

China embraces Pacific

By Online Editor

1:21 pm GMT+12, 02/09/2011, Fiji



China is consolidating ties with the Pacific, saying it will persist with the training of locals and continue with the dispatch of experts to boost the production of agriculture in the region.

The pledge came out of a forum held in Nadi yesterday, designed to enhance relations between the People's Republic and Pacific island countries (PIC).

The areas of focus include agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries.

Gao Jinghong from the PRC's Ministry of Agriculture said regular meetings of agencies dealing with agriculture and fisheries would also be encouraged.

“Both will explore co-operation projects on investment and trade in agriculture and fisheries, and guide co-operation for bilateral enterprises under the framework of inter-government co-operation.”

Fiji's Agriculture Minister Jocketani Cokanasiga said agriculture was seen as an important area of bi-lateral co-operation.

“The PRC have sent agricultural specialists to various Pacific countries to help establish agro technology centres and demonstration farms with the aim of increasing production capacities in the islands,” he said.

“Agricultural staff from the region have attended a wide range of technical training programs to build closer ties. PRC has assisted Pacific islands develop fisheries resources and processing industry.”

“We face the same challenges in insufficient resources, looming food insecurity, uncertainty over climate change, constant unrest in the global financial markets and soaring energy and food process. All these issues have a significant and profound effect on our economy and our people's living standards.”.

SOURCE: FIJI TIMES/PACNEWS