

Message from the Acting Head of Delegation for the European Union for the Pacific



MR CORRADO PAMPALONI
ACTING HEAD OF DELEGATION
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR THE
PACIFIC

Bula vinaka, Namaste, asalam alaykum and good morning to all.

Today is Europe Day. Today, we celebrate a visionary declaration that led to what we know today as the European Union; an idea that changed the European continent forever.

On 9 May 1950, after two devastating world wars that left Europe on its knees, French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman made a proposal to bind together former enemies by linking their economies in such a way to make future wars impossible. In 1957 six countries established together the European Economic Community by signing the Treaty of Rome.

Italy, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg are the founding members of what is now the European Union.

The Treaty of Rome was the beginning of an ambitious journey of European integration.

The founding fathers of the European Union (EU) decided to settle their differences around a table rather than in battlefields. They replaced the use of armed forces by the force of law.

As a result, Europe's troubled past has given way to an unprecedented peace spanning seven decades, earning the European Union the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2012 and allowed to an enlarged Union of 510 million citizens and 28 countries to live in freedom in one of the world's most prosperous economies.

Today, we look back and realise that a truly unique phoenix arose from those ashes of post-war Europe.

This year's Europe Day gives an opportunity for the EU to take stock and to note clearly the enormous amount we have achieved.

Today, Europe is home to the world's largest single market and second most used currency-Euro. It is the largest trade power and development and humanitarian aid donor.

It is a major diplomatic force with 140 Delegations in third countries and a presence in

every corner of the globe.

The EU helps keep the world more sustainable, as shown by the leading role it played, alongside Fiji and the Pacific Island countries, in the Paris Climate Agreement and in the adoption by the United Nations of the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

The European Union remains more committed than ever to the Paris Agreement. In the words of the European Commissioner for Climate Action Miguel Arias Cañete:

Fighting Climate Change is not a choice for today's politicians; it is a necessity and a responsibility. It is not a question of "if", but of "how". It's a question of putting the planet first – we need to make the Paris Agreement a reality, for the sake of the generations to come.

Thus the EU will continue to tread the path of climate action in step with Fiji and the Pacific.

We will continue to drive the global agenda while at the same time helping Fiji and the rest of the Pacific to become more resilient and to adapt to the effects of climate change, which represents a real existential threat for some Pacific countries and a huge threat to the livelihoods of populations across the region.

The EU and 28 Member States are playing our full part in implementing the Paris Agreement – both in terms of domestic policy development and in our commitment to global solidarity.

The EU and its Member States have provided and will keep providing substantial climate funding to support climate action in partner countries – EUR 17,6 billion or 40 billion FJD in 2015 alone – and we are committed to making 20% of entire EU development cooperation policies and instruments 'climate-relevant' for the period 2014-2020.

As far as the Pacific is concerned, the EU has made available about EUR 900 million or 2 billion FJD for development co-operation until 2020. More than 50% of this amount will be spent on climate-related work.

But what counts perhaps even

more, is that the EU will continue to engage strategically with partners to make sure that mitigation and adaptation are mainstreamed in policy-making at all levels.

Since the elections in September 2014 and the return to parliamentary democracy in Fiji, the EU's co-operation has grown from strength to strength.

We are building on our long-standing support to the sugar sector to establish our first budget support programme, targeting sustainable rural livelihoods.

This illustrates the maturity of the EU-Fiji relationship – we will be disbursing funds directly into the treasury account against the achievement of agreed key reform ambitions. This follows on from the considerable support we provided following the devastation caused by Tropical Cyclone Winston.

Working with our close partners the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), we are also supporting a major Access to Justice programme in Fiji, helping to strengthen the rule of law and the institutions that safeguard democracy. In this context we are proud to have supported, with Australia, Japan, and New Zealand, and again through the UNDP, a programme designed to strengthen parliament.

We are also working with a range of civil society organisations, helping them to provide more effective services, to promote human rights, and to empower women.

But the EU co-operation with Fiji extends far before development co-operation and climate change – we have a trade agreement in place – the Economic Partnership Agreement – and also hold annually a high level political dialogue in which we have a frank and open exchange on a full range of issues of mutual interest including economic development, elections, and human rights.

