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PRESS RELEASE

Award for outstanding Economics student

Suva, Fiji Islands. The Fiji National University (FNU) has signed an agreement with economist Professor Tiru K Jayaraman to honour the top student in Bachelor of Commerce in Economics every year with *Professor T.K. Jayaraman and Family Prize*.

Professor Jayaraman has made a donation of \$10,000 for the purpose of seeding the establishment of the Endowment Fund through which student cash prizes will be determined.

He has been teaching Economics in Fiji since 1998 and his contributions to research on Pacific Island economic issues are well known. *'A Single Currency for Pacific Islands'* is one of his many publications about the Pacific Island countries.

Professor Jayaraman, an ardent advocate for a single economic space for the region, has been arguing that regional economic integration would enable island countries overcome development hurdles, including limited land area and small populations, by promoting freer movement of goods, capital and labour for realizing better economies of scale.

FNU Vice Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey while signing the agreement said, such awards add value to most successful students' resumes while strengthening their employability.

"A University often receives different types of donations from people. I believe one that makes the biggest difference in a student's life is an incentive that supports and encourages students to achieve better and celebrate their success.

"I must commend Professor Jayaraman's incentive to motivate students to excel in their studies as this further supports the University's pledge to continuously support the learning of the students," said the VC.

Professor Jayaraman called on academics to take a lead role in ensuring the students were inspired to work hard and complete their studies with flying colours.

"Through this award I hope to continue to foster the young minds of the community. Having such awards makes students go extra mile in their studies which then brings out the best from a student. This will make the students realise their potential and do even better," he said.

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).