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the People of Japan

PRESS RELEASE



Jointly Issued by the Embassy of Japan and JICA Fiji Office

Date: 13 August 2018

Japan Awards Pacific-LEADS Masters Scholarships

Two (2) government officials from Fiji have been awarded Masters Scholarships under the Pacific Leaders' Educational Assistance for Development of State (Pacific-LEADS) program, which is funded by the Government of Japan and implemented by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Ms. Laisa Matagi, from Ministry of Waterways and Environment, will be pursuing a Masters in Environmental Sciences at University of Tsukuba and Ms. Adi Arieta Latianara from Ministry of Health & Medical Services, will pursue a Masters of Arts in International Development at Nagoya University.

The two officials are part of the third group of Pacific-LEADS recipients and will join a total of 20 successful recipients from other regional countries such as Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Pacific-LEADS scholarship recipients will pursue studies in various fields ranging from Education to Health, Environment, Engineering, International Relations and Business Administration.

Together with 2 recipients from Vanuatu, 1 from Nauru and 1 from Tuvalu, the Fijian officials will be departing from Fiji's shores on 21st August, 2018 to undertake a 2 year Masters program in some of the top universities in Japan. The program will also include internship at Japanese public institutions during the duration of study.

The Pacific-LEADS program was initiated by Japanese Prime Minister Hon. Shinzo Abe following the 7th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM7) in 2015. Japan has now achieved the commitment to accept 100 participants from 14 Pacific Island Countries from 2016 to 2018, under the Pacific-LEADS Program including 28 Fijians. During the recent PALM8 Meeting in May this year, the continuation of Pacific-LEADS Program was mutually agreed by the Leaders of the Pacific Island Countries and Japan.

A Pre-departure Orientation program for Pacific-LEADS Batch 3 will be held on Monday 20th August, 2018 from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the JICA Fiji Office. During the Orientation program, presentations will be made by 2 recipients from Fiji who had completed their Masters in Japan and returned to the country in July this year. They were part of the first lot of students to graduate under the Pacific-LEADS program.

Furthermore, H.E. Mr. Masahiro Omura, Ambassador of Japan, will host the Send Off Reception for scholarship recipients of the Pacific LEADS Program 2018 at his residence (337 Princes Road, Tamavua) on Monday 20th August, 2018 at 3.00pm. Related Ministers and senior government officials are invited.

Media representatives are kindly invited and requested to contact Ms. Vanessa Vudikaria at the Embassy of Japan (eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp) or Ms. Frances Tavaiqia-Finau at JICA (TavaiqiaFrances.FJ@jica.go.jp) to confirm attendance by 17th August 2018.

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Attachment(s): List of Recipients

Jointly Issued by the Embassy of Japan and JICA Fiji Office.

Embassy of Japan: G. P. O. Box 13045, Suva, Fiji. Tel: 3304633, Fax: 3302984

JICA Fiji: Level 8, BSP Suva Central Building, Suva. Tel: 3302522

List of Participants of Pacific LEADS Program 2018 (3rd Batch)

	Country	Name	Organization	University	Graduate School
1	Fiji	Ms. Adi Arieta LATIANARA	Ministry of Health & Medical Services	Nagoya University	International Development
2	Fiji	Ms. Laisa MATAGI	Ministry of Waterways & Environment	University of Tsukuba	Life and Environmental Sciences
3	Tuvalu	Mr. Jamie OVIA	Office of the Prime Minister	Mie University	Bioresources
4	Nauru	Ms. Petlisa JACOB	Department of Commerce Industry and Environment, The Government of the Republic of Nauru	Toyo University	Global and Regional Studies
5	Vanuatu	Mr. Iuma BANI	Ministry of Climate Change	University of Tsukuba	Life and Environmental Sciences
6	Vanuatu	Mr. James WILLIE	Ministry of Finance	Ritsumeikan University	International Relations

Graduate Students for 1st Batch

	Country	Name	Organization	University	Graduate School / Degree
7	Fiji	Ms. Venina Qiolevu	Ministry of iTaukei Affairs	International University of Japan	International Relations / Masters in Public Management & Policy Analysis
8	Fiji	Mr. Tomasi Lakeba	Ministry of Education, National Heritage & Arts	International Christian University	Arts and Sciences / Masters of Arts in Education

The first Pacific-LEADS batch that was accepted into the program in 2016 included 41 participants, which includes 10 Fijians, 4 Kiribati, 2 Vanuatu. These participants are going to graduate from their respective Universities in Japan this year and next year, (2018 and 2019). The two students (No. 7 & 8) have already graduated and have since returned to Fiji.