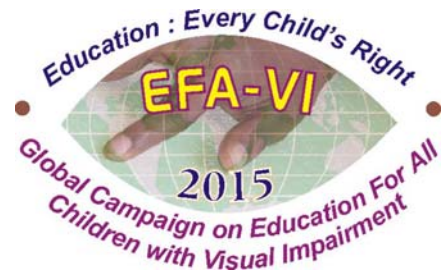




*International Council for Education of
People with Visual Impairment*



Pacific Regional Train-the-Trainer (Mobility) Course

A four week introductory course in mobility skills was delivered by professionals in mobility from 3rd to 28th November 2008 in Nadave, Fiji. Sixteen participants from fifteen Pacific Countries attended the 130 hour assessment-based training course. A major objective of the course was to provide participants with basic mobility skills to assist clients who are blind or vision impaired in their communities move about safely, confidently and independently. To achieve this objective, participants learnt guiding techniques, long cane skills, long cane skills on buses, road crossing skills, city and rural route planning and training, and major factors to be considered when working with children. Importantly, throughout training participants worked in pairs with one participant under blindfold. In this way, the sighted participant learnt the methods and techniques of teaching a person who is blind. Further, the participant under blindfolded had the twofold experience of being without sight while understanding how instruction was tailored to meet the needs of a person who is blind. Participants also learnt the techniques of working with clients who experience low vision by undertaking route training wearing low vision simulators.

The participants must be acknowledged for their tireless dedication, consistent enthusiasm and hard work over the four week period. Long cane planning and training occurred in difficult weather conditions in challenging city and rural environments. Moreover, being a competency-based course, participants were also required to demonstrate skills and complete challenging assignments including an in-country assignment in English which is, for the majority of participants, their second or third language.

Finally, the course providers extend their sincere appreciation and congratulations to the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) for their outstanding planning and support during this event. With PDF assistance, the course providers were able to meet and exceeded course outcomes and expectations.