**HOME LEARNING KIT HISTORY – YEAR 12**

**WORKSHEET 9**

**ESSAY WRITING**

**Discuss ways in which Fiji has benefitted from the Look North policy based on the following areas:**

**• Trade**

**• Infrastructure**

**• Education**

**Look North Policy** –

aims to create and strengthen trading relations wirht countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, The People’s Republic of China (PRC), Republic of China (ROC), Russia and India.

**Trade:**

Fiji’s Trade Relations with the PRC and ROC are part of Fiji’s broader multilateral relationship with large and small nations around the world Trade Relations include visits by delegations, Prime Ministerial visits and the signing of Trade Agreements. Trade relations tend to change according to which government is in power in Fiji. For example, the governments led by Qarase, Mahendra Chaudhry, and Sitiveni Rabuka each had developed special trade relations with the PRC and ROC and other nations. Trade relations also change according to world demand. In terms of trading, Fiji has once sold bananas to New Zealand. Fiji also once had a thriving pine wood chips export trade, and Fiji once attempted to establish a mahogany export trade. Changes in trade continue, for example, Fiji’s import and export trade today includes Bauxite (form Bua), Gold, Copper (from Namosi), garments, electronic goods and information technology.

**Infrastructure:**

Both the PRC and ROC are active in development aid in Fiji by building roads, seawalls, hospitals and bridges. The amount of aid given by PRC and ROC is generous and important for Fiji’s development but it also plays a diplomatic role in Global, International and Strategic policy. Aid given with a political purpose to attract support or friendship is sometimes criticized as being in the national interests of the donor rather than the recipients, and this type of aid is critically called “cheque book diplomacy”. Aid can also benefit the donor more than the recipient country. For example, if the PRC builds a road or bridge using mostly Chinese imported labour, and pays a Chinese company to do the work, the profits mostly go to the Chinese company, rather than Fijian workers, contractors and suppliers. It is acknowledged around the world that 80% of so called “aid” actually spent in the donor country.

**Resource:**

Navua Hospital built with Chinese Aid Assistance

**Education:**

Look North Policy has provided a lot of opportunities for Fijian students to study abroad through scholarship programs. Those that study abroad are able to bring back what they have learned and gained from such experiences back into Fiji. Contributing to shaping the Economy and Political Sectors

**Extra Information on Trade**:-

Source: <https://www.lowyinstitute.org>

China established diplomatic relations with Fiji in 1975. Unlike other partners, it retained strong ties with the government after the 2006 coup. The first concessional loan package was announced in April 2006, six months prior to the military takeover. The initial loan projects proposed by Fiji were scrapped when the Interim Government took power, thus there was a substantial delay in finalising them. Prior to the September 2014 election, Prime Minister Bainimarama liked to highlight China’s ongoing support. Since the election, other development partners (particularly the multilateral lenders) have increased engagement with the Fijian Government. Below are some examples of aid that China has given to the government of Fiji.

**Kiuva Sea Wall**

14 million USD The Fiji Government submitted a request through the Chinese Embassy for assistance with the construction of the Kiuva seawall in 2009. The project features a 206m seawall and the construction of boulder groynes, to address rising sea levels, protect the village from high tides, and help prevent coastal erosion.

**Sewing Machines** , **Ra Province 0.064million USD**

China donated 600 sewing machines to the Ministry of Women, Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation for distribution to women in rural areas of Fiji. Some Chinese organisations (such as the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China) have donated sewing machines directly themselves in previous years.

**E-Government Project**

An MOU was signed in 2004 between China’s Ministry of Information Industry and Fiji’s Ministry of Information Communication and Media Relations. The loan covered the formulation of the E Government Master Plan and the development and implementation of infrastructure and services. There were 2 phases to the project, which was officially completed in early 2011.

**Nabouwalu-Dreketi Road** **Upgrading Project $135.48 million USD**

This project encompasses 70km of sealed road between Nabouwalu and Dreketi, including 14 bridges. The project will likely be a high boost to local economy, particularly because it connects with the jetty that brings people from other islands