



## YPCN Voice

*Bula Vinaka,*

*The YPCN presents this month's voice newsletter. Please do send in your comments and articles for inclusions in next month's voice. Articles and comments can be sent through to [ypcnfiji@gmail.com](mailto:ypcnfiji@gmail.com)*

### **New Office Bearers:**

In case you did not know, there are new office bearers for the YPCN. Tomasi Tora and Jacque Koroi have tendered in their resignation (Don't worry folks they are still in the Network) and as a result from a meeting a few weeks back, the new office bearers are:

*Rosie Catherine - General Secretary  
Miriama Lalagavesi - Secretary  
Peter Waqavonovono - Spokesperson  
Akeneta Koya - Treasurer*

### **Congratulations Jackie & TURA:**

We congratulate Tura on his new job. Tura starts with the UNICEF and will be traveling around Fiji collecting data on Children in Conflict. We hope maybe he can do some miniature promo's for the network when he travels. congrats Mr Lewai.

Also Jackie has been working with UNIFEM recently. congrats on that Jackie.

### **WEBSITE FEVER**

Apparently the demand for a website has increased. Epeli will be in charge of this and has identified possible avenues in which he can get our network a website.

### **Chinese Embassy Agree to meet YPCN over TIBET**

The Chinese Embassy have agreed to meet with the YPCN. In fact they have allowed a high level delegation to speak with our group thats going down. 3 issues will be on the table - namely Tibet, Human Rights and bilateral trade. Mr Lihau the political director and a senior adviser are the ones we the YPCN are gona lobby with.

*NOTE: The Chinese embassy have canceled their meet with the YPCN after revelations over YPCN's views on TIBET.*

## **Blue Ribbon Peace Vigil**

The Blue Ribbon Peace Vigil continues at the Holy Trinity Cathedral on Thursdays at 12.30pm. Spread the word, all Suva activists, find your way down for a interdenominational session of peaceful meditation and sharing.

## **YPCN at ROC Market**

YPCN opened the information booth at the ROC Market on Sunday. We gave away FREE TIBET t-shirts and FWCC t-shirts. We also started a petition for the Free Tibet Mvt. Pita, Rosie and Jackie manned the table, which proved a hit.

## **RUPENI SILIMAIBAU**

YPCN has started a new campaign to ask youths throughout Fiji to make their views on Rupeni Silimaibau known. Apparently no one has written back to state approval. Rupeni is the PYFFI representative on the NCBBF. YPCN members met with Rupeni and a executive of PYFFI and asked him to resign personally. Rupeni has not done so. We thank members and supporters who have shown support towards this campaign, recently Rupeni has been attributed to stating that all youths support the Peoples Charter.

## **Mental Health Advocacy**

YPCN has been informally approached to be the youth contact point for Mental Health Advocacy with youths. We await more details in the next edition of voice, but in the intern let us know what you feel about this and ideas in which we as a youth group can engage youths to speak on mental health.

## **Youth and Peace Reference/Advisory Board**

Two of our members now sit on the Youth Peace Development Programs Youth and Peace Reference/Advisory Board. The board will advise a few organizations on Peace programs that target youths in Fiji. OILEI almost forgot to let you all know who the lucky people are :) Congratulations to Peter Waqavonovono and Rosie Catherine, who were chosen for their own contribution to the area of *Peace, Racism and youth Advocacy*.

## **National Youth Council**

You will have read comments recently in the media stating that the YPCN is pushing for a Youth Council. The YPCN is actually through Jackie Koro, supporting the establishment of a National Youth Council. This move will see youth organizations coming together and collectively address youth issues.

## **Happenings:**

### **Diplomacy Training Program (DTP): Human Rights Advocacy & Business Training**

**23 – 27 June, Philippines** <http://www.dtp.unsw.edu.au>

The program is particularly for advocates from Asia/Pacific countries and Indigenous Australia who work for and with non-government and community based organisations. It is for those who have an interest in learning more about the human rights responsibilities of business and how these responsibilities can inform advocacy efforts. Applications are invited from those with experience of campaigning on corporations and those who have little or no experience but who have the interest and capacity to undertake advocacy on these issues in the future. Applications from women advocates and Indigenous advocates are encouraged.

Application forms can be downloaded from the DTP website [www.dtp.unsw.edu.au](http://www.dtp.unsw.edu.au)

or can be requested from [ntp@unsw.edu.au](mailto:ntp@unsw.edu.au)

**15th All Asians Inter Varsity Debate Championship** [www.nsuallasians.com](http://www.nsuallasians.com)

Take part in the 15th All Asians InterVarsity Debating Championship in Bangladesh this year organized by North South University, Bangladesh from 9th May to 16th May 2008.

facebook group: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=6616527862>

You will have to be enrolled in an Asian university to participate -Mehzabin Ahmed, OIYP Action Partner 2004

**Become a WITNESS partner - [www.witness.org/partners](http://www.witness.org/partners)**

A WITNESS core partnership is focused around a campaign and generally is between one and three years. WITNESS equips, trains and collaborates with the partner organization or coalition to use video and online technologies in documenting and campaigning. Please visit: [www.witness.org/partners](http://www.witness.org/partners) for more information or contact [partners@witness.org](mailto:partners@witness.org)

**Send us your stereotypes!** Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah (the queen of Jordan) has launched a video on YouTube to invite young people around the globe join an exciting discussion about stereotypes and cultural understanding..

Please check it out, pass it on to your friends, and/or leave a comment at Her page...  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFf897bUW2Y>

**International Youth Leadership conference in Prague, July 2008**

<http://www.czechleadership.com/>

The 16th International Youth Leadership Conference is a week-long youth forum on world politics, international relations and international law.

**Pen Poem Relay** <http://www.penpoemrelay.org/>

The Poem Relay seeks to raise awareness about freedom of expression in China in a unique way – through poetry and translation. The poem 'June' by imprisoned Chinese poet and journalist Shi Tao is relaying around the world, country to country, language to language, until it reaches Beijing for the Olympics in August.

**Kiva Loans** <http://www.kiva.org/>

Kiva's mission is to connect people through lending for the sake of alleviating poverty. Kiva is the world's first person-to-person micro-lending website, empowering individuals to lend directly to unique entrepreneurs in the developing world.

**Bird's Eye View of a Refugee's World** <http://www.unhcr.org/events/47f48dc92.html> Google Earth's new mapping programme takes you on a virtual reality tour with the UN refugee agency of some of the world's major displacement crises and the humanitarian efforts aimed at helping people who are displaced.

THE END.