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PRESS RELEASE

FNU and VIT sign new partnership

Suva, Fiji Islands. The Fiji National University (FNU) and the Vanuatu Institute of Technology (VIT) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a long term academic collaboration in Higher Education (HE), Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and the National Productivity & Training Centre (NTPC) short courses.

While speaking at the MoU signing ceremony at FNU Nasinu campus yesterday, Vice Chancellor, Professor Nigel Healey said the collaboration with VIT recognises the intention of FNU to cooperate on a broad range of areas and to work together with the institute for future mutual benefit.

"FNU is grateful to VIT for the initiation of this partnership and I would like to commend VIT for embarking on this educational journey with FNU. Today is yet another step for the University to continue to transform the minds and lives of our people and through this partnership we will see new leaders emerge to take on the helm of our society," said Professor Healey.

"We at FNU believe in building an educated and skillful labour force. Since our first constituent college was founded in 1885, FNU has been a vocational institution educating students for careers. We train the nation's doctors and nurses, veterinaries and farm managers, its teachers, accountants and lawyers, its architects, scientists and engineers.

"We are a dual sector institution as committed to technical and vocational education and training (TVET) as we are to higher education. We also train the nation's carpenters, its electricians, its plumbers and mechanics. These skilled professions are just as important for the nation's advancement," Professor Healey added.

Through this partnership the two institutions will undertake a range of activities in terms of education and training in the following areas:

1. The development of articulation pathways to allow students to transfer from VIT into courses in both TVET and Higher Education here at FNU,
2. The direct delivery by faculty or franchise of FNU courses and NTPC short courses in Vanuatu in partnership with VIT, in professional development including TVET and Higher Education, teacher development and senior middle management leadership through our executive EMBA programme and the division of executive management and hospitality services with NTPC
3. The exchange of publications and relevant academic and educational information and joint lectures and research and symposium.

Principal of VIT, Mr Jack Takalo Graham said FNU has produced Vanuatu graduates and contributed to their nation's development.

He said FNU has stood as a beacon of timeless learning for many Vanuatu citizens.

“Since the signing of the first MoU, Vanuatu had used the opportunity to hold dialogue with FNU, sought advice and guidance on a number of pathways. The support we have received had never been limited and I believe this exemplifies the university’s mind to assist other institution develop their dreams,” said Mr Graham.

“Vanuatu values the contributions made in the past and in future will continue to vindicate efforts made by the University to the development of human resources. Collaboration in education remains the most vital mechanism to support our citizens, especially in the face of challenging times.

“We are all too clearly reminded on the need to embark on newer approaches that ensure we have skilled citizens to take care of our future generations. This MoU sets in motion the way into bigger development and to this end it will also create many opportunities for more consultations,” said Mr Graham.

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).