

November 25, 2010

The first-ever Engineering Exhibition 2010 organised by College of Engineering, Science and Technology aims form a close relationship between Fiji National University and the industry.

Dean CEST, Dr Surendra Prasad said the exhibition will get all industries together and discuss needs of the industry and how the Engineering College can deliver it.

“So we have invited the major industries to come and display their products and services,” he said.

Dr Prasad said the basic reason was to showcase what the Engineering College can offer the industry.

“We want to work in partnership. I am working on a MOU with various industries so that we can really work closely,” he said.

He said there have been liaisons with the industry but he wants it to be more meaningful.

“We want to have dialogue and work together because our graduates go and join the industry so it is extremely important that the industry tell us and we respond to the challenges,” he said.

Close to 25 major industries are expected to showcase their products and services at the Samabula Campus from November 25-27.

“It is compulsory for our graduates to have industry attachment experience for six months to a year depending on the programme,” he said.

Chief Guest at the opening ceremony, FINTEL chief executive officer, Ioane Koroivuki said the event was important and very special.

“This inaugural event is not only a special one but a very important one in that it demonstrates the importance technology now plays in almost every aspect of modern day living,” he said.

Mr Koroivuki said the exhibition will bring together engineering stakeholders both from the private and government sectors to display and demonstrate the various engineering technologies that are now available in the market.

According to Mr Koroivuki, engineering life today has changed dramatically.

“Everything is now electronically and software controlled and that almost everything is built around the internet. Almost everything is made available at a click of a mouse. Information is at the tip of ones fingertips and is only a click away,” he said.

He said current practices in Fiji indicate that there was still a lot of work to be done for the transfer of engineering designs from development to implementation in the rural environment.

“There are no mechanisms in place where rural communities could participate in engineering designs that would contribute to the improvement of their daily lives,” he said.

Mr Koroivuki said suppliers and manufacturers were geared more towards product sales rather than design feedback from rural areas.

He said there was a need to bridge development with deployment of engineering technology for rural environment adaptation.