This year's high-level Political Dialogue will be held in Brussels, Belgium later this month,

building on the success from the 2018 dialogue held in Suva.

Our partnership with Fiji and with the rest of the Pacific, is based on our shared values, on common concerns, legacy of common values, cooperation and on common aspirations.

We have been good friends since the 1970's and today have grown into formidable allies, including in the multilateral fora.

In today's world, the European Union is more indispensable than ever.

It is indispensable for our citizens, who need economic growth, jobs, security, opportunities and rights.

And our citizens know very well that, in a global world, we can only achieve results if we stand united.

The same is true for our partners – all those who want to work in a cooperative way to strengthen multilateralism, peace, sustainable development, free and fair trade, human rights and democracy.

United, we stand with Fiji and the Pacific for security and peace, in your region and beyond.

We are investing heavily in our security capabilities, for the defence of our Union but also to prevent conflicts and promote peace around the world.

We stand with Fiji and the Pacific for sustainable development and growth.

We are investing more around the Pacific in development cooperation, in agriculture, in clean energy and mitigating climate change, ocean governance, and much more.

The European Union is a living project, adapting to and taking on new challenges with each passing year.

We are determined that our project should continue to be a force for good in the world, and look forward to working with all our partners to this end.

The EU project of today – of peace and partnership, of shared values and solidarity – is far from over.

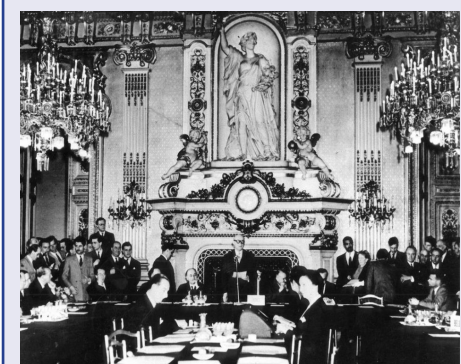
Happy Europe Day!

WHY A EUROPE DAY?

Europe Day, held on 9 May every year, celebrates peace and unity in Europe.

The date marks the anniversary of the historical 'Schuman declaration'.

At a speech in Paris in 1950, Robert Schuman, the then French foreign minister, set out his idea for a new form of political cooperation in Europe, which would make war between Europe's nations unthinkable.



The European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), (founding members: France, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg) was the first of a series of supranational European institutions that would ultimately become today's "European Union".

Historical Context

In 1950, the nations of Europe were still struggling to overcome the devastation wrought by World War II, which had ended 5 years earlier.

Determined to prevent another such terrible war, European governments concluded that pooling coal and steel production would – in the words of the Declaration – make war between historic rivals France and Germany "not merely unthinkable, but materially impossible".

It was thought – correctly – that merging of economic interests would help raise standards of living and be the first step towards a more united Europe. Membership of the ECSC was open to other countries.

His vision was to create a European institution that would pool and manage coal and steel production. A treaty creating such a body was signed just under a year later. Schuman's proposal is considered to be the beginning of what is now the European Union.

Almost 70 years later, Robert Schuman's declaration still resonates across Europe inspiring today's leaders. Most countries in the continent are now united within the European Union.

In honour of his pioneering work towards a united Europe, the headquarters' district of European Union institutions in Brussels is named after him.



From left: Ms Gabriela Koehler-Raue, European Union Action Service Asia & Pacific Department, Fiji's Ambassador to the EU, His Excellency, Deo Saran, Head of Division, Asia Pacific 5, European Union Action Service, Mr. Reinhold Brender, Minister for Defence and National Security, Hon. Inia Seruiratu, Acting Head of Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific, Mr. Corrado Pampaloni and Ms Galia Agisheva, Head of Political and Trade at a recent bilateral meeting in Suva.

WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN UNION?

The European Union (EU) is an economic and political partnership between 28 European countries. It plays an important role in international affairs through diplomacy, trade, development aid and working with global organisations.

Abroad, the EU is represented through more than 140 diplomatic representations, known also as EU Delegations, which have a similar function to those of an embassy.

The EU Delegation for the Pacific office is located in Suva and is credited to fourteen Independent Pacific Islands and four Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT's).

