

## **Curriculum Vitae: Mr Ravindran Robin Nair LL.B., Dip Law. Barrister and Solicitor (ACT, New Zealand and Fiji)**

Mr Robin Nair was born in Lawaga, in Nadroga, Fiji. He went to University of Otago in New Zealand and the University of Sydney in NSW. After completing a law degree in NZ, Mr Nair returned to Fiji and worked as a litigation lawyer in the Crown Law Office. He won a UN-UNITAR Fellowship in International Law and attended courses at The Hague Academy of International Law in the Netherlands and was attached to the United Nations Legal Office in New York for three months. Later he joined the Fijian Foreign Service and served as First Secretary at the Fiji Mission to the United Nations in New York and concurrently in the Fiji High Commission to Canada.

He left the Fijian Foreign Service and worked on a contract for 18 months for the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations as the Regional Fisheries Law Adviser to the South China Sea countries and was based initially in Rome and then in Manila (responsible for all South China sea countries).

He went to Australia in 1982 and joined the Australian Public Service in Canberra. He worked in the Public Service Board and later in the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department as a Senior Legal Officer. In 1986, he joined the Australian Foreign Service. He has served as Deputy Head of Mission in the Australian Embassy in Ankara in Turkey and as the Deputy Head of Mission in the Australian Embassy in Buenos Aires in Argentina (responsible for Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay). He was also Charge D'Affaires for long periods at both the Missions.

He returned from his position in Buenos Aires at the end of October 2000 and was appointed as the State Director, Tasmania Office of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). In 2004, he was posted back to Canberra at the Department's Headquarters to the Trade Policy Section of the Office of Trade Negotiations.

In June 2005, Mr Nair took a years leave from DFAT and began a Visiting Fellowship at the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy at the Australian National University in Canberra, where he remains a Visiting Fellow. Concurrently, he undertook an assignment with the University of Fiji to assist it in its relations with the Government of Fiji and also to develop a proposal to establish a National Centre for International and Regional Affairs (CIRA). He was the chief architect of the establishment of the Centre which was successfully launched in Fiji on 22 June 2006 by the Fiji Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Hon Senator Kaliopate Tavola. Mr Nair was appointed as the inaugural Honorary Director of the Centre. Mr. Gareth Evans QC was appointed as the Patron of the Centre. Following the launch, Mr Nair hosted the Centre's first Workshop-Seminar entitled, "Globalisation: Challenges to Fiji's Diplomacy" which was attended by 70 people from government, business, academia, trade unions and civil society.

In 2006, Mr Nair developed a Diplomacy Skills Training Course for public servants in the Pacific Island Countries (PICs), working in Foreign Ministries or other Ministries with responsibilities in various international issues. In November-December 2006, CIRA hosted the first Diplomacy Skills Course for 19 Fiji Public Servants for a four week duration under Mr Nair's direction and supervision.

In August 2007, Mr Nair conducted a Joint CIRA-China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) Workshop in Beijing on Pacific Islands-China Relationship. He has conducted regular seminars for Fiji officials in the Fiji Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In mid 2006, Mr Nair returned to DFAT and was seconded to the National Threat Assessment Centre (NTAC) for one year as an analyst. He retired from the Australian Foreign Service in July 2007.

In April 2008, Mr Nair was appointed by H.E. the President of Fiji to serve on the three member Independent Monitoring Group (IMG) to monitor the National Council for Building a Better Fiji (NCBBF)

process for transparency, integrity and its success in public consultations. IMG successfully completed its work and presented its report to His Excellency the President on 15 December 2008.

In October 2009, Mr Nair was approached by the Interim Fiji Government to act as a co-interlocutor with Dr Sitiveni Halapua, Director, Pacific Islands Development Program of the East West Centre of the University of Hawaii, to facilitate political dialogue among the political parties in Fiji, including the Interim Government, for taking Fiji forward to Democracy. This approach was later ratified by the first Political Leaders' Meeting on 27 October 2008.

In the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Nair has worked on a number of issues in economic/trade, political, legal, cultural, multilateral and corporate/management areas.

Mr Nair has been a delegate to many bilateral negotiations, international meetings and Conferences, including the General Assembly of the United Nations, The Third Conference on the Law of the Sea, Treaties on Extradition and Mutual Assistance in Criminal Law Matters, Indian Ocean Rim Initiative and Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution.

Mr Nair is married with one daughter. His wife Adela Nair is also an officer in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Mr Nair's late father Raman Narayan Nair was a senior public servant in Fiji and was Fiji's first High Commissioner to Australia and Papua New Guinea.