



www.dialoguefiji.com

Momentum

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www.dialoguefiji.com

DECEMBER 2011

Dialogue Fiji Vision:

A Fiji where people respect each others' differences and share a common will to build a free, peaceful, and inclusive nation.

Dialogue Fiji Mission:

Engage with others to build capacity in Fiji's society to create inclusive spaces for dialogue and peace building.

Dialogue Fiji Committee :

- Suliana Siwatibau
- Rev. Akuila Yabaki
- Virisila Buadromo
- Willie Kwansing
- Daryl Tarte
- Ratu Meli Vesikula
- Nemani Mati
- Nisha Buksh
- Kelerayani Gavid
- Ricardo Morris

Dialogue Reflections: Daryl Tarte



Daryl speaking at the Dialogue Fiji Conference in September at the Anchorage Resort

In thinking about what to say in this brief reflection, I looked up "dialogue" on the internet. There were over 80 references to the term and, in particular, to dialogue in Fiji during the past ten years. In a sense this surprised me, but really, it is understandable.

Dialogue may be a

foreign word for most Pacific islanders but in essence it is the same process as "talanoa" – a concept well known to all of us who live in this part of the world.

Both dialogue and talanoa seek to achieve better understanding and cooperation across relationships. They attempt to advance knowledge and viewpoints about issues.

"Dialogue may be a foreign word for most Pacific Islanders but in essence it is the same process as "talanoa"

They strive to reduce ill feeling and foster goodwill and respect.

They envisage discussion in a controlled and safe arena.

Both dialogue and talanoa are positive concepts and the outcomes are usually productive. No one owns the process. But groups of people, like Dialogue Fiji, facilitate procedures so that individuals can exercise their basic human right to express themselves freely on matters that impact on their lives.



History walk during the Western Division Dialogue

Dialogue Fiji new website is live!

A new website for Dialogue Fiji went live on November 25th.

Boasting more user friendly features, the site houses information on the work and efforts of Dialogue Fiji as well as useful resource materials on dialogue and peacebuilding work.

"The new website has been

designed to allow users to easily access information on the particulars of our work," says DF coordinator, Sandra Fong.

"We expect our work to expand over 2012 so the changes in our approach to information and communication is necessary."

The new website address is www.dialoguefiji.com



Dialogue Fiji website

Inside this issue:

Spreading the Dialogue Influence	2
2011 DF activities	3
Whats in a Dialogue	4
Contact Details	4

Spreading the Dialogue Influence...

Dialogue Fiji continues to receive reports of positive changes taking place in communities across Fiji through their past activities and efforts. Below is an excerpt of a testimonial of a Dialogue Fiji Western Division 2011 participant.



Western division dialogue participants do the gallery walk

“The Onion Analysis that I learnt has been helpful for my work.

As a sirdar acting as a mediator, I have learnt to understand to dig deeper and find the root causes to a problem instead of listening to rumours by people.

And this has helped me greatly in understanding the cane farmers situation

better and improved their relationship through having dialogue with one another. And by observing a cane farmer’s body gesture I am able to utilize my facilitator’s skill in being able to judge him



Youth representative, Rusi Sovasova with other participants during the world café session.

and the feelings/emotion sensed within the setting. This has in fact lifted a huge burden, where I am at peace and am comfortable in conversing

with my cane workers.

Prior to being a dialogue participant, I was not able to apply this level of understanding and rather used a bureaucratic approach in providing cane workers with notice and informing them that if they remain unproductive they will be laid off. Hence I was not very approachable and I still have feelings of guilt in me.



Western Division Dialogue 2011 participants

FAST FACTS: Government Budget 2012

A quick glance at funding allocations for issues discussed at various 2011 DF events

DIALOGUE & ELECTIONS

Truth and Reconciliation Commission: **\$10,000**
 Dialogue Forum: **\$10,000**
 Electronic Voter Registration: **\$5,911,750**

LEADERSHIP & NEW CONSTITUTION

Leadership Model: **\$10,000**
 Development of Constitution: **\$450,000**

POVERTY, EDUCATION

National Poverty Eradication Program: **\$300,000**
 Busfare Assistance: **\$12,000,000**
 Fee free education cls 1-8: **\$7,600,000**

A Call For Nominations: DF Committee

Dialogue Fiji is currently seeking enthusiastic and committed individuals to join the DF committee.

DF Coordinator, Sandra Fong says DF is hoping for a balanced committee membership come 2012.

“Our current committee

membership numbers ten, although we begun with 12. DF looks forward to a full membership committee that is active and drives the strategic direction of the secretariat,” she said.

“Nominations, including self-nominations, must include name, institution,

contact details, and a brief paragraph describing the reason for nomination.”

New committee members will be selected at the Citizens’ Assembly on February 9th 2012.

(Nomination details and submission information on page 4)

IN OVERVIEW: A Chronicle of 2011 Dialogue Fiji events in pictures and participants’ quotes



“I have learnt that dialogue is not about pushing your issues and concerns offhandedly, it is utilising ways to get your message across amicably”



“Its really about listening, a genuine concern to understand and to respect different views”



“Dialogue content was most meaningful (due to) willingness of participants to come forward with their issues & how best to tackle them”



“Dialogue is about listening to each other deeply enough to be changed by what we learn”

OUR BEST WISHES AND PRAYERS FOR A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY TO ALL!

From the Secretariat Team, (right to left) Vani, Tina, Sandra and Zena



*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace
Isaiah 9: 6*

4 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT DIALOGUE

1. Dialogue focuses on the dynamics of the relationships underlying the issues and on ways to changing those relationships so groups can work together to deal with specific problems.

- facilitate deeper understanding
- Create the sense of safety required for openness
- Foster commitment to achieving sustainable change.

2. Governing Principles of Dialogue

- Inclusiveness
- Joint Ownership
- Learning
- Humanity
- Long Term Perspective



3. Goals of Dialogue

- Engage all parties
- Create the condition for change on the basis of important issues
- Foster learning,

4. Qualities of a Dialogue

- Respectfulness
- Transparency
- Openness
- Empathy
- Authenticity
- Patience
- Flexibility

BITS AND PIECES

Dialogue Fiji Forecasted Activities, Mini Announcements & Anything Interesting

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

21st: DF office closes

January

4th: DF Office reopens

Youth Dialogue Consultations
Faith-based Organisations
Consultation

February

9th: Citizens' Assembly

DF Committee

Nominations

Nominations, including self nominations, must include:

- Name,
- Institution
- Contact details
- A brief paragraph describing the reason for nomination.

Nominations must be emailed to dialoguefiji@gmail.com and should be received no later than Friday 27th January 2012.



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