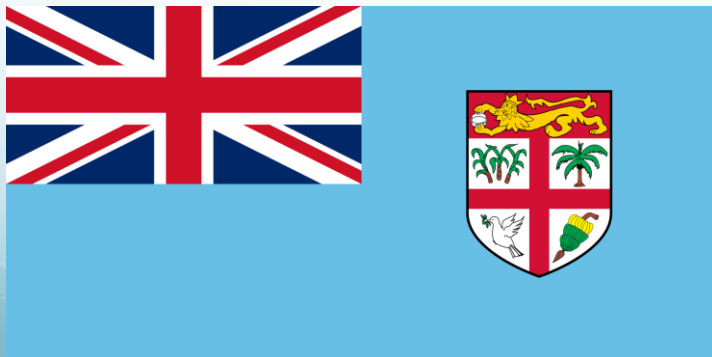


In focus: The Pacific

Republic of Fiji



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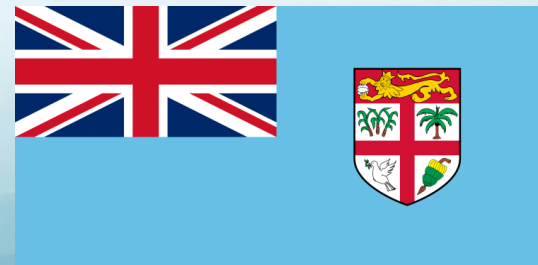
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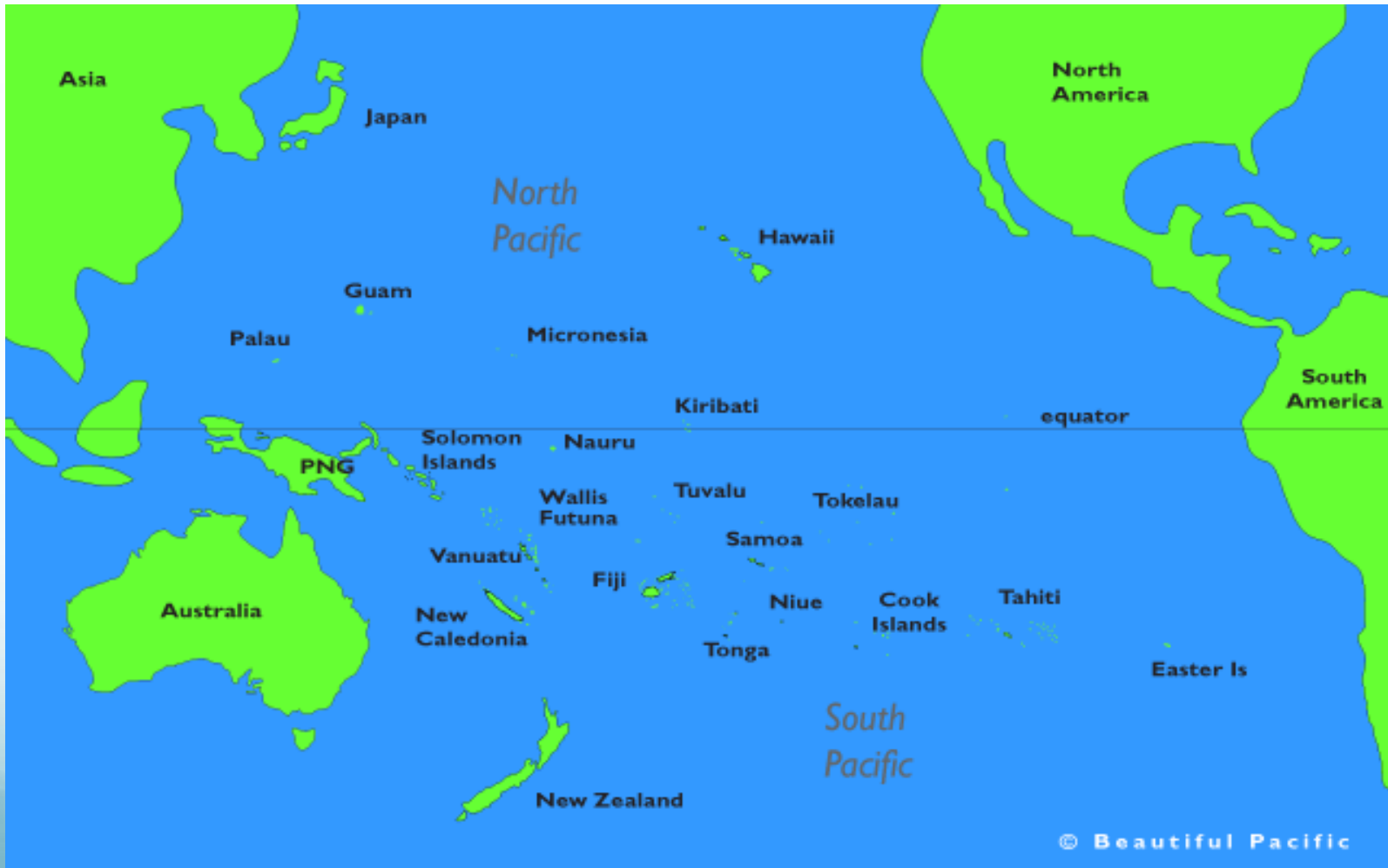
Overview



