MARITIME SAFETY AUTHORITY OF FIJI

NEWSLETTER

Quarter 1 July-September 2024

The Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) ensures the safety and security of Fiji's maritime sector. We regulate vessels and seafarers and ensure protection of the marine environment.

MSAF is committed to protecting lives, property, and the environment in Fiji's waters, promoting safety, and supporting sustainable practices. Let MSAF guide you to safer seas.

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MSAF COLLABORATES WITH FIJI WIMA TO ADVANCE WOMEN IN MARITIME

A team from the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF), led by Chief Executive Officer CMDR Joweli Cawaki met with Fiji WIMA President Ms. Jane Koi to strengthen support for women in maritime at the MSAF Head office in Suva on 12th July,2024.

The CEO of MSAF highlighted the authority's commitment to fostering partnerships, identifying FJWIMA as a key ally. Emphasizing the critical role of women in the maritime sector, the CEO stressed the importance of their active participation across all areas.

Looking forward, as the first of many planned collaborations, this session set a strong foundation for future initiatives, underscoring the shared vision of MSAF and FJWIMA for an empowered and united maritime sector.

FIJI COMMENCES IMO INSTRUMENTS COMPLIANCE STRATEGY WORKSHOP

Fiji has launched a crucial consultation phase for its Fiji IMO Instruments Compliance Strategy 2025-2030 in Suva on 15th July,2024, marking a significant step towards enhancing maritime safety and environmental stewardship.

Following the 2018 IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS), Fiji has made substantial progress in resolving audit findings, underscoring its commitment to upholding international maritime standards.

The workshop, officially opened by Mr. Paula Baleilevuka, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport, brings together key stakeholders to chart a comprehensive strategy.

Mr. Baleilevuka said our strategic approach aims to fulfill our obligations under ratified IMO instruments, tailored to Fiji's unique context, adding that this initiative not only ensures regulatory compliance but strengthens Fiji's role as a strategic maritime hub.

The Fiji IMO Instruments Compliance Strategy 2025-2030 outlines clear objectives: implementing IMO obligations, monitoring compliance within Fiji, and fostering stakeholder collaboration under the auspices of the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF).

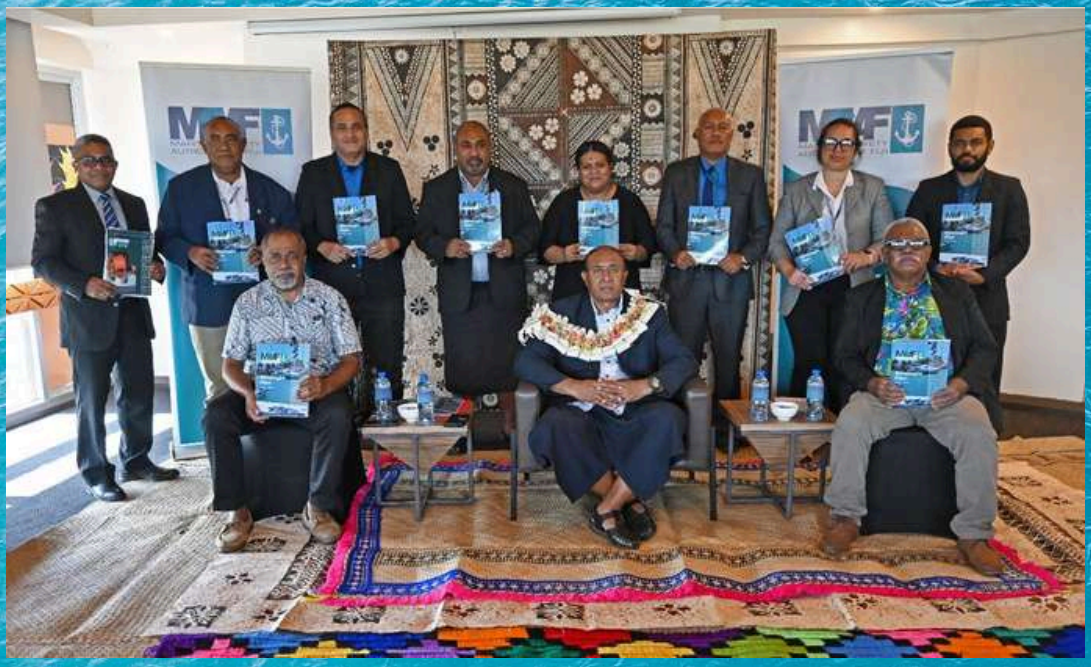
"International Shipping is pivotal to Fiji's economy, facilitating not only the bulk of our trade but also connecting our islands internally and globally. Our geographic location in the Pacific makes us a strategic hub for maritime routes connecting the Pacific islands with the rest of the world. Enhancing our compliance with the IMO conventions is not just a regulatory requirement but a crucial economic enabler," Mr. Baleilevuka said.

