



PIDF
SECRETARIAT

PACIFIC ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT FORUM
SUMMIT PROGRAM

Building Climate Resilient Green Blue Pacific Economies
2 – 4 September 2015, Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva, FIJI

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THIRD PIDF LEADERS SUMMIT

2nd – 4th September, 2015, Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva, Fiji
“Building Climate Resilient Green Blue Pacific Economies”

INTRODUCTION

Bula and welcome to the THIRD PACIFIC ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT FORUM LEADERS’ SUMMIT (PIDF3). On behalf of the PIDF Conference Committee, we want to congratulate you on your decision to attend PIDF3. We anticipate over 300 delegates from over thirty countries participating at the region’s premier event. This Program has been developed to help you make the most of your conference experience.

PIDF3 will be historical as it will witness the promulgation of the PIDF Charter by the People of the Pacific that will formally establish the PIDF, as an international organization. PIDF3 will also formally launch under the PIDF Charter the regions first Regional Development Fund under the PIDF that will finance regional developments. It will also witness the appointment of the first permanent Secretary General of the PIDF.

PIDF3 will be pivotal in that it will be the final opportunity when the People of the Pacific will come together to discuss their stance in the critical 21st Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to be held in Paris later in the year. Key messages for Paris will be formulated and a Suva Declaration on Climate Change will be endorsed. This is a watershed moment for the Pacific that has enormous implications on the future we want.

THEME

The theme for the Summit is “Building Climate Resilient Green Blue Pacific Economies.” The theme recognizes that climate change is of critical strategic importance to the Pacific. It has the potential to hold back economic progress, or reverse the gains made in our development, exacerbate social and economic problems and even totally destroy some of our communities. In order to minimize the impacts and maximize our opportunities in the face of such challenges, it is important that we embark on a climate resilient trajectory to a green economy leading to zero carbon development.

The Summit therefore will look at the actions on climate change we will need to take to deliver multiple co-benefits for the well-being of our communities and economies. We will look at how we can safeguard biodiversity and ecosystems services; ensure food, water and energy security; and support future socio-economic development by becoming climate resilient.

PROGRAM

MONDAY 31ST AUGUST 2015	
9am – 5pm	REGISTRATION Venue: Hotel Lobby
9am – 11am	PACIFIC ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT FORUM SENIOR OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEETING Venue: Matua Room (1)
2pm – 3pm	PACIFIC ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT FORUM EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING Venue: Matua (1)
4pm-5pm	MEETING OF ALL SPEAKERS, CHAIRS ETC All speakers at the Summit, facilitators, chairs etc. will meet at GPH at 4pm to review the Summit program. Venue: Matua (1)
TUESDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2015	
9am – 5pm	REGISTRATION Venue: Hotel Lobby
10am-11am	PACIFIC ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT FORUM GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING Venue: Matua (1)
3pm-5pm	WELCOME CEREMONIES Venue: Rara, Great Council of Chiefs Complex, Nasese 1. Guard of Honor by the Republic of Fiji Military Forces 2. Traditional Ceremonies of Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qaloqalovi • Vakamamaca • Sevusevu • Yaqona Vakaturaga • Wase ni Yaqona Vakaturaga • Vosa Vakaturaga • Ulivi ni Vosa Vakaturaga 3. Official Photographs
7pm-9pm	WELCOME RECEPTION Venue: Matua Lawn Hosted by Honorable Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister, Fiji
WEDNESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2015	
8am-5pm	REGISTRATION Venue: Hotel Lobby
8.30am – 9.30am	OPENING CEREMONIES Venue: Britannia Chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His Excellency Patterson Oti, High Commissioner, Solomon Islands High Commission, Suva;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Amena Yauvoli, Interim Secretary General, Pacific Islands Development Forum. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invocation by Archbishop and Primate of Aoteroa New Zealand and Polynesia, the Most Revd. Dr Winston Halapua, Anglican Church in Polynesia; 2. Welcome Address by Honorable Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister, Fiji, Chair, Pacific Islands Development Forum Governing Council; 3. Keynote Address by Chief Guest, His Excellency General Thanasak Patimapragorn, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand; 4. Vote of thanks by Mr Keutekarakia Mataroa, Vice Chairperson, Cook Islands Civil Society Organisation
9.30am-10am	<p>THAILAND SELF SUFFICIENCY EXHIBITION</p> <p>Venue: Pre-Function Area</p> <p>Opening of Exhibition by His Excellency General Thanasak Patimapragorn, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand</p>
9:30am – 10am	<p>MORNING TEA</p> <p>Venue: The Terrace</p>
10am – 11:30pm	<p>PLENARY SESSION NO. 1: CHALLENGES TO BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENT GREEN BLUE PACIFIC ECONOMIES</p> <p>Objective: To identify the challenges to developing climate resilient green blue Pacific economies.</p> <p>Venue: Britannia</p> <p>Chairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Honorable Ben Micah, Minister for Public Enterprise, Papua New Guinea; • Ms. Cristelle Pratt, Deputy Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum, Suva <p>Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. His Excellency Enele Sosene Sopoaga, Prime Minister, Tuvalu; 2. Dr Colin Tukuitonga, Director General, Secretariat of the Pacific Community.
11.30am-1pm	<p>PLENARY SESSION NO 2: LEADERSHIP FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT GREEN BLUE PACIFIC ECONOMIES</p> <p>Objective: To consider the leadership to build climate resilient green blue Pacific economies.</p> <p>Venue: Britannia</p> <p>Co-Chairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Peter Forau, Director General, Melanesian Spearhead Group, Vanuatu; • Ms. Laisa Vereti, Research and Development Officer, Pacific Disability Forum. <p>Speakers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. His Excellency Kamallesh Sharma, Secretary-General, Commonwealth

