



**Fiji Higher Education Commission**

## **2016 ASIA PACIFIC QUALITY NETWORK CONFERENCE**

**THEME:** Sustainable Development of Quality Assurance in Higher Education

**TOPIC: Quality Assurance in Higher Education – the Fiji Experience**

**Thursday 26 May 2016**

**Natadola Resort**

# Introduction

- \* 5 years of formal QA in HE not in isolation
- \* Struggle/ challenge
- \* Experience sharing
- \* Commencement of legislation
- \* Public sector values upheld
- \* Outcomes based approach to QA
- \* Resources
- \* Impact of globalization

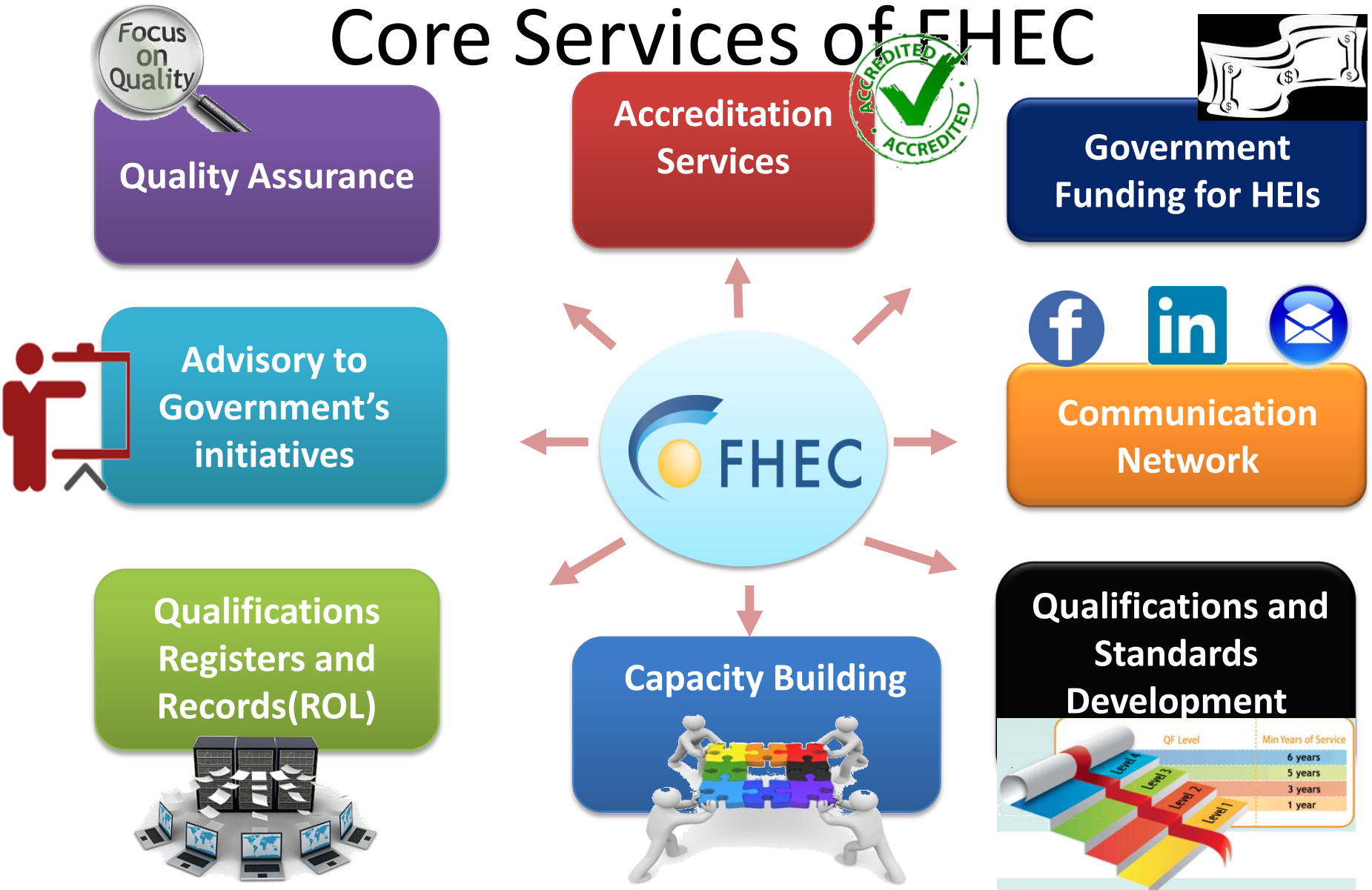


# The Fiji Context

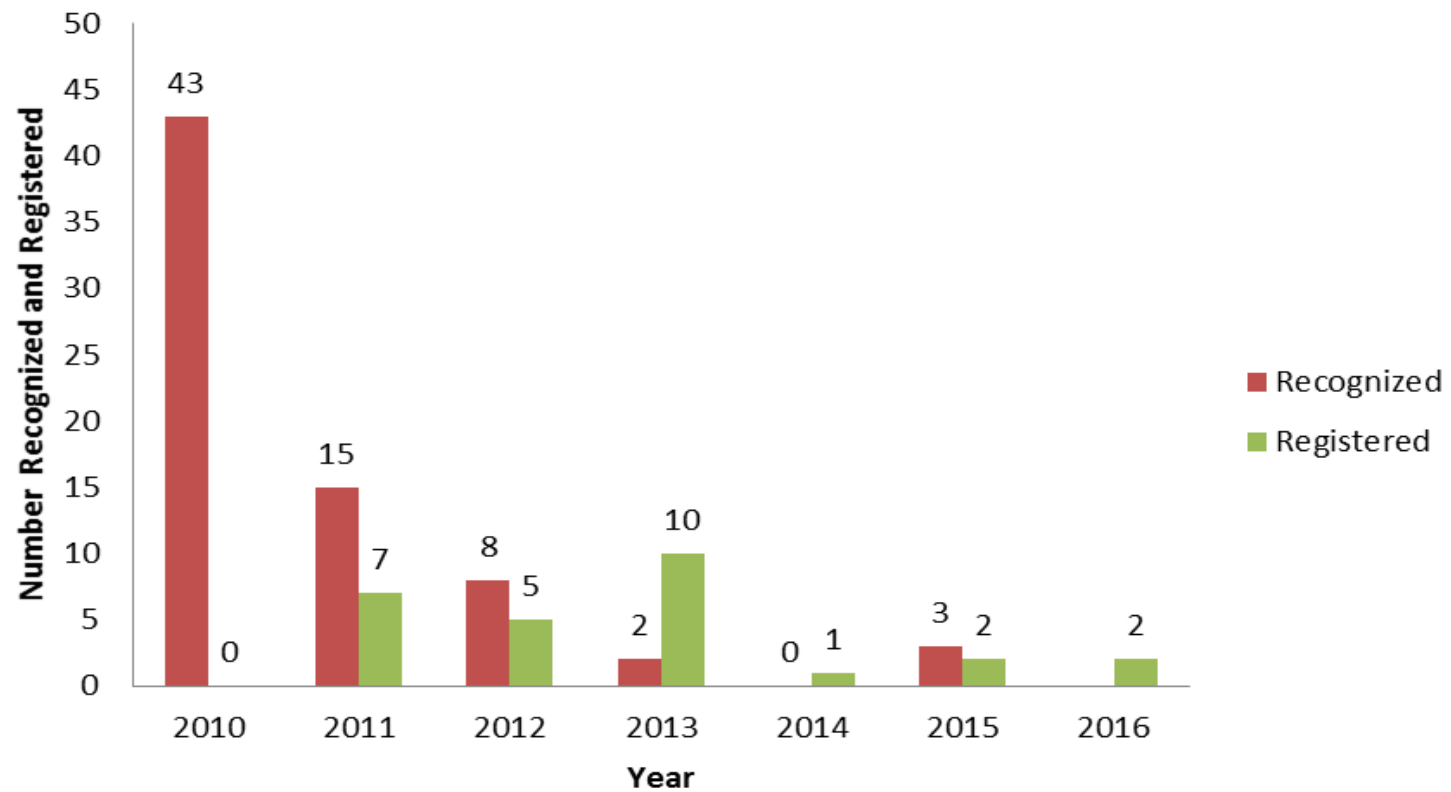
- \* 11 mandated functions
- \* Accreditation of Institutions
- \* Enrolment Trends (Fijian and Foreign)
- \* Fijian Students Studying Abroad
- \* Fiji Qualifications Framework
- \* Operating Grants for HEIs