This workshop, led by MSAF in collaboration with key partners in the maritime industry, underscores a commitment to sustainable development and robust regulatory frameworks that safeguard our oceans.

ENHANCING
SAFE

ENHANCING
SAFE
SHIPPING

MARITIME SAFETY AUTHORITY OF FIJI UNVEILS STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2029



The Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) proudly launched its five-year Strategic Plan 2024-2029 in Suva on 29th July,2024.

In his keynote address, Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau, Minister for Public Works, Transport, and Meteorological Services of Fiji, emphasized the critical importance of the maritime sector to the nation. He noted ongoing discussions on the sector's redevelopment and emphasized that the new Strategic Plan is more than just a document but represents a forward-looking vision for advancing maritime safety and efficiency.

Minister Tuisawau said the Strategic Plan 2024-2029 reflects our lessons learnt and our commitment to enhancing organizational performance.

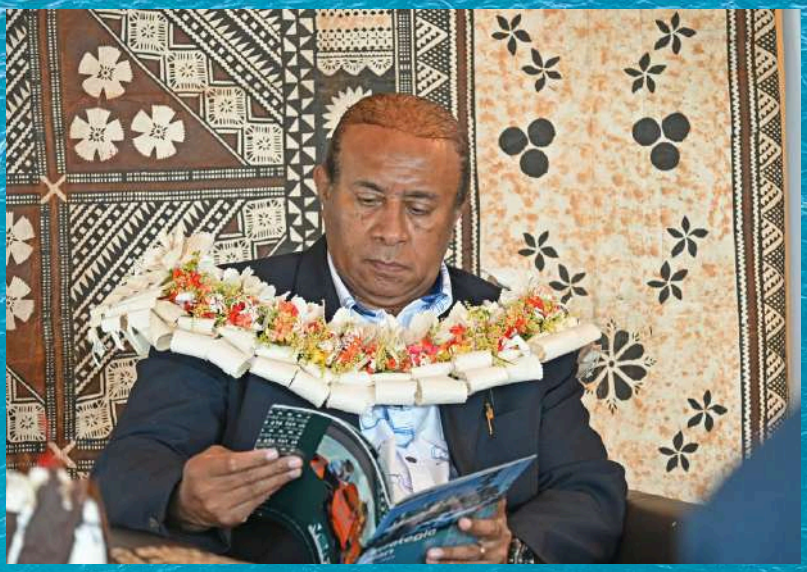
MSAF Chief Executive Officer, CMDR Joweli Cawaki, detailed the plan's key activities and discussed both the strengths and challenges facing the maritime sector.

He highlighted the six fundamental pillars of the Strategic Plan: Maritime Safety, Efficiency of Services, Protection of the Marine Environment, Competent Workforce, Financial Sustainability, and International Obligations, Legislation, and Policy.

Also present at the launch were the MSAF Board of Directors. Board Chairman, Mr. Cavalevu, highlighted the critical need to diligently execute the new Strategic Plan and MSAF's commitment to align accordingly.

The Strategic Plan 2024-2029 is set to guide MSAF in navigating future challenges and achieving excellence in maritime safety and service delivery.

MSAF
Strategic Plan
2024 - 2029



DRUG FREE AWARENESS WEEK

Representatives from the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) actively participated in the Central Division Drug-Free Awareness Week, which was held at the Old Nausori Market from 28th July to 4th August 2024.

During the event, the MSAF booth garnered attention, drawing in numerous students eager to learn about the vital role of MSAF and essential maritime safety information.

The MSAF team engaged participants in informative discussions, covering a wide range of topics related to the organization's work and its commitment to promoting safety on Fiji's waters.

The event proved to be an opportunity for MSAF to raise awareness and educate the community on the importance of maritime safety.

MSAF
ENHANCING
SAFE
SHIPPING
AND
CLEANER
SEAS

FRONT
BAILER

MSAF
ENHANCING
SAFE
SHIPPING
AND
CLEANER
SEAS

MSAF STAFF COMPLETE KEY CORPORATE GOVERNANCE TRAINING

Staff members of the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) engaged in a training on Corporate Governance at the University of the South Pacific in Suva on 8th August,2024.

The training emphasized the pivotal role of good corporate governance practices in ensuring organizational integrity and effectiveness.

This initiative is a crucial step toward enhancing MSAF's standards and reinforcing its commitment to transparent and accountable management.

FIJI'S NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHY COMMITTEE CONVENES IN SUVA

Fiji has taken a significant step in enhancing its marine sector with the re-establishment of the National Hydrography Committee (NHC) which convened in Suva on 15th August,2024.

The NHC serves as a key forum for coordinating all government-sponsored marine survey activities across the nation.