The Delegation promotes the local projection of an image of the European Union that correctly reflects facts, policies, statements



The twelve (12) stars on the EU Flag represent unity, solidarity and harmony. It does not represent the number of member states.

and decisions taken by the EU.

The predecessor of the EU was created in the aftermath of the Second World War.

The first steps were to foster economic co-operation: the idea being that countries that trade with one another become economically interdependent and so more likely to

avoid conflict.

The result was the European Economic Community (EEC), created in 1958, and initially increasing economic cooperation between six countries: Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and The Netherlands.

Since then, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom joined and a huge single market (also known as the 'internal' market) has been created and continues to develop towards its full potential.

What began as a purely economic union has evolved into an organisation spanning

policy areas, from climate, environment and health to external relations and security, justice and migration.

A name change from the European Economic Community (EEC) to the European Union (EU) in 1993 reflected this.



The Member States flags of the European Union of 28 Countries and the European flag (1 July 2013).

EU-funded project upgrades over 200kms of cane access roads

Around 30,000 people living in Fiji's cane farming communities in Malolo, Drasa and Koronubu are now profiting from over 200kms of upgraded sugarcane access roads in the Malolo, Drasa and Koronubu areas in Fiji's western division.

The upgrades were made possible through the Rural Access Roads and Associated Infrastructure (RARAI) project, a four-year (2014-2018) programme funded by the European Union (EU), implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC).

The FJ\$30 million RARAI project, which was an important element of EU's ongoing support to the sugar sector in Fiji, helped tack-

led a key challenge for farmers, in particular in more remote areas of Fiji, by easing the transportation of sugar to the mills.

The project also provided employment for vulnerable groups of the population.

Besides the road rehabilitation, the RARAI project supported and promoted income generation for the most vulnerable populations in Fiji's Sugar communities through creating employment possibilities during the construction period.

It also helped the environmental by reducing soil erosion.

The project also worked to improve associated drainage, watershed management and other infrastructure in these areas.



Naviago Road in Drasa, Lautoka was one of the cane access roads that was upgraded by the EU-funded RARAI Project.

EU Project Empowering Fijians Through Justice Support Services

ARTICLE BY: UNDP

When Monika saw her child fall sick, but nothing was found to be medically wrong, she realized that her illness was probably caused by deeper psychosocial issues which involved the way she and her husband communicated, often escalating into quarrels and fights in front of their children.

A counsellor who saw the child in the hospital was able to detect the possible cause of child's sickness and talked to Monika, the mother.

"Monika" (not her real name) was one of many who received support services from the professionally trained staff of Empower Pacific, a Civil Society Organization (CSO) that directly supports people to cope with the challenges of life and achieve their potential.

"I felt good when I was able to control my emotions and respond to my husband and children in a positive mood. I can see the



Counselling and awareness raising are provided to pregnant women, expectant fathers and others in Empower Pacific's counselling rooms located in major hospitals. The counsellors are able to detect early signs of SGBV and child abuse.

positive impact on my husband too," said Monika.

Following two counselling sessions, Monika became confident in her abilities to improve her family's relationship.

The critical services provided by Empower Pacific are supported in part by the grants for justice support services provided under the Fiji Access to Justice Project, funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme.

The Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation and Medical Services Pacific also received grants under this project.

Empower Pacific Chief Executive Officer, Mr Patrick Morgam said, "The grant allows us to strengthen our counselling, social work and psychosocial support referrals and services in the areas of Sexual and Gender Balance Violence (SGBV), and child protection."

The EU funded Fiji Access to Justice Project supports the empowerment of impoverished and vulnerable groups in Fiji to access their legal rights and services, and strengthens key justice institutions to deliver improved services.

The grants for justice support services aim to increase knowledge on access to justice and human rights, identify and discuss key human rights challenges, and establish and promote a robust platform for engagement between government justice institutions, Legal Aid Commission, Human Rights and Anti-discrimination Commission, and CSOs.

EU provides new, better homes to Tukuraki



The newly built, disaster resilient homes for the community of Tukuraki in the highlands of Fiji.

ARTICLE BY: SPC

Eighteen months after relocating to their new village site, the community of Tukuraki in the highlands of Fiji feel much safer and comfortable in their newly built, disaster resilient village.

The Tukuraki community was devastated in 2012 after a landslide buried 80% of their village and tragically took the lives of a young family including a toddler and a baby.

