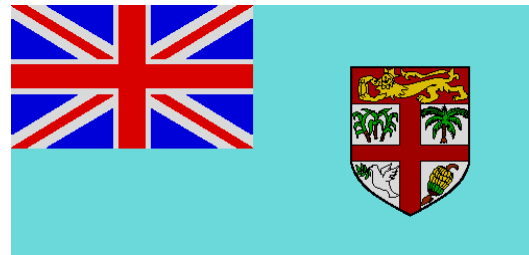




# Republic of the Fiji Islands- Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

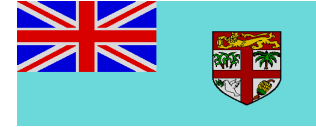


Dr. Margaret Cornelius  
Mr. Ifereimi Corerega



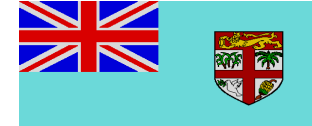
# Background

- The Fiji Islands are a Republic comprised of more than 300 islands covering some 18,000 square kilometres.
- In 2004, the population was estimated to be 840,201.
- For government planning purposes, the population is divided into three divisions:
  - Central Eastern, 42% of the population;
  - Western, 39%; Northern, 19% of the population.
- Approximately 54% of the population are Fijians, 38% Indian and 8% other races



# Fiji's FCTC History

- 1<sup>st</sup> Pacific Island Country to sign and ratify treaty in 2003 & 2004;
- This was achieved through cabinet consultation, seminars and advocacy workshops;
- 85% of the core FCTC provision is included in our Tobacco Control Act 1998 and it requires few comprehensive amendments in few articles under FCTC



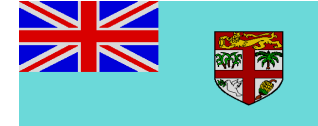
# Implementation Efforts

## ● Administrative

- Cabinet endorsed funding for establishment of Tobacco Control Enforcement Unit within Ministry of Health with approved budget;
- Cabinet Memorandum was endorsed in October 2005 for review of the Tobacco Control Act;
- 3 National consultation workshop conducted on preliminary review
- Draft Bill further consultation in 2006; was on hold due to funding;
- June 2007 finalized Bill to be relooked at and recommendation made for Cabinet decision.

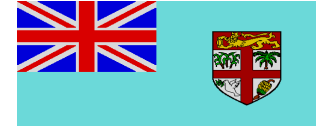
## ● Procedural

- Tobacco Control Enforcement Unit established in 2003 with 2 Enforcement officer and Legal Advisor;
- Enforcement procedures developed
- Partnership with Police/ FTIB/ Dept. of Environment
- Worked in collaboration with Tobacco Control Action Group
- Expanded the TCEU to 4 staff and in partnership Land Transport Authority, Customs Authority in 2006;



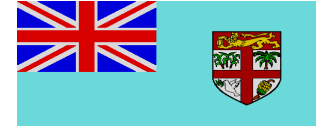
## Results

- Fines and prosecution on smoking in public places and public transport
- Border Control- Illicit trade partnership with Fiji Islands & Customs Authority
  - Seized 400 Cartons tobacco products from Taiifi Shipping Company
  - Seized 2 container (22ft ) Red Flower Company;
  - 100 cartons seized Bula Tale Investment
- Selling to minors- test cases to Director Public Prosecution, provision to be reviewed.



## Lessons Learnt

- Partnership is very important
- Strengthen legislation to tailor with judicial framework
- Constant Political will- needed
- Existing legislation needs to be enforced first to identify loopholes prior to making amendments;
- Research capability needs to be tailored with strategic approach.



## Future Actions

- Continued review and strengthening of legislation;
- Strengthening of enforcement partnership;
- Need for regional testing facility
- Technical assistance for review and strengthening of legislation..
- Resource assistance in enforcement