



Volume 2 No. 09
27 February 2011

In this issue

- Fashion conference hailed a success Pg 1
- Moves to improve services Pg 2
- Tonga engages with FNU to franchise programs Pg 2
- Bamboo interior for low cost housing Pg 2
- Koronivia orientation Pg 2
- New lab for dental students Pg 3
- CETC gears for business excellence awards Pg 3
- Students assist senior citizens Pg 3
- Pacific science congress Pg 4
- Developing countries partnership scholarship post graduate/Master degree Pg 4
- Student teachers given timely advice Pg 4

NOTICE TO STUDENTS

Students are advised that copies of University Academic and Student Regulation (UASR) are available at all academic offices around the country. The University urges students to follow the procedures of UASR.

FASHION CONFERENCE HAILED A SUCCESS

FASHION education that was affordable, appropriate, practical and relevant was lacking in Fiji, the first-ever Fashion Education conference in Fiji heard last week.

This was some of the issues discussed during the conference organised at the Fiji National University Raiwai Campus last week.

International fashion educator from London, Professor Paul Rider said in a keynote address there was an abundance of local talent but there was no formal education available for budding fashion designers in the country. He has working experience with Vogue Australia, Trent Nathan and Gian Marco Venturi's menswear in Milan, Italy. Prof Rider said fashion was something that reflected individual, group or national identities.

"Fashion is of a global perspective and unlike any other force has the power to bring people together," he said.

National Training and Productivity Centre Director Yogesh Karan said the fashion industry in Fiji has not had much success except for a few annual events to raise funds for charity on particular occasions. There had not been many initiatives to see fashion as a good business venture and there could be many reasons for this. "However, in my view I do not think that we have created an environment where the obvious talents of the fashion industry could rise and take their rightful place," he said.

Mr Karan said it has been reported that the global fashion industry is worth some \$100 billion U.S. dollars and interestingly, the apparel manufacturing industry had

become more labor and less capital intensive.

Managing Director of Fiji Fashion Week Limited, Ellen Whippy-Knight said they would like to see an introduction of art classes where children could learn and focus on fashion designing with qualified people to teach them.

Ms Whippy-Knight said the fashion industry was the biggest employer in the world as there were different areas of work available within it such as fabric styling, graphic designing, photography and many more.

Ms Whippy-Knight said the Fiji National University was awaiting the approval of a Fashion Design Diploma program that was being considered by the university Senate.

She said current studies and research proved that fashion education could successfully play a significant role in the country's creative and commercial economy through sustainable supportive links with Government departments and the private sector.

Mark One Apparel Managing Director, Mark Halabe urged students present at the conference to work hard academically, industrially and when the opportunity came, to move into their passion.

The theme of the one day conference was "Make It in Fiji" - Fashion from Education to Manufacturing for Economic Gain.

The conference was officially opened by Curriculum Development Unit and TVET Director at the Ministry of Education, Mr Nemani Drova.

MOVES TO IMPROVE SERVICES

THE newly adopted Customer Complaint (CC) and Corrective & Preventive Action (CPA) system at the Fiji National University will ensure that it continually improves its services.

The system was launched at the University's Strategic Planning and Policy retreat workshop in Nadi last week. Director TVET, Mr Jone Usamate said meeting the demand of customers was critical for any organisation. He noted the sole purpose of any organisation was to add value for customers.

"The Quality Assurance System will assist the University to improve efficiency and effectiveness. The system has a built-in mechanism which also leads to continuous improvement," he said.

Mr Usamate said the system would make sure that FNU delivers what its customers needed—and what Fiji needed from Fiji National University.

If we couldn't meet the needs of customers, then there was no reason for the University's existence.

"As a first step towards introducing ISO9000 and

to gradually improving quality within FNU, the process of CC and CPA has been introduced, Mr Usamate said. Mr Usamate said ISO 9001:2008 provides a model for a quality management system.

"It may not be a perfect model but has proven to be applicable to virtually all sizes and types of organisations. The reason why ISO 9001 has had a widespread acceptance and use is because it adds value to how organisations are managed, from the viewpoint of both managers and workers," he said.

"It is anticipated that in doing so, areas for improvement can be identified by both internal and external customers, ultimately creating a continuous improvement culture." FNU staff and students as well as others can raise issues of concern through a Customer Complaint (CC) form. Staff can raise issues for corrective and preventive action through the CPA form available on the website.

The forms are available at : www.cpa.fnu.ac.fj and www.fnu.ac.fj

TONGA ENGAGES WITH FNU TO FRANCHISE PROGRAMS



A Tongan delegation that included the newly appointed Minister for Training, Employment, Youth and Sports, Sosefo Fe'aomoeata Vakata visited Fiji National University last week to confirm the possibilities of FNU programs being offered in Tonga through the franchising mode.

