

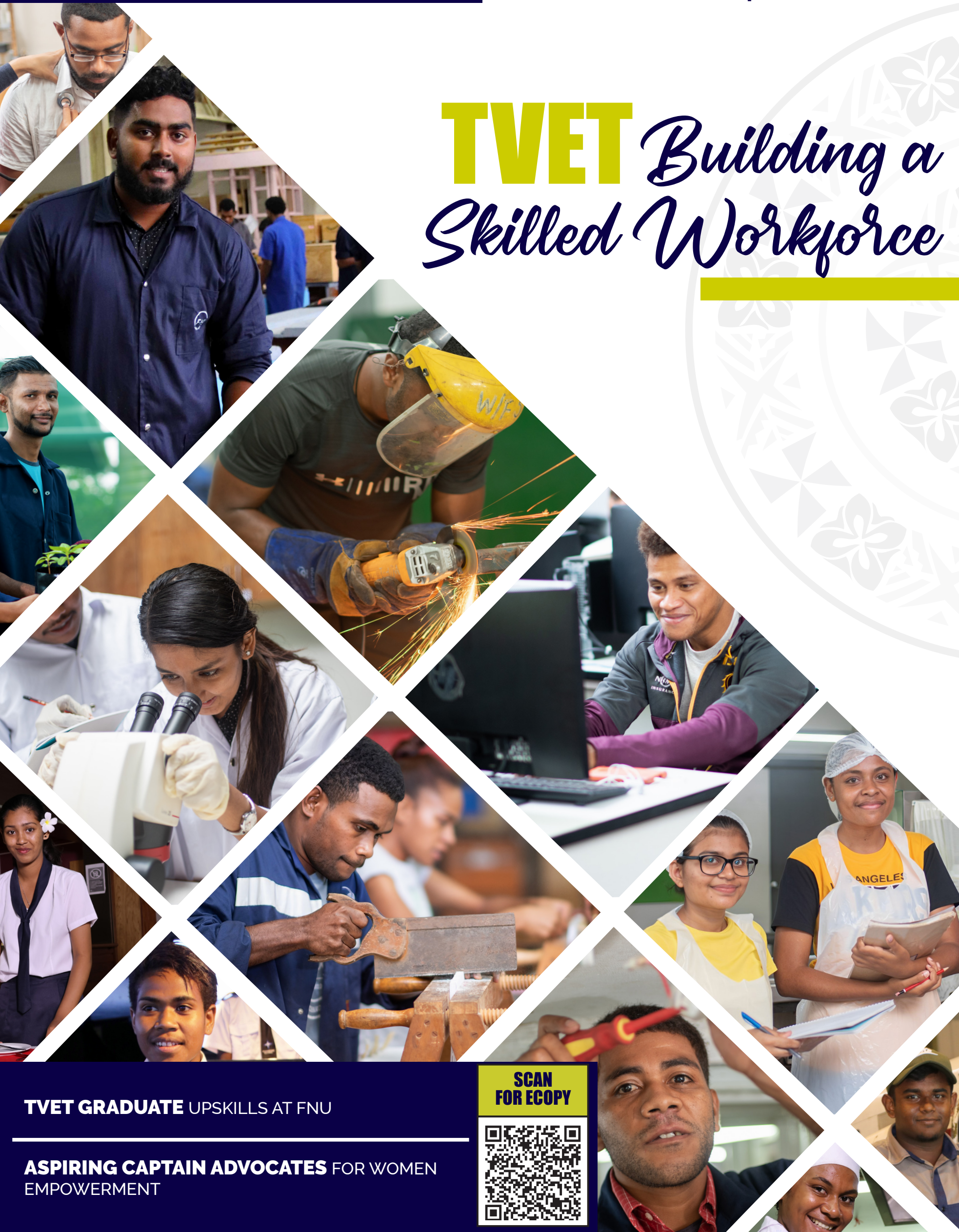


FNU

The word 'NIKUA' is rendered in a large, bold, red sans-serif font. Each letter is filled with a complex, repeating geometric pattern in a darker shade of red, creating a textured, tribal-like appearance. The letters are set against a white background.