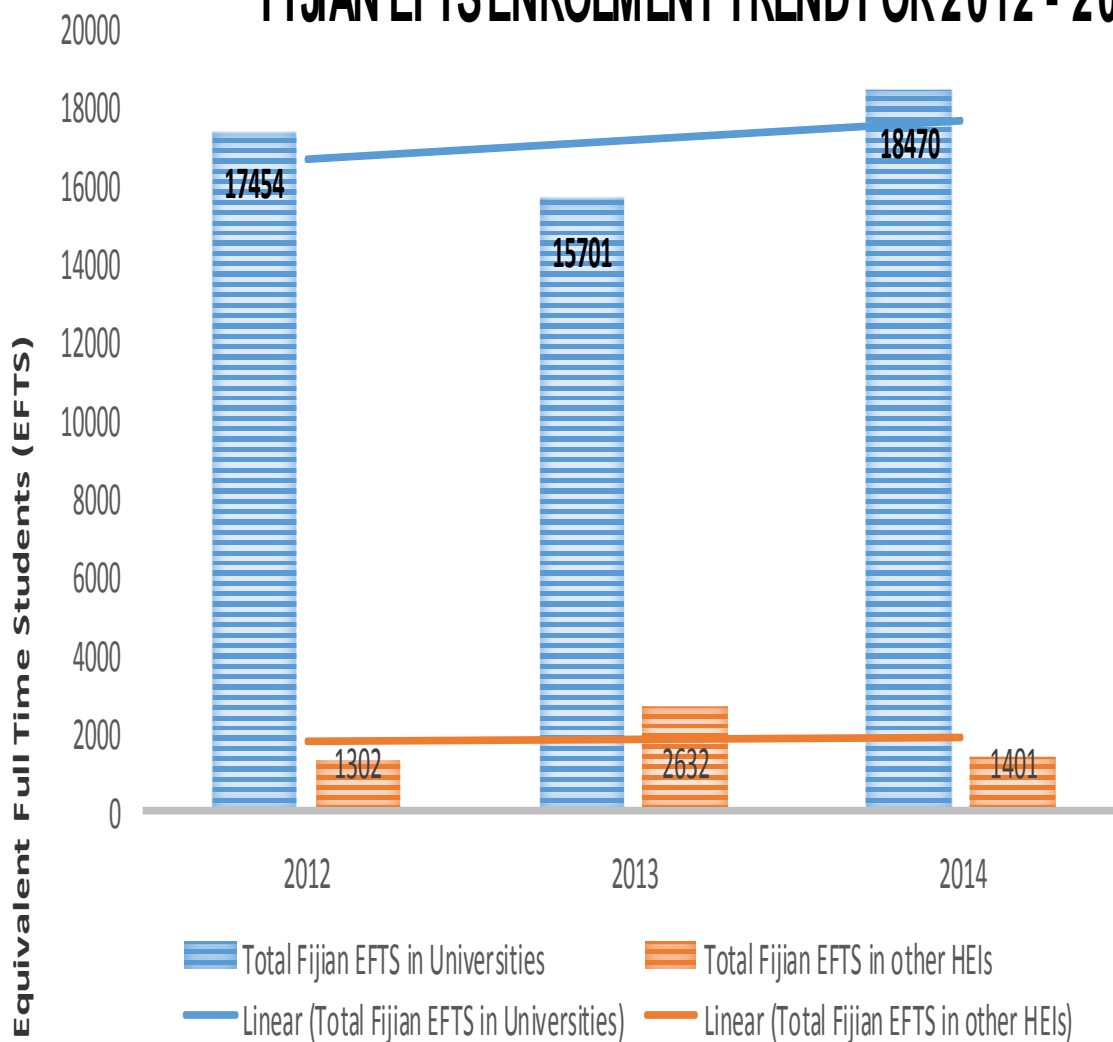
# Core Services of FHEC