The team met with the Vice Chancellor who assured them that FNU was ready to deliver the service.

Special assistant to the Vice Chancellor Josua Mataika said it was the group's third visit to FNU since last year.

Chief Executive Officer and Director at Ministry of Training, Employment, Youth and Sports Dr Taniela L. Fusimalohi believes that through this arrangement the Ministry will begin to resolve the escalating problem of youth unemployment. In the longer term it will skill young people in trades so that they can contribute to his country's economy.

The talks about franchising FNU TVET

type programmes began last year. Dr Fusimalohi said it would be made possible through AUSAID funding currently under discussion.

Last week the team visited the College of Engineering, Science and Technology on Samabula Campus and the College of Humanities and Education on Raiwai.

Mr Mataika said FNU was already offering its services in the region through the CMNHS and CEST through the School of Maritime.

"TVET has a lot to offer for the economic and social gain of a country. Through franchising, the FNU will have the privilege of being able to make this contribution to Tonga via this Ministry, whose precise aim is to cater for the needs of youth," he said.

"FNU is ready to take a team to Tonga to make an assessment of the manpower available to teach the franchise units, the facilities and the tools and equipment available with the TVET providers in Tonga."

BAMBOO INTERIOR FOR LOW COST HOUSING

A newly introduced method is used for the interior of the two-bedroom house built for the resettling of squatter settlers from Suva to Navua, and that's bamboo panning.

NTPC student and staff have included bamboo panning on the walls and interior of the two bedroom house which contributes to the cool temperature inside the house.

Construction Industry Training Department Manager, Mr George Atalifo said they have added a new concept of bamboo panning which is cost effective and efficient to use.

"With this added concept, we thought to get interior bamboo panning which also makes the inside a bit cooler to live in. We can use bamboo to make furniture and if people in the rural areas can make furniture from whatever bamboo they have, that's an added incentive for the rural economy".

An expert on woven bamboo mats was brought into help with the interior panning including Fijian women who specialized in making mats.

Mr Atalifo hopes that they can extend the utilization of bamboo to scaffolding for construction purposes.

"Later we would like to go into utilizing bamboo in terms of how good they can be used in scaffolding for construction purposes instead of using these steel structure for scaffolding we may be able to utilize Chinese technology in terms of their bamboo and use scaffolding and other furniture making".

The Technical training department is trying to find cost effective methods of construction instead of relying on heavy and expensive material for the betterment of the low income earners.

"It's basically showcasing our natural resources to be used in simple things like this and to try and develop this utilization of bamboo for other areas in construction".



CLOSE to hundred students turned up at the Koronivia Campus for the orientation.

The students were given University Academic Student Regulation and were made aware of the grievance procedure and ICT policies at the University.

Laisenia Namosimalua who has enrolled in Diploma in Forestry said the orientation program was helpful in getting to know some important information.

He said he now knew where to go if he had any problem regarding his timetable and fee deadline. The orientation at Nasinu Campus was held on 3 March and on 4 March at Ba Campus.

NEW LAB FOR DENTAL STUDENTS



Department of Oral Health staff at the newly renovated prosthetic lab.

THE new refurbished and extended Dental Training Laboratory facilities at the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences opened its doors on March 2.

The facility was a result of collaboration between the Ministry of Health and the College and supported by AusAid.

College Dean, Professor Ian Rouse approved the extension and renovations to facilitate a learning environment necessary for students training in the Dental technology

field.

The new laboratory facilities can now accommodate 24 students at a time compared to only 14 before.

The College was grateful to the support and facilitation by the National Advisor Oral Health - Dr Joan Lal and Dr Iferemi Waqainabete, Medical Superintendent CWM Hospital in allowing the old dental stores space to be utilised for the extension.

Prof Rouse said the added space allows

many procedures to be conducted in the lab, accommodating more students and tutors and dental technicians and allowing for a faster turnover of dental appliances fabricated in the lab.

The dental laboratory processes dental appliances such as removal and fixed dentures, orthodontic appliances and mouth guards.

The installation of new equipment such as trimming units, crown and bridge casting machine, and soon to be fitted chrome-cobalt unit, will make this a fully fitted laboratory that can fabricate a wide range of dental appliances.

This will reduce time spent sending prescriptions abroad for fabrication and also overall costs of appliances for patients and the laboratory.

Most of the trained dental technicians in Fiji are employed by the Ministry of Health and with the opening of the new dental laboratory facility by the CMNHS, it is hoped that more technicians can be trained in areas of fixed prosthodontics and metal denture fabrication to meet the need for this support in providing dental care in Fiji.