ISSUE NO. 4 | APRIL 2023

TVET Building a Skilled Workforce

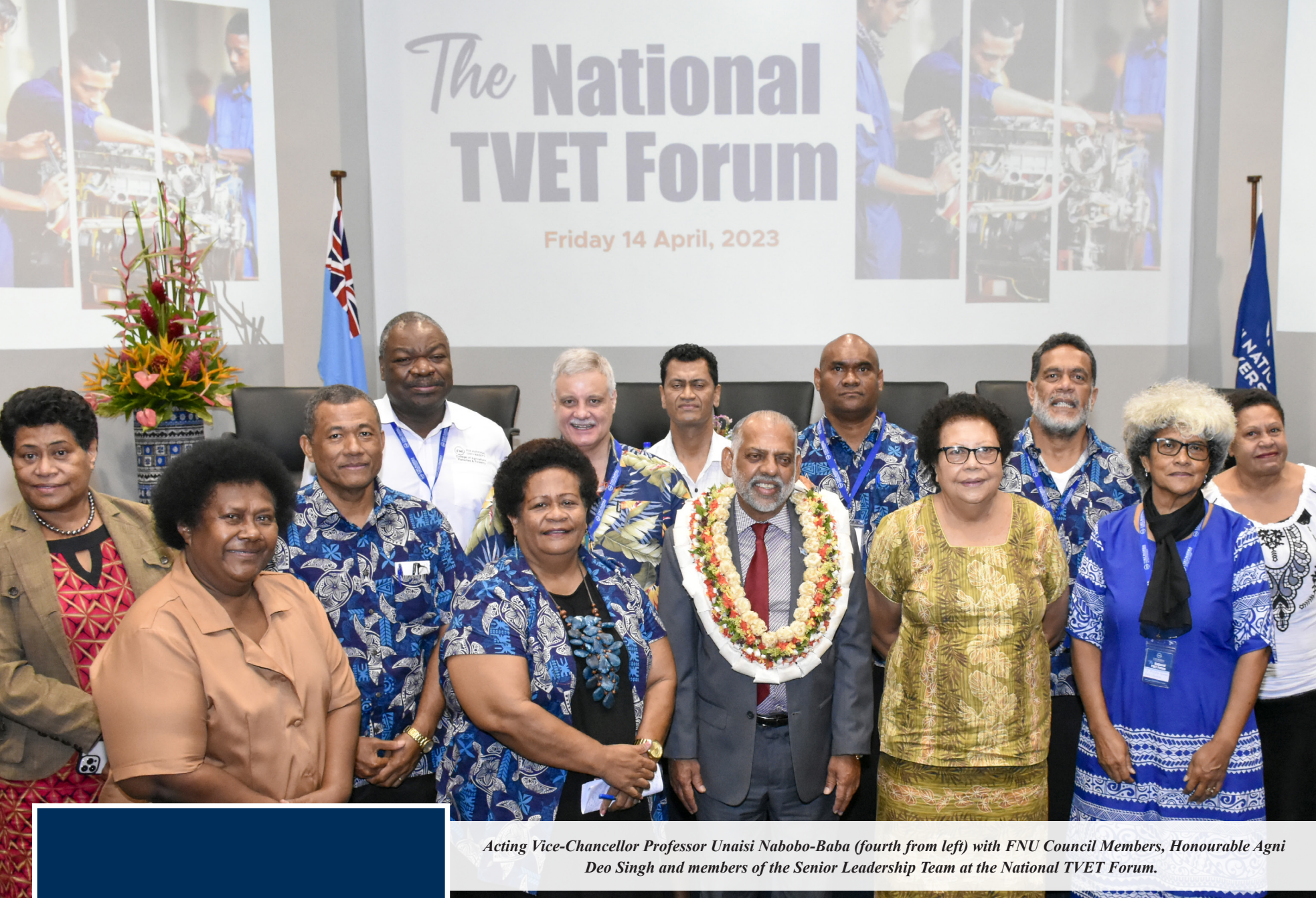


TVET GRADUATE UPSKILLS AT FNU

ASPIRING CAPTAIN ADVOCATES FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

**SCAN
FOR ECOPY**





Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba (fourth from left) with FNU Council Members, Honourable Agni Deo Singh and members of the Senior Leadership Team at the National TVET Forum.

TVET: Skills, Growth, Progress



**Professor
Unaisi Nabobo-Baba**
Acting Vice-Chancellor

Bula Vinaka!