	2. His Excellency Tony de Brum, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marshall Islands
1pm-2pm	LUNCH Venues: Levuka Restaurant; Prince Albert Restaurant
2pm – 3:30pm	PLENARY SESSION 3: PARTNERSHIPS FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT GREEN BLUE PACIFIC ECONOMIES Objective: To consider the partnership needed to build climate resilient green blue Pacific economies. Venue: Britannia Chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Colin Tukuitonga, Director General, Secretariat of the Pacific Community; • Ms. Kesaia Tabunakawai, Pacific Representative of the World Wide Fund for Nature. Speakers: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. His Excellency Du Qiwen Special Envoy for China 2. Her Excellency Susi Pudjiastuti, Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia
3:30pm – 4pm	AFTERNOON TEA Venue: The Terrace
4pm – 5:30pm	PLENARY SESSION NO 4: INNOVATIONS FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE Objectives: To consider the innovations needed to build climate resilient green blue Pacific economies. Venue: Britannia Chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Rajesh Chandra, Vice-Chancellor and President, The University of the South Pacific, Laucala Campus , Suva; • Mr Mason Smith, Regional Programme Coordinator Oceania Region (Australia, NZ & The Pacific), The International Union for Conservation of Nature, Suva Speakers: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. His Excellency Mr. Erlan Idrissov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kazakhstan; 2. Mr. Sudhanshu Sarronwala, Chair of Earth Hour Global, World Wide Fund For Nature, Switzerland.
5.30pm-6pm	PLENARY SESSION NO 5: DAY ONE HIGHLIGHTS & OUTCOMES Objective: To review the day’s program and key messages from each sessions for the Outcome Document Venue: Britannia Chair: Mrs. Litia Mawi, Fiji’s Roving Ambassador to Polynesia and Micronesia Presenter: Mr Feiloakitau Kaho Tevi, Chief Rapporteur
6.30pm- 8.30pm	COCKTAIL Venue: The Terrace Hosted by His Excellency Patterson Oti, High Commissioner, Solomon