The committee, which is chaired by the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Public Works, Meteorological Services, and Transport, brought together representatives from government ministries, statutory bodies, and private industry stakeholders involved in the marine sector. The primary objectives of the NHC are to:

1. Optimize Fiji Hydrography Services' Contribution:** Enhance the role of Fiji Hydrography Services in achieving national development goals within the marine sector.
2. Identify and Prioritize National Requirements:** Assess and prioritize Fiji's needs for hydrographic and oceanographic surveying and nautical charting, considering available resources.
3. Coordinate Surveying Activities:** Align hydrographic and oceanographic surveying efforts of Fiji Hydrography Services with those of other government ministries.
4. Advise the Government:** Provide expert advice to the Government on matters related to hydrography and oceanography surveying.
5. Encourage Standardization:** Promote and coordinate the standardization of marine survey equipment used by government ministries.

he Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji is a key member of the National Hydrography Committee's secretariat.

The establishment of the NHC marks a milestone in Fiji's commitment to improving maritime safety, navigation, and the overall management of its marine resources.

Increased Risk of
Navigational Errors

MSAF PARTICIPATES AT 2024 HIBISCUS FESTIVAL

The Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) had a successful presence at the 2024 Hibiscus Festival! From 2nd-6th September, 2024, our booth at the Suva Foreshore was buzzing with visitors eager to learn about maritime safety.

Our team provided insights into vessel safety, seafarer registration, and compliance. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions, receive important safety tips, and learn how to stay safe while enjoying Fiji's beautiful waters.

We were happy to connect with the community, boost maritime knowledge, and contribute to a safer, more informed public.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by, and we look forward to more events like this in the future!

MSAF OFFICER BOOSTS MARITIME EXPERTISE THROUGH TRAINING IN CHINA

Enforcement & Compliance Officer Level 2, Mr. Tomasi Canuwale, who is based at Nabouwalu Jetty in Vanua Levu, was honoured to be selected by the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) to participate in the "Training Program on Chinese Language & Maritime Professional Skills for Pacific Island Countries." Mr. Canuwale attended the training from September 2nd to 24th, 2024, in Quanzhou City, Fujian Province, China.

This unique program provided participants with an immersive experience in Chinese language, writing, and culture, while also offering insights into maritime professional skills that have been successfully implemented in China and other developing Pacific Island nations. The training also featured an introduction to China's rich historical context and provided the opportunity to visit several sites that highlighted the country's significant maritime advancements.

Reflecting on the experience, Mr. Canuwale noted, "One of the most striking aspects of the training was the impressive progress China has made in areas such as digitalization, 5G wireless communications, automation, and de-carbonization. It's amazing to witness how China is addressing climate change challenges while supporting the development of smaller Pacific Island nations."

Throughout the training, Mr. Canuwale and his fellow participants toured several important locations, including the Ferry Terminal, Fujian Luoyu Port Development Co. Ltd, Ping Tan Southern Bay Tourist Resort, the International Research Centre for Austronesian Archaeology Showroom, the Quanzhou Maritime Museum, and the Xiamen Maritime Safety Administration, to name a few.

He also observed, “It was interesting to note that many Pacific Island nations, such as Samoa, Tonga, Nauru, the Cook Islands, the Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea, look to Fiji as a model for adhering to International Maritime Organization (IMO) standards. Yet, these countries face challenges in developing their own maritime skills and capabilities.”

Mr. Canuwale further highlighted the growing significance of China’s engagement with small Pacific Island nations, saying, “China's involvement in the Pacific has been multifaceted, with a clear focus on strengthening economic ties, as well as expanding its diplomatic and security presence. This evolving partnership is crucial for the region’s future development.”

Looking ahead, Mr. Canuwale emphasized that “Global challenges such as climate change, technological advancements, and digitalization will significantly shape future engagements and cooperation across the Pacific region.”

This training was hosted by the China-Pacific Island Countries Poverty Alleviation and Cooperative Development Centre, in collaboration with the Fujian Provincial Foreign Affairs Office and the Fujian Maritime Safety Administration. The program was organized by Quanzhou Normal University and the Quanzhou Maritime Safety Administration, reinforcing the strengthening ties between China and the Pacific Island nations in the field of maritime safety and development.

COASTAL WATCH AWARENESS PROGRAM: STRENGTHENING MARITIME SECURITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Representatives from the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) recently completed a two-week Coastal Watch awareness program, engaging with 15 villages across the districts of Tunuloa, Navatu, Vaturova, Kia, and Saqani in Vanua Levu.

This training initiative was conducted by the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (FRCS) in collaboration with the Fiji Police Force, Republic of Fiji Navy, Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF), Fiji Immigration Department, and the Cakaudrove Provincial Office. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Japan further supported the program.

