

# Asia Pacific Regional Meeting (2006)

## Past 12-month National Chapter Report

Please use the space below to write information about the **past 12 months activities** in your National Chapter.

These documents will be uploaded on TIAP website, and part of the proceeding of the regional meeting.

Please do follow the word limitations.

| Name of National Chapter   | Transparency International Fiji |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>An Executive Summary of Activities</b> (in the past 12 months)<br>Max 100 words   |                                 |
| <p>The year was fairly busy in terms of its activities during the general elections when we conducted the Election Commitment Project which was kindly funded by Canada Fund of Wellington. Immediately after the result was announced our chapter got involved with activities relating to the training of MP's.</p> <p>Prior to this we of course organised our third annual Savenaca Siwatibau Memorial Lecture which this year featured the deputy Secretary General of the Pacific Forum Secretariat speaking on the Pacific Plan – with the assistance of TI NZ we were able to invite two panellists from NZ and PNG.</p> <p>Meanwhile our organisation was relocating to an office in the city, so that we could employ a full time programme officer to supplement the office staff.</p> <p>Then we got involved in some regional workshops including the Freedom of Information and Ethics and Accountability Workshops. All the Pacific Regional Chapters (PNG, Vanuatu &amp; Solomon Island and Fiji) were represented in those workshops per kind favour of UNDP.</p> <p>On the down side we are experiencing a drop of support from our corporate members; a few have not renewed their membership in spite of reminders.</p> <p>The Fiji political scene is in a confusing state, because the head of the military has been involving himself directly in the activities of Government, particularly in opposition to its law making responsibilities. The military seem to be using its entrusted power to achieve its own agenda – which can only be considered as political.</p> |                                 |
| <b>Top 5 Activities</b> (in the past 12 months)<br>In bullet points  |                                 |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The annual Savenaca Siwatibau Memorial Lecture</li><li>2. The Election Commitment Project</li><li>3. Our involvement with the induction and leadership and governance training of the new members of Parliament.</li><li>4. The Regional Workshop on Ethics and Accountability and Freedom of Information Workshops.</li><li>5. Obtaining Funds to enable TI Fiji to commission Tebbutt Research to conduct the survey which is now to be used in the Global Corruption Barometer.</li></ol>  |                                 |
| <b>The Area of Work where your NC <u>has gained</u> the most experience</b> (in the past 12 months)<br>Max 100 words   |                                 |
| <p>The work involved in gaining the attention of the political parties to make realistic commitments towards a Government free of corruption, if they won the election and formed the next Government of Fiji. The response from one party was beyond expectation. It was a pretty expensive exercise costing us about \$13,000.00</p>   |                                 |

