



(Top L-R) Ms Umesh Prasad, Treasurer; Ms Vandhana Sharma, Head of Business Banking - West; Ms Devika Prakash, Business Relationship

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For more information, please contact:

Mr. Admond Chandra, General Manager Operations & Transformation (679) 3239 130; Email [admondc@hfc.com.fj](mailto:admondc@hfc.com.fj)

Ms Lynette Lee, Creative Specialist / Marketing Officer; Email [lynettel@hfc.com.fj](mailto:lynettel@hfc.com.fj)

Manager. (Front) Ms Shilpa Jogia, Corporate Manager Relationship Banking

## **Women Leaders at the Helm of HFC Bank Corporate Banking**

HFC Bank is pleased to announce a formidable “All Women” leaders at to head the Bank’s Corporate Banking division.

The Bank is first in Fiji to have an “All Women” corporate leaders, which is the most prestigious segment in the banking environment. This team manages the large institutions and corporate customers for their overall banking relationship and requirements.

“We are extremely proud of our women leaders achievements and grateful that as Fiji’s only local Commercial Bank, we are leading the way in recognizing our women in top leadership roles, which has traditionally always been dominated by male gender” said HFC Bank CEO Rakesh Ram. “HFC Bank fosters a fair and strong working environment for employees through its gender diversity and equal opportunity and these appointments validate our commitment to show the way” Ram added.

The following women leaders have been appointed to lead the Bank’s prestigious corporate banking division with all women having immense experience and qualification to lead the bank at the top:

**Umesh Prasad - Head of Treasury & Corporate Services:** is a seasoned banker having worked in banking industry for over 15 years. She has worked in senior roles at Westpac Bank, Colonial National Bank and ANZ Bank. She also has offshore experience having worked as Head of Treasury at ANZ Bank, Vanuatu. Through her role she is actively involved with business clients and is across market developments both

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domestically and globally. Umesh is well qualified and holds Masters in Business Administration [Gold Medalist] from University of South Pacific, Post Graduate Diploma in Economics, Post Graduate Diploma in Mathematics and Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Physics. She is currently pursuing her Masters in Economics at University of the South Pacific.

**Vandhana Sharma - Head of Corporate Banking West:** comes with a far-reaching career in business banking from the banking industry with over 18 years of experience. Vandhana was with ANZ Bank for around 15yrs where she had climbed up the role of Senior Manager in Commercial Banking. She holds a Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of the South Pacific and a Graduate of Leadership Fiji. She is a role model to the community and is the Trustee of the “Voice of the Needy Foundation”, a charitable organization helping the poor and the needy.

**Shilpa Jogia - Corporate Manager Suva:** over 15yrs experience with HFC Bank. She started her career with Retail Banking and progressively made her mark in Business Banking and now heads the Banks corporate segment in Suva. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Management & Public Administration and Information Systems from University of the South Pacific. She has shown tremendous effort and dedication in recent onboarding of major clients. She is a passionate corporate banker with excellent customer relationship skills.

**Devika Prakash - Corporate Manager Suva:** over 10yrs of banking industry experience with ANZ Bank and well versed with Finance and Business Banking. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce Degree in Accounting & Finance from Fiji National University. As a women leader, she is very passionate about her role with HFC Bank and is eager to mentor young women who are striving to climb up the corporate ladder.

HFC Bank invests in its women through actionable initiatives to improve their trajectory and advancement. The Bank’s ‘Diversity Strategy together with its Women in Leadership Program’ provides

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opportunities for structured training, robust mentorship, business networking and leadership development. This positive culture is the driving force behind the Bank's dedication to its Women.

"HFC Bank takes women's leadership and growth very seriously and I am happy to see that there has been a quantifiable increase in women leadership including executive leadership positions" CEO Ram concluded.

HFC is steadily growing its corporate banking segment with over fifty per cent of its portfolio now in corporate and commercial banking.

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