- Fiji: an introduction
- Higher education in Fiji
- Funding for higher education
- Key challenges:
 - The implicit development model
 - Market-driven system
 - Supply vs demand for graduates
 - Brain drain
 - Financial sustainability



Fiji: an introduction (1)





Fiji: an introduction (2)



- 332 islands (110 inhabited), 500 islets
- Population: 900,000 (60% iTaukei – 40% Indo-Fijian)
- 87% live on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu
- *Per capita* income (PPP): US\$9,314 (2016)
- Main commercial hub for the South Pacific islands



Higher education in Fiji (1)



- Fiji National University – founded 1885 (Suva Medical School), established in its current form 2010 by merger of government tertiary colleges (medicine, nursing, agriculture, technology, education), 10 national campuses
- University of South Pacific – founded 1968, as regional university (like University of West Indies), 12 regional campuses, headquartered in Fiji
- University of Fiji – founded 2005, faith-based university
- 66 other small higher education institutions



Higher education in Fiji (2)



- Sector is regulated by the Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC):
 - Initial institutional registration
 - Institutional quality assurance
- Fiji Qualifications Framework (FQF) adapted from the NZ Qualifications Framework (levels 1-10)
 - All qualifications recorded on an FQF register
- Integrated Fiji Education Management Information System (FEMIS) – early childhood to higher education, connected to Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority



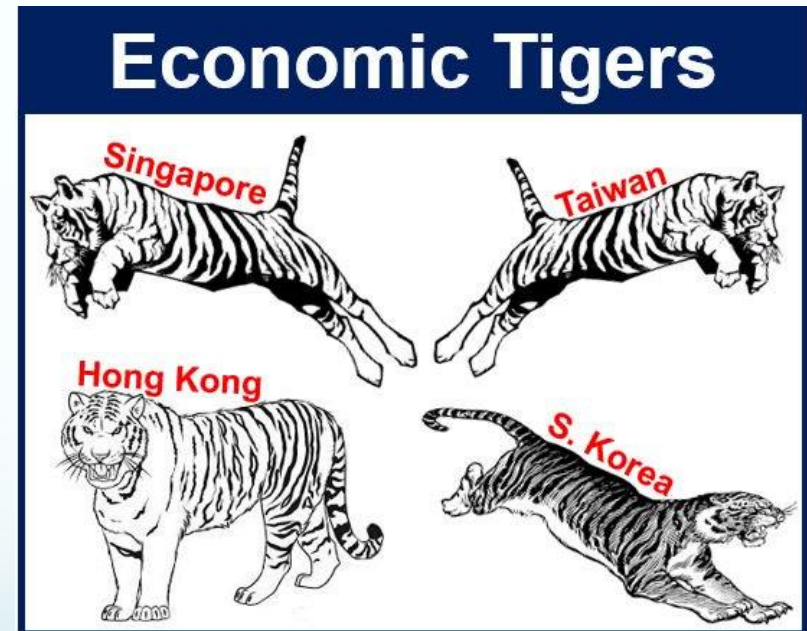
Funding for higher education

- 'Free at the point of use':
 - National Topper Scheme – tuition and maintenance grants for “top” students in high-priority disciplines (medicine, engineering, etc)
 - Tertiary Education Loans – tuition and living allowance loans– repayable at 20% of gross income once working
 - Fiji Government spends 26% of its budget on education
 - Tertiary Loans and Scholarships Board has F\$200m annual budget
 - Fiji National University gets 50% of its funding from direct Government grant