The community was forced to relocate to temporary homes as they were at risk of further landslides and in the midst of recovering from the landslide; the community was hit by Cyclone Evan 10 months later.

They were again forced to seek refuge in nearby caves as Tropical Cyclone Winston- the strongest cyclone to make landfall in the Southern Hemisphere battered Fiji in February 2016.

This was the community’s third major disaster in less than four years and as a result, the Fiji Government considered relocation for the inland community an urgent priority and approached the Pacific Community (SPC) to support in this work.

Today, 11 homes and a community hall have been built to withstand category five cyclones. The homes each have a toilet and bathroom and access to electricity and clean and safe drinking water. In addition, income-generation projects include a fish pond, beekeeping and the women look after the poultry farm and a hand craft project.

The \$756,000 FJD relocation of the Tukuraki

“The EU is proud to partner up with the Fiji government and the Pacific Community on this project as it not only has helped the people of this community, but it has also established for the nation what a resilient rural community looks like. With the effects of climate change and rising tides threatening coastal communities all over the Pacific, Tukuraki stands as a great example of how effective partnerships can sustain development

Christoph Wagner
European Union Head of Cooperation

Village to a safer and less disaster prone site was made possible through the European Union and the ACP Group of States -funded Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific Project (BSRP) implemented by the Pacific Community.

With the nursing station and school and road closer to the village now, families are able to spend more quality time with children and are healthier compared to previously. Access to transportation has made it convenient for the famers and the elderly.

“Living apart was quite difficult. It affected the children and their schooling, it affected the church obligations and our traditional obligations were hard to fulfil as a village. We are really excited and happy to be living together as a village again.” said Tukuraki Village Spokesperson, Livai Kididromo.

Adapting to climate change: A fresh start in Narikoso

ARTICLE BY: GIZ

Narikoso, at first glance, looks like any other typical Fijian coastal village. Perched below steep hills and facing the sea, the village, which is found on the Southern island of Ono in Kadavu, is a closely-knit community of 27 families.

However, there is more to it than meets the eye. Work is underway to relocate 40 residents from seven households to higher ground, which is keeping the villagers very busy.

The relocation, to new climate-proof homes not far from the village later this year, is a result of the sea-level rise that continues to pose a risk to these families living closest to the shoreline.

The families that are not moving are also busy working to improve food security and livelihoods for the whole village.

Josefini Tabaniivi is Secretary for the Narikoso Women’s Club and is one of those working hard to ensure that things run smoothly.

The mother of five says that they are grateful for this initiative because not only will those at risk receive safer homes, but everyone is working together to improve food security for all in the community.

“We are now growing more climate-resilient crops in our village garden. We

have a new village piggery and poultry farm, which have given us a steady source of income from selling to neighbouring villages and to the nearby hotel.”

The community farms are one component of the project, which is focusing on food security and alternative livelihoods for the villagers.

The project is led by the Fijian Government and is supported by the European Union and Federal Republic of Germany. The EU-GIZ Adapting to Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Programme (EU-GIZ ACSE) is supporting the Fijian government with technical and administrative services

The women in the village have undergone alternative livelihood trainings such as handicraft-making, using recycled material that is now a source of income and have received financial literacy training.

The men have learnt innovative farming and irrigation techniques to promote ownership and sustainability of the project.

Like most of the villagers in Narikoso, Josefini remains optimistic about the future.

“We have to be resilient; we will do everything to keep our land safe. This is a special place and we will have to safeguard it for our children and their children to also enjoy.”



The view from the location where the seven new climate-proof homes will be built. Photo: Jana Gengelbach/GIZ

An Equal Playing Field for Women and Men a Priority

ARTICLE BY: UN WOMEN

“Ever since I started playing rugby, the crowd used to tell us that it’s a men’s sport, but now they really love how the women are playing rugby,” said Fijiana Rugby Sevens player Ana Roqica.

Fiji and other Oceania nations are a driving force in the global movement to achieve more equal participation of women and men in rugby, with a record number of women staff and players again expected at this year’s Oceania Rugby Sevens Championship.

The number of women working in the tournament’s workforce almost doubled in just a year, from about 40 to 80 in 2018. The year before, the event achieved a record number of women’s teams competing, with similar records expected to be broken again in 2019.