I am delighted to write this column for the April edition of the FNUNIKUA. The highlight of this month was the 2023 National TVET Forum, which was organised by the Fiji National University’s, TVET Pasifika.

TVET Pasifika draws on FNU’s constituent units’ collective strength and expertise. We are very integrated in our push for TVET through our five academic colleges, the National Training and Productivity Centre, and the Fiji Maritime Academy. It embodies the FNU ethos of working closely with industries to provide education for employability and lifelong learning.

Hence, the National TVET Forum was an opportune time to reconnect with our stakeholders and reassess the TVET landscape. This was the first time we held the National TVET Forum since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The key issues that were discussed and debated during the forum were productivity, including how productivity can be enhanced in different sectors of the workforce, how training institutes can help revive TVET in Fiji, and the marketing of TVET programmes. The forum also dialogued on the introduction of the TVET policy, where participants, academics, and organisations discussed the way forward.

At FNU, like national universities all over the world, we focus very closely on what the nation tells us in its own development plans, in addition to regional and international commitments.

We train and educate accordingly. We are focusing right now on building the workforce that is not only good for the future of Fiji but also for the Pacific and beyond. At FNU, we aim to guide people on their Student Journey and ensure they are connected and see a pathway to their dream careers. This is why at FNU, we put our students at the centre of everything we do.

FNU recognises the importance of supporting its students throughout their academic journey. As such, the University is committed to improving its support services for student admission, retention, progression, completion, careers advice, and graduate outcomes. This includes offering transition and foundation

programmes to help students adjust to university life and providing career guidance to help them make informed decisions about their future.

We believe that student success is a collective effort, and the institution is committed to cultivating a culture of mutual respect and co-creation between students and staff. By celebrating student success and championing a culture of collaboration, FNU aims to create a supportive learning environment where all students can thrive.

To ensure that all students have access to tertiary education routes, it is critical to maintain high entry criteria for degree programmes while also improving the quality and profile of our TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) provision.

FNU aims to equip its graduates with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the global marketplace.

Being a dual-sector university, we at FNU are very committed to TVET and Higher Education. The synergy between the two is very often evident when you see a professor like me also featuring in the classes of our TVET students.

We believe the two can co-exist and help each other because the future of the job market might see us and our students see one, two, three, or even four jobs in their lifetime.

As the Acting-Vice-Chancellor, I am proud to say we have more than 100 TVET programmes. It allows individuals and organisations the opportunity to reskill and upskill.

FNU provides programmes in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) that provide students with the required skills, knowledge and capabilities to work in a variety of industries. Many career pathways are available so that graduates venture into sectors such as hospitality, automotive, electrical, plumbing, and more.

Overall, FNU’s TVET programmes provide students with a unique opportunity to follow their career goals, regardless of their initial academic qualifications. The programmes are meant to provide students with the skills and knowledge they need to excel in their chosen field, as well as provide a bridge to higher education programmes.



TVET in Fiji: Navigating Challenges and Embracing Change for a Brighter Future



Dr Isimeli Tagicakiverata
Pro-Vice Chancellor TVET

The 2023 National TVET Forum organised by the Fiji National University's TVET Pasifika facilitated discussions on the way forward for Fiji and creating the pathways for people to contribute towards the success of the nation through Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

It is of great concern to government and employers in Fiji that many skilled people are migrating to our neighbouring countries, Australia and New Zealand in the past 12 months. It is counterproductive to lose our skilful people to other countries as we need people to work in different sectors in Fiji. Many organisations, training institutions and employers have been affected greatly by overseas labour mobility.

We cannot compete with Australia and New Zealand, but we can improve the quality of work in Fiji, and the enjoyment of working in Fiji. This was the motivation behind the Forum, organised by FNU's TVET Pasifika to bring together key stakeholders to discuss TVET concerns.

The Forum provided us with feedback from the industry stakeholders and allows us to enhance our provisions of skills training. The University will also be analysing the agenda discussions and produce a report that will guide the way forward.

Skills migration and skills gap were major concerns discussed during the event and the institution will be working to further promote and enhance our TVET learning and teaching delivery to assist the government in bridging the skills gap challenge. FNU has a target to train 100,000 people through TVET by 2027.

From the interactive discussions participants talked about initiatives that could be implemented in organisations such as a competitive wage rates, a bonus system to retain workers, improve training provisions, better promotion mechanisms, work-life balance in the workplace, have more family support for people working in our hospitality sector, and possibly increase wages and others.