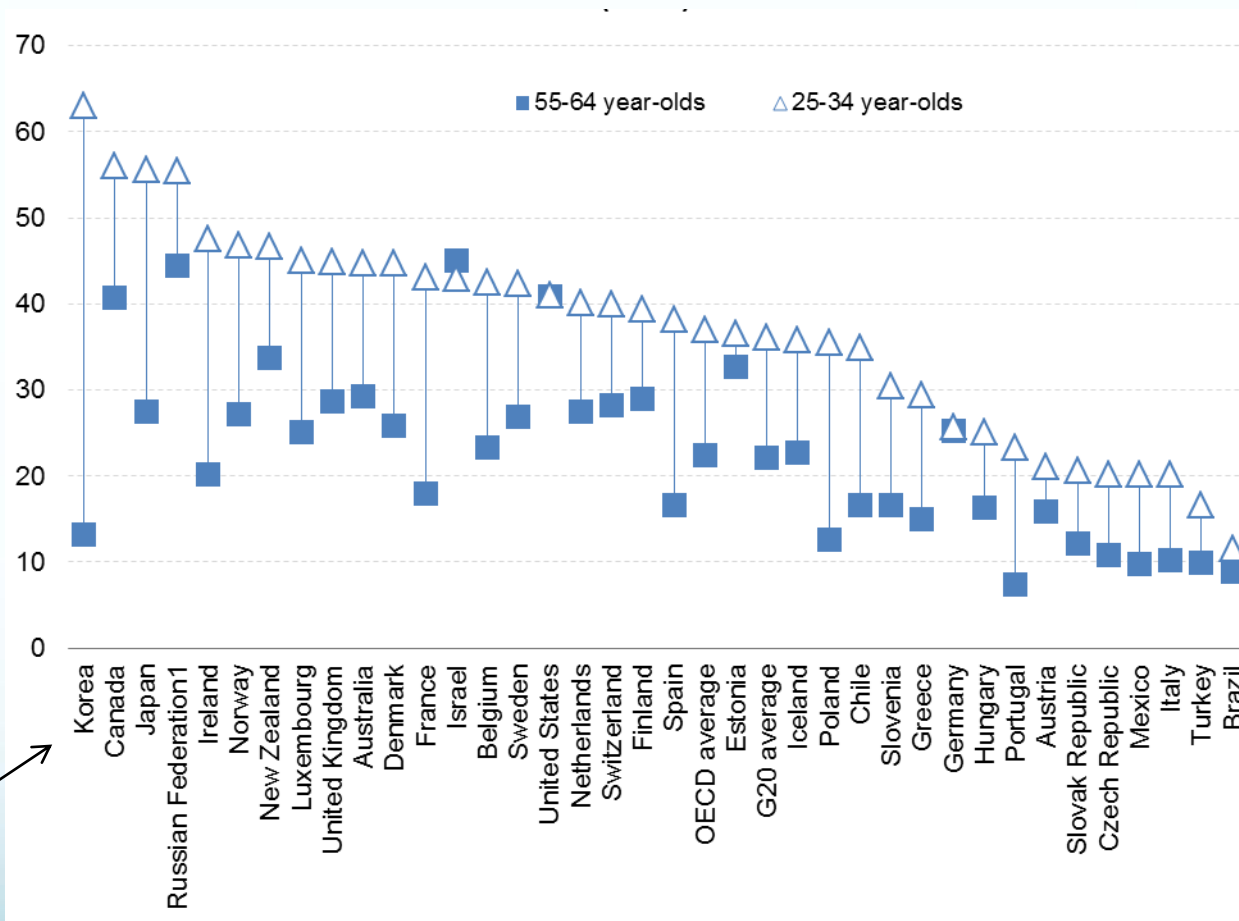


Key challenges: the implicit development model

- Investment in higher education...
- ...creates a highly labour force...
- ...which attracts inward investment...
- ...which drives productivity and economic growth



