Fiji Commerce & Employers Federation

THE VOICE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

FBDRC

Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council

An Introduction

Wednesday 28th June, 2023

Fiji Commerce & Employers Federation
THE VOICE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

FBDRC
Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council

CONNECTING BUSINESS INITIATIVE

FBDRC
Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council

MISSION

Provide a platform for the private sector to both manage impacts to themselves, and support government, civil society and development partners in building climate resilience and preparing for and responding to disasters and emergencies.

OUR WORK

Stakeholder Engagement (Private Sector, Public Sector, NDMO, Development Partners & other stakeholders) towards:

- Risk Reduction
- Preparedness
- Response & Recovery

OUR THEME

Resilient Businesses Ready for Tomorrow

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Activities of Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council

No	Activities & Initiatives	Action & Timing	Stakeholders
1	Capacity Building - FBDRC/FCEF Membership	Monthly Information Sessions	Relevant Stakeholders – NDMO, Fiji Met, Ministries of Health, Lands & Mineral Resources, Waterways (upcoming)
2	Engagement on collaboration opportunities locally	Ongoing	• NDMO • Relevant Ministries (Health, Waterways, Fiji Met, Lands & Mineral Resources, Fiji Red Cross, etc
3	Engagement with Donor Agencies & Development Partners	On the look out for partners to assist with Disaster mitigation & adaptation initiatives and support	• UN CBi, UNDP, UNOCHA, USAID • PACRES Project – PIFs
4	Progress and validation of the Fiji Private Sector Mapping Exercise	This project has been ongoing and the final report is expected launched soon.	Work in Progress with support from the PIFS as part of Fiji's NDC commitments.

Partnering with the Private Sector for Disaster Resilience & Humanitarian Action

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM

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Peer2Peer Learning

Sunday 28th May to Friday 2nd June, 2023

- Western Viti Levu & Central Viti Levu
  - Public Sector - Fiji Met, WAF & NDMO - NEOC
  - Hospitality – Sofitel Hotel
  - SME – Sunrise Solar, BBC,
  - Wholesale & Retail – ValueCity & Punjas
  - Large Corporates – Fiji Airways, Rooster Poultry, BAT, EFL, Digicel, Mark One, & Coca-Cola

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PRP PACIFIC RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

Delegates from Pacific region with hosts FCEF, PIFS and PRP. Picture: SUPPLIED

Peer-to-peer learning

By ANISHMA PRASAD

Pacific adaptation to climate change and resilience building

IN a ground-breaking initiative aimed at fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange, representatives from several Pacific Island nations embarked on the first Pacific Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Learning Programme for the private sector in climate finance and resilience.

This program, organised in collaboration by the Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation (FCEF), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council (FBDRC), Connecting Business initiative (CBI) and other partners, seeks to enhance the participants' understanding of sustainable and resilient operations and their ability to mitigate the impacts of climate change and prepare for disasters.

Exploring climate finance and resilience

The P2P Learning Programme provided an invaluable opportunity for close to 20 representatives from the Pacific region to visit various businesses in Fiji. The delegates from Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu had the privilege of touring Fiji Meteorological Services, Scottel Fiji Resort, Fiji Airways, Water Authority of Fiji, Punjas & Sons Ltd, Rooster Poultry, BBC Bauja, and Fiji Water Foundation, in the past two days.

During these visits, they gained insights into the operations and strategies employed by these organisations to combat climate change and enhance resilience.

The team is scheduled to visit Fiji Gas, Value City, Energy Fiji Ltd, the Fiji Commerce & Employers Federation Office, Mark Apparel, Coca Cola Amatil, Digicel Fiji, and the National Disaster Management Office in the next two days.

Sharing best practices

The participating businesses in Fiji were able to showcase their initiatives, highlighting their efforts towards sustainable practices and climate resilience. By sharing their experiences and knowledge, they provided a tangible context for the participants to relate to and learn from, given the shared Pacific setting.

The open dialogue allowed for a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by businesses in the region and the strategies employed to address them.

Partnerships and funding

The success of the P2P Learning Programme is attributed to the collaborative efforts of various organisations. The European Union-funded Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRRES) provided crucial funding support.

Additionally, the FCEF, PIFS, FBDRC, Pacific Resilience Partnership and Connecting Business initiative (CBI) played pivotal roles in supporting the program.

Building a resilient private sector

The ultimate goal of the regional PACRES support towards the private sector is to strengthen engagement and dialogue at both national and regional levels. The program aims to foster a better understanding of the role and contribution of the private sector in climate change mitigation and disaster resilience.

By adopting a peer-to-peer learning approach, participants are exposed to practical skills and knowledge, thereby facilitating the adoption of climate solutions and investments in their respective countries.

Commons challenges affecting private sector engagement and accessing climate finance today

Some common barriers to effectively engage the private sector in the discussion and access climate finance include:

- Lack of appropriate incentives and an enabling environment to boost private sector climate proofing investments;
- Lack of information on national initiatives and interaction by government with the private sector such as country programs, pipeline projects, planning and implementation;
- Limited understanding by the private sector of their role and how to maximise this role to access climate change resources;
- Burdensome requirements and fiduciary standards applied by funding agencies regardless of size, capacity or need;
- Limited understanding by the private sector on the available funding resources and how to access them for climate change projects;
- Limited capacity and ability to prepare bankable projects that contribute to mitigating the impacts of climate change and building resilience to business operations.

Enhancing climate finance and resilience

The P2P Learning Programme has set the stage for ongoing collaboration and knowledge-sharing among Pacific Island nations. The valuable insights gained from the visits to businesses in Fiji will contribute to the participants' ability to drive sustainable practices and climate-resilient operations in their own countries.

By fostering dialogue and partnerships, this program offers a practical and effective approach to addressing climate change challenges specific to the Pacific region.

The first Pacific Peer-to-Peer Learning Programme for the private sector in climate finance and resilience represents a significant step towards strengthening the capacity of businesses in Pacific Island nations.

This collaborative effort, supported by organizations such as the FCEF, PIFS, FBDRC, and PACRES, reinforces the commitment of Pacific nations to combat climate change and build a more resilient future.

■ Anishma Prasad is the communications officer for FCEF. Views expressed in this article are her own and not of FCEF's and not of

The peer-to-peer learning team at Punjas. Picture: SUPPLIED

The team during a visit to the Fiji Meteorological Service. Picture: SUPPLIED

Peer2Peer Learning

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PRP
PACIFIC RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

CBi PEER-2-PEER KNOWLEDGE SHARE:

Good Practices

- NDMO
- Fiji Met Services
- Ministry of Lands – Director Seismology
- Fiji Red Cross Membership
- FBDRC invited to the National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy

Lessons Learned

- Partnering with the Private Sector to Improve Disaster Management in Asia and the Pacific – An Eye Opener
- Peer2Peer Learning – Proved to be a success
- Partnership & Collaboration – A Success

Support Required

- BCP Training Materials
- Multi Hazard Warning System
- Disaster Impact & Assistance Tracking Tool
- Loss & Damage Assessment Templates
- Incentives for Private Sector

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