



New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Inc.

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President's Report 2009

Greetings All,

Congratulations to Christchurch Multicultural Council on 20th Anniversary. Acknowledgements to past presidents Kuan Goh, Grace Hollander, Weng Kei Chen and Jim Fraser and all members.

I am honored to present you my first President's report. The primary focus of the Federation and its member Councils continue to be, to provide volunteer support for the successful settlement of the migrant and refugees.

I would like to thank you all for your confidence and support in electing me as the first President of the New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils. I look forward to working with you all and keeping you informed of the activities of the Federation.

Congratulations to our newly elected executive committee members Alexis LewGor (Vice President), Gul Zaman (Secretary), Vijeshwar Prasad (Treasurer). I would also like to thank our Past President Pancha Narayanan who has served as the president of the Federation for the last 6 years.

I would also like to congratulate the newly elected executive of the women's council, Elizabeth Paine (president), Cornelia Meague (secretary) and Amita Shah (treasurer) and also to Arti Prasad, President and Arish Naresh as Secretary and of the Youth Council

I take this opportunity to congratulate all the recipients of NZFEC regional and national awards.

Executive Meetings

The new Executive Committee met in August to discuss the work plan for the current year and update on current projects being undertaken by us. The executives have decided to prioritize and complete the following projects:

- DOL capacity building project
- Auckland Community engagement meetings
- Finalize the Women's project
- Continue to hold Police forums around the country



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And

- Scope and implement new projects for Youth and Elderly
- Working closely with existing MOU partners OEA, Police, CACR, MSD and DOL and actively seek new partners. We look forward to MOUs with English Language Partners, Interpreting Services and Refugee & Migrant Services in future.
- Establish new Ethnic Councils in areas not represented.

The Executives have also decided to encourage all regional councils to take up projects within their regions and Federation will endeavor to provide support and guidance where ever possible.

Name Change & Multicultural Act

At the last AGM the members confirmed to change its name to New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils. I am pleased to inform you all, that we are now registered as New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Council. Our new Logo has been selected after wide consultation and we are also working on finalizing a new letterhead for the Federation and standard one for all regional councils.

The executives are actively working on the multicultural legislation.

20th Anniversary Celebrations

The New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils marked its 20th year since its inception with a commemorative day in the “Grand Hall” at the New Zealand Parliament. This occasion was graced by the presence of the Prime Minister, the Minister of Ethnic Affairs and a number of other Ministers, along with parliamentarians from all parties, Government Officials. Past Presidents and Executives of the Federation, members of the communities and other guests
Congratulations also to Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch Ethnic Councils who are also celebrating their 20 anniversary this year.

Capacity Building Project – Auckland Community Meetings

As part of our Capacity project, we have held two community meetings in Auckland involving community groups, leaders and agencies to discuss issues specific to Auckland region and communities, and how we can better engage. We acknowledge support of MSD and DoL in this project.

Visits to Regions: - Nelson, Taranaki, Palmerston North

We would like to maintain our commitment to attend Regional Councils whenever requested. or needed. As the President of the Federation, I have visited the following regions:

- Nelson for the opening of the Multicultural resort Center. Requested by Nelson
- Taranaki for their AGM and Police update. Requested by Taranaki
- Manawatu for their AGM. Requested by Manawatu

Our National Treasurer, Vijeshwar Prasad attended the Awards / Dinner Night organized by Manawatu Regional Multicultural Council. Requested by Manawatu

Our Past President attended the Awards / Dinner night organized by the Waitaki Multicultural Council.

Our Sincere apologies to Tauranga Region Ethnic Council for Federation not attending the Awards / Meeting night request due to miscommunication. The last request did come to my attention.

Police Forums: - Taranaki

We held a successful Law and Order update in Taranaki organized by TREC as part of their AGM. Kefeng Chu of NZ Police and I updated the members of our work and engagement with NZ Police under the terms of our MOU. I would like to acknowledge the support of Kefeng Chu of NZ Police and TREC executives for organizing this forum. We are currently planning the next Police forum to be held in Wanganui region.