We had a very informative and engaging forum, with a wide range of views, opinions, concerns, and ideas being shared. We appreciate everyone's input regarding TVET skills, the relevance of courses, workforce planning, scholarships, micro-credentials, suggestions for alternative pathways, accreditation, and, of course, the importance of recognising prior learning.

The other significant presentation was conducted by The Ministry of Education, regarding the draft National TVET policy for Fiji. There are also discussions to revive the Fiji TVET Association, which was established in 2007.

Finally, it is the mission at FNU's TVET Pasifika to continue the momentum and change TVET perceptions in the country and will make the TVET Forum an annual event.

Forum to forge pathway for quality TVET education – Honourable Singh

Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Honourable Agni Deo Singh said the Fiji National University's (FNU) National TVET Forum will forge a pathway and provide quality TVET education.

The Honourable Minister shared these sentiments while delivering his keynote address at the FNU's TVET Pasifika's National TVET Forum held in Suva in April.

Honourable Agni Deo Singh commended FNU's TVET Pasifika for hosting a national conversation that will address issues of skills gaps, industry productivity and TVET in Fiji.

"We are all aware of the cries of the employers that skills shortage is chronic in our country, and we are desperately grappling for that quality, skilled workforce that now is missing because of the loss of our skilled workforce through migration, and the lack of interest in TVET.

"This forum will provide an opportunity

to brainstorm, issues, and freely represent our thoughts and ideas that will give birth to an outcome that is going to forge the pathway to our nation, to provide a quality TVET education to attracts our people," the Minister shared.

"Our employers are the most important stakeholders in the TVET sector, and it is of utmost importance that we get continuous feedback from them on the products, our students, that we are producing from our institutions."

Minister Singh has worked with FNU's National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC) for almost a decade, also serving as a Council Member for the Fiji National University, and the Chair of the NTPC Board.

"The economy of any country depends on the skills that our workers have, and if we are able to develop those skills, there will be growth in our economy."



FNU Chancellor and Chair of Council, Dr Adi Kesaia Seniloli (left) with the Honourable Agni Deo Singh.



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2023 National TVET Forum

Over 150 individuals from academic institutions, regional organisations and the private and public sector participated in the 2023 National TVET Forum at the Fiji National University's (FNU), Nasinu Campus.

The objective was to explore ways to

revive the TVET sector and provide the needed support and mechanisms to achieve this. Participants shared their sector-specific insights, experiences, and recommendations during the Forum.

It is important to note that TVET education is distinct from higher education

and requires significant industry input due to its practical nature. This was the first National TVET Forum to take place since the pandemic, with the University's previous hosting of the World TVET Conference in 2016.

Productivity and a Winning Culture



Alifereti Cawanibuka (left) at the National TVET Forum.

For any business or industry to thrive, productivity is crucial, and investing in human assets is necessary to ensure the smooth functioning of the company. This also promotes the creation of a winning culture, which was successful in groups such as the Fiji 7s team, who have been known for its successes in the last two Olympic Games.

These were the strong sentiments shared by the former Fiji National University (FNU), Sports Development Adviser, Alifereti Cawanibuka at the 2023 National TVET Forum.

"I want to emphasise the term 'winning culture'. How we can develop this and meet the needs of the 21st century. We as training providers have this task to address in whichever programme we are delivering, whether it's going to be challenging to our students and whether it's going to meet the industry needs and take us

to a different level," he said.

Likewise, organisations and management teams need to set the development plan for their staff to excel and be part of the winning culture of their workplace and in their careers.

"Now if you look at the composition of the (7s) players, they are the best players. The raw materials are there but what is important is the programme, whether the programme is effective, and this should be seen when the boys are participating at the international level."

"We need to see the gap and fill in those gaps through the development of staff, mentoring and counselling sessions, having one-on-one sessions with them and recognising their hard work and commitments. Through this, we will have highly skilled people and there would be a high productivity rate and the employees and employers will benefit."

Aspiring Captain advocates for women empowerment

Monisha Shivani Prasad's intention in life was never to blend in, and on her Fiji National University (FNU) graduation day, she stood out in her crisp white Fiji Maritime Academy (FMA) uniform.

The 24-year-old dreams of the day she commands a vessel and be addressed as Captain Monisha. After attaining her Diploma in Nautical Science from the

University, the aspiring captain aims to motivate females to take up careers in traditionally male-dominated fields.

