



FIJI NATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY



# ACTING VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

04 July 2023

**Dear all**

***Bula Vinaka and Kia Orana from the Cook Islands!***

By the time you read this, I would be at the 5th Pacific Islands Universities Research Network (PIURN) Conference happening this week in Rarotonga.

The Network was established in 2012 and is made up of 14 universities, including FNU, across the Pacific Island Countries and Territories to promote meaningful collaboration amongst researchers to identify and address issues affecting our region.

With over 200 delegates participating, the Conference is centred around the theme Exploring this Sea of Islands and covers various fields; from arts to architecture, education to politics, climate science to history, Pacific studies to health, language revitalisation and oceanography.

I look forward to contributing to these discussions and shaping research, training, and future outlooks in the region.

Events as such will only enhance our capabilities, knowledge, and delivery in the fields of learning, teaching and research. Hence, it is crucial that we continue to evaluate and discuss new opportunities and approaches that can strengthen our work.

Last week, I was honoured to attend the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences' (CMNHS) Health Professional Education Symposium.

The three-day symposium highlighted the College's commitment to exploring new approaches that maintain high educational standards, advances in simulation technology and teaching practices, and an improved student experience.

This certainly aligns with the University's strategic ambitions, as well as our commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals, such as Goal 3 on Good Health and Wellbeing, which deals closely with our College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences.

To ensure we continue to undertake projects aligned with national priorities and the SDGs, the Times Higher Education (THE) Steering Committee was formed to champion our sustainability initiatives at the College and Divisional level, as well as prepare our submissions to the 2024 THE Impact rankings.

As you may recall, FNU was ranked for the first time in 2022. This year, we have managed to maintain our ranking and improved the University's overall scores.

The Steering Committee is chaired by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor TVET, Dr Isimeli Tagicakiverata. More details regarding the Steering Committee will be shared in the coming weeks.

By now, you would have also heard from the National Budget announcement last Friday. The University acknowledges the Coalition Government's continued support of the institution in providing quality and accessible trade and higher education training to all Fijians.

Finally, I wish everyone a safe and productive week ahead.

*Vinaka*

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

