

## Pacific Dialogue Youth Workshop

11 November, 2015

### Youth entrepreneurs workshop

Venue: Fiji Maritime College

**Eseta Naduitavuki, Manager Sustainability, Westpac**

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The day began with an OHS talk by one of the Fiji Maritime Authority employees followed by the introduction of the two representatives from Westpac, Mary and Eseta Naduitavuki. A total of 23 participants registered on entry before the workshop began a few minutes after 1000hrs. Eseta came in her capacity as the Manager Sustainability for support whilst Mary was the actual facilitator for the workshop.

The workshop was in two phases: Financial First Steps and Business Basics.

The first phase encompassed planning, budgeting, saving, and borrowing.

We were taught the basics of a business (in the case of a tailoring firm) skills, experience, sewing etc, market (buyers, research etc) and New ideas (product and services). We then moved on to goal settings for the short (1 – 3 yrs), medium (3 to 7 yrs) and Long term (over 7 years). A summary, examples and saving strategy were given for each of the duration terms.

The participants from all walks and some from as far as Pacific Harbor manifested much enthusiasm and interest during the whole session, particularly the first phase as these were the areas where more assistance and education, a touch-up for a few, was in desperate need in the individual circumstances of those present. The explanations given by both women, particularly Mary, as she was the main facilitator, was so easy to understand, follow and digest given the little time we had for each phase.

Educational as it was, Mary added a bit of humor to make it more interesting and fun and got everyone on their full ability to participate and grasp the whole concept of being there.

The second phase basically was to give a general idea as to how a business making concept works out. The whole preparation which includes how to start up, how to find funding (if need be) as majority of new owners fall in this category, the assets, liabilities, sales, expenses of the business and how to draw up the income statement of the business, which is an integral part as it determines, on paper whether a business is running at a loss or doing well.

In the end, all the participants, though exhausted, found the day to be a rewarding experience as these opportunities don't happen everyday and for FREE!! This has boosted the confidence and trust within each individual in order to better utilize the upgraded skills and knowledge generated and the wonderfully easy and understandable tutoring we got from Mary and Esita.

To summarise, the whole experience was worth its' while as we not only topped up on our knowledge, for those who are experienced, but also given us the chance to prove ourselves worthy and capable in dealing with business basics. Starting from small and working way up with much confidence and hardwork will make dreams a reality, provided the input from the individual is ambitiously genuine and all set for an initiation anytime, anywhere.