

International Women in Engineering Day Inventors & Innovators



FIJI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

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Greetings from the Sustainable Initiatives Committee,

Welcome to the 6th edition of the SIC publication. Taking place annually on 23 June, the National Women in Engineering Day is an international awareness campaign to raise the profile of women in engineering and focus attention on the amazing career opportunities available to girls in this exciting industry. It is important that we have a diverse group of voices contributing to our society and economy.

Despite the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 focusing on Gender Equality,

the STEM subjects have the principles of addressing all 17 SDGs encompassing social, economic and environmental challenges. STEM subjects are the backbone of digital transformation, medical health, economic development, infrastructure development, political engagement and international collaboration.



Many women during their college careers create a mindset of securing a job that is feminine and only suited for women. The question is "Who decides what type of job is suited to men or women?" Career choices are mostly influenced by the society that we live in. Education decisions shouldn't be impacted by gender stereotypes. Globalization has clearly changed the stereotypical thoughts of most females. Years back, the engineering field was male-dominated and now this can be proven wrong with the interest shown by females taking up trade programmes. Based on current data for this year, FNU has 28% of females enrolled in trade programmes.

The National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC) and the College of Engineering, Science, and Technology (CEST) at FNU, offer programmes that offer a wide variety of career opportunities. CEST exhibition is one of the events held annually which promotes STEM. While also the partnership with Graduate Women Fiji organizes STEM camps for girls in school every year which is facilitated through the Division of Marketing and Communication office and the College. This means there is something for everyone. As an educational institution, the Fiji National University supports young women to become inventors and innovators. The engineering field is challenging and with great determination and passion, women can transform the world with their unique creations and approaches.

Women are usually under-represented in the academic and professional fields of engineering; however, many women have contributed to the diverse fields of the engineering industry historically and currently. Women engineers have played invaluable roles globally. The Sustainability Initiatives Committee at FNU encourages everyone to support women in the engineering field. A diverse workforce will lead to a brighter future for the business. We must close the gap and become sustainable in our thoughts and actions.

FNU academics and students were part of the International Women in Engineering Day celebrations hosted by the Fiji Institution of Engineers. FNU will continue to work with the industry stakeholders and schools to bridge the gap of equity in STEM Careers.



Stephanie Louise Kwolek, the first to discover synthetic polymer that led to the creation of Bulletproof vests.

Quick Read: International Women in Engineering Day

National Women in Engineering Day was launched for the first time in the UK on 23 June 2014 by the Women's Engineering Society (WES) to celebrate its 95th anniversary.

In 2017, National Women in Engineering Day became international for the first time due to the interest and enthusiasm developed by the international audience and participants in the previous years. International Women in Engineering Day (INWED) was born to enable the celebration of women in engineering to become global.

Vinaka
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