Using rugby to promote gender equality and, longer term, to prevent violence against women is central to an agreement between Oceania Rugby and UN Women Fiji Multi Country Office, which is supported by the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls (Pacific Partnership) funded by the European Union and Australian Government with support from UN Women.

The partnership promotes the Together

for an Equal Playing Field equal participation campaign at the Oceania Sevens and other rugby events. It is also delivering the new Get Into Rugby PLUS programme that embeds life skills with rugby training sessions to empower boys and girls to challenge harmful attitudes and behaviours on gender inequality whilst promoting respectful, safe and healthy relationships. Plus supporting ground-breaking research that will investigate the connections between gender inequality and violence against women and girls and sport participation in the Pacific Islands.

Oceania Rugby Women’s Director and member of World Rugby Council, Ms Cathy Wong, explained: “By supporting more women and men, girls and boys, to play rugby and other sports at an equal level, we can encourage social change by demonstrating there is no limit to what women and girls can do.”

“My biggest dream, my biggest vision if you like, is that when we talk rugby, we talk rugby, full stop – not men’s rugby and not women’s rugby, just rugby,” Ms Wong said, adding: “And we want the same atmosphere to be instilled in all our 16 member unions.”

“We are making progress, but we know there is more we can still achieve.”

Demonstrating this commitment, Ocean-



Australian player fends off PNG defender.

ia Rugby continues to implement gender equality commitments within training and education programmes; to encourage grass roots equal participation and access; and to enable member unions to more easily have their national women’s teams compete in regional tournaments through eligibility criteria amendments – this allowed two unions to compete at the 2018 Oceania Sevens for the first time.

This commitment builds on recent governance changes which saw two independent board positions created, both filled by Pacific

Island women, Cathy Wong (Fiji) Women’s Director and Aloma Johannsson (Tonga) Independent Director, who are integral for making key decisions for regional rugby. The gender equality focus of Oceania Rugby is consistent with World Rugby’s plan to accelerate the global development of women in rugby.

This year will be the third time UN Women joins with Oceania Rugby as its gender equality partner, supported by the Pacific Partnership, with joint activities to again include a ‘Women in Rugby and the Media Forum’ and the Pacific-wide #EqualPlaying-Field multi-media campaign at the Oceania 7s and national events in Fiji and Samoa.

The Pacific Partnership brings together governments, civil society organisations, communities and other partners to promote gender equality, prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG), and increase access to quality response services for survivors.

The programme’s three outcome areas are jointly implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (Forum Secretariat) and UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office (MCO).

Bringing Pacific civil society voices to the fore

ARTICLE BY: OXFAM PACIFIC

Raising Pacific Voices (RPV) is a three-year capacity building project funded by the European Union aimed at strengthening the capacity of Pacific civil society organisations so they are better able to influence policy-making that addresses their community concerns at the national and regional levels.

The project is based in Suva and implemented by Oxfam in the Pacific in partnership with the Pacific Disability Forum as the focal point of the Pacific Regional Non-Governmental Organisations (PRNGO) Alliance.

Launched in 2017, the project has been piloted in three countries – Marshall Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. In Fiji, one of the project’s focus areas has been working with members of community groups and



Participants in the Pasifika Rising Digital Storytelling Bootcamp at Pearl Resort Pacific Harbour, Fiji in December 2018.

Photo: Oxfam in the Pacific

regional NGOs to test and refine an organisational capacity development framework. This framework was also tested and implemented in other organisations the RPV project countries.

An important area of work that is being developed is a Pacific civil society information sharing, resources and communication platform, called PasifikaRising.org.

The portal’s tagline, ‘Pacific perspectives for a global future’, signals the recognition that we are #LargeOceanStates of the Pacific, proud of our common heritage and determined to protect and preserve our region for future generations.

To this end, RPV is developing a cohort of young Pacific people who are skilled at using mobile devices to create digital content that high-

lights community concerns with the long-term aim of them being able to influence positive change.

In December 2018, a Digital Storytelling Bootcamp gathered 20 young people from the Pacific in Fiji where they spent five days gaining digital creation skills and sharing knowledge across cultures.

