



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY NEWS LETTER

Bi-monthly newsletter on research, projects, workshops, conferences, publications and consultancy

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Honourable Prime Minister of Fiji, Rear Admiral (Retired) Voreqe Bainimarama displaying keen interest in the speaker recognition system, a FNU Project, during the launch of the YES (Young Entrepreneurship Scheme) at GPH.

ARTICLE 1

Young Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES) :
The scheme was launched at the Grand Pacific Hotel by Hon Prime Minister of Fiji on 11 Jan 2018. The event saw presentation by five young entrepreneurs who had qualified for the government grant and mentorship program. CEST was requested by the Ministry of Industry Trade and Tourism to put up displays/projects showcasing innovative capabilities of our staff and students. Even though there was a space constraint and the timing of event coincided with leave of the staff and students, CEST put up a total of five displays that included speaker recognition system, Bus scheduling App, SCADA based traffic signalling system, 3-D printing system and Vehicle diagnostic system. The displays put up by CEST evinced keen interest of one and all and earned a lot of appreciation by the Chief Guest.

ARTICLE 2



Mr Ronesh Sharma's paper titled "OPAL: Prediction of MoRF regions in intrinsically disordered protein sequences" has been accepted and published in 'Bioinformatics', a Q1 rank journal. Ronesh is a lecturer with the School of Electrical and Electronics Engineering with research interests in electrical and electronics engineering and bio-informatics.



A paper jointly authored by Dr Abirami Ganeshan and Rajeev Bhat from CEST titled "Producing Novel Edible Films from Semi Refined Carrageenan (SRC) and Ulvan Polysaccharides for Potential Food Applications" has been accepted for publication in the prestigious Q2 ranked 'International Journal of Biological Macromolecules'. Dr Abirami is an Assistant Professor with the School of Applied Science and has research interests in Food Science and Nutrition.

ARTICLE 3

The School of Building and Civil Engineering (SBCE) has entered into a consultancy project with Fiji Road Authority (FRA) for carrying out a "Traffic Survey" for an estimated amount of FJD 32000/- The staff members participating in this consultation project are Mr Cyril Rachman, Mrs Yuyun along with students from SBCE and with Mr Efray'im in the leadership role.

ARTICLE 4



Best Researcher Awards for the year 2017 were presented by Dean (CEST) to Dr Rajeev Bhat and Mrs Vane Seruvakula in the "Best Researcher" and "Best Researcher (Projects)" categories respectively. Dr Rajeev Bhat had published 4 papers, a book and book chapters and has also been regularly contributing news article in the popular dailies of Fiji. Mrs Vane was felicitated for the major role she played in the "Koro Development Project" and later in the development of the UNDP funded Certificate IV program in "mining, geology and quarrying".

ARTICLE 5



A group of 17 German University students in collaboration with Survival Fiji were hosted by the School of Applied Sciences, CEST, FNU through its Planning Office. The aim of the visit was to learn and experience issues related to climate change that the Pacific Islanders including Fijians face. This was in preparation for the COP23, in which the Prime Minister of Fiji is the President. The programme for day included presentations by the staff of the Environment Department; Mr Nirbhay, Mr Ilaitia and Ms Neetika on various projects and consultancies conducted on climate changes impacts, assessment and adaptation approach on various sites in Fiji. Challenges and impacts of climate presented include salt water intrusion into drinking wells, coastal erosion, sea level rise, King tides, etc that have affected food security, health security and livelihood of people and communities. The Head of School, Dr Lako also presented her community case study project in the impact of climate change on food security on Totoya Island in the Lau group.

The School of Applied Science will be running courses for the Canadian students under a MoU with "Global Insight". The foreign students have selected ENS-701 (Climate change in south pacific) and ENS-706 (Environment impact assessment) units from FNU's BSC environment management program. The courses will run for 11 weeks in Semester 1.

ARTICLE 6



The Acting Head of the School of Applied Sciences, College of Engineering, Science and Technology, Dr, Jimaima Lako was invited to present a paper entitled "Ciguatera fish poisoning and marine ecosystem change" at the JICA-USP/School of Marine Studies Symposium on the *Future International Cooperation and Human Resource Development in Marine Science and Fisheries*. The two day event was conducted on the 29th and 30th January 2018 at USP -

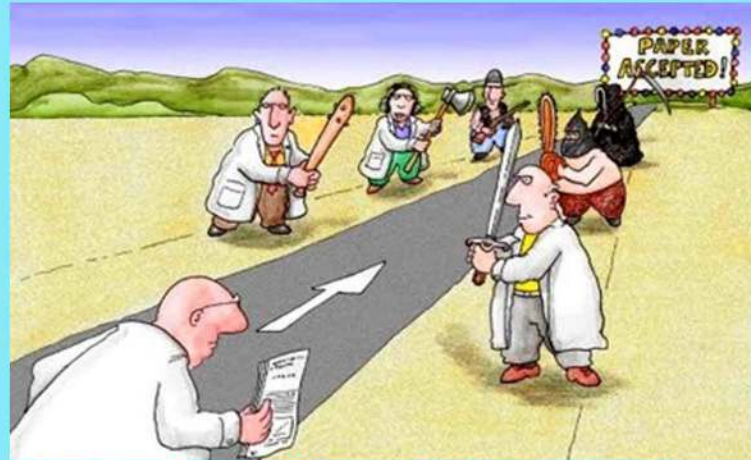
Japan-Pacific ICT Multipurpose Theatre. The event was organized to commemorate the 20th anniversary of collaboration between the Japanese Government and the USP School of Marine Studies. In her presentation, she highlighted that ciguatera fish poisoning posed a bigger threat to livelihood, health and trade of communities and companies due to environmental and climate change effects. She added that the knowledge on ciguatera fish poisoning was still an 'unchartered territory', due to the inconsistency in the types of fish species that cause poisoning, the iqoliqoli affected and even the various species of dinoflagellate algae that carry ciguatoxin. Dr Lako highlighted the importance of collaboration in this area and informed that FNU was collaborating with the Ministries of Fisheries and Health as well as the National Institute for Health Sciences in Kanagawa, Japan in establishing a favourable fish poisoning incidence data and its reporting mechanisms.

ARTICLE 7



Ministry of Disaster Management and Meteorological Services, with funding support from the WMO (World Meteorological Organization), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program and the Canadian Fund, organised a national consultation workshop for developing Fiji's National Implementation Plan for Enhanced Climate Services and the National Climate Outlook Forum, in Suva from February 21-23, 2018. The workshop was attended by Associate Professor (Dr) Sushil K Sharma. Dr Sushil K Sharma is a WMO accredited class 1 professional meteorologist and a former employee of the FMS (Fiji Meteorological Service). He is an associate professor of meteorology in the School of Applied Science and a prolific writer with many of his articles being published in the newspapers of Fiji.

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Cartoon from : Barton E, "The secrets of how to publish your paper in an International Journal", JGR Oceans, CSIC