



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

28 April, 2025

Dear FNU Family,

This past week marked a momentous milestone in our ongoing journey toward sustainable development and regional resilience. I am proud to share that Fiji National University (FNU) has signed a significant agreement with the Higher Education Commission of Fiji (HECF), securing a \$2 million grant under the 2024/2025 national budget in support of the Pacific Action for Climate Transitions (PACT).

PACT, a collaborative initiative between FNU and Monash University, champions high-impact research, education, and policy engagement. This agreement reflects not only the trust placed in our institution by the Fiji Government but also our shared vision of enhancing climate resilience across Fiji and the broader Pacific region.

As I highlighted during the signing ceremony, this partnership aligns seamlessly with our Strategic Plan 2024 - 2026. Through PACT, we will empower our communities, inform policy, and foster the next generation of Pacific researchers.

I extend my sincere thanks to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and our partners at Monash University.

In other news, I wish to express my deep appreciation to our Outreach Team for the successful facilitation of the ongoing Career Teachers' Workshop. Equipping our secondary school educators with comprehensive and up-to-date information about FNU is critical, as teachers are key influencers in students' decisions about their future studies. Your efforts are helping us reach more young people with the opportunity to pursue quality, affordable, and accessible education at FNU.

Let me also extend heartfelt congratulations to all recipients of the Vice-Chancellor's Research Excellence Awards. Your dedication and achievements embody the spirit of innovation and inquiry that we celebrate and cultivate at FNU. I encourage all our early-career and student researchers to be inspired by these accomplishments - your curiosity, perseverance, and hard work are shaping the future of our region.

A sincere *vinaka vakalevu* to everyone who participated in the 2025 Fiji Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Conference. Your engagement in this important national dialogue underscores why FNU continues to host such pivotal events. We remain committed to advancing critical conversations and partnerships that serve the needs of our communities, industries, and nation.

Finally, to all our students, I remind you that we are now well into the second half of the first semester. This is the time to focus, to persist, and to push forward with purpose. Your commitment to your studies is an investment in your future and in the future of our region. Stay strong, seek support when needed, and remember: *you belong here, and you can succeed.*

Vinaka Vakalevu

Professor Unaiyi Nabobo-Baba

Vice-Chancellor

Fiji National University