

# Gusuivalu honours loved ones

By ATASA MOCEITUBA

**E**VERYTHING starts from home. If your upbringing is about values then you definitely go a long way.

This was the message from Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa Hotel director human resources Mereoni Gusuivalu who won the HR executive award.

Having spent 40 years in the tourism industry Ms Gusuivalu attributed her success to her late mother and husband, colleagues and Dixon Seeto who she said pushed her out from being an executive secretary to a human resources manager.

She said she was still emotional and was still on cloud nine when she received the award

"Joining the tourism industry was my first work straight after school and I have never looked back because I've held other positions within the hotel and I'm glad to have worked with Dixon Seeto who actually pushed me out to being just his executive secretary to become a human resources manager," Ms Gusuivalu said.

"In 2000 I started as human resources manager and this is a major external award I've received and I'm so grateful for my organisation for believing in me, for the training, development and most importantly for having faith and confidence in me to take this role." In her role as director human resources she said she and

her team looked after 500 staff members.

"We don't call our department human resources, we call ourselves department of talent and culture because that's a call.

"We've got a very strong leader Vincent and right now we are currently undergoing a \$40m dollar renovation period with the main goal to position the hotel as the number one in Fiji and that comes with just not

the facilities being improved but taking our staff members to another level in terms of their talent development, recognising their contribution to the industry and strategically to achieve our goal that is to become the number one resort in Fiji."

She thanked her staff members and the hotel management for believing in her.

"We have a good HR team and a very

good management team who understand HR roles and our objectives and making sure that we have an enable culture engaged to employees.

"Having won this award I wish my mother was still around this is for all my family members who have gone past and my late husband, mum and everyone else.

Mereoni Gusuivalu, left, receives her award from ILO director for the Pacific Islands Donglin Li  
Picture: ATASA MOCEITUBA