"I started studies in 2017 and this has been a very long and rewarding journey for me. I am actually very excited to have graduated and to be the only Fijian of Indian descent girl in my batch. This is a very proud moment for me," Prasad (*pictured far right*) said excitedly.

"Women can be great leaders and mentors, and I would like to be a motivation to others to take up this career so we can dominate this field."

"It may sometimes get tough for females, but you know what they say: girls run the world!"

The former St Joseph Secondary School student's biggest inspiration in her life has been her father, and she acknowledges the support of her family in her tough journey.

"It has been a tough journey studying in a male-dominated field, whereby women are always undermined, as a matter of fact, women make great leaders and mentors."

"My dad always worked hard to achieve his dreams and never gave up, and that inspired me to never give up as well. It has been a tough journey, and my family has supported me a lot. I am very grateful for them."

"I love the profession I have chosen. I have an

immense love for the sea. Sea time provided me with the opportunity to be able to see all the islands in Fiji, except for the Yasawa Islands, which is next on my list," she said.

Prasad said studying at FNU was an enriching experience, and she wants to encourage students to pursue their education at the institution.





Lord to implement strategies from TVET Forum

Rigieta Lord will implement strategies learnt at the Fiji National University’s (FNU) TVET Forum in the Marshall Islands.

Lord was just not a regular participant at the forum. She travelled over 2000km from the Marshall Islands, with her husband, John Mar, to be a part of the national forum organised by FNU’s TVET Pasifika.

Lord, (*pictured above left*) who is the Dean of Workforce, Adult and Vocational Education Services at the College of Marshall Islands, said the National TVET Forum served both as professional and personal development for her.

“The National TVET Forum provided me with information on best practices, the sessions were interactive and discussions on strategic partnerships with industries and stakeholders were beneficial,” she said.

“I will be using some of the best practices shared

during this event when I return to the Marshall Islands.

To ensure that misconceptions towards TVET are addressed, marketing and empowerment of students should begin from the elementary level, developing policies and strategies to partner with the industries to provide real-life work experiences for our students.”

Lord, who was born and bred in Lautoka, was grateful to interact in person with the FNU trainer’s post-pandemic.

“Through this forum, I was able to meet face-to-face with the FNU-NTPC trainers who had been providing training for the Marshallese youths and school graduates via Zoom over the last three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” she highlighted.

“These trainers have really helped us at the College of the Marshall Islands by training these youths to

acquire relevant TVET skills to attain suitable employment to help their

families and their country,” she said.

“The major takeaways for me were the importance of acknowledging the feedback of employers and working together to find suitable solutions, conducting research to ensure that we are providing the relevant skills needed either in the country or in the Pacific, working in synergy and learning from our failures and moving forward.”

“Technology for TVET must be updated as well to ensure that graduates are able to meet the demands and standards in the workplace.

“Most importantly is working towards changing the mindset by embedding TVET into the academic curriculum.”

TVET is the way forward – Waibuta

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is the way forward in Fiji at this point in time.

These were the sentiments shared by the Head of the Navuso Agricultural Technical Institute, Uraia Waibuta during the National TVET Forum at Fiji National University’s (FNU), Nasinu Campus in Suva earlier this month.

Waibuta (*pictured below right*) said for instance, a lot of students in this day and age were not interested in taking up agriculture, but rather chose to go for white collar jobs.

“It’s a survival thing when people fall back into agriculture and we are fortunate to be part of that,” he said.

“We had identified issues such as the aging population and the rural-urban migration that was happening and the number of unemployed youths that were around Fiji. We then developed our own curriculum through the assistance of the Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC), had it accredited and registered and we now offer it to try and address the issues that is around Fiji.”

Fellow Forum participant and Post Fiji Limited CEO, Dr Anirudha Bansod

said the National TVET Forum was a great initiative which he held close to his heart.

“We always believe that we always have a lot of programmes, a lot of certifications, a lot of courses but when you go into the industry, the actual productivity and performance has not been translated into the way it has been educated in the institutes,” Dr Bansod said.



“There is a huge gap between what you teach, what is given by the Colleges and institutes and when the students come into the industry. We see that the gap is huge.”