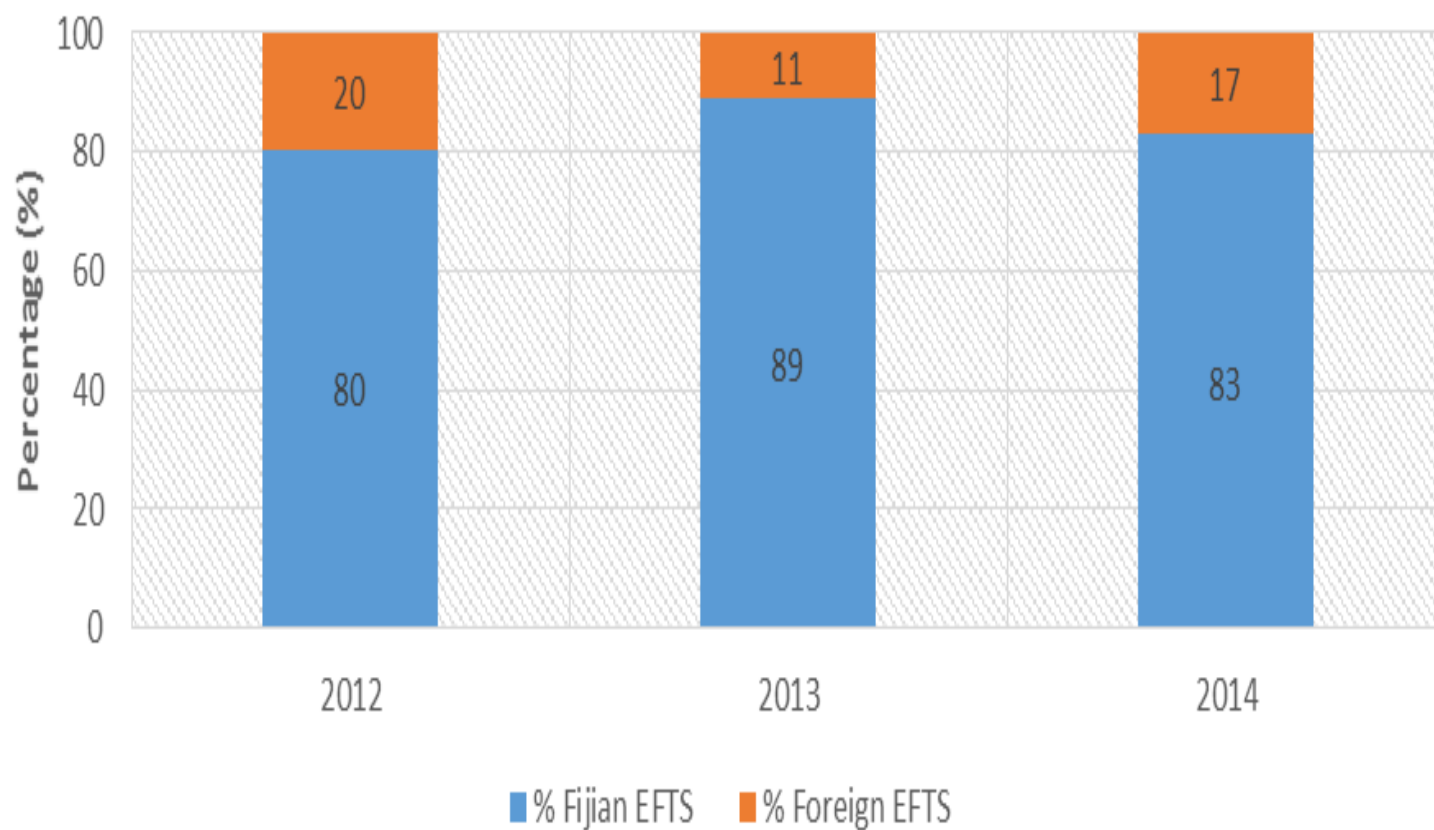
## Recognized and Registered HEIs



