

Task : **Monitoring and evaluation of the social development program through basketball at FIBA**  
Place : **FIBA Oceania, Basketball Fiji**  
Term : **2016/6/26 – 2016/8/2**  
Object : **To think about my Career through this Internship**

### Overview

FIBA Oceania is one of the branches of FIBA (International Basketball Federation). FIBA Oceania has BASKETBALL'+ STRATEGY. It is not only for Basketball federation's empowerment (improvement the number of players and competitiveness), but also social development through playing basketball. Their programs are roughly divided into two programs: **Hoops for Health** and **Mum's a Hero**. **Hoops for Health** – is the program for teaching about health, because Oceanian countries have a lot of health-related issues such as NCD (Non Communicable Disease). These programs are in the Oceanian countries: Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati, and Papua New Guinea. The Pacific Sports Partnerships (PSP) program is supported by the Australian Government Initiative. In the background of PSP, there is the support for social development through sport by the Australian government. Australia supports to achieve development objects (health, social inclusion, etc.) through the Australian Sports Outreach Program. (\* )

In this Internship, I joined to the programs in Fiji and performed some monitoring and evaluation. To note, Fiji is the most active country in FIBA's BASKETBALL'+ PROGRAM.

My objective for the future is working in/for the organization which has the programs of International Development through Sports. In regards to my study, doing monitoring and evaluation and to know how FIBA run this program, and fill the gap between academic and practical, is the main goal.

\*Reference: Japan Sports Council/ Australia International development through sport

The classes in Fiji:



**Hoops for Health program in Fiji.**

(Most of the schools did not have a basketball ring, instead they use a netball ring)

The reason I applied to this Internship was that I realized I needed On-the-Job Training (OJT) and/or working experience for working in "International Development through Sports: IDS" field in the future. In addition, I would like to work in an organization associated with basketball, because I have played it for over 10 years.

I went to FIBA Oceania – the only one organization that has Basketball“+” strategy programs in FIBA. The total OJT was for 5 weeks and during the second week and third week, I went to Fiji to see their program implementation on the ground.

For the first 2 weeks in Australia, I joined the meetings to know about the work and workings of FIBA. My main work was to prepare a report about Basketball ‘+’ programs so far. The organization had the data for 3 years since 2014, but it was not enough and they did not have any indicators for evaluation of their programs. So I made the questionnaire for Fiji with my boss, Catherine Grawich; she is the head of this program in FIBA.

In Fiji, I went to schools to see the programs and handed out the questionnaire, and analyzed them. I also performed the questionnaire and interviews for coaches of the program.

These programs were a bit different from IDS programs that I imaged so far. The program did competitive basketball development and social development through basketball, together in the BASKETBALL ‘+’ strategy. For example, the Hoops for Health sessions in the primary schools were carried out, and from that some student started to play basketball at the competitive level. The number of players has increased and the basketball is growing in Fiji.

In parallel, as an intern of the FIBA, I joined meetings with government and bench/stats training, and training of Fiji national teams.

I could see the possibility of basketball in IDS field in Fiji. So far, the main sport in IDS field was football. Basketball was minor in the IDS field. I wanted to do basketball programs, but if we tried to do, we need expensive facilities and equipment, and basketball is not so big in the world. So I thought it is difficult. In Fiji, the most popular sport is rugby. Everyone who did meeting with us asked to BF “Do you have so many basketball players?” The program is successful so far and the population of players are becoming bigger and bigger. Even in Fiji, I mean the country where basketball is not popular, can succeed in the basketball programs in the IDS field. It was really good for me to be able to personally experience that in Fiji, on the ground.

This Internship was really a good opportunity to make clear on what I would like to do in the future. At the same time, I could notice a lack of my skill to work, for example, I need more wide knowledge and skill not only in my major. However, it was a great time to work with people who love basketball.

Not only in work, but also outside of the work, I learned a lot. Cultures, religions, they were all new for me. I faced a lot of difficulty at work, especially in the lack of my English skill. It was the first time for me to go to an English-speaking country alone. So I could feel how important it is to be able to speak the local language. Of course I need not only language skill, but also other skills. But at least, I need language to tell about myself and to understand and communicate with the local people, especially while working.

Finally, I could gain self-confidence through this internship. This is thanks to people who trust me and gave me chances as much as I can. I really appreciate FIBA Oceania and Basketball Fiji who accepted my internship. Thanks also to the Graduate General Education Courses (GGEC) program of University of Tsukuba, for the support during the Internship. I will use my all experience I have gained in this Internship in the future.