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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FNU signs MOU with NZ counterpart, WINTEC**

**Suva, Fiji Islands.** Fiji National University has successfully signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Waikato Institute of Technology (WINTEC) of New Zealand for an opportunity to learn and expand its borders.

Present for the official signing at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva, was Mr Greg Smith, Director of the Centre for Sport Science and Human Performance, Waikato Institute of Technology (Wintec) and FNU Vice Chancellor, Professor Nigel Healey.

Professor Healey said the MOU will allow the University to work closely with WINTEC in areas to further grow beyond the walls of FNU campuses.

“This will allow our five FNU Colleges and our National Productivity and Training Centre (NTPC) to collaborate and exchange information in the areas of learning, education and training,” said Professor Healey.

Professor Healey said as a dual sector University focusing in both higher education and vocational studies, FNU is privileged with the opportunity to partner and work with international leaders in vocational education and training like WINTEC.

“FNU is the largest technical, vocational education and training (TVET) provider in the Pacific island countries and we need to constantly challenge ourselves to be sure that our programmes meet the needs of employers and draw on best practice. Working closely with the international partners allows us to benchmark on the best in the world.

“Education is a global sector and institutions like FNU cannot be inward looking. We need to be aware of the new learning systems and designs constantly being developed by academic institutions worldwide. For us to be relevant and meaningful in our academic programmes, it is vital to work in partnership with other external institutions such as WINTEC to identify gaps in our programmes and to see how Wintec can assist us to address these gaps and our needs to bring FNU to international standards,” he said.

Professor Healey said the MOU intends to encourage review, reform and rebuild of our local capacity and capability.

Mr Greg Smith, is no stranger to Fiji, having played for the national fifteens team for almost a decade and leading the side as captain to two rugby world cup's. Mr Smith said the signing of the MOU marks a significant day for WINTEC and FNU.

"It's an important day for WINTEC as well and this is an important relationship to build on as we believe contributing to the Pacific is something very important to us," said Mr Smith.

Mr Smith said the MOU will allow him in particular to work and give back to Fiji, which has given him so much.

"Personally it's wonderful to be in Fiji and I'm privileged to be able to contribute back to the community, Fiji has given me so much as a young rugby player. It's nice to be back here in a different capacity and the timing is incredibly right as the nation celebrates its success in Rio and it's a privileged to be here."

**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).