



\$450m project off the ground

FIJI's first integrated tourism development project since the December 2006 is expected to create hundreds of job opportunities

The \$450 million Naisoso Island project is estimated to bring in \$54 million annually to Fiji and with construction starting soon, at least 150 people will be employed by September, says developer Robert Lowres.

Naisoso Island is being developed by Relcorp (Fiji) Limited into a sophisticated and luxurious five-star resort set amongst an ecologically protected marine park and will be completed in December 2010.

The new tourism master plan was launched on Thursday night in Suva. Mr Lowres said the island provided employment for 50 people and as construction took off, employers would increase to 150 by September 2009.

Naisoso Island is short boat ride from Denarau Island and a few minutes drive from Nadi Town and the international airport.

Tourism Fiji chairman Patrick Wong said Naisoso would significantly boost the tourism industry.

Mr Wong said it was good to see that despite the global recession investors were still investing in Fiji.

Stage one financier ANZ Fiji's general manager Robert Bell said: "Tourism remains absolutely critical to the success of Fiji's economy."



Guests at last week's launch inspect a model of Naisoso

Mr Bell said the bank had an excellent record for supporting and developing tourism.

Co-financier, Fiji Development Bank's chief executive officer Ratu Deve Toganivalu said: "The FDB

and ANZ as financing agents for this project have proven that with confidence in the economy, the project and in each other, we can still get projects of this magnitude off the ground."