	<p>Islands High Commission, Suva, and Chair, Pacific Islands Development Forum Senior Officials Committee</p> <p>Entertainment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kiribati Students Association; • Oceania Dance Group; • Fiji Police Band
8pm-9.30	<p>PRIVATE DINNER</p> <p>Venue: Matua (1) & (2)</p> <p>Hosted by Honorable Josai Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister, Fiji</p> <p>Entertainment: Elena Baravilala</p>
THURSDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2015	
8am-5pm	<p>REGISTRATION</p> <p>Venue: Hotel Lobby</p>
8.30am – 10am	<p>PLENARY SESSION NO 6: PATH TO PARIS: STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS AND PACIFIC ENGAGEMENT.</p> <p>Objectives: The key objective of this session is for Leaders to get an overview on the key issues in the climate change negotiations leading up to Paris and discuss possible strategies to ensure the new agreement addresses core concerns of the region.</p> <p>Venue: Britannia</p> <p>Chair: Mr Amena Yauvoli, Interim Secretary General Pacific Islands Development Forum and Chair, Subsidiary Body for Implementation, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Her Excellency Mary Robinson, United Nations Special Envoy for Climate Change, New York. • Dr Mahendra Kumar, Climate Change Advisor, Pacific Islands Development Forum
10am-10.30am	<p>MORNING TEA</p> <p>Venue: The Terrace</p>
10.30am – 11.30am	<p>PARALLEL SESSIONS</p> <p>Objectives: The breakout sessions will enable the groups to discuss the particular views from private sector and civil society on issues such as the type of agreement Leaders may want, the role of private sector and private-public partnership in catalysing financial support for climate actions, the role of NGOs in ensuring robust monitoring, reporting and verification arrangements in respect of targets (for mitigation, finance, technology etc).</p> <p>GOVERNMENT: STRATEGIES FOR PARIS.</p> <p>Objectives: Leaders and Government officials will have the opportunity to consider key issues that they want to be included as part of Paris agreement, and potential strategies to realize these.</p> <p>Venue: Britannia (3)</p> <p>Moderators:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. His Excellency Enele Sosene Sopoaga, Prime Minister, Tuvalu 2. Mr Amena Yauvoli, Interim Secretary General Pacific Islands Development Forum and Chair, Subsidiary Body for Implementation, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
	<p>PRIVATE SECTOR: THE ROAD TO PARIS: CREATING A POLICY ENVIRONMENT FOR BUSINESS LEADERSHIP ON CLIMATE</p> <p>Objectives: This session will allow private sector to discuss its role in dealing with climate change issues through investment, technology and pursuing low-carbon development pathway. It should provide suggestions on how new agreement can foster private-public partnership and catalyse support for actions.</p> <p>Venue: Matua Room (1)</p> <p>Moderators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honorable Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Attorney-General and Minister for Finance, Public Enterprises, Public Service & Communications, Fiji; • Dr Mahendra Kumar, Climate Change Advisor, Pacific Islands Development Forum
	<p>CIVIL SOCIETY: TOWARDS AN AGREEMENT IN PARIS. WHERE DO WE STAND AND WAY FORWARD FOR CIVIL SOCIETY</p> <p>Objectives: The role of civil society in empowering groups such as disability, youth and women as well as addressing issues such as security, human rights and migration will be covered. Also the continued role of civil society in advocacy, awareness and the conscience of the community in the climate change discussions.</p> <p>Venue: Matua Room (2)</p> <p>Moderators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honorable Rosy Sofia Akbar, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Fiji; • Mr Krishneil Narayan, Project Survival Pacific et al.
<p>11.30am- 12.30pm</p>	<p>PLENARY SESSION NO 7: PLENARY WRAPUP: THE MESSAGE FOR PARIS</p> <p>After brief presentation from the parallel sessions, the plenary will allow open and frank discussions on the approach to Paris, the key messages that should come out in a possible declaration or statement underscoring PIDF's position.</p> <p>Venue: Britannia</p> <p>Moderators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Amena Yauvoli, Interim Secretary General Pacific Islands Development Forum; • Dr Mahendra Kumar, Climate Change Advisor, Pacific Islands Development Forum
<p>12.30pm- 1.15pm</p>	<p>TALANOA: CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION</p> <p>Discussions will revolve around the upcoming COP21 negotiations in Paris and the plight of Pacific nations affected by climate change, especially the atoll nations of</p>

