

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

3 November, 2025



Bula Vinaka to our FNU Vuvale!

Last week was a remarkable one for our university, a week that truly reflected FNU's commitment to innovation, inclusivity, and lifelong learning.

We began the week by formalising a transformative partnership through the signing of an MOA with FIJI Water and Neptune Pacific, marking a \$14 million investment in the establishment of the FIJI Water and Neptune Pacific Career Centre, a cutting-edge Marine and Manufacturing Training Facility. This initiative will open new pathways for many Fijians, providing hands-on training, industrial skill development, and academic certification for those pursuing careers in the marine and manufacturing sectors.

The Career Centre emerged from extensive research and discussions between FIJI Water, Neptune Pacific, and FNU, which identified a significant gap in essential industrial skills. This partnership is more than just a development project, it reflects FNU's vision to provide an enriching, practical, and forward-thinking learning environment, while fostering sustainable industry practices. At FNU, we believe education is not confined to textbooks; it thrives in spaces that nurture curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking.

Secondly, We are also proud to collaborate with the Fiji Chefs Association and host the Fiji National Salon Culinaire 2025 at our FNU Bonunaqwele Campus, Nadi. This was under the College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies and the National Training and Productivity Centre. More than half of our students took part in the three days competition and scooped medals from the various prize categories each day. The FNU was also privileged to have four international judges be part of the judging panel and I am also happy that positive feedback were given to our students, motivating and encouraging them to excel in their field.

Thirdly, we also celebrated the achievements of 707 graduates from the Rural Remote Maritime Technical and Vocational Education and Training (RRMTVET) programme under our National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC). Delivered by the Department of Community-Based Non-Formal Education (CBNFE), this initiative has been empowering communities since 2012, formerly known as the Sustainable Livelihood Programme (SLEP).

The two-week TVET training, which emphasises 70% practical learning, continues to transform lives in communities such as Narewa, Nakavu, Namotomoto, Navoci, Sikituru, Sabeto, Yavusania, Moala, Saunaka, Nawaka, Korovuto, Yako, Dratabu, and Vatutu. Among the participants were individuals aged from 17 to 69 years, showcasing that learning truly has no age limit.

We also welcomed Mr Apisai Tuiloma as the new Director of Estates and Facilities and farewelled Mr Shalendra Gounden, who served the University with dedication and professionalism. We thank Mr Gounden for his service and wish him well in his future endeavours.

In addition, the Office of Learning and Teaching's International Office hosted a Completion Ceremony to celebrate the achievements of 38 international students from across the Pacific region who have completed their studies at the FNU. These students, ranging from undergraduate to master's level, have shown remarkable perseverance and commitment to their academic journey, and we are proud to have been part of their success story.

NTPC launched its inaugural five-day Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Business Productivity and Innovation Course training.

The training aimed to offer 57 participants an in-depth exploration of both the fundamentals and frontiers of AI, including how machine learning functions and how AI can be applied in business contexts to enhance productivity, streamline operations, and spark innovation. It signifies a vital step in professional development, emphasising AI's role as a strategic enabler for organisations seeking to remain competitive in a rapidly evolving landscape.

This week is study break I encourage all students to use this time wisely to prepare for the upcoming final examinations. Remember, success is the result of consistent effort and belief in your own potential.

To our dedicated academic and staff, thank you for your tireless efforts throughout the year, for guiding and preparing our students, and for your commitment to excellence in education and service.

Together, we have achieved so much, and together, we will continue to advance FNU's mission of empowering our people and transforming our nation through education.

Vinaka vakalevu, and I wish everyone a productive and inspiring week ahead.
Stay safe and Be Blessed!

Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba
Vice-Chancellor
Fiji National University