

# Move to establish BPO council progresses

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DISCUSSIONS on establishing a business process outsourcing (BPO) council in Fiji are progressing after a preparatory meeting was held in Suva yesterday.

Leaders from the BPO sector, telecommunications industry and representatives from tertiary institutions met to discuss ways of moving ahead with the establishment of the council.

Investment Fiji, who hosted the meeting, in a statement said the move would further promote the growth of business process outsourcing as a major business opportunity in Fiji.

Business process outsourcing is when businesses, companies or organisations outsource a particular business function to an outside company in order to reduce costs.

Fiji's High Commissioner to Australia Yogesh Punja, who spearheaded the discussions, said Fiji was well positioned to address the growing needs of the near-shore market business.

This, he said, was especially from Australia which already has strong public and private investments in the sector.

Mr Punja said the council, once fully operational, would promote the BPO sector in Fiji to be a conduit to Government's ICT policy development and attract more foreign direct investments in the sector.

"Within the next few months, we should have a council, ready with some strategies in place," he added.

Investment Fiji chief executive officer Godo Mueller-Teut stated that the formation of a private sector-led council was a positive development and a step in the right direction.

According to the statement, the BPO sector employs about 3000 people in the country with Government hoping to increase this to 10,000 in coming years.

The next meeting is expected to be held next month.

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