Percentage of the population with tertiary education by age group



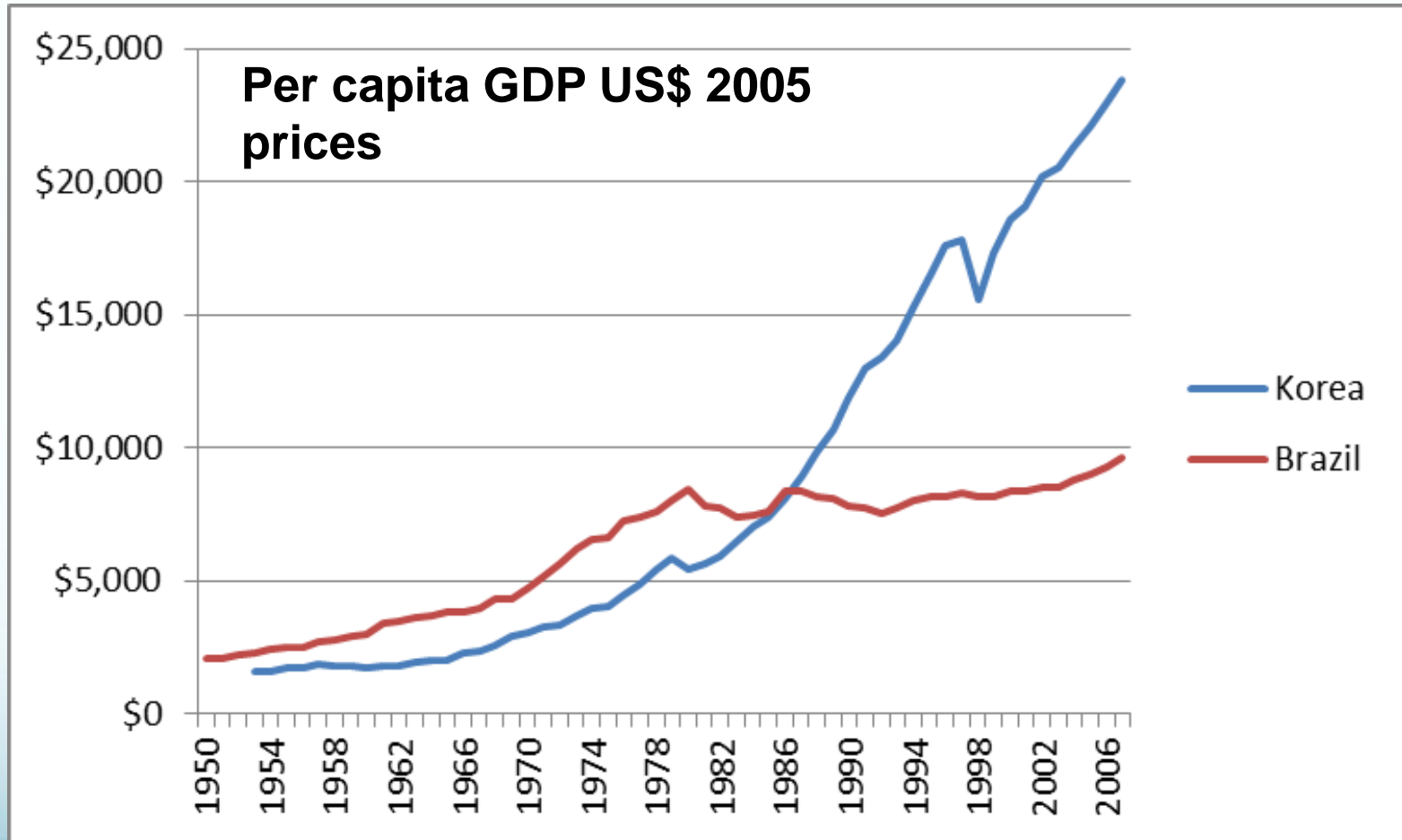
Korea

Brazil

Source: OECD Education at a glance 2011



Higher education and economic development in action



Source: Penn World Tables 6.3



A market driven system (1)



- 70% of Year 13 students go to university with NTS scholarships or TELS loans
- Another 10-15% go privately
- 30% of Year 12 students not continuing to Year 13 transfer to the Technical College of Fiji

- Gross tertiary enrolment rate = 61%
- Gross higher education enrolment rate = 46%



A market driven system (2)



- Choice for publicly subsidized higher education:
 - Enrolment quotas to control cost, align supply with demand
 - Market-driven system where students make choices informed by evidence (eg, graduate outcomes)
- In Fiji, quotas only for NTS scholarships, no currently published data for graduate outcomes
- Evidence of over-supply of graduates in some disciplines (accounting, commerce)



Supply vs demand of graduates

- Fiji set to leapfrog many developed countries:
 - Tertiary Education Loans are repaid through income tax
 - Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Board connected to Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority through FEMIS
 - Early prospect of detailed employment and income data for graduates by institution and programme



