Third Meeting of the Regional Project Steering Committee for the SOPAC/UNDP/UNEP/GEF Project:

“Implementing Sustainable Water Resources and Wastewater Management in Pacific Island Countries”
Rarotonga Island, Cook islands, 25th – 30th July 2011

USP as a regional academic institution
• Established in 1968 to serve the countries of the Pacific
• Serves 12 countries in the South Pacific
• Is jointly owned by the governments of the 12 member countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Samoa)
• Has campuses in all 12 member countries, the main campus being at Laucala campus in Suva

IWRM – Can USP play a role?
• Scientific and Technological assessments:
  – Institute of Applied Sciences (IAS), based at the Laucala campus in Suva carries out on-site and laboratory testing of water, food, and soil samples
  – The Alafua Campus based in Samoa conducts agricultural and soil testing
  – The IAS laboratory has international accreditation to conduct water testing (including micro-biological testing for faecal coliform)
  – The IAS has the regional herbarium (has collections of plant specimens from the region and other parts of the world – staff are trained in identification of these)

IWRM – Can USP play a role?
• Freshwater ecological studies – for monitoring of stream health, is being undertaken by IAS staff in association with the Environmental Impact Assessments for the proposed multi-million dollar mining project in Namosi, Fiji. IAS is working with Golder Associates of Australia for this EIA.
• Marine ecological studies – water quality and coral reef health (baseline and monitoring purpose) – being undertaken by IAS with Golder Associates of Australia for the Namosi EIA

A successful Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) project in Fiji
• The Votua Water and Wastewater Management project
  – Multi-stakeholder committees (government, NGOs, local community lead role, international support (NIWA New Zealand)
  – Participatory methods in all aspects and components of the project
  – Scientific and technical support provided by IAS, USP
  – Constructed wetlands now operating and water quality being monitored monthly by our staff, since June 2011

Some lessons from the Votua Project:
• The communities are involved in all aspects of the project
  – Identification of the problem (pollution of the inshore waters; inconsistent and insufficient water supply)
  – Identification of strategies to address the problems
  – Inviting stakeholders to assist – academic (IAS/USP); NIWA in New Zealand to provide funds; local people to help in construction of pipelines; digging and planting of nutrient absorbing plants like sedges in the wetlands etc.
  – The community established committees (water committee etc.) to guide the project.
Concluding remarks

- Make use of your USP centers – if you need scientific and technical assistance, contact us through your USP center staff (mail is sent to and from these centers regularly, depending on flights)

OR email me:

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Thank you very much and vinaka vakalevu

Ulukalesi Bale Tamata
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