## Complete Narrative Activity Report (for the past 12 months)

Max 1000 words

1. TI Fiji is run by a ten member Board of Directors which includes Hari Pal Singh (Chair) Suliana Siwatibau (Deputy Chair) Winston Thompson, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Jenny Seeto, Premila Kumar, Prudence Rouse, Richard K. Naidu, David A. Evans, and Sainimili Nabou.
2. The Board meets on a monthly basis to make decisions in respect of its policies and operations. It employs two officers an Executive Officer who is also the Company Secretary and a Programme
3. The Financial Year of TI Fiji ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> March each year, and its AGM is normally held in April at the beginning of each financial year.
4. TI Fiji currently has fifty-six (56) members assessed as follows:
  - a) Corporate Members – 26 - \$350.00 per annum
  - b) Individual Members – 25 - \$50.00 per annum
  - c) Civil Society Members – 2 - \$50.00 per annum
  - d) Family Members – 3 - \$75.00 per annum
5. Work during the current financial year (we are actually in our sixth month now) are as follows:
  - a) The annual Savenaca Siwatibau Memorial Lecture was addressed by Mr Iosefo Maiava the Deputy S-G of the Forum Secretariat. This year the subject was “The Pacific Plan.” This was followed by a panel discussion comprising Pacific Island leaders from Fiji, PNG and New Zealand. The Lecture was beamed to all the twelve Pacific Islands by satellite, and for the first time it was telecast live into Victoria University of Wellington.
  - b) An election commitment project where political parties were asked to declare their commitment to a government free of Corruption on the following items:
    - a. Code of Conduct
    - b. Ethics Civic Education
    - c. Leadership Code
    - d. Freedom of Information
    - e. Anti-Corruption Legislation and Body
  - c) The MP’s Induction in association with the Secretary-General of Parliament
  - d) The MP’s Workshop on Leadership and Governance at the Tradewinds Convention Centre. TI Fiji in, in association with TI NZ brought in two prominent Papua New Guinea personalities namely Mr. Ila Geno the chief Ombudsman of the nation, and Sir Arnold Amet a former Chief Justice of Papua New Guinea to address Fiji’s new crop of MP on the issue of Leadership Code including code of conduct and conflict of interest rules.
  - e) The Regional Workshop on Ethics and Accountability also at the Tradewinds Convention Centre
  - f) Regional Workshop on Freedom of Information Workshop, which was conducted in association with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), and funded by UNDP
  - g) The Solicitor-General has already briefed the TI Board on the actions that Government is taking in terms of combating corruption in our country.
  - h) Fiji is expected to feature in the 2006 Global Corruption Barometer which is expected to be released on the 7<sup>th</sup> December this year. In August this year, TI commissioned Tebbutt Research to conduct the survey in Fiji, with funding provided by the AusAID and we have now received the preliminary result of the survey which is currently embargoed, pending its release on 7<sup>th</sup> December. (It is important to note that the UNDP was interested to see similar survey done Pacific wide to measure the corruption perception in the Pacific.
6. Funding for the chapter during the year (compared to the other years) and in addition to the funds raised by members as their subscription was provided as follows

| Donor        | Project       | 2006/07      | 2005/06     | 2004/05     | 2003/04     | Totals       |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| DFID (TINZ)  | Core Funding  | \$ -         | \$ -        | \$10,563.00 | \$ 4,636.00 | \$ 15,199.00 |
| Canada Fund  | Projects Fund | \$ 10,848.00 | \$ 5,482.00 | \$ 125.00   | \$ 4,717.00 | \$ 21,172.00 |
| NZAID (TINZ) | Core Fund     | \$ 3,147.00  | \$19,209.00 | \$ -        | \$ -        | \$ 22,356.00 |
| UNDP         | Project Fund  | \$ -         | \$ -        | \$ -        | \$ 4,000.00 | \$ 4,000.00  |
| AusAID       | Project Fund  | \$ 16,527.00 | \$ -        | \$ -        | \$ -        | \$ 16,527.00 |
| TI-S         | Seed Funding  | \$ -         | \$12,892.10 | \$ -        | \$ -        | \$ 12,892.10 |
| Total        |               | \$ 30,522.00 | \$37,583.10 | \$10,688.00 | \$13,353.00 | \$ 92,146.10 |

Please note that our Financial Year is April to March

**NC plan for Anti-Corruption Day (on December 9, 2006)**

Max 50 words.

We intend to hold a day seminar on the subject of Corruption vis-à-vis the public vs. private sector issues. Why are bribes being paid and received? The activity will include the official release of the Global Corruption Barometer by (hopefully) our Prime Minister. The seminar will include speeches from the UNDP, the Forum Secretariat and T.I. Fiji mainly and it will end with the formulation of a communiqué and the best way forward.

Right throughout the week we would be having various activities especially using the media

**Difficulties encountered** (in the past 12 months)

In bullet points

Two difficult issues for the year were as follows:

- a) Promised funding which did not turn up on time or at all, causing anxiety on project implementation.
- b) The current political climate in Fiji, in view of Transparency International position on democracy and democratic governance. We refer to the direct role that the military has openly taken against the Government of the day.