Research Proposal Writing in ICT for Socio-Economic Development

USP-JICA Workshop between May 24 through 27, 2005

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June 15, 2005

General Information of the Workshop

- **Abstract**: The workshop will highlight common problems in proposal writing and the success criteria. It will provide tips on how to collect information and how to develop a research proposal. The last two days will be dedicated to identifying the strategies of proposal writing and developing an outline of a real proposal.
- **Goal**: To enhance the skills of USP staff in writing research proposal to gain international funding.
- **Objective**: This workshop aims to train researchers, USP academics, and administrators in writing professional and competitive proposals in the area of ICT research linking to socio-economic development.
- **Output**: Draft ICT research proposals by the participants.
- **Target audience**: USP academic staff interested in ICT research for socio-economic development.

Schedule

1. **Day 1 (May 24, 2005)**
   - Overview of Workshop
   - Participant Introduction
   - Discussion on e-Japan
   - Brainstorming for Tentative Proposals
2. **Day 2 (May 25, 2005)**
   - Case Study with Proposals for JICA funding
   - Discussion on e-Fiji
   - Discussion on Tentative Proposals
3. **Day 3 (May 26, 2005)**
   - Presentation of Tentative Proposal #1
   - Evaluation of the Workshop
4. **Day 4 (May 27, 2005)**
   - Presentation of Tentative Proposal #2
   - Discussion on the Tentative Proposal
   - Brainstorming on Possible Joint Research Activities

Participants

- **Mr. Umesh Chand**
  - Economics SSED
  - Lecturer Economics
- **Ms. Ruci Dakunimata**
  - Pre-Degree Study Unit, DFL
  - Asst/ Data Analyst
- **Mr. Gordon Maitava**
  - Planning & Development
  - Research Assistant
- **Mr. Baljeet Singh**
  - Economics SSED
  - Temp. Tutor Economics
- **Ms. Ronita Singh**
  - Acctn. & Finance Mgmnt, SSED
  - Tutor in Accounting

Critical Points in the Discussion Shared in the Workshop

- **Concept of ICT**
- **Function of ICT in the Socio-Economic System**
- **Architecture of a Research Project**
- **Logic, Principle, Hypothesis, and Theory**
- **Factual Studies**
- **Arrangement of Infrastructure, etc.**

Intriguing Issues

- Opening up the telecommunication market in Fiji
- Utilizing telecommunication infrastructure in Fiji
- ICT and the change of life styles (individual life) and social design
- BackOffice, New Industry
- The Arrangement of Infrastructure
- ICT Business in Fiji
- eCommunity
- Funding
- Education
- IT Literacy
Two Tentative Proposals

Proposal #1
- An Analysis of the Rural ICT Infrastructure in Fiji - Stylization of Key Factors to Enhance the Impact of ICT for Socio-Economic Development in Rural Communities.

Proposal #2
- An analysis of demand for Fiji as a destination for Back Office and Contact Centre Offshoring.

Titles Discussed for Tentative Proposal #1
- ICT Development in Rural Areas
- Research on Rural Connectivity
- Users of ICT in Rural Areas
- Research on the Accessibility Problems to Infrastructure - the Arrangement of ICT Infrastructure to Support the Development Socio-Economic System in Fiji
- Impact on Redefining Telecommunication Regulation of ICT Utilized in Fiji
- Socio-Economic Impact of ICT on Rural Community in Fiji
- Policies for Rural Development - Evaluation of ICT Sector in Fiji
- An Analysis of the Rural ICT Infrastructure in Fiji

Issues being Shared and Tackled for the Future

- Academic Platform
  - For Enhancing Research Capability and Experience
    - Human Resource
    - References
    - Joint Projects

- Common Language in Academic Terms
  - For Realizing Collaborative Works with Common Methodologies, Analytical Tools
    - FOSS

- Factual Database
  - For Establishing Data Framework to Represent the Reality
    - Statistical Database to Enable Continuous Studies of Social Issues

Keywords to Realize Network Society

- Change from “Passive Network” to “Active Network”
  - Spontaneous Creation of Cyberspace by Users

- Reality in Cyberspace
  - Plausibility of Business Motivation and/or incentive in Life
    - Efficiency
    - Competence
    - Rationality, etc.

- Improvement and Promotion of Skills to Utilize ICT
  - Skills to Find Facts and Problems
  - Skills to Overcome Difficulties