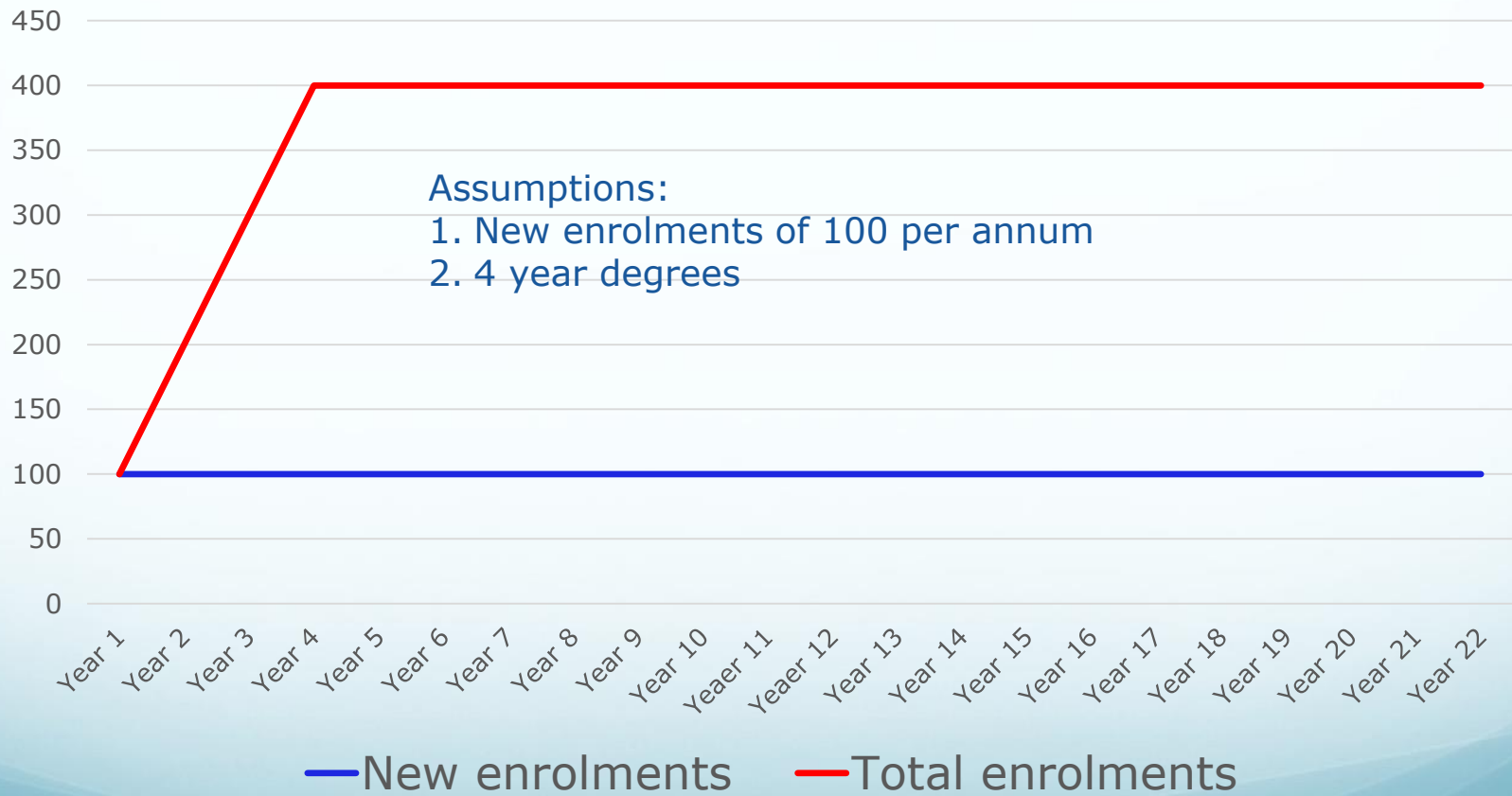


Brain drain

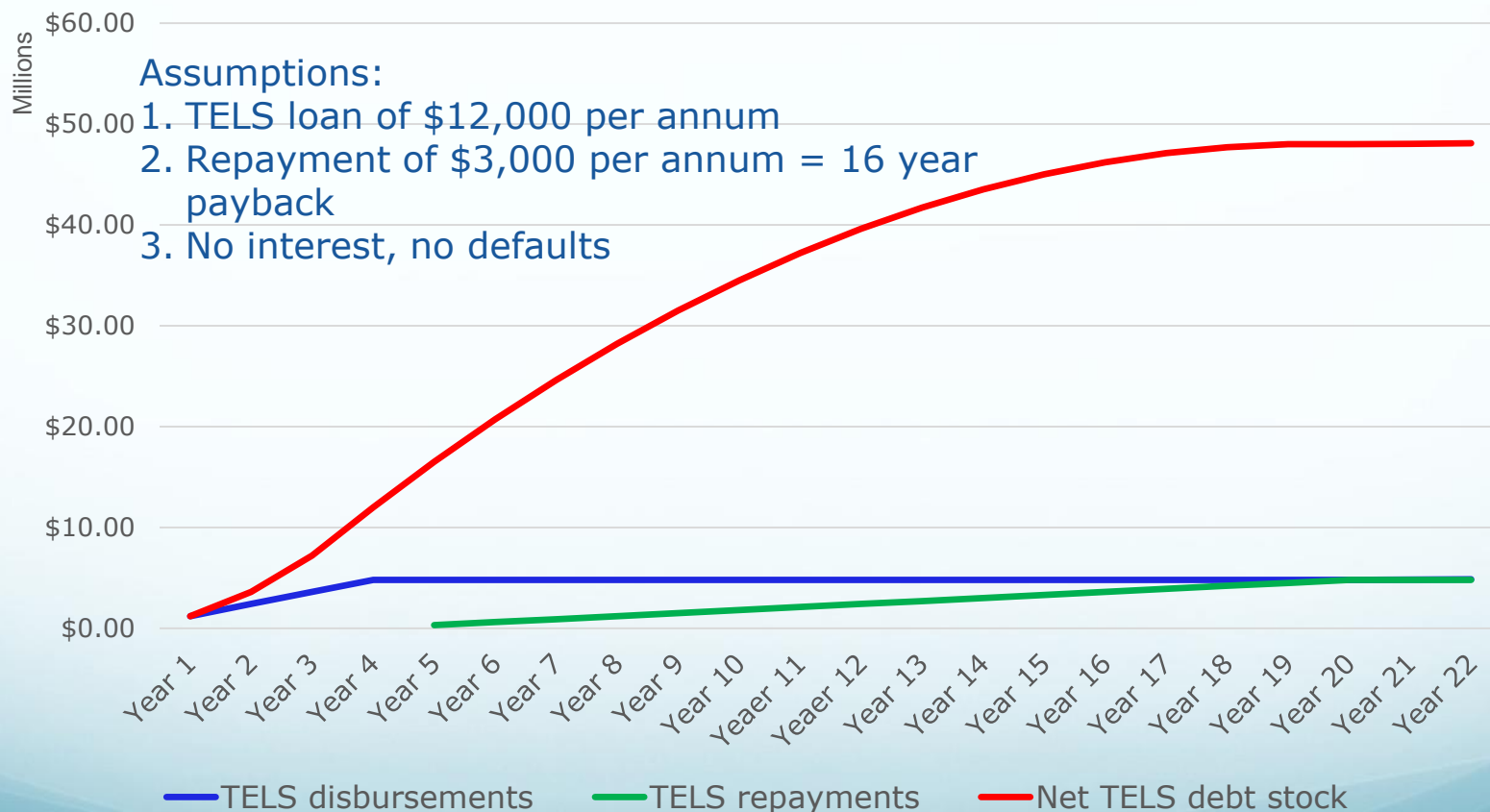


- Fiji has two much larger, richer economies within three hours' flying time
 - Large Fijian communities in Australia and New Zealand
 - Brain drain in highly-skilled professions (medicine, dentistry, business) an issue
 - Only partially controlled by “bonding”
- Positive offsets:
 - Remittances second most important source of foreign exchange (after tourism)
 - Brain circulation, brain repatriation (Celtic Tiger)

TELS-funded students



TELS disbursements, repayments and net debt





Conclusions



- In less than 10 years, Fiji has established the higher education infrastructure of a developed nation:
 - A national university
 - A national regulator
 - A national scholarships and loans scheme
 - A tertiary gross enrolment rate of over 60%
- There are some 'growing pains':
 - Excess supply of graduates in some disciplines
 - Brain drain
 - Financial sustainability of student debt
- But Fiji has a chance to learn from developed countries and leapfrog educational technologies and policies



For more information



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- Website includes conference presentations, papers and resources on the internationalisation of higher education