



**CULTURE: Conserving it Together**  
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## CONFERENCE PAPER ABSTRACT

<b>NAME OF PRESENTER:</b>	<b>Ayako Fujieda, Mari Miyaji, Sainimere Veitata &amp; Hirohide Kobayashi</b>
<b>TITLE OF PAPER:</b>	<b>Sustainability of vernacular houses and building tradition in modern context: A case of Navala village, Fiji</b>
<b>THEME:</b>	<i>Theme 4: Heritage as a Pillar of Sustainable Development</i>
<b>PAPER ABSTRACT:</b> <p>Vernacular houses had been shaped over time to satisfy the cultural, physical, and maintenance requirements; it is built by the local people using their knowledge, ability and resources to their fullest extent. It has potential to contribute to the provision of houses in culturally and environmentally sustainable ways. While vernacular houses have been replaced by houses with newly introduced materials and styles in the latter half of the twenty centuries even in remote villages, the challenge is to find out how it can be adapted and sustained in a modern context. This paper explores why and how a village maintain their vernacular houses and building tradition.</p> <p>Navala village in the Ba highlands on the main island of Viti Levu is known to be the only village in Fiji that still has a high number of inhabited vernacular houses. It is observed that maintaining vernacular houses has made significant meanings rooted in the origin of the village and their identity and has been realized by consensus among people of the village. In the face of changes in socio-economical or environmental circumstances, the people have set priorities to meet emerging needs, and at the same time, to enable to maintain their vernacular houses and building tradition. Vernacular houses should be treated as a product of dynamic process than as static physical objects. While it may change or adapt to the new circumstances, it also maintains certain features and remain meaningful in the context.</p>	
<b>BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENTER:</b> <p>Ayako Fujieda currently works as a university research administrator at Kyoto University. Her research interests is in sustainability of vernacular architecture and safeguarding intangible cultural Heritage mainly in the Pacific islands. She received a BS in Civil Engineering from Penn State and Master and PhD in Global Environmental Studies from Kyoto University.</p> <p>Hirohide Kobayashi is a Professor at Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies of Kyoto University and a registered architect. His research interests is in design methodology and human settlement rooted in local environment and conducted research in various countries. He has PhD in Global Environmental Studies from Kyoto University.</p>	