non-democratic government, because it requires a consultative approach, involving the key anti-corruption agents in government, civil society, the business community and other sectors with a view to building momentum, political will and civic pressure for reform initiatives.

In the circumstances, TI Fiji engaged its Advocacy & Legal Advice Project Specialist Alanieta Vakatale in December 2013 to conduct a study into the Local Integrity Systems (LIS) at the municipal and district level, and to compile a Directory of Services of various anti-corruption and related agencies in Fiji. The project on the Directory of Services stems from the ALAC data research conducted in June 2013, recommending the compilation of such a resource – to answer questions of what “corruption” is, what are corruption related offences, and to set out a Directory of Services giving individuals answers as to where they should take their concerns, what they need to take with them, and the contacts of such agencies.

The LIS research was undertaken through research of material and resources on Corruption in Local Government, as well as the use of TI's Tools for transparency in Local Governance (March 2004). On-the-ground research was conducted, with key informants being Special Administrators from various municipal councils, a regional civil society organisation, and the Rabi Council Administrator. After compilation of a draft report for the Local Government Research and the Directory of services, a stakeholder's consultation was held on 20th March 2014. We are now working on incorporating the feedback obtained from the Stakeholders consultation, finalisation of the report:

Engaging Methodist youth

ALL TI Fiji units took part over three (3) days in the first week of December to provide electives on youth integrity at the Methodist Youth Fellowship Annual Camp – YIP: adopting integrity promotion in youth groups; Communications: using media as a platform to promote anti corruption efforts; Corporate Services/Collaboration: developing policy guidelines within the Church youth movement; ALAC: legal assistance and advice for victims and witnesses of corruption. TI Fiji and the Methodist Young People's Department (which includes a tertiary certificate level Lay Training Centre) are developing longer term youth development programmes at community level as well as appropriate training programmes, based on commitments made with about 600 young people and leaders who attended our sessions out of the 1,400 Camp delegates.

Engaging the Methodist Church recognises that it is the major Christian denomination in Fiji, it enlists the nationwide network of the Church, and will help members transfer knowledge and skills to secular activities and affiliations. The challenge, of course, is for TI Fiji to work with other Christian denominations and other faiths, to promote transparent and accountable leadership (TAL).

Advocacy work

ALAC was involved in consultations with the Public Rental Board (PRB) – a statutory housing organisation – on whistle blowing and grievance management within their human resources management policies. A set of draft guidelines was compiled for consideration by the PRB management. Strategic partnerships with stakeholders from the public and private sectors, and CSOs, are now central to our anti-corruption and integrity promotion campaign.



Young men and women at the Methodist Annual Youth Camp at Davuilevu near Nausori.



Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) leaders from the Naitasiri Division meet for a workshop at Dokanaisuva.

Principled leadership

DEVELOPING dynamic young leaders who stand for transparency and accountability was an aim of a leadership workshop held at Dokanaisuva, near Suva, in March 2014. The training, facilitated by TI Fiji, brought together 30 participants from the nine (9) MYF circuits in the Naitasiri Methodist Division. Participants learned to ensure that their rules and guidelines are transparent and accountable, to effectively manage their youth groups. They developed draft work plans which they aligned to the divisional corporate plan and the connexional plan of the Methodist Church in Fiji and Rotuma.

Participant Tuimasi Tubananitu from Kalabu Circuit MYF said that the workshop taught him to have clear goals not only in the MYF but also in his personal life as a role model. The discussions in the workshop would help him make an appropriate choice in September's election.

"I want to make my vote count and I'd like to choose a candidate with a clear vision, mission and objectives which she will use to help the people when she gets into

Parliament," Tubananitu said. Filipe Tarakinikini, leader of the Soloira MYF, said "the workshop has taught me valuable leadership skills which I can use in my community".

TI Fiji Executive Director Apisalome Tudreu said that the nurturing of transparent and accountable leaders was an important aspect of civil society and religious organizations and TI Fiji was pleased to be able to make inputs into promoting integrity and anti corruption values.

Superintendent of the Naitasiri Division, Rev. Kitione Raibeve, urged the active participation of young leaders in the economic, spiritual and social development of Naitasiri. He added that the special challenge of Naitasiri is that it hosts people who originated from many other parts of the nation. "It is part of the hub of socio economic development in the Suva, Nasinu and Nausori corridor. This places special responsibility to the young leaders to respond to Naitasiri's economic and social diversity."

TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE AWARENESS & COMMITMENT ABOUT ETHICS & INTEGRITY

National duty for students

THREE (3) divisional training programmes were organised under the Youth Integrity Promotion (YIP) Programme to quickly establish a nation-wide programme for an important sector of our youth who were about to take up national duties as voters. These activities were funded under TI Pacific Network and Institutional Strengthening Programme (PINSP), and supported by the Ministry of Education. More than 150 student leaders, selected by principals from 74 secondary schools, attended the workshops.