	<p>Tuvalu and Kiribati in the frontline of climate change and in danger of disappearing entirely. Topical issues may include, the UN's view on environmental refugee status; sovereignty issues; Kiribati and Tuvalu resettlement in Fiji; possible 'friendship agreements' or Compact of Free Association between Fiji, Tuvalu and Kiribati.</p> <p>Venue: Matua (2)</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Iosefa Maiava, Head ESCAP EPO</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. His Excellency Anote Tong, President, Kiribati 2. His Excellency Enele Sosene Sopoaga, Prime Minister, Tuvalu; 3. His Excellency Samuela' Akilisi Pohiva, Prime Minister, Tonga; 4. His Excellency Tony de Brum, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marshall Islands 5. Her Excellency Mary Robinson, United Nations Special Envoy for Climate Change, New York.
12.30pm - 1.30pm	<p>LUNCH</p> <p>Venues: Levuka Restaurant; Prince Albert Restaurant</p>
1.30pm- 4.30pm	<p>PARALLEL SESSIONS</p> <p>Objectives: The key objective of these sessions is to consider the nexus of the sectoral issues and climate resilience, and how these would feed into the COP21 negotiations under the broad categories of mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation.</p>
1.30pm – 2.30pm	<p>TRACK 1: HEALTH, WATER & SANITATION</p> <p>Venue: Matua (1)</p> <p>The Pacific faces a set of unique hurdles in protecting the health of its people, including enormous challenges in securing safe drinking water and sanitation. The scale of these challenges is illustrated by the region's poor performance against key health indicators, and made increasingly difficult by population growth and the impacts of climate change. This session will explore the nature of these challenges, and the collaborative water, sanitation and health solutions essential to the climate resilience of Pacific communities.</p> <p>TRACK 2: MARINE ENVIRONMENT, OCEANS & FISHERIES</p> <p>Venue: Matua (2)</p> <p>Pacific marine systems, especially coral reefs, are in an ongoing trajectory of decline. Climate change, ocean acidification and other anthropogenic risks are amongst the key drivers for coral reefs degradation. For example, a temperature rise of 2.0°C will have significantly more adverse impacts on marine systems, especially coral reefs, than a temperature rise of 1.5°C. This is especially significant for PICTs because of their reliance on marine resources, in particular fish as a source of both protein and revenue. Enhanced support for governance arrangements, such as the Pacific Oceanscape framework, is needed to respond to the climate change threats and build regional resilience. This session aims to highlight the impacts of</p>

	climate change on Pacific marine ecosystems and provide justification for a negotiating target of 1.5°C.
2.30pm-3.30pm	<p>TRACK 3: ENERGY AND TRANSPORT Venue: Matua (1) Electricity and transport sectors are the main consumers of imported fossil fuel in the region. The continued reliance has a negative impact on countries' import bills, accounting for a significant share of the GDP. Moreover, the combustion of these fossil fuels are the major source of GHG emissions. Whilst the Pacific's contributions to the total global emissions are insignificant, the steps towards a low carbon pathway is good for the economy as well as the climate. This session will focus on strategies and actions that countries are embarked on and could take towards the use of sustainable forms of energy, such as renewable energy including biofuels and energy efficiency.</p> <p>TRACK 4: AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY Venue: Matua (2) This session will provide an overview of the key threats and challenges posed by climate change to the forestry and agriculture sectors in the region. The forestry sector is challenged by the need to balance forest conservation and forest utilisation in small island nations. Issues such as forest degradation and deforestation and the role of agro-forestry and eco-tourism in alleviating poverty will be addressed. Issues related to food security such as R&D and crop insurance will be highlighted. The need to explore opportunities in agri-business including the lack of agro-processing & manufacturing of high-value products, inefficient linkage to major markets, and limited capacity to deal with bio-security and technical barriers to trade will also be covered.</p>
3.30pm – 4pm	<p>AFTERNOON TEA Venue: The Terrace</p>
4pm – 5pm	<p>TRACK 5: GENDER, YOUTH, DISABILITIES AND HUMAN SECURITY Venue: Matua (1) This session will reaffirm the inter-linkages of human security and development pillars with the issue of climate change – an all-encompassing issue that has disproportionate impacts on women, youth and persons with disabilities in all their diversities. The approach taken will be grounded in Pacific community experiences. The session will unpack and reflect on these inter-linkages, not just about community vulnerabilities but taking a solution based approach to the issues and realities faced.</p> <p>TRACK 6: TECHNOLOGY, FINANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING, INFRASTRUCTURE AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT Venue: Matua (2) This session will focus on climate change resilience for infrastructure and the built environment, and the inter-related issues of finance, insurance,</p>

