

## **REGIONAL INITIATIVE TEMPLATE**

Please complete each section below.

### **1. Contact Details**

Please provide the following contact details:

<b>Name of individual or group submitting initiative</b>	<b>Fiji Maritime Academy</b>
<b>Name and position of primary contact</b>	<b>Captain Suren P Gurusinghe.</b>
<b>Email address</b>	<b>ceo-fma@fnu.ac.fj</b>
<b>Alternate email address</b>	
<b>Phone number</b>	<b>+ 679 – 3315115 ext. 5117, Mobile: + 679 999 2110</b>
<b>Fax number</b>	<b>+679- 3315614</b>
<b>Mailing address</b>	<b>P.O. Box 10963,Laucala Beach Estate, Nasinu, Fiji Islands.</b>

### **2. Name of Initiative**

Expansion of Fiji Maritime Academy Programmes to meet the regional maritime training needs

### **3. Background and Rationale**

Please limit your response to no more than 750 words.

Fiji Maritime Academy (FMA) tragically located at Laucala Bay, Suva. Nestled between University of South Pacific and the Pacific Ocean, FMA currently conducts training programmes in accordance with STCW 78 code (as amended 2010). The programmes are approved by the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF).The curriculum is structured on a combination of academic studies and practical skills to give maximum benefit to seafarers. The teaching staff of the academy qualified in international standards with a wealth of seagoing experience. Having completed the programmes at FMA, students then obtain the necessary sea service before they are assessed and certified by the local administrators MSAF.

While the main programmes are in Nautical Science and Engineering disciplines, the Academy also conducts a Ship Building Programme. Mandatory short courses as required by the local administrators are an integral part of the curriculum and a state of the art Marine Simulator complements the facilities to provide well-rounded maritime training.

The products of FMA are mostly from the Fiji Islands but the vision is to be the premier Maritime Training institute in the South Pacific region.

FMA aim to meet the local industry's growing employment needs through providing a maritime education and training curriculum that will attract students of both genders from in and around the region. To achieve this aim, FMA to introduce course options with opportunities for full-time, part-time, and online distance study options. FMA along with Fiji National University (FNU) of which it is an entity of, recognises the fact that there should no boundaries when it comes to training and education in the maritime industry. Career in seafaring offers variety of options. Commanding a vessel on high seas, an Engineer in charge operation of the propulsion plant, an officer safe-guarding marine environment, or a Naval Architect designing advanced ocean engineering structures, and as with most seafarers in the region, it might be catching and farming seafood, they all need a start and institutions such as FMA as the stepping stone.

FMA which under the management of Colombo International Nautical and Engineering College (CINEC) in Sri Lanka with its vision for the future has created strategic plan drawn for 2015 – 2019.

Among the 10 strategic goals created Goal 7 is important and is relevant this initiative.

#### Strategic Plan Goal 7 EXPANDING REGIONAL PRESENCE

Achieving regional impact is a priority for FMA moving forward which requires the expansion of the currently operation.

The infrastructure is currently limited to cater for the number of students and staff. The teaching staff is just adequate for the current programmes.

Addition of new class rooms and workshop facilities are necessary if the student numbers are to be increased. Upgrading of the programmes and initiating new programs require addition of new staff that are suitably qualified.

#### **4. Description**

*Please limit your response to no more than 750 words.*

South Pacific region consist of series of islands and archipelagos. The inhabitants are considered people of the sea. Often the traditional fishing trade is handed down from generations. Working on fishing boats seem to be only natural when surrounded by the great Pacific Ocean from the time they were born. Some islanders take up seafaring as a career option. There are qualified Pacific Islanders in command of vessels or operate the engines of large vessels.

There are number of vessels transporting goods between the islands as well.

There is something magical about the ocean it is picturesque and the sound of the waves are calming and soothing. The sea also can be angry and often not a friend.

The islanders who take their fishing boats to water or work on the boats traditionally launched their boats and rode their luck on the high seas. The lack of awareness of the dangers has caused much loss of lives. In this day and age there are also environmental

concerns. Pollution from accidental or operational can damage the pristine seas and harm marine life. To enable safe and secure seafaring and to protect the environment education and training plays a vital part.

To extend the Maritime training is Fiji Maritime Academy's vision and must be part of any organisation that care for the people of the region.

Although FMA as School of Maritime Studies has been in existence since 1975, other a few students from the islands there has been no serious initiative to expand to the rest of the pacific region.

FMA is aware that there are certain risks involving and expansion of this nature.

The lack of resources and funding would be the main concern. With help of the helpful partners and organisations those risks could be mitigated.

## **5. Alignment to Regional Vision, Values and Objectives**

*Please limit your response to no more than 500 words*

Fiji has traditionally been recognised as the regional centre for maritime education and training and in the past has trained may pacific island mariners to senior levels merchant vessels, fishermen and ship builders. Many Pacific Island Countries have limited resources in both the marine administrations and the marine training institutions. A regional approach is needed to provide a source of marine expertise and support for institutional strengthening and to provide training for which individual Pacific Island Countries lack of capacity.

FMA aims to meet the local industry's growing employments needs through providing a maritime education and training curriculum that will attract students of both genders from in and around the region.

The objective for the proposed facility upgrade is based on meeting international standards with the view of being deemed a "centre of excellence" with capabilities to cater for the pacific regional maritime training needs.

The proposed enhanced facility will also have capability of providing a higher level of certification to seafarers seeking an upgrade in their qualifications. This upgrade would also strengthen FMA by providing the infrastructure and equipment to meet the requirement. A further objective is to support an expected increase in students number from Fiji and regionally.

## **6. Additional Information**

*Please limit your response to no more than 5 pages.*

None