

Summit Platform to Understand Industry Needs: Lockington

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Tourism is not the only industry in Fiji that is looking for people with trade skills.

Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association (FHTA) chief executive officer Fantasha Lockington made this comment during the first day of the Pacific Skills Summit held at the University of the South Pacific, Laucala Campus, Suva yesterday.

Ms Lockington said there were a lot of jobs in the industries that were not being filled enough.

“So we have to look overseas for a lot of our talent, a lot of our expertise or skills sets.”

Speaking to Fiji Sun she said the average trade person like carpenters, plumbers, electricians, and engineers they were not able to find.

“But the industry is also focusing a lot more on trying to make sure that we are aware of what is happening in terms of climate change.”

Ms Lockington said they were looking to hire more people who have an understanding of climate change.

“We want to make sure that the environment that we use for tourism is sustainable, and that we are not harming the environment.

“We are putting back more than we take out, so that we will have a tourism industry in the next 50 to 100 years as well.”

She said: “And to make sure this happens, we need to have people who can work with us to un-



From left: Australia Pacific Training Cooperation Board Chair Kaye Schofield, President of the Republic of Nauru Baron Waga, and University of the South Pacific Pro-Vice Chancellor Winston Thompson during the opening of the Pacific Skills Summit on June 25, 2019. Photo: Lusiana Tuimaisala

derstand what the environment needs, and why we need to do those things.

“So, it’s not just being open and available to the world in terms of what Fiji is generally, a beautiful place to come and visit, but all the resources we have that makes Fiji different.

“This is not only for our people but the marine life that we showcase to the rest of the world, the beautiful environment we have, but we also learning to protect it more.”

Summit
Ms Lockington said the Summit,

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was a fantastic platform for people to understand what the industries need.

“Tourism is one of the biggest industries in Fiji and we have been saying for a while that we need more skills in different ar-

eas.

“These people who are here at the Summit are learning, why the industry needs these sort of skills sets and why we must be thinking about how technology is changing, what it is doing to the skill sets of the people that we have available within the industry.”

She said they would not like to rely heavily on bringing overseas experts.

“We don’t seem to get that understanding, but we still seem to be training a lot more accountants, lawyers, teachers and nurses.”

She noted because they are trained well, they tend to leave for

greener pastures.

“So we need to put up the numbers of people that we are training and identify the particular area as well.”

She said: “This Summit is an opportunity for us to understand why we need to re-think the way we are doing things.

“And the ability to be able to change and change quickly because of what is happening out there on the global and regional environment.”

The two-day Summit ends today.

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