	<p>technology and capacity building. Factors contributing to a lack of adequate attention to climate proofing in infrastructure such as out-dated building codes, lack of enforcement of design and engineering standards, lack of awareness on the part of practitioners etc. in the region will be highlighted. Capacity building, finance and technology are essential to ensure the means for implementation of relevant action and policies. Capacity building needs to be targeted at all levels: local communities, private and public sector professionals and higher education institutes. Financing needs to recognise the particular needs and challenges faced by Pacific SIDS such as access and insurance. Technology transfer through strengthened public-private partnerships would be stressed.</p>
5pm-6pm	<p>PLENARY SESSION NO 8: WRAP UP After brief presentation from the parallel sessions, the plenary will allow open and frank discussions on the approach to Paris, the key messages that should come out in a possible declaration or statement underscoring PIDF's position. Venue: Britannia Moderators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Amena Yauvoli, Interim Secretary General Pacific Islands Development Forum; • Dr Mahendra Kumar, Climate Change Advisor, Pacific Islands Development Forum
6.30-8.30pm	<p>COCKTAIL Venue: The Lobby, Terrace Hosts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Fiji, Chair Pacific Islands Development Forum Executive Board • Kazakhstan Minister of Foreign Affairs His Excellency Mr. Erlan Idrissov <p>Entertainment: Rako Band</p>
FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2015	
8am-12pm	<p>REGISTRATION Venue: Hotel Lobby</p>
8.30am-9.30am	<p>PLENARY SESSION NO 9: GOVERNANCE & INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES Objective: To consider governance and institutional issues of the Pacific Islands Development Forum Venue: Britannia Chairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His Excellency Tony de Brum, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marshall Islands; • His Excellency Patterson Oti, High Commissioner, Solomon Islands High Commission, Suva <p>Presenter: Mr Amena Yauvoli, Interim Secretary General Pacific Islands Development Forum</p>

<p>9.30am-10.30am</p>	<p>PLENARY SESSION NO 10: TAKING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE: SUVA DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE Objective: To adopt the Outcome Document for the Third PIDF Summit and the Suva Declaration on Climate Change Venue: Britannia Chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His Excellency Tony de Brum, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marshall Islands; • Ambassador Marlene Moses, Permanent Representative to the UN, Nauru Presenters: 1. Mr Amena Yauvoli, Interim Secretary General Pacific Islands Development Forum; 2. Dr Mahendra Kumar, Climate Change Advisor, Pacific Islands Development Forum</p>
<p>10.30am-11am</p>	<p>MORNING TEA Venue: The Terrace</p>
<p>11am-12pm</p>	<p>PLENARY SESSION NO 11: CLOSING PLENARY: NATIONAL STATEMENTS Objective: To hear statements from Heads of Delegations Venue: Britannia Chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His Excellency Mr Jarden Kephas, High Commissioner, Nauru High Commission, Suva; • Mr Emmanuel Blessing, Charge'd' Affaires, Vanuatu. </p>
<p>12pm – 1pm</p>	<p>SIGNING CEREMONIES FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT FORUM CHARTER Objective: Signing of the Pacific Islands Development Forum Charter and the Suva Declaration on Climate Change. Venue: Britannia Chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Amena Yauvoli, Interim Secretary General Pacific Islands Development Forum; • Dr Mahendra Kumar, Climate Change Advisor, Pacific Islands Development Forum </p>
<p>1pm – 1.30pm</p>	<p>CLOSING CEREMONIES Venue: Britannia 1. Final Remarks: Her Excellency Mary Robinson, United Nations Special Envoy for Climate Change, New York 2. Closing Remarks: Honorable Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister, Fiji 3. Vote of Thanks: Mr Krishneil Narayan, Project Survival Pacific 4. Benediction by Archbishop and Primate of Aoteroa New Zealand and Polynesia, the Most Revd. Dr Winston Halapua, Anglican Church in</p>

