

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

23 February, 2026



Greetings to my FNU Vuvale!

As we settle into another busy and purposeful week, I find myself reflecting on the many meaningful engagements and achievements that marked the week that had just passed.

Last week was both heartening and energising for our University community. The FNU TVET successfully hosted the National TVET Forum at the Sofitel Hotel in Nadi on Friday. It brought together more than 130 participants and over 10 key stakeholders for a truly meaningful discussion. I acknowledge everyone who contributed their voices, ideas and experience to the conversation centred on how, as a nation and as a National University, we can better respond to the evolving skills needs of Fiji as per the National Development Plan 2025-2029 and vision 2050.

The dialogue was thoughtful, practical and forward-looking. It reminded me that when we gather with purpose and shared commitment, we are capable of shaping solutions grounded in our realities and guided by our aspirations for our people.

I also had the pleasure of a series of meetings with valued partners last week, including the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) team and colleagues from the Pacific Community (SPC). These engagements are important touchpoints, ensuring our work remains collaborative, regionally connected and aligned with broader Pacific priorities. These include the 2026 Melanesian Festival of Arts and Conference.

Let us also congratulate Associate Professor Donald Wilson on his induction as a Fellow of the Pacific Academy of Sciences. He is the first from Fiji National University to receive this distinguished honour. This milestone speaks not only to his personal dedication, but also to the strength and regional impact of Pacific-led research. It reinforces FNU's growing role in shaping scientific dialogue on health, climate and

development issues that matter deeply to our region.

Our National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC) has also achieved global recognition through accreditation with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. This is a significant achievement. Alongside this, FNU colleagues Jasbindar Singh and Ashutosh Maharaj have participated in international fellowship programmes, positioning our University as an active contributor to global conversations on internet governance and digital policy.

In the area of research, I am pleased to share that through a collaborative international workshop with partners from the University of Auckland, we are investing in research excellence for our postgraduate and master's students in medical sciences. This initiative strengthens the research capability of both students and supervisors, supporting publication outcomes that can directly inform healthcare planning and policy in Fiji and across the Pacific. It is particularly timely as we address pressing health concerns such as NCDs and HIV/AIDS.

This week, we look forward to celebrating the graduation of 365 students under our Community Based Non-Formal Education and Training programme in Labasa. Of these graduates, 251 are male and 114 are female. Most inspiring of all is our oldest graduate, an 82-year-old woman, who also becomes the oldest graduate under FNU's TVET Pasifika. Her achievement is a beautiful reminder that learning truly has no age limit, and that education remains a lifelong journey.

May we all have a productive and fulfilling week ahead.

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