

Tuesday, 31 May, 2016.

PRESS RELEASE

Professor Healey excited to lead FNU

Suva, Fiji Islands. Newly appointed Vice Chancellor of the Fiji National University (FNU) Professor Nigel Healey has a vision to consolidate FNU as the University of first choice for all Fijian students, employers and academics.

Professor Healey's comments follow a successful eight day visit to Fiji recently where he met with key stakeholders including the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Honourable Dr Mahendra Reddy.

"I am greatly looking forward to joining the FNU family in August and to working with everyone to take the next steps in FNU's journey," said Professor Healey.

"I have a strong impression of a young, vibrant university which is closely connected to Fijian business and society. Across the various campuses, there are great examples of teaching programmes which prepare students for successful careers as doctors, nurses, engineers, mechanics, air crew and managers. There is also a strong sense of ambition across the University and a belief that, with support and investment, FNU can be a leading university in the region."

According to Professor Healey, given Fiji's ideal location and the wide range of programmes offered at FNU, provide a perfect opportunity for greater collaboration with overseas institutions as well as to create greater opportunities for the overall growth of the University.

"Tertiary education is a truly global sector, with 200 million students enrolled in over 21,000 universities. There is great scope for us to reach out to partner universities to support and accelerate FNU's development," said Professor Healey.

"Faculty exchange and joint research, for example, can play an important role in strengthening our academic capability and capacity. Fiji has many natural advantages, notably in tropical agriculture, fisheries, medicine and tourism, which can help attract foreign researchers and teachers to work with us in the islands.

“We also need to cooperate closely with funders like the EU to support faculty and student mobility and ensure FNU is fully engaged with initiatives like the Pacific Regional Indicative Programme,” added Professor Healey.

Professor Healey said ongoing work at the University to ensure programmes meet international standards is important.

“I think we need to concentrate on strengthening the academic quality of our taught programmes, by using international accreditation bodies to ensure we are meeting internationally-recognised standards. The work currently underway to secure Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ) accreditation for our engineering degrees is a great example of this approach. I also believe we need to invest in the development of our academic staff, to upgrade qualifications and to build both research capacity and capability. I feel this is one of the areas where cooperation with overseas universities and support from funding bodies can accelerate our development,” said Professor Healey.

Professor Healey will assume his appointment as the FNU Vice Chancellor on Monday 1 August, 2016.

For further information, please contact the Communications Office on 339 4000 extension 2890/2886 or Senior Public Relations Officer, Ranbeer Singh on Email: SPRO@fnu.ac.fj or Phone: 9895267

About the Fiji National University: The Fiji National University (FNU) was established through the merger of 7 government-owned tertiary institutions in Fiji, and commenced operations from 1 January 2010. The constituent institutions are found at over 40 different locations across Fiji, and collectively offer Certificates, Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas, Degrees, Postgraduate qualifications and Skills Upgrading for those who are already in employment. Approximately 30,000 students pass through the University each year. Over the last six years of its operations, the University has registered major achievements with regard to new programme delivery, quality improvements and contribution to research and publications via its 5 Colleges: The College of Humanities & Education (CHE), the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences (CMNHS), the College of Engineering, Science & Technology (CEST), the College of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (CAFF), the College of Business, Hospitality & Tourism Studies (CBHTS) and the National Training & Productivity Centre (NTPC).