TVET Policy crucial to address issues – Toribau

Ministry of Education (MoE) representative Isoa Toribau said having a National TVET Policy is crucial for engaging stakeholders and developing a joint action plan to promote TVET to the public.

Rabou (*pictured above*) is thankful to the Fiji National University (FNU) for organising the National TVET Forum ahead of the National Stakeholders Forum and the Education Summit.

“The first TVET policy document was drafted in 2004, and was updated in 2007, however, it was never officially endorsed; this National TVET policy is crucial for both in engaging our stakeholders and joint action in promoting TVET to the public,” Toribau shared.

“The absence of the National TVET Policy has been a long-standing issue in Fiji, and I know this is something that is very important.”

The Ministry of Education

representative further stated that the national policy aims to address issues such as the skills gap.

“We need the policy to direct us and to give us some clarity and direction in moving forward with the TVET development,” he said.

“Therefore, such a policy is required to transform Fiji’s system and to improve its effectiveness, its ability to respond effectively to the rapid changes taking place in the labor market and society as a consequence of global disruption.”

MoE Senior Curriculum Specialist, Vocational and Careers, Dharmesh Raman said the TVET Policy will cover the entire population of Fiji.

“The TVET national policy is not going to be very specific to every industry, it is an overarching policy for all TVET providers, whether it is formal, non-formal, or informal; all sectors will fall under its umbrella,” Raman shared.



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TVET graduate upskills at FNU

Vijay Shankar is a living testament that technical and vocational education and training (TVET) offers pathways to higher education learning.

The 38-year-old began his academic journey with a Trade Certificate in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning from the former Fiji Institute of Technology (FIT) and is now pursuing a Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership.

Shankar recently graduated from FNU as part of the first cohort of students from the Bachelor of Education (Specialist in TVET) programme offered by the College of Humanities and Education (CHE).

“I have spent 15 years of my life working as a Senior Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Technician at Mechanical Services Limited, and I am currently working at FNU as an Apprenticeship Officer,” he shared.

“My current role deals directly with training and assessments, so this TVET

programme allowed me to gain professional development that will contribute to my daily work practice.”

“I had a very wonderful experience studying at FNU; the training rooms and labs were well set up, and the lecturers provided the support needed.”

“An added advantage is that TVET programmes also have pathways to higher education courses that students can undertake.”

Originally from Bau in Nausori, Shankar credits his wife as the main motivator in his life.

“My wife tells me that nothing is impossible, and everything can be achieved through hard work, commitment, and dedication,” he shared.

Shankar urged students to pursue TVET programmes due to the increasing demand locally and internationally for trade and specialised skills.



Shankar with his wife after the graduation ceremony in March this year.

Concern for environment drives Joy to forestry studies



After observing the rapid deforestation and depletion of forestry resources, Angel Joy decided to play a proactive role in addressing the environmental issue by enrolling at the Fiji National University (FNU).

The 18-year-old is currently enrolled in Diploma in Forestry (Level 5) at the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF) and believes that the TVET programmes would provide her with the necessary skills and knowledge required to work in the forestry sector.

“I find the programme very interesting because we get to learn about the very thing that brings us the breath of life, which is trees,” she said.

Joy (*pictured left*) said trees play an important part in tackling climate change challenges because they operate as carbon sinks, absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere via photosynthesis.

“Trees help to prevent soil erosion by binding the soil together with their roots, which helps to retain water and nutrients. Trees help to limit the quantity of silt and nutrients entering rivers, lakes, and seas, which can contribute to climate change,” she highlighted.

“Trees help to conserve biodiversity by providing habitat for a variety of creatures. Trees help to preserve ecological balance by sustaining biodiversity, which is vital for climate change mitigation.”

Joy emphasised the importance of protecting the environment for future generations.

She believes that every individual can make a difference by taking small steps to reduce their carbon footprint and live sustainably.

It's never too late to achieve your dreams – Devi

It is never too late to achieve your dreams, says Fiji National University graduate and a goldmedalist, Shivane Bhavna Devi.

The 26-year-old mother of one child, graduated with Certificate 3 in Hairdressing during FNU's graduation ceremony in Suva recently.

The former Vunimono High School student is originally from Lakena in Nausori.

Interestingly, Devi secured a Trade Diploma in Agroforestry with the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry at FNU in 2014 till she changed her mind to switch professions and join the beauty industry.