Ernest Gibson, who represented the Pacific Centre for Peacebuild-

ing at the bootcamp, said: “The bootcamp was a great opportunity for young Pacific Islanders to engage with tools that will help shape the way we tell and take ownership of the narratives of our people and our Pacific.

“I found that the workshop provided me with an opportunity to gain new skills and hone in on existing ones.

“I now have an enriched view of the way we can turn basic everyday items into tools that can enhance the organisations we work in.

“The boot camp made me realise three important things: that we must celebrate and learn from our history, that we must use this knowledge of our shared identity as Pacific people to engage in dialogue about the concerns that our region has and thirdly that we are stronger when we integrate and share our ideas.”

EU Provides Communities in Labasa with Clean Drinking Water

The joy on the face of a two year old Asaeli Drauna was rich as he ran towards the newly installed water tank in Nasea Village in Macuata screaming “wai, wai” (water, water) in excitement.

About forty-five minutes from Nasea Village, at Korosomo settlement, the only source of water was a borehole and for women like Meri Mainarewa in the community, fetching water was a weary task.

In March 2019, the European Union (EU) through its project Vakarau Wai implemented by Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) installed 10,000 liter water tanks in Korosomo Settlement and Nasea village in Macuata, making clean drinking water a reality for more than 176 people.

“We are really excited to receive the 10,000 liter water tanks. Before, our source of water supply was a borehole.” joyfully said Korosomo Settlement resident, Mainarewa.

“It was difficult to manage, especially for the elderly and for women with kids.

Now with the water tank, the pipes are connected from the tank right to our homes and we get water without getting out of the house”. she added.

The Pacific has the lowest water coverage of all regions in the world. Too many people still lack access to clean water and this problem is further exacerbated during the periods of dry season.

To help address this, the EU has committed around EUR 50 million to improve water and sanitation in the Pacific ACP countries.

Installation of water tank at Nasea Village was significantly challenging given the poor road conditions. However, with EU’s commitment to leave no one behind and with the partnerships built on the ground contributed to the success of the installation.

To improve the drought adaptation capacities of communities in Macuata, so far, a total of twelve water tanks have been installed with thirteen more foreseen to be installed this year.

Similar water tanks have been installed in the Western Division.



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EU project refurbishes nine Emergency Operations Centres

ARTICLE BY: SPC

Disaster response in Fiji has been strengthened following the opening of nine newly refurbished Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) across the country.

The EOCs were refurbished in the past 13 months, increasing Fiji’s disaster preparedness and communications abilities before, during, and after a disaster.

Following lessons learnt from Tropical Cyclone Winston, the most powerful cyclone recorded in the Southern Hemisphere in 2015, the Fiji National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) sought international assistance to upgrade its EOCs and improve the country’s response and recovery.

Tropical Cyclone Winston — which killed 44 and left behind a \$F2.98 mil-

lion bill, damaged 40,000 homes and significantly impacted 350,000 people — taught Fiji many lessons on being prepared for the worst.

To reduce the vulnerability, as well as the social, economic and environmental costs of disasters, the Pacific Community (SPC) through the European Union and the ACP Group of States-funded Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific Project (BSRP) project has been supporting Fiji to put in place measures to help people cope and prepare well for natural disasters.

The BSRP project, implemented by the SPC has been instrumental in increasing communications between Fiji’s National Disaster Management teams across the country.

Four years after Winston struck; Fiji now has a decentralised disaster support and communication network.

Each Centre reflects the NDMO headquarters where the final refurbishment work is under way.

Apart from refurbishing the EOCs with state-of-the-art communications equipment, SPC under the BSRP project provided Emergency Operations Skill Set Training, which has been rolled out in the four divisions involving more than 300 participants.

The upgraded EOCs include the Lautoka Planning Cell, Nadi District EOC, Tavua District EOC, Lautoka/Yasawa District EOC, Nausori Divisional EOC, Korovou EOC, Vunidawa District EOC and Nabouwalu District in the Northern Division.

The upgraded Centers also play a central role for disaster information during peace time to support increased understanding of disasters and their impacts.



Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation for the Pacific, Mr. Christoph Wagner hands over the keys of the newly refurbished EOC to the Permanent Secretary for Rural & Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, Mr. Meleti Bainimarama