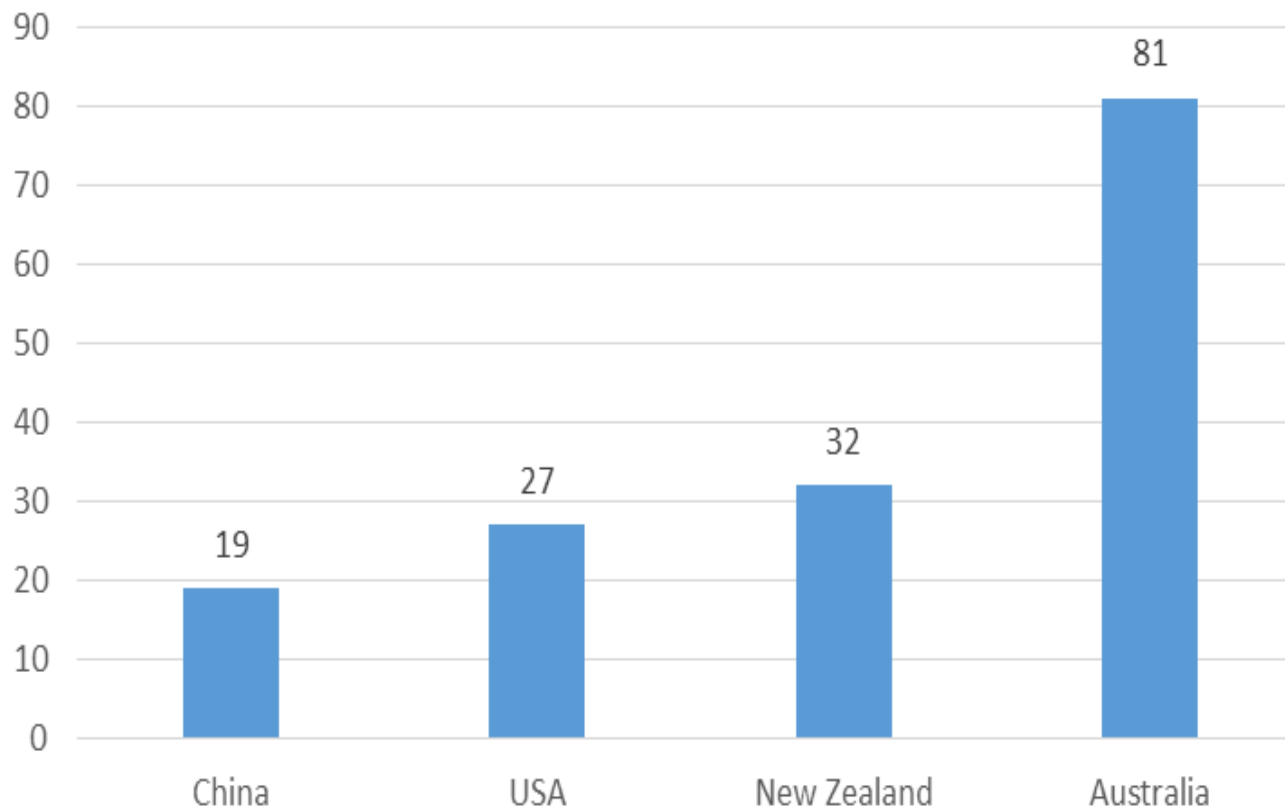
## FIJIAN EFTS ENROLMENT TREND FOR 2012 - 2014