Diversity Forum

As part of 5th annual Diversity Forum, the Federation organized a panel discussion on "A Treaty-based Framework for a Multicultural Society" on Monday 24th August. Past President, Pancha Narayanan chaired the session with a panel consisting of Hon. Peter Dunne, Hemi Pirihi and Richard Tankersley of HRC, and Kathreen Peet of Network Waitangi Otautahi. One of the action points from the forum recommends that the Federation and its Regional council members forge strong and ongoing relationships with their local Iwi and Maori. I know that most councils have some relationships with their local Iwis, but I urge that we actively communicate and involve them in all our activities and meetings.

Diversity Awards

Congratulations to Nelson Multicultural Council for receiving a 2009 Diversity Award. The awards were presented by His Excellency Sir Anand Satayanand, Governor General of New Zealand at the Diversity Forum function hosted by Human Rights Commission at Te papa.

Their citation as below:

Nelson Multicultural Council

The council organizes social activities and support services for new migrants, including multicultural groups, a newcomers' network, and public events, such as the Race Unity Festival on Race Relations Day. They produced the booklet Useful Tips for Migrants and an educational DVD for former refugee families on child nutrition and oral health. They were also one of the driving forces behind the landmark report on racist incidents in Nelson, launched in August 2009. I would like to acknowledge and thank the Executives and the coordinator, Evey McAuliffe for their hard work in the region and establishment of the migrant centre.

Funding

The Federation is continually looking for funding for its operations. In this recession period our traditional funders have advised us of major cuts in available grants. We have also brought in measures to streamline our process and manage our available funds effectively. We have received notification of reduced funding from Lottery Grants for this year. We will need to look at other alternative sources of funding to maintain the level of work the federation is doing. We urge all councils to fundraise and seek funding for your activities and for participation in Federation initiatives through regional funding grants and agencies.

Meetings with Government and Non Government Agencies.

We have held meetings with MSD, OEA, NZ Police and DoL

MSD

Meeting with Dysart from the Ministry of Social Development on the 14th of September 2009 (attended by President and Executive Officer). Acknowledge support of Ann Dysart in our projects for Capacity building, Women's and youth projects.

OEA

Meeting with Mervin Singham from Office of Ethnic Affairs on 15th of September 2009 attended by President, executive officer and past president). Acknowledge support of Mervin Singham, Cherie Engelberct, Tayaba Khan and Deborah Lam and

NZ Police

Meeting with Supt. Wally Haumaha, Kefeng Chu and Paul eagle from New Zealand Police. on the 17th September 2009. (attended by President and executive officer).

- Acknowledgements for the number of joint (Police and MZFC) forums around the country with the communities
- Request for further forums in regional councils. Accepted by Police
- Discussions on MOU and engagements within the MOU documents.
- Request for assistance from police for holding forums and community meetings. Accepted by police.
- Request for police attendance at the National and Regional Council Meetings. Accepted by Police
- Police Updates, including media communalizations, community incidents, ethnic soccer, police recruitments
- Agreed on agenda item for Christchurch Council Meeting. Delegates from Police will attend.

DOL

Meeting with Jan Clark from Department of Labour. on the 18th September 2009. (attended by President and Past President).

Discussions on Dol Capacity building project and MOU

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the following agencies for their continued support

- Ann Dysart from the MSD
- Office of Ethnic Affairs
- DOL
- Police
- CACR

The contribution of the member Councils is greatly acknowledged, especially in organizing Multi Cultural Festivals, Police Forums, Capacity Building and engaging with local regional activities.

I would like to acknowledge the support of my full executive team, Alexis LewGor (Vice President), Gul Zaman (Secretary), Vijeshwar Prasad (Treasurer). Pancha Narayanan (Past President), Weng Kei Chen and Executive officer Rattan Prakash for their support and help in my role as your President.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your confidence and support to me and all the executives.

Prem Singh
President, NZFC