



FIJI NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY



ACTING VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

24 August 2023

Bula Vinaka!

It's been a busy few days here at Fiji's national University!

I was fortunate to host celebrated chef, TV host and Pacific Island Food Revolution founder, Robert Oliver at the third series of the Office of the Vice-Chancellor's Leadership Seminar. Chef Oliver delivered many insights into how our eating habits and choices also had an impact on the environment.

He also shared simple yet significant ways in which we all contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Although we may not realise it, he rightly highlighted that one plate of food was connected to numerous Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as SDG 3 – Good Health and Wellbeing, SDG 14 and 15 – Life Below Water and Life on Land, SDG 2 – Zero Hunger, SDG 13 – Climate Action and SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities, to name a few.

Oliver's seminar certainly aligned well with the University's strategic and sustainability objectives, and I look forward to the upcoming projects that we are working on alongside the chef and his Pacific Island Food Revolution team.

In line with our sustainability and climate action research projects, I was joined by a team from the University at our Climate-U Participant Action Research Project (PARC) at Nadaro Village in Tailevu this week. We were privileged to be part of the receiving party of Australia's Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Honourable Chris Bowen and the Resident Representative for the UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji, Munkhtuya (Tuya) Altangerel. The officials were accompanied by the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Korea International Cooperation Agency, and Australian Embassy officials.

This week was also the signing of a Record of Discussions between the University and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). This is also a significant milestone for the University and the College of Medicine Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS).

Through this multi-million-dollar co-partnership, we aim to strengthen the development, training, and retention of the health workforce in Fiji. In collaboration, we will now be able to develop and equip a rehabilitation laboratory for teaching, public service, and research.

In everything we do, the University strives to ensure our activities benefit our students, staff and the wider community in learning, teaching and research. We also encourage our students and staff to pursue opportunities for further studies and research.

Hence, we are very proud of people such as Waisiki Loco for receiving a fully funded scholarship from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Government of India!

Waisiki worked at FNU's Office of the Registrar as an Administrator and Student Relations Officer at FNU's Ba campus, prior to receiving his scholarship last month. He is also a proud former student of FNU. The 29-year-old will be travelling to India next week Wednesday to pursue a Master of Arts in English at one of the top-ranked universities in India - the University of Delhi!

All the best to Waisiki and all our current and former students who are pursuing their dreams and turning their aspirations into reality at FNU!

I know our students are also looking forward to the Mid Semester Break in a week's time! Please ensure you complete all your assignments and tasks beforehand so that you are able to enjoy your break and pursue your other interests.

Vinaka

Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba
Acting Vice-Chancellor