“I chose to change my profession and undertake the hairdressing programme in order to gain the endless opportunities the profession offers me,” she said.

“I wanted to join the trade field in order to grow and earn good money.”

“Hairdressing is one of the happiest jobs in the world as it allows me to make

my clients look and feel good, it offers a positive job opportunity whereby I can also invest in my own salon business after gaining adequate experience from the industry.”

Devi is currently the Assistant Hairdresser at The Hair and Beauty Lounge at Sports City in Suva.

She said although her journey to get to where she is today was tough, she did not compromise her studies.

“I always strived for the best in both my theory and practical work during my studies,” she said.

“To the freelancing hairdressers in the salon industry who have been working in salons for years, you can join the Hairdressing Programme with FNU and become a qualified hairdresser which will obviously allow you to gain more knowledge, technique and skills and at the same time provide you with more opportunities to grow locally and internationally.”



Shivane Bhavna Devi with her husband, Shamal Kumar and son Liyaan Kumar.

PRIMARY SCHOOL AWARENESS PROGRAMME



Rishikul Primary School Year Six teacher, Rosema Sahayam commended the Fiji National University's (FNU) approach to creating awareness amongst primary school students regarding their study and career pathways.

Sahayam (*pictured right*) was part of the University's inaugural Primary School Awareness Programme conducted in the Central Division, whereby students of Years 6 to Year 8 attended a brief presentation session by FNU representatives.

"I am happy that FNU decided to visit our school and create awareness at the primary level and inform students about the opportunities available when they reach the tertiary level," Sahayam said.

"Students spend a lot of time with the teachers and at school. Hence, teachers play a very vital role in their lives as we teach them everything

from their education to discipline and instilling values in them."

"I am also impressed with the TVET programmes available at FNU that can be undertaken by students who may not be progressing well academically but have talents that we can encourage

them to refine and turn into a possible study and career opportunity."

The pilot campaign was conducted at 10 schools each in the Central, Western and Northern Divisions.



Primary school teacher lauds FNU

Awareness session beneficial to students – Ratu

Bethel Primary School, Assistant Head Teacher, Disilika Ratu said the Fiji National University's (FNU), Primary School Awareness Programme (PSAP) was beneficial and would empower students to be more aware of the opportunities available to them.

Labasa's Bethel Primary School was among the 30 pilot schools that were part of the University's inaugural initiative.

"I am extremely grateful to FNU for coming to our school to conduct this awareness programme with the Year 6-Year 8 students at our school. This will allow the students to be aware of the opportunities available to them, and what field they would like to progress in once they begin secondary studies," Ratu (*pictured right*) said.

"In our days, we were not aware of the courses that were available for us to study, and through this project by FNU, it is good that children who are still in primary school will be knowledgeable on the right pathway to take towards a

successful tertiary education, especially at FNU."

Ratu has taught at Bethel Primary School for the past 11 years and said parents and teachers were equally supportive of the growth and development of the students.

"Fiji National University is a good choice, as there is a wide range of programmes and courses offered. Hence, the children have more options to choose from," she said.

"To all the Year 8 students – this is your last year being a primary school student, you need to work hard. Be on your toes every day and be ready to adapt to changes."

Other schools in the North visited by FNU included Labasa Primary School, Holy Family Primary School, Korotari Primary, Batinikama Primary School, Naseakula District School, Qawa Primary School, Saint Mary's Primary School, Labasa Sangam Primary School and Naduna Arya Pathshala.



Thank you, FNU! – Qioniwasa

"Thank you, Fiji National University, for thinking of the primary school students!"

These sentiments were shared by Jasper Williams Primary School (JWPS) Year 8 teacher, Luse Qioniwasa following the university's inaugural Primary School Awareness Programme initiative that was held with the school's Years 6, 7 and 8 students.

Qioniwasa (*pictured left*) said the pilot programme was a brilliant idea done by FNU.

"To me personally, I think this is a great initiative as this is something new. Usually, the tertiary institutions are focused on secondary school students, but times have changed and

curriculums have changed," she said.

"It is about time that this comes down to the primary level and at least it will create awareness with the girls regarding their career choices and the decisions they need to make to reach their goals later on in life."

She added that before the session began, the girls were reminded to fully utilise the opportunity.

"JWPS is fortunate to be part of this programme, I reminded the girls to listen attentively and to make sure when they go back, they learn something as it will be able to help them in their choices in life and what they would like to be in the new future."