The outreach program was designed to enhance awareness of maritime border security issues, particularly focusing on illegal activities in Fiji's vast coastal areas. By partnering with local maritime communities, the Coast Watch Program aims to strengthen surveillance and improve reporting mechanisms for any suspicious or illicit activities along Fiji's shorelines and seas.

The Coast Watch Program, launched by FRCS, is a critical initiative aimed at addressing the challenges posed by Fiji's extensive and porous maritime borders. With limited enforcement capabilities, these borders are vulnerable to transnational crimes, including drug trafficking. The awareness campaign informed communities about the roles and responsibilities of various border agencies, yacht clearance and international border processes, and the social impacts of hard drugs. Participants also learned about the legal penalties associated with drug possession and explored practical solutions to address drug-related issues in their communities.

By fostering stronger relationships with coastal villages, the program enhances the ability of law enforcement agencies to address border security concerns more effectively. This partnership ensures a proactive, community-driven approach to safeguarding Fiji's maritime borders and reinforcing the nation's security.

The successful completion of this two-week program reflects the commitment to empowering local communities, improving surveillance and enforcement capabilities, and addressing critical border security issues in one of Fiji's most vulnerable regions.

VIBRANT CELEBRATION OF 2024 WORLD MARITIME DAY IN SUVA

On 27th September 2024, the streets of Suva were a vibrant sea of colours as Fijians from all walks of life united in a march parade to celebrate the 2024 World Maritime Day.

The Minister for Public Works, Transport and Meteorological Services, Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau, while delivering remarks at the celebration held at Albert Park, emphasized the theme "Navigating the Future: Safety First," highlighting its profound significance for Fiji—a nation intrinsically linked to the ocean.

"Our seas are not just vital lifelines; they are essential pathways for trade, economic development, and the well-being of our people," Minister Tuisawau stated. "This year's theme serves as a crucial reminder that safety encompasses not only the protection of lives at sea but also the security of our marine environment and the need for our regulatory frameworks to adapt to the technological advancements reshaping our industry."

In a significant moment, the Honourable Minister awarded certificates to five representatives from Nakorokotubu, Ra, who successfully completed the Boat Master License (BML) and Restricted Master Engineer Class 6 (RME6) programs, reinforcing the commitment to skill development within our maritime community.

The celebration was expertly organized by the World Maritime Day Committee, led by the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji, and included collaboration from various stakeholders across the maritime industry.

Also in attendance was the Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Meteorological Services Mr. Paula Baleilevuka, Chief Executive Officer of MSAF CMDR Joweli Cawaki, and Chairman of the MSAF Board Mr. Savenaca Cavalevu.

FIJI WOMEN IN MARITIME ASSOCIATION
Fiji Women In Maritime
Association (Fiji WIMA)
"Recognising, Empowering, Networking, Leadership"

WORLD
MARITIME
DAY!

MSAF JOINS FIJI DELEGATION AT MEPC IN LONDON!

The Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) joined the Fiji delegation at the 82nd session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) held at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Headquarters in London from September 30 to October 4, 2024.

Led by Mr. George Tavo, Deputy Secretary Operations for the Ministry of Public Works, Meteorological Services, and Transport, the delegation participated in important discussions on environmental matters impacting global shipping. Topics included:

- Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from ships
- Enhancing energy efficiency
- Tackling marine litter
- Ballast water management
- Underwater noise reduction

This year's meeting was preceded by the 17th Intersessional Working Group on GHG Reduction from Ships (ISWG-GHG 17), held from September 23-27.

During the session, Mr. Tavo reinforced Fiji's commitment to the "polluter pays" principle, advocating for a universal carbon levy on shipping emissions to ensure the industry contributes fairly to the global fight against climate change.

"The levy is an essential tool to ensure the shipping industry, a significant contributor to GHG emissions, bears its responsibility in the global climate fight." — Mr. George Tavo.

Key MEPC 82 Highlights:
• Tackling climate change by cutting GHG emissions from ships
• Enhancing energy efficiency of vessels
• New Emission Control Areas designation
• Designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Area
• Addressing marine litter and air pollution
• Preventing underwater radiated noise
• Progress in ship recycling and pollution prevention

He added that looking ahead, Fiji committed to continuing constructive discussions at MEPC 83 and beyond, aiming for a net-zero shipping industry while ensuring that no nation, especially the most vulnerable, is left behind in the global energy transition.

The next MEPC meeting (MEPC 83) is scheduled for 7-11 April 2025.

UPCOMING EVENTS
OCTOBER 2024

TO ALL MSAF STAFF:

1. Event: Celebration of Diwali 2024

Date:Thursday,31st October,2024

Time:11:00am

Venue: Boardroom,Level 4,Kadavu House,Suva

2. Event: Celebration of Fiji Day 2024

Date: Friday,11th October,2024

Time:01:00pm

Venue: Level 4,Kadavu House,Suva

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