	Polynesia
1.30pm- 2.30pm	LUNCH Venues: Levuka Restaurant; Prince Albert Restaurant
2.30pm- 3.30pm	PRESS CONFERENCE Venue: Matua (1) Panelist: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Amena Yauvoli, Interim Secretary General Pacific Islands Development Forum; • Dr Mahendra Kumar, Climate Change Advisor, Pacific Islands Development Forum; • Her Excellency Mary Robinson, United Nations Special Envoy for Climate Change, New York
3.30pm- 4.30pm	TOUR OF PACIFIC ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT FORUM HEADQUARTERS Sign up at Registration Desk
6pm-10pm	FAREWELL CEREMONIES Venues: Na Toba; Britannia <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Beating of the Retreat by the Republic of Fiji Military Forces 2. Cocktail hosted by His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, President, Fiji 3. Farewell Dinner hosted by His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau President, Fiji 4. Entertainment: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Chinese Youth; b. Indian Cultural Group c. Oceania Dance Group d. Fiji Police Band
END OF EVENT	

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Military 100 Men Guard of Honor

In the military, the “**Guard of Honor**” is a ceremonial practice to honor visiting foreign dignitaries, public figures that have just passed on, or the fallen in war. The Guard of Honor is performed in varying patterns befitting the symbolic title or ranking of the dignitary.

The “**100 Men Guard**” is a tribute to Head of States/Governments or Royalty. The Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) personnel will today conduct the “100 Men Guard of Honor” to welcome and in respect to the Leaders who are part of the Eminent Personalities of the South. The “100 Men Guard” consist of Military and Naval personnel donning the Regimental Colors.

Of the invited Leaders present, one will be bestowed the distinction of being the **Guest of Honor** during the military’s welcoming ceremony. In that connection, the sequence of events for his welcome will differ slightly from the preceding delegations. Inevitably, the Guest of Honor will be the last Leader to arrive.

The first Leader to arrive will be the Host, Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, Rear Admiral Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama. All present will be requested to rise in honor of the welcome. He is greeted by a senior military officer who escorts him to the designated Dais. The Guard receives him and pays the necessary compliments (The RFMF Band Plays the National Anthem). The Prime Minister is then escorted to his designated seat to await the next delegation. All ensuing delegations will be accorded a similar ceremony except for the Guest of Honor. (On paying of the compliments by the Guard, the RFMF Band will play the respective National Anthems) On arrival, the Guest of Honor is greeted by a senior military officer and escorted to the Dais.

After the paid compliments (RFMF Band plays the appropriate National Anthem), the **Guard Commander** will march forward to formally invite the Guest of Honor to inspect both the 100 men guard and the RFMF Band. On acceptance by the Guest of Honor, he steps down to the front of the Dais and is escorted to inspect only the front rank of the Guard of Honor and then to the rear to inspect the front rank of the RFMF Band.

After the inspection, the Guest of Honor is escorted back to the Dais by the Guard Commander who then seeks permission to rejoin the Guard. On rejoining the Guard, the

Guard will pay compliments again (playing of the appropriate National Anthem by the RFMF Band). After the compliments, the Guest of Honor is escorted to the designated seat to await the following the traditional welcoming ceremony.

Ceremonies of Welcome

In order to understand and appreciate the full significance of the iTaukei ceremonies of welcome, it is recommended that you take the time to read these notes, to familiarize yourself with the various personages and objects involved, and the sequence of the ceremony. A Chief or Honored Guest says little, if anything, during the ceremonies. He or she is accompanied by a spokesperson, a hereditary position known in the iTaukei language as 'Matanivanua'. Those involved in the ceremonies of welcome are seated on the floor or on the ground, as it would be disrespectful for them to raise themselves above the guests. The performance of the traditional iTaukei Ceremonies of Welcome is marked by the strict observance of silence by those in attendance. Only the performers are allowed to speak. It is this solemn atmosphere of silence that accords them dignity and evokes the passionate concentration and emotions with which they are accorded.

