

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Data

Name: Mahendra Kumar

Profile Summary: Dynamic and dedicated professional with strong technical background. Advanced qualifications in environmental sciences. Extensive inter-governmental experience at regional and international levels. Excellent record in tertiary education as a teacher, researcher and administrator. Excels at working in a fast paced, multi-cultural environment where good communication skills are required.

Gender: Male

Date of Birth: 12 May 1953

Family Status: Married with three children,

Nationality: Citizen of Fiji; Permanent Resident of Australia

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Education

PhD Environmental Physics (University of Nottingham, UK, 1981)

BSc Biology/ Mathematics/Physics (University of South Pacific, Fiji, 1974)

Qualifications and Awards

Awarded several scholarships/fellowships eg Commonwealth award for PhD at University of Nottingham, UK; Post- Doctoral award at University of Reading, UK; Fullbright award, University of Boston; Pacific Islands Development Award, East West Centre; Research Award, CSIRO (Australia), ICRISAT (India), ICTP/TWAS (Trieste).

Professional Membership

Fellow Royal Meteorological Society, UK, (FRMetSoc); Institute of Physics, UK, (CPhys, MInstPhys); Remote Sensing Society, UK; South Pacific Physics Society.

Languages and Computer Skills

Linguistic: Fluent in English and Hindi (oral and written), basic French

Computer Literacy: MS Office (Word, Power Point, Excel, Database)

Professional Experience

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Nairobi, Kenya

Technical Specialist Climate Change, Task Manager Adaptation July 2004-present

- Managing UNEP's Climate Change Enabling Activities, National Communications and Technology Needs Assessment;
- Task managing UNEP's \$14 m global project on Assessments of Impacts and Adaptation to Climate Change;
- Assisting with the monitoring, review and evaluation of above projects;
- Representing UNEP in related expert groups eg UNFCCC Consultative Group of Experts for National Communications, Technology Transfer;
- Helping countries develop projects on adaptation to climate change for funding from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) eg currently working on adaptation projects with Pacific, South Asia and Africa;
- Providing technical assistance to countries concerned;
- Organising, planning and participating in strategic meetings and seminars/workshops.

The University of the South Pacific

Suva, Fiji

Associate Professor of Physics and Head of Department

Dec 2000 – June 2004

- Teach, research and do consultancies in energy, climate change and sustainable development issues;
- Manage department with over 20 academic, technical and support staff, and with a budget of over \$1m;
- Lead the department's efforts to increase student numbers and procure funds;
- Plan and implement the teaching, research and staff development in Physics within the School of Pure & Applied Sciences;
- Represent department at key meetings eg Senate, Faculty Board, Staff Development, Appointment and Promotion;
- Represent University at regional/international meetings and working groups eg Pacific Science Association, 2004 World Summit on Sustainable Development, Regional (Pacific) Working Groups for Energy, Climate Change, Capacity Building;
- Organise workshops and meetings eg UNESCAP funded wind energy course, UNESCO funded course for teachers on renewable energy, SPREP sponsored workshop on greenhouse-gas inventories;
- Served as Secretary General for the 1997 Pacific Science Congress hosted by USP. This was the largest and most successful international meeting hosted by USP with over 600 delegates and 22 parallel sessions;
- Served as Asia-Pacific representative on UNFCCC CGE, as well as on In-Depth reviews of Annex 1 National Communications.

South Pacific Regional Environment Programme*International Negotiations Officer, Climate Change***Apia, Samoa***Sept 1998 - Dec 2000*

- Provide technical and scientific support to the Pacific Island Governments during UNFCCC meetings such as COPs, Subsidiary Bodies and Workshops;
- Provide briefing papers for strategic meetings eg Heads of Government meetings, CSD; Environment Ministers' meeting;
- Give technical assistance, as required, to countries in the implementation of other projects implemented by SPREP
- Represent SPREP at key regional and international meetings eg IPCC

The University of the South Pacific*Lecturer/Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor of Physics***Suva, Fiji***June 1981- August 1998*

- Teaching, research and consultancies;
- Course development, including via distance mode;
- Service to University committees such as Council, Senate, Staff Development, Staff Policy, Planning and Budget, Discipline, Research etc;
- Administrative duties as acting Head of Department and Faculty, Assistant to Head of School, Chair of School Research Committee.

Publications

Author of over 50 publications including refereed papers, technical reports, proceedings and conference papers (*List attached*).

Social/Community Work

Served as Chairman of the Board of Governors of secondary schools and colleges managed by the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha (APS) of Fiji,; Chair APS Education Board.

Referees

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