

PENANG SANGAM HIGH SCHOOL
HISTORY YEAR 12 DIPLOMACY
WORKSHEET 13

Strand : Diplomacy

Substrand: TRANS-PACIFIC ROUTES FROM EUROPE TO AUSTRALASIA

Objective : *define bilateral aid*

Explain the main purpose of setting up the airport

State the economic importance of the airport to the country

- Financed by US
- Constructed by NZ firm (Southern Cross Construction Company)
- Construction completed – April 1942
- Pearl Harbor Attack forced double efforts for completion
- First Flight – B17 – Hawaii, via Canton Island, Nadi & Tontouta; New Caledonia to Townsville, Australia.

i. Nausori Airport, Suva

- ✓ Plans for another airport at Suva Point were later abandoned
- ❖ Nadi became an international airport on 10th January 1914
 - One month after Pearl Harbor Attack
 - Taken over by US Military Air Transport Service as main base
- ❖ Nadi was handed over to NZ Department of Civil Aviation in 1946
 - Colonial administration of Fiji was not involved
 - 1947 – airport area became an **enclave** administered by NZ Department of Civil Aviation (DCA)

NEW ZEALANDERS AT NADI

- ❖ Nadi airport was a vital staging post on the post-war transpacific air route
 - Had its own power station, drainage and water supply
 - An expatriate enclave within Fiji who were subject to Fiji laws
 - A centre for Air Traffic Control, communications, search and rescue and meteorological infrastructure in the SW Pacific
 - But there were no suitably qualified Fijians to operate equipment left by the Americans
 - NZ provided most of the air airport personnel (air traffic controllers, technicians etc)
 - ✓ By 1946, their numbers grew
- ❖ Nadi was connected by radio teletype links with other regions on the Pacific Ocean
 - Included message relaying and routing equipment to other airfields in the Pacific
 - NZ technical and administrative staff also served in NZ's administered territories including Fiji
 - ✓ Included Western Samoa, Cook Islands and Niue

- Australian and NZ Departments of Civil Aviation played an important role in running and developing Nadi Airport
- ❖ Technical and administrative personnel from NZ
 - Were accompanied by their families
 - Provided with housing within the airport boundary
 - Provided an elementary level school, a social club and golf course
 - They:
 - ✓ Created sports competitions (tennis, golf & football)
 - ✓ Fijian began to play - included world champion golfer Vijay Singh
- ❖ Tourism was a major form of contact between Fijians and NZ'ers - 1970s
 - Nadi Airport was the first to handle large aircraft in the Pacific
 - ✓ The result of its 1960s development
 - Lengthened runways
 - Construction of a new terminal complex
 - ✓ Welcomed the first 'Jumbo' jet (Boeing 747) - 400+passengers
 - ✓ Resulted in a tourist boom from 1960s-1970s
 - NZ became a major source of visitor