## % TREND FOR FIJIAN & FOREIGN EFTS FOR 2012-2014

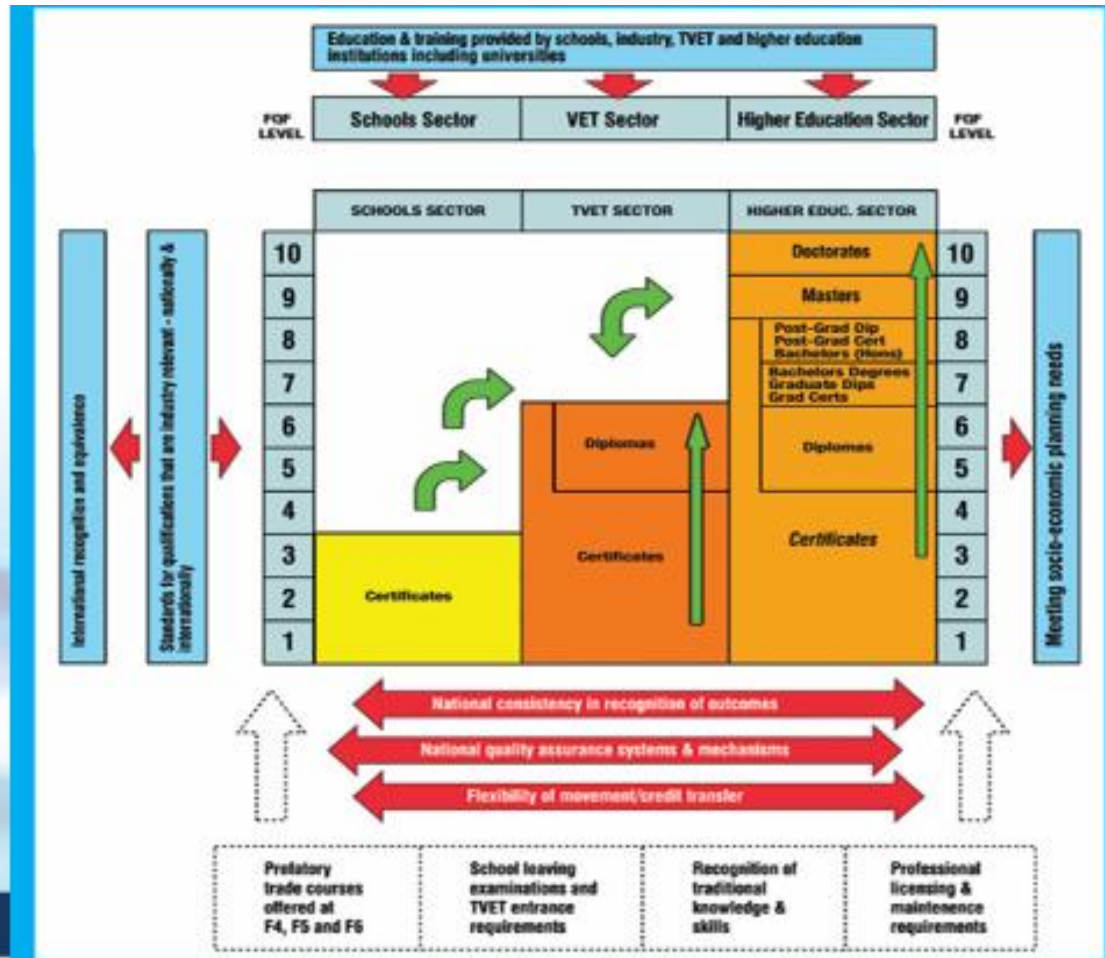


Number of Students Studying Abroad in 2016

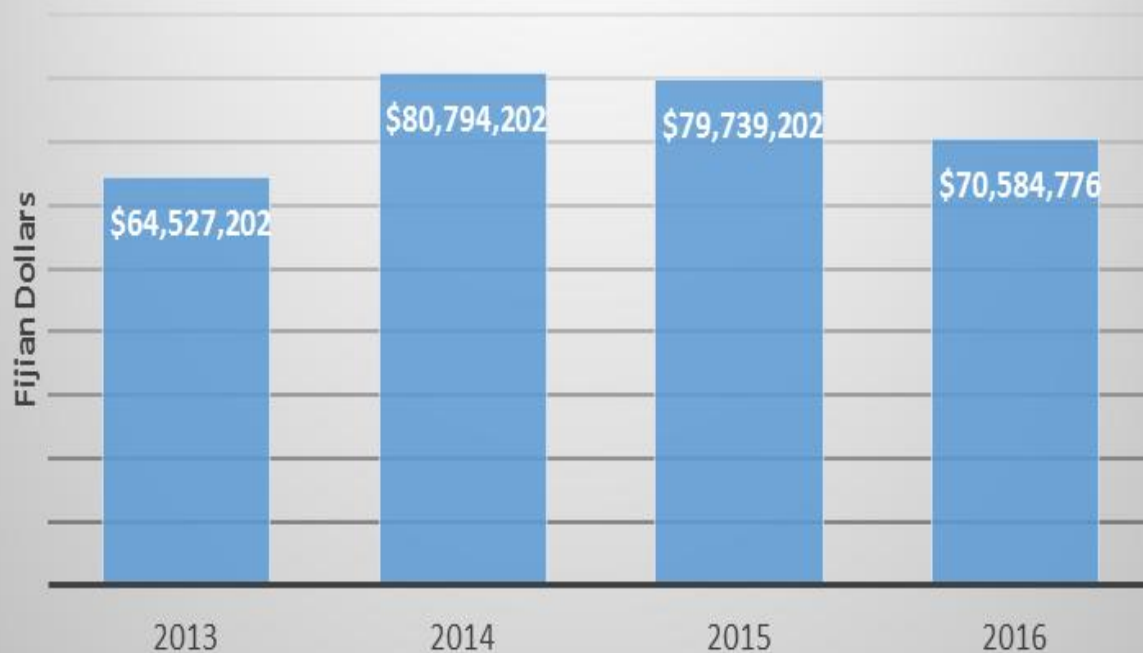




# The Fiji Qualifications Framework



## Annual Higher Education Operating Grant for HEIs



# Sustaining QA within a Legal Framework

- \* Positive impact on QA and support by stakeholders

- \* Challenges:

- \* Timeliness in QA and currency of legislation

- \* Diversity in delivery modes (globalization)

- \* Student mobility across borders

- \* Review of guidelines and procedures

- \* “one size fits all”



# QA and the Fiji Qualifications Framework

- \* Adopted levels 3 -12 of SCQF Partnership Board

- \* Challenges :

- \* credits system,

- \* approach to accreditation,

- \* proliferation of provider programs,

- \* delivery and assessment of NQs

- \* shift in operation mode of HEIs

- \* need to assist HEIs in program accreditation



# **Stakeholders Expectations and the QA System**

- \* Legal Status of the QA System – positive impact**

- \* Challenges :**

- \* Secure and maintain confidence of stakeholders**

- \* HEIs internal processes including IQA for accountability**

- \* Expectations of funding assistance by HEIs**

- \* Students' Grievances**

- \* Students, programs and institutions Crossing Borders**



# Lessons Learnt

- **Positive impact of legislation and need for its currency**
- **Alertness to impact of global and regional trends in HE**
- **Timeliness**
- **Review of processes, policies, systems for relevance and fairness**
- **Collaboration with stakeholders and need to keep them informed**
- **Need to strengthen IQA of HEIs and their EQA**



# Conclusion

- **Planning to reflect sustainability of QA**
- **Positive impact of legal framework**
- **Common understanding amongst stakeholders**
- **Need to guard against what can be negative  
impact of globalization**







*Fiji, a premier world class higher education destination*



The image features a close-up of a light-colored, intricately woven basket, likely made of palm or bamboo, which occupies the right and top portions of the frame. To the left of the basket is a rough, textured surface, possibly a rock or concrete. In the center, a white rectangular sign is placed, featuring a decorative border of small, stylized leaves. The text on the sign is centered and reads: 

**Thank you**

**and**

**Vinaka Vakalevu**