

# Studies on Potential Inheritance of Traditional Fijian Wooden House *Bure*

—A case study on the *Bure* reconstruction project at CATD—

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## 1. Background and Purpose

60% of population lives in rural area in Fiji and they engage in community life with a traditional organizational structure (*Mataqali*). There is a traditional wooden house it is called *Bure* in Fiji, but it is recently rare to build it. So Fijian insists they have to record or preserve it as soon as possible to inherit it to young generations. Now CATD (Centre for Appropriate Technology and Development) and Global Environmental Architecture are doing a project in collaboration about conservation of *Bure*. I involved a preparation of a model construction at CATD, collecting materials and the construction process. The purpose of this study is to verify the potential inheritance of *Bure* concerning with marshaling the meaning of the project the record of the project and the result of interview

## 2. The Story of the Project

CATD educate students an appropriate technology for rural areas as well as a modern technology. The technology about traditional buildings that is closely related to climate, material, construction method, history of the ancestors and culture of the area should be inherited as an appropriate technology. The project worked out so that Mr. Bola who is a director of CATD aims to educate students and inherit *Bure* in rural areas.

## 3. The Record of the Project

The preparation of construction, material collection, construction process and technologies are recorded. Also Customs it is necessary to build a *Bure* and communal work in the construction are revealed. These are effective information for making a *Bure* construction manual and help the conservative activities of *Bure* in Fiji

## 4. Result of Interview

The result of interview of stakeholders is summarized and analyzed. To inherit *Bure* requires 3 resources (knowledge, workforce, natural) and knowledge resource is most different between villages. As a result to build a *Bure* continuity can leads the fulfilling knowledge resources in villages. Moreover to look out a tourism or take into modern technologies can encourage the production of needs to build a *Bure* in Villages. Also the motivations of stakeholders for *Bure* construction are heighten through the project so the possibility of inheritance of *Bure* is shown.

## 5. Conclusion

Indigenous Fijian still maintains an identity that is cultivated and inherited in a rural area. This study can see just one side through the project so it is necessary for each area to look into its own situation for verification of *Bure* inheritance. Meanwhile the project could help them to re-realize the value of their tradition and they took the initiative in doing it for tradition inheritance. That is because the stakeholders centered around Mr. Bola have strong thoughts and motivations of *Bure* construction. It can be said that the traditional wooden house *Bure* is possible to be succeeded in the future in rural areas by utilizing their originally capacity, technology and knowledge if Fijian rural villages strongly hope the *Bure* inheritance like Mr. Bola.