

SOPAC NewsUpdate # 003, 18 March 2002

- 1) Fiji's telephone numbering becomes a seven-digit system starting Monday, 25 March 2002. The change will add the digit 3 in front of existing numbers in the Central and Eastern divisions – where the capital Suva (and the SOPAC Secretariat) is located, so our telephone number 381377 will then become 338 1377, and fax number 370040 will become 337 0040. For calling mobiles in Fiji you will need to add the digit 9 in front of the existing mobile number. Other parts of Fiji will add a different digit, and to be helpful to our readers a summary of all these changes is documented on the second page of this update. (Ed's note: Only for this order of magnitude change will we permit this compilation to run into two pages).§
- 2) The Kingdom of Tonga's Minister of Lands, Survey and Natural Resources, Honorable Fielakepa visited the SOPAC Secretariat and spent the afternoon of 25 February 2002 talking to the Director, other senior staff and being shown around the office buildings. This was the first time that a Tongan Government Minister has visited the SOPAC Secretariat since SOPAC's inception. The Kingdom of Tonga is one of the six founding members of the organisation.§
- 3) Following on from the presentation of SOPAC's new Corporate Plan 2002-2004 to the Governing Council at the last Annual Session in Majuro, Mr Rafael Olaya, recently joined the SOPAC team in the new position of Executive Officer. As part of his new functions Rafael will provide planning and project management support to the Executive Management Team, advise the Director on strategic issues and facilitate processes derived from the adoption of the new Corporate Plan, as the organisation puts in place its new program-based structure. Before joining SOPAC Rafael worked as Project Coordinator at the UN Mission in Guatemala, where he managed the implementation of the Mission's communication strategy. Prior to that he worked for the International Red Cross in Africa, Latin America and the US. His formal training is in Development and Economics.§
- 4) The Honorable Mack T Kaminaga, Ambassador for the Republic of the Marshall Islands in Fiji and co-Chair of the SOPAC Governing Council officially launched a new comprehensive hazard and risk management tool in Suva at a special lunch on Friday, 15 March 2002. The Comprehensive Hazard And Risk Management (CHARM) tool is a process developed to assist the countries of the Pacific region in their endeavors to reduce community vulnerability and enhance community resilience towards long-term sustainable development. It is designed to enable Pacific Island Countries to integrate risk management practices into their national development planning processes and therefore greatly reduce unnecessary levels of risk. The guidelines were developed in partnership with the Queensland Department of Emergency Services Counter Disaster and Rescue Services Division.§
- 5) World Water Day will be celebrated in a few days time, on 22 March, and this year's theme is "Water for Development". The lead global UN Agency is the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Once again, SOPAC spearheads the activities for the Pacific region. Collaborating with SOPAC this year are SPREP and a Fiji-based NGO, Live & Learn Environmental Education. Public awareness and education material developed and distributed under this year's theme will be incorporated into an education campaign being developed concurrently with Live & Learn in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji; with the long-term objective of creating the capacity within the education systems of these countries to include water education into their formal school curricula. Member countries were assisted in their own observance of World Water Day 2002 via the material developed for public awareness for water and sanitation related problems, and with finance and press packs to advertise WWD 2002 in local media. Funding was kindly provided by the British High Commission, Suva, for the fourth year running and the New Zealand High Commission.§

SOPAC NewsUpdate # 003, page 2

FIJI ISLANDS NEW SEVEN DIGIT TELEPHONE NUMBERING SYSTEM

From 25 March 2002, all telephone and facsimile numbers will change from 6 to 7 digits to accommodate the increasing new Vodafone connections.

The new numbering format will appear as an additional digit in front of the existing telephone and fax numbers.

The new numbers will appear as a 3-digit prefix and 4-digit suffix. Ex: 321 0486.

Central/Eastern Customers

Phone/fax numbers starting with 2, 3 and 4 will now begin with an additional 3.

Western Customers

Phone/fax numbers starting with 5, 6 and 7 will now begin with an additional 6.

Northern, Lau Group and Rotuma Customers

Phone/fax numbers starting with 8 will now begin with an additional 8.

Central/Eastern Rural Customers

Phone numbers starting with 114 will begin with an additional 3.

Western Rural Customers

Phone numbers starting with 113 will now begin with an additional 6.

Northern Rural Customers

Phone numbers starting with 116 will now begin with an additional 8.

EasyTel Central/Eastern Customers

Phone/fax numbers starting with 59 will now begin with an additional 3.

EasyTel Western Customers

Phone/fax numbers starting with 51 will begin with an additional 6.

Vodafone Customers

Numbers starting with 9 or 24 onwards will now begin with an additional 9.

International Direct Dial Access Code

IDD access code 05 will change to 00.

Service Numbers

Frequently used emergency numbers like 000, 007 and 133 will also change on 25 March.

General Emergency 000 will change to 911.

Police Emergency 007 will change to 917.

FEA Emergency 133 will change to 913.

For a complete listing of new emergency numbers, refer to the 2002 Fiji Directories when it is released.

NOTE: For any additional queries, call Elenoa on 210 486, or 321 0486 after 25 March 2002.

Summarised from TFL web site news