Within the iTaukei cultural matrix, their ceremonies provide occasions that enable the community to bond and communicate together. The words that are spoken in their presentations seek divine blessings and power on their land and the surrounding seas, to bring goodwill and friendship, brighten the weather and improve their harvest, to forge peace amongst nations and to protect them from evil forces. These Ceremonies of Welcome indeed embody the warmth with which the iTaukei Leaders and their people welcome their Honored Guests. These Ceremonies follow an orderly sequence from an assurance, before landing that the Honored Guests are welcome, to the provision on shore of food, drink and entertainment to help make the visit pleasant and memorable.

MATANIVANUA

The Chief Guest's herald or spokesman will sit on the ground close to the Chief Guest during the ceremonies and will perform all the formal speech-making, receive and acknowledge the presentation on the Chief Guest's behalf.

TAMA

As the Chief Guest enters the enclosures, he will be greeted by an acclamation - the 'tama' by the assembled Chiefs. His 'Matanivanua' will respond. It is the respectful form of greeting the Chiefs and is used once at any function. iTaukei do not cheer their Chiefs. Apart from the

'tama' described above, it is considered disrespectful to be loud and noisy and strict silence is observed.

QALOQALOVI

This is the first of the ceremonies and is equivalent of being given the 'freedom of the city'. This consists of presentation of a 'Tabua' or a whale's tooth, the ultimate symbol of wealth in i Taukei society, with words of assurance that the visitors are welcome. At the end of the presentation, the 'Tabua' is given to the Chief Guest, who will accept it with his left hand and its cord with his right hand. He pauses for two or three seconds, for his 'Matanivanua' to utter his acclamation and clap – before he hands the 'Tabua' to the 'Matanivanua' who will formally accept it on his behalf.

VAKAMAMACA

The original purpose of this ceremony was to provide dry clothing and sleeping mats and to replace household and personal articles of the kind which could be lost on a long sea voyage by canoe.

SEVUSEVU

This is normally a large root of 'Yaqona' – *piper methysticum* (and known in Polynesia as 'kava') which is presented to the Chief Guest with a formal speech. The 'Matanivanua' will then walk to the 'Sevusevu' presenter and accept it with a formal response on behalf of the Chief Guest.

YAQONA VAKATURAGA

This ceremony is the heart of these ceremonies of welcome – A large wooden bowl or 'Tanoa' will be brought before those assembled and around it will sit three i Taukei's – traditionally dressed. One of them will mix the powdered Yaqona' while the other two will guard the bowl. A group of iTaukei's will sit behind them to perform a 'Yaqona' mixing chant. The powdered 'Yaqona' is placed in the bowl and water is added. The mixer strains the 'Yaqona' with 'vau' fiber – *hibiscus tiliaceus*. This is done with ceremonial action and when the drink is ready, the first 'bilo ni Yaqona' (cup-a well-polished coconut shell) will be offered with great solemnity to the Chief Guest. This is done by the cup bearer and will be poured into another 'bilo ni Yaqona' handed to him by his 'Matanivanua'. After he has drunk the cup of 'Yaqona', the assembled Fijians will acclaim 'maca' (pronounced 'matha'-empty) followed by independent ceremonial clapping. The 'Matanivanua' will drink immediately after the Chief Guest.

WASE NI YAQONA VAKATURAGA

The conclusion of the 'Yaqona' ceremony is marked by the presentation of 'Wase ni Yaqona Vakaturaga' (food baked in a 'Lovo' or earth oven) which will be a carcass of roast pig and baskets of baked 'Dalo' – colocasia esculenta. This will be formally accepted by the 'Matanivanua' from the presenter. The Chief Guest will observe silently from his seat.

VOSA VAKATURAGA

The Chief Guest addresses the assembled.

ULIVI NI VOSA VAKATURAGA

The Chief Guest's address is acknowledged with thanks by a spokesman of the people performing the Ceremony.



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