

**Thursday, 18 August, 2016.**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **World TVET conference for Fiji**

**Suva, Fiji Islands.** Fiji National University will host the first International Vocational Education and Training Association (IVETA) World TVET Conference organised in the South Pacific from the 23 to 25 August at the Grand Pacific Hotel.

The conference, with the theme ***“Quality, Innovation and skill mobilization in Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) – an internationalisation process,”*** is being organised by the Pacific TVET Association.

FNU’s Vice Chancellor, Professor Nigel Healey, said the University was delighted to have been invited to host such a prestigious event.

“As a dual sector university, FNU has a special place in the education landscape of the South Pacific. Our TVET provision connects seamlessly with our higher education programmes, so that FNU offers an integrated national post-secondary education system. We allow learners, at any stage of their lives, to enter the University to up skill and, if they choose, to progress to more advanced programmes.”

“The choice of FNU as the host for the IVETA World TVET Conference and the attendance of so many delegates from across the Pacific highlights the value we place on TVET as a way of transforming the life chances of young people and providing a nationwide network of pathways into further and higher education.”

FNU’s Acting Director TVET, Dr Isimeli Tagicakiverata said the conference will give an opportunity to the overseas delegation to see what the Pacific can offer in terms of TVET.

“We needed this large scale conference to be brought to Fiji so that our local Fiji and Pacific educators, policy makers and TVET stakeholders may benefit from the international exposure, networking and exchange of ideas.

“I’m glad to say that we have confirmed attendance from Pacific Islands such as Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Papua New Guinea. The national university of Fiji will be featured prominently in this conference. Our TVET exhibition booths at the conference will feature some current programmes and projects.

“The process began in 2013 when PATVET (Pacific TVET Association), which is based at FNU, became a member of the international body IVETA. A Memorandum of Understanding was

signed between PATVET and IVETA during the conference at Helsinki in 2014. A proposal was then submitted to IVETA Executives and with their approval, Fiji was given the right to host the World TVET Conference,” said Dr Tagicakiverata.

Thirty-five countries will be represented at the conference including Russia, Finland, England, USA, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Malawi with 215 overseas and 85 local delegates.

There will be four keynote speakers:

1. Professor Santosh Mehrotra – will be presenting on the ‘Global perspective and role of TVET’
2. Professor Pamela Nilan – will be presenting on ‘TVET and Gender’
3. Wendy Perry – will be focusing on ‘Industry and TVET institution collaboration’
4. Ambassador Andrew Jacobs – will be presenting about ‘Funding of TVET projects and programmes’

Apart from the four keynote speakers, 40 papers will be presented in three parallel sessions on Days two and three.

Special Recognition Awards will also be given to the following organisations:

1. Fiji Corrections Services – for providing youths in prisons with vocational training.
2. Fiji Vocational Centre for People with Disability – for empowering people with disability with vocational training.
3. EU-PacTVET – for their role in climate change adaptation skills training in the Pacific.

**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](mailto: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).