

July 2009

Project Title: Bilateral Assistance To The Government Of Fiji
Dates: 4-13 January 2006
Location: Fiji
Unit: International Criminal Justice
Core Staff: Dr. Robert Cryer
Funder: Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

Project Summary

Following the training course on ICC ratification and Implementation for the Asia-Pacific Region, in January 2006 Dr Cryer undertook a bilateral visit to Fiji in order to provide expert drafting assistance and capacity- and knowledge-building workshops.

Objectives

The aims of the Bilateral Assistance visit to Fiji included:

- To provide a general overview of the operation of the ICC regime;
- To engage in knowledge transfer between Dr. Cryer's extensive international law expertise and the Fijian drafting experience;
- To provide comments on completed drafts and to provide suggestions on how to move forward in a way that ensured that the national implementation legislation remained compatible with Fijian law and, at the same time, fulfilled the co-operation obligations listed in the ICC Statute.

Participants

The primary contact when in Fiji was the Director of Public Prosecutions' Office since they were charged with the primary responsibility of drafting the ICC legislation. Upon arrival, Dr. Cryer was provided with various sections of the draft legislation that had been completed.

Activities

Method

While in Fiji, Dr. Cryer attended various sessions with the group responsible for the drafting of the national implementation legislation and in two of these sessions the Director of Public Prosecutions was also present. Throughout these drafting sessions oral comments were provided and detailed notes were made about specific sections of the draft legislation. Several sections of Fijian law were reviewed and suggestions for improvements, where needed, were made.

Outcomes/Outputs

- Three lectures were given to members of the government, the police and various members of civil society. Two of these lectures pertained to the historical development of the ICC and its early practice while the third lecture dealt with humanitarian law.
- Follow-up activities were agreed in order to ensure completion of the drafting of legislation when the circumstances permit.