

TO: ALL MY SUPPORTERS

THANK YOU MESSAGE

It is with great pleasure to extend my sincere heartfelt thank you and gratitude to those wonderful, precious people for your kind donations and support towards PARBICA's 'Crowdfunding Campaign' featuring 'My Story'. Without your generous contributions and donations, I would not have attended PARBICA 17 in Fiji. Thank you so much and wishing you all the best in your endeavors now and in the future. May God richly Bless you all !

MY EXPERIENCES AT PARBICA 17

I enjoyed the conference starting from the Sunday Evening Registration and Opening of PARBICA 17. As Day 1 went by and come Day 2, when I was scheduled to present a joint paper with a colleague from Papua New Guinea, I was nervous as there was a huge attendance to this conference. I even told Fiona that I was nervous to speak and this is what she said to me, and I quote '*Consider everyone (delegates) here as a friend*'. Her words gave me boldness and I went out and gave my part of the presentation. It's a first time experience for me to speak publicly in such gathering of multi-cultured races of wonderful and beautiful Pacific Islanders including the Aussies and New Zealanders.

WHAT I GOT OUT OF PARBICA 17

The 'Conference Theme: Archives Engaged: Personal, Professional and Political', I learnt during the sessions by those presenting that as Records Managers and Archivists, we must engaged externally with external parties who have the greatest potential and influence in the work we do such as the public/community, stakeholder agencies and engagement with those at the political level in terms of funding etc. in order to experience growth and increased sustainability.

We must also engage with current issues, opportunities and challenges for example climate change and disaster preparedness for both physical and digital records. As for my department we have developed a Project Proposal for funding assistance for Digitizing Accumulated Physical Records, which I highlighted during our joint presentation at the conference. Indeed, digitization requires heavy investment and generates new assets to maintain and that we must implement strategies to safeguard digital records and be prepared for disasters as fire, earthquake, computer crash etc.

This is what we went through during the 1-day practical workshop that involves group discussions, sharing and exchanging of ideas, brainstorming and group presentation. What I learnt during the sessions and workshop, I also brought back to discuss with my Branch Head and colleagues in the Records Unit.

Simiang Bunem (Ms)

O.I.C – Records & Information Services Branch
Department of Implementation and Rural Development