STUDENTS ASSIST SENIOR CITIZENS



STUDENTS on Lautoka campus took on a community work project at the Golden Age Home to help the senior citizens and broaden their own faith.

Catholic student's organiser Jone Sibili said the Catholic students on Lautoka campus invited the Christian fellowship to be part of the project.

Mr Sibili said the officer in charge at the home told students that the residents were happy to see the young faces, and also because they took time out to chat and share.

"Some of the students helped out with bathing the senior citizens and preparing their

meals."

"Working at the old people's home is the first project we have undertaken for the year," he said.

"The response from the students was that many wanted to work on further projects."

"Next month we are planning to visit the prison," he said.

"Last year focused mostly on cleaning up the community."

Mr Sibili said in the last week of February the Catholic students group hosted an opening mass for all Catholic students on campus.

CETC GEARS FOR BUSINESS AWARDS

THE Community Education Training Centre invited the Promotion Productivity Department of FNU's National Training and Productivity Centre to make a presentation at its annual retreat last month.

The presentation was on the seven categories and 22 items of the Fiji Business Excellence Awards.

The Community Education Training Centre was an applicant of the 2010 Fiji Business Excellence Awards process and was recognised with the Commitment to Business Excellence in last year's Awards. Head of CETC, Dr. Lia Maka said he believed that it was important to get a different opinion on the awards.

"It is an opportunity for my team to get an external opinion on the awards and it is also crucial that the entire team - which included janitors, gardeners and others, were gained an understanding of the framework."

An open floor discussion followed the presentation that provided each team member with an opportunity to contextualize the frameworks so they could better appreciate it.

Dr. Lia Maka said that the team was now in a better stead because they all understood how they were going to contribute to implementing it.

CETC has clearly mapped out its journey for 2011, which includes an application at a higher level of recognition in the Fiji Business Excellence Awards.

EVENTS

Seminar at Raiwai Campus

Title: "The World Awaits True Leaders"

Guest Speaker: Swami Shantamrita (A senior disciple of Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi)

Date & Time: Wednesday 9 March 17:30-19:30 followed by refreshments

Venue: FNU Raiwai Campus, Art Gallery

PACIFIC SCIENCE CONGRESS

THE 22nd Pacific Science Congress will be held at from 14-18 June 2011 at Kuala Lumpur Malaysia.

Important Dates:

15 January 2011:

Deadline for abstract submissions.

15 March 2011:

Notification of acceptance of abstracts.

31 March 2011:

Deadline for early bird registration

18 May 2011:

Deadline for late registration

18 May 2011:

Deadline for refunds for cancelled registrations.

For more information please visit the conference website on www.22ndpsc.net or contact the congress secretariat on email: nasa@akademisains.gov.my or fardy@akademisains.gov.my

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

PARTNERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP- POST GRADUATE/ MASTER DEGREE

Students with Bachelors Degree can apply for DCP Scholarship starting from September 2011. The selected participants will study Indonesian Language and undertake preparatory programs on the first year and continuing to Masters programs for the next two years.

Fields of study: Humanities, Science, Agricultural Sciences, Social Sciences, Engineering, Education or Multi-disciplinary.

The program entitlements include an economic class round-trip ticket, tuition fee, monthly living allowance as well as research and book allowance.

Filled application form should be submitted to the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Suva no later than mid May 2011.

For more information, please visit: www.knb.diknas.go.id



WORK on the biggest lecture theatre at the Fiji National University's Nasinu Campus is expected to finish this week.

The project, which has a capacity of 400 people was much awaited by the students and the College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies.

The construction of the new lecture theatre would respond to the needs of the students.

STUDENT TEACHERS GIVEN TIMELY ADVICE

TEACHERS in training were reminded of their calling to join the noble profession by the acting Head of the School of Education, Mr Alifereti Cawanibuka.

In an address to primary and secondary teachers in training Mr Cawanibuka said the institution was a place where teachers were groomed to go out and teach.

He said teaching was a noble profession.

"When you walk through those gates how you dress, walk, talk and present yourself is all analysed

"If you are not prepared properly you will face problems. Discipline at the campus declined over the past year and we want that to improve.

"Rules are here to help us and the campus structured to bring people from all different backgrounds together."

Mr Cawanibuka also reminded students of their responsibility to be mature adults.

"It is your responsibility to act like

adults. If you act like those on the streets then you need to ask yourself if you are in the right profession," he said.

"You have to respect all our lecturers. These are people who will help you exceed."



Mr Cawanibuka said students needed to be more interactive in their classes with the lecturers and principal lecturers

"What we want to do is develop quality leaders," he said.

"You are coming here for business, not a holiday

"Academic work is important so we are urging you not to be content with whatever your marks are. Aim for higher marks."