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MY FNU

Talanoa

with our Alumni



Biomedical Engineer shares journey

of employment. When I left University, I was able to adapt to the workforce due to the knowledge received from FNU, as well as the practicals received.”

Career

Livicala began her career in the biomedical industry in 2015 as a Biomedical Engineer. She gradually progressed in her profession to Senior Biomedical Engineer and is currently the National Biomedical Engineer under the Ministry of Health and Medical Services.

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread through the world and reached our shores, families, and businesses closed up and retreated into their homes. This was not the case for Livicala as she joined her colleagues in being on standby to assist the healthcare workers.

This gave her a unique experience as Livicala was expecting her third child at the time.

“My two older children, Elina and Joseph, were cared for by my cousin Salanieta Tinaivai while my husband, Paulo Aisea, who is an Electrical/Instrumentation technician at Vatukoula Gold Mine Ltd, continued to work,” she shared.

“Despite the difficulties, I was determined to undertake my job and was devoted to ensuring that the biomedical equipment in Fiji’s health institutions was in operation.”

“I am proud of my team’s efforts and the sacrifices they made to keep the people of Fiji safe.”

“We had to work relentlessly throughout the pandemic to guarantee that our health facilities had the required biomedical equipment to aid our medical experts in the fight against the COVID-19 virus. We were devoted to providing equipment that was dependable, safe, and of excellent quality.”

Family

“I met my husband in 2015, and we had our first child, Joseph, then Elina, and then Ratu Jese,” she explained.

“Whenever I felt like giving up, my little family and devotion to the nation were always my beacons of hope. Being separated from our children was difficult because I was working in isolation at CWM, while my husband remained in Vatukoula throughout the lockdown periods.”

“I am grateful to God, my husband, our children, and our family for their unwavering support and

encouragement during our difficult times.”

Livicala’s dedication to her work and family as a mother, wife, and healthcare practitioner is evident.

“I am grateful to my family for their assistance during this difficult period. I am also grateful to my colleagues, who worked tirelessly to ensure that Fiji’s health institutions were properly equipped with biomedical equipment. Their passion for their profession inspired me and reminded me of the importance of our work.”

Words of Advice

Livicala stated that the most important piece of advice she received throughout her career was to keep her goals in mind.

“What is all your study, learning, and understanding worth if it does not lead to wisdom? What is wisdom except knowing what is right and doing the right thing?” she asked.

“Continue to strive for greatness in your studies, work, family, and all aspects of your life.”

Alumni Connect

Graduates of FNU and its former institutions can register to be part of the exclusive Alumni Connect portal and remain connected to their fellow classmates and the University.

Registered alumni can receive news and updates on key University activities, read alumni success and feature articles, scholarship and upskilling opportunities, networking events and professional development and training seminars.

To register, please scan the QR code at the top left corner of this page.



Virisila Livicala was always captivated by machines and how their various parts worked together to perform their intended tasks. Fuelled by this interest, Livicala undertook engineering studies at the Fiji National University (FNU) to pursue a career in this field.

In 2006, she began studies in the Diploma in Electrical Engineering (Electronics & Instrumentation) programme at the former Fiji Institute of Technology (FIT), which is now the University’s College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST).

Livicala credits her upbringing for her succeeding in her academic ambitions.

“I grew up in a household that preached the values of hard work and commitment to spiritual growth, so I was ready to ensure that I succeed in what I had set my mind to,” Livicala said.

The youngest of three siblings, Livicala credited her late mother, Elina Baravivula Ranuinui, and her father, Nemani Livicala, as the most influential people in her life.

She was born in the village of Namako, Dogotuki in Macuata, and has maternal ties to Korowiri and Uluibau in Labasa.

Education

Livicala completed her high school education at Jai Narayan College before joining FNU.

“Growing up, I was fascinated with machines and engineering, so I decided to pursue a career path in an area that dealt with machines and at the same time be able to help people,” she shared.

“Education is key if you want to succeed in life. One should continue to upgrade themselves in today’s fast-paced world.”

“I am grateful to FNU as it had a practical component that aided my transition to the real world

The FNUNIKUA is a monthly newsletter which aims to promote the University’s activities to the wider community. This newsletter is produced by the Public Relations and Communications team at the Division of Marketing and Communications.

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