

## SIVENDRA MICHAEL

(Accredited Project Management Professional, Commonwealth Youth Fellow, G20 Global Policy Fellow)

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### PROFILE

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Development professional with 10 years of experience working in the Pacific in the areas of disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and social sustainability. Extensive experience in research, national policy development and management of complex international development projects in diverse environments.

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### ACHIEVEMENTS /ACCOMPOLISHMENTS

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#### Leadership Awards

- International Volunteer Youth Awards for Disaster Resilience– United Nations Pacific Office
- University of Auckland Blue Award for [Most Outstanding Student in Service and Leadership](#) - 2019
- University of Auckland Blue Award for [Pasifika Student of the Year](#) - 2019
- [Fiji's Future '30 under 30'](#) for Working Professional Category - 2019
- [Pacific Recipient](#) for Commonwealth Youth Award -2018
- [Fellow](#) of the Inaugural Global Solutions World Summit - 2017
- Fellow of the Royal Commonwealth Society (January 2018)
- Head Youth Delegate to the UN Sustainable Development Goals Forum - 2018
- Fiji Delegation - [Negotiation Team](#) to the 21st, 23rd and 24th UNFCCC Conference of Parties

#### Research Excellence Award

- Honorary Research Fellow Appointment - **University of East London** (Jan 2017 to Jan 2019)
- Honorary Research Fellow Appointment - **University of Sussex** (Mar 2019 – May 2020)
- Emerging Research award at IJAS Conference – **Harvard University** (May 2014)
- Young Researcher Award by Oceania Development Network for research contribution to the 12<sup>th</sup> Global Development Network Conference – **Asian Development Bank, Manila** (June 2013)

#### Academic Excellence

- University of Auckland 10-minute thesis – Finalist for Doctoral category– 2020
- Awarded University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship (Merit Based Award)
- Awarded New Zealand Pacific Scholarship (NZPS)
- Awarded United States Exchange Scholarship by University of South Pacific
- Graduated with First Class Honours in Economics Programme

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### EDUCATION

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#### ***The University of Auckland – New Zealand***

Master of Commerce First Class Honors in Economics:

July 2016

#### ***The University of the South Pacific - Fiji***

Master of Arts in Governance

September 2021

Post Graduate Diploma in Economics

September 2013

Bachelor of Commerce (Double Majors in Financial Accounting and Economics):

March 2012

***North Carolina State University (Raleigh, USA) – Student Exchange***

*January – June 2011*

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### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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#### ***United Nations Development Programme – Multi Country Office***

**Programme Specialist** – Suva, Fiji

*Oct 2020 – to date*

- Provide strategic management and coordination support to Governance for Resilient Development in the Pacific
- Provide expert guidance to the set-up of a Regional Small Grants Program for UNDP
- Support Pacific Governments with (a) training workshop on monitoring and evaluation, (b) integration of risk in MEL SOPs, c) risk informing of 6 completed and 15 pipeline of community development project.
- Develop products to enhance knowledge-sharing for the project team and project stakeholders, to expand capacities and expertise and encourage knowledge-sharing on best practices in risk governance.

***British Council (Worked in New Zealand, Indonesia and Ethiopia)***

**Senior Program Manager – New Zealand and the Pacific Projects**

*June 2016 – July 2020*

- Led and managed the start-up of the Programme, which included the recruitment, performance management of staff and consultants, establishment of project office, and establishment of working relationships with partner staff at the regional and country level as well as with the Delegation of the European Union to the Pacific
- Established the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) and Working Groups to support programme implementation
- Facilitated the development of project communications and visibility plan in line with donor requirements.
- Executed the development of Monitoring and Evaluation, financial management and record-keeping systems for the program in line with donor contractual requirement
- Facilitated innovative, forward thinking, and thought leadership on British Council projects across the Pacific

***University of Auckland***

**Graduate Research Fellow**

*November 2015 – June 2016*

- Co-researcher for the Asia Pacific Network on Climate Change Adaptation in Post-Disaster Recovery Processes. For this project, I carried out research analysis and field work on flood-affected communities in Fiji.
- Project Recognized for outstanding contribution to research at the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Building Resilience

***United Nations International Labour Organization – Suva, Fiji***

*July 2014 – July 2015*

**Labour Standards Officer**

- Managed the regional project on labour law and standards reporting
- Liaised with constituents on the implementation of activities relating to strengthening the capacity of labour administrations. This includes the preparation of draft correspondence and coordinating the timely delivery of consultancy outputs.
- Provided technical assistance to ILO member states in fulfilling their reporting obligations under the International Labour Standards through facilitated workshops and seminars on drafting the reports.
- Supported Governments in Policy Development, including the review and analysis of labour and employment issues and trends. This includes preparation of evaluation or other research activities and studies.
- Prepared reports, policy briefs for the Labour Standards Specialist and Director of the ILO Office of Pacific Island Countries. This included presenting on behalf of ILO to stakeholders and contributing to wider office activities.

***Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat – Suva, Fiji***

*March 2012 – June 2014*

**Research Associate – Social Policy Division**

- Provided technical and research support towards the social policy division. This included conducting mapping studies for Forum Island Countries and monitoring key regional social policy issues such as Disability and Gender Inclusive development.
- Drafted research memoranda for Senior Management of the Secretariat on issues pertaining to disability and gender inclusive development in the Pacific.
- Provided technical support to the legislative compliance team in conducting compliance review for Forum Island Countries. This included assisting countries towards fulfilling their reporting obligations towards Universal Conventions. This process contributed towards assisting countries to develop national policies on Disability to recognize and promote the rights of persons with disabilities.
- Provided analysis and inputs for policy recommendations in response to disability development issues raised by internal stakeholders, members, regional and international institutions
- Provided support and advice relating to use of econometric software (SPSS and Eviews6) to other programmes in the Secretariat. This included preparation of reports on economic analysis or country trends.
- Assisted with policy coordination/development with other relevant agencies and stakeholders, as necessary.
- Provided substantive support to Senior Management, which included drafting of papers, speeches, press releases, preparation of Outcomes Document (resolution), and briefs.

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**Hobbies**

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Learning about new cultures, meeting people and diving. I also enjoy volunteering for community programmes.