Topics included personal leadership skills, civic education, anti-corruption and integrity promotion awareness -- first in mid-June, for 25 secondary schools in the Central Division, at the Centre for Appropriate Technology, about an hour's drive out of Suva, second in late July for

25 secondary schools from the Western Division at the Fun World Plaza Hotel in Nadi, and the third at the Hot Springs Hotel at Nasavusavu for 24 Vanua Levu schools in mid-August. Venues enhanced impact with good quality facilities and services. Working with Project Specialist Dr Joseph Veramu, as facilitator, and various professionals as resource persons, integration of the different programmes and hands-on development of staff from all units was emphasised. Follow-up projects aim to deepen nation-wide engagement including curriculum development.

The student leaders discussed a paper presented by political scientist, Dr Manfred Ernst, Director of the Institute of Research and Social Analysis (IRSA) at the Pacific Theological College (PTC) in Suva. The paper draws on the book, Voices of the People. Perceptions and Preconditions for Democratic Development in Fiji. 2013. Manfred Ernst & Felicity Szesnat (eds.), IRSA/PTC, Suva.



Student leaders from the Central Division attend leadership training at the Centre for Appropriate Technology Development (CATD), Nadave, near Nausori.

Youth gear up for poll

WITH support from Canada Fund, TI Fiji conducted two (2) civic education, leadership and FilmSmart workshops for 100 young people in early January 2014. The workshops were held in Suva and Nadi, and focused on mobilising young people to make a stand against corruption, and to advocate for accountable and transparent leaders in the buildup to, and during the national election.

“Some politicians just talk. I want a leader who does what he promises and not just do the talking,” said Naisua Waisea, 21. Project Specialist and civic education consultant Dr Joseph Veramu said TI Fiji wanted participants to familiarise themselves with how to stop corruption and promote transparency and integrity. “We want participants to learn how they can use social media such as Facebook, Twitter and Youtube to promote anti-corruption and the need for democracy,” he said.

TI Fiji trained young people on how to shoot videos, edit and put these videos on the Internet. Youths were also encouraged to spread messages of integrity and anti-corruption through social media networks such as Facebook, Youtube and Twitter.

Rita Narayan, 20, of Sigatoka, told TI Fiji, “We’d like to use Facebook to encourage our peers to vote for leaders who stand for accountable leadership. We want leaders who will serve the people.”

Talk back show

AT the conclusion of the workshops in Suva and Nadi, Fiji Broadcasting Corporation (FBC) hosted TI Fiji on a radio talk back show on its Gold FM station. TI Fiji’s senior staff and youth workshop participants attended the talk back show which was aired live on radio, and broadcast later on national television. TI Fiji talked about how it uses short films, flash mobs, postures, songs and social media such as Facebook to spread the principles of integrity, accountability and transparency to youth and citizens of Fiji. The youth shared the importance of choosing leaders with integrity and accountability in the September elections to the listeners.



Olivia Melissa explains how decisions are made in a school, during a holiday training programme for students from the Central Division.

Social media

OUR social media platform, Facebook, has picked up momentum from previous years. As of March 2014, we have 1,040 members. This figure is expected to grow in the near future with more activities and outreach implemented. We use Facebook to raise awareness on corruption, integrity, accountability and transparency. We copy the links from the daily corruption stories sent from the TI Secretariat in Berlin on our Facebook. In addition, we post pictures and videos of our workshops and outreach activities.

Corruption victims/ witnesses

TWO (2) mobile ALACs -- district level public awareness workshops--conducted in August and in November, were attended by 117 members of the local community in the Western Division, including staff of the Sigatoka and Nadi Town Councils. In line with broader objectives raised by the ALAC research, prefects from some schools who had attended our youth integrity initiatives participated, along with others from disadvantaged families in the Lovu Housing and Relief Housing Trust (HART) estate, Public Rental Board housing estates in Nadi and Lautoka, the women's organisations - Soqosoqo Vakamarama and YWCA in Nadi and Lautoka. Emphasis continued for ALAC on deepening community participation (particularly women and youth) and enhancing transparency and "home grown" grievance management.



Programme Director ALAC Davina Chan speaks at a Mobile Workshop, at the Sigatoka Town Council Office.

TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS & REGIONAL PROGRAMMES & COMMITMENT

Engaging FICAC

TI Chairperson Apisalome Tudreu spoke to the Annual Seminar of the Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC) in August, which focused on Public Sector Accountability and Integrity in Project Implementation and Procurement. FICAC is the legally mandated anti-corruption institution in Fiji. Mr Tudreu proposed that the role of TI Fiji, in a national coalition of anti-corruption institutions, be stated in the following terms: (i) educating the public on corruption; (ii) independent evaluation of anti-corruption systems and efforts; (iii) systemic reform to promote integrity and transparency; and (iv) solidarity and coalition building in anti-corruption efforts.

The seminar communiqué recognises that the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) sets out the international standards to promote and strengthen measures to prevent and combat corruption more effectively and efficiently. The communiqué commits stakeholders to establishing a working group to monitor the implementation of the provisions of Article 9 of UNCAC and the recommendations from the seminar. It accepts independent anti-corruption and integrity assessments such as Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (CPI), as well as similar instruments to be considered from time to time in collaboration with recognised institutions or organisations.

Volunteer network

YIP launched a Fiji Youth for Integrity (FYFI) volunteer network on December 9, 2013, to celebrate the United Nations Anti-Corruption Day. The aim is to bring likeminded individuals, mainly young professionals and young leaders, to become integrity ambassadors in the anti-corruption movement, especially among young people in Fiji.

YIP afterwards encouraged the volunteers to select an issue for them to address. They chose the environment, and divided the project into two (2) phases. The first phase was implemented in March 2014, at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, a poetry slam (competition) on how a young person with integrity contributes to environmental sustainability. About 15 poems were received, 3 winners were chosen. Teens (Primary and Secondary students) and Youth (18-35years).

From this phase, the Fiji Youths for Integrity have identified the level of understanding on the issue. More emphasis needs to be made, great awareness done at local and national level, on the issue and the relation between integrity and the environment needs to be stressed. Phase two (2) involved partnering with the Methodist Youth Fellowship and planting trees on church land at Navuso, near Nausori town.



From left, Mere Disese, Josai Nanuqa and Sera Kotobalavu. Winners in the Poetry Slam (competition) held at the University of the South Pacific in Suva.

TO SUPPORT TI GLOBAL EFFORTS

WE observed the release of two (2) documents by Transparency International; the Global Corruption Barometer 2013, and the 2012 Global Corruption Report: Education. TI Fiji took part in the international launch of the GCR which focused on education. Dr Akanisi Kedrayate, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Law and Education at the University of the South Pacific (USP) officiated in the Fiji ceremony, held at the TI Fiji office at Pratt Street, in Suva.

As the report notes, “education constitutes the largest element in the public sector in many countries, accounting for more than a fifth of total government public sector expenditure. Education is a fundamental human right, and it drives personal, social and economic development. But “education is also particularly prone to corruption. Huge resources are often disbursed through complex administrative layers, Inadequately monitored all the way from central government to schools.”

Dr Kedrayate congratulated Transparency International for producing the 10th GCR. She said it is encouraging to learn of the leadership and collaborative spirit that the Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC) demonstrated in organising the 2013 FICAC Annual Seminar in Suva in August.

Dr Akanisi Kedrayate officiates in the Fiji launch of Transparency International's Global Corruption Report (GCR) on Education.



TO HAVE FREE & FAIR ELECTIONS

"Partly free" media

IN May, TI Fiji issued a media release expressing its concern about the "partly free" status of the Fiji media, saying this detracts from the vision for a modern nation-state and democratic society. It said that the latest assessment by Freedom House on the situation of the Fiji media should be a useful signal as Fiji anticipated national election in a 2014.

While other countries in the Pacific are turning to have a free media and have climbed up the ranking, Fiji's positions shows there's work yet to done in this area. TI Fiji's statement came after Fiji's ranking at 120, in a table of 197 countries, in the Freedom of the Press 2013 survey released in Washington DC.

Fiji was listed as "partly free" in the Freedom of the Press Index which assesses the degree of print, broadcast and internet freedom in every country in the world, analyzing the events and developments of each calendar year. Mr Apisalome Tudreu said a free media is a platform for people to express their views and excess information freely and without fear.

Commission meets CSOs

TI officials attended the first meeting in March 2014 between the Electoral Commission and representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs). Mr Tudreu told Fiji One TV: "This is a positive feeling, that we have been invited to come here, we are ready to engage, and to do whatever we can locally, with all the other civil society organisations, and our international network."



Davina Chan and Nazeem Kasim take part in a Radio Pasifika talkback show.

Financial Report

Donors



Address: 72 Pratt Street, Suva
PO Box 15083, Suva

Phone: (679) 3304 702

Fax: (679) 3303 530

Email: oa@transparencyfiji.org

Web: www.transparencyfiji.org

FB: www.facebook.com/TransparencyFiji