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** For Immediate Release **

Ministry acknowledge Korea for support



Caption: *Acting Deputy Secretary for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Ms. Arieta Dimuri with Permanent Secretary for Youth and Sports Mr. Rovereto Nayacalevu, senior executive members of KOICA and a staff member from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after the opening of the Volunteer Host Organisation Workshop at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva earlier today.*

SUVA- The Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management has offered its sentiments of acknowledgement to the people and the Government of South Korea for the strong friendship forged, and for their instrumental support through programmes and initiatives provided by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

The Ministry's acting Deputy Secretary, Ms. Arieta Dimuri highlighted this while delivering the closing remarks at the Volunteer Host Organisation Workshop organised by KOICA at the Grand Pacific Hotel (GPH) in Suva earlier today.

The Korean Overseas Volunteer (KOV) KOV programme was rebranded to the “World Friend Korea (WFK)” in 2009, and has provided a systematic mechanism to unify all different Government volunteer programmes under a single overseas volunteer scheme. This rebranding, Ms Dimuri said, created a message of solidarity, hope, friendships and an avenue of team work with countries around the world, including Fiji.

“The great work of the World Friends Korea (WFK) in commissioning and deploying volunteers, specialists and experts, doctors and advisors – for a period of two years - across the various sectors such as education, agriculture and fisheries, health and sanitation, public administration, infrastructure, rural development and IT in Fiji - is a demonstration of a healthy bi-lateral collaboration between Fiji and South Korea,” Ms Dimuri said.

“Indeed such collaborations are fruitful – because they have materialized in both tangible and intangible benefits. We know that the benefits are in the areas of the development of school curriculums, teacher support, building of computer labs, assistance in medical professional fields, the provision of technical support and many more worth mentioning and remarkable achievements that has brought about behavioral change and building a knowledgeable society, and contributing to one of our nation’s goal of having a prosperous and safe Fiji for all.”

“Developing friendships both at the community and national level, the ability to share and exchange experiences of basic cultural values or simply sharing a meal with a family during an evening spread, are all culmination of a strong people-to-people relations, and an integration that WFK champions in its endeavor to live in and work closely with local communities.”

Ms Dimuri also acknowledged the partnership established between Government and KOICA since its establishment in Fiji in 1991.

“Your work, carried out on funded projects, deployment of experts, fellowship programme to assist Fijian Nationals in pursuing further studies, International Organization Partnership Programme and providing volunteer support for sustainable development activities across Fiji is a collaboration that the Fijian Government is thankful for.”



Caption: Acting Deputy Secretary for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Ms. Arieta Dimuri with Permanent Secretary for Youth and Sports Mr. Rovereto Nayacalevu, senior

executive members of KOICA and participants at the Volunteer Host Organisation Workshop at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva earlier today.

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The Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management is responsible for implementing development strategies that bring Fijians living in rural and maritime regions the same level of access to essential services and economic opportunities as anywhere else in the country. We coordinate and implement the Fijian Government's rural and maritime development initiatives with a mission to empower Fiji's rural sector. We also spearhead disaster risk reduction initiatives at national and sub-national level including disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. We have offices for each of Fiji's 14 provinces including Rotuma, leading the Fijian Government's rural development and disaster risk management operations.

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