

RESEARCH OFFICE & PACT WORKSHOP

"Shaping the Future of Research: Strategic Planning Workshop 2026"

Hideaway Resort, Sigatoka, Fiji | 1-2 April 2026



The Fiji National University (FNU), through its Research & Innovation Office, successfully convened a Strategic Planning Workshop on 1-2 April 2026 at the Hideaway Resort. The workshop, partially funded by the Pacific Action for Climate Transitions (PACT), aimed to strengthen the University's research and innovation agenda in alignment with institutional priorities and national development goals.

The workshop was led by the Pro-Vice Chancellor Research & Innovation (PVCR&I) and attended by the college Associate Deans Research (ADRs), the Acting Dean of the Centre for Graduate Studies, and two professors who are members of the University Research Committee (URC). The primary objective was to reflect on achievements and challenges from 2025, while setting clear, strategic and actionable priorities for 2026 and beyond.

Deliberations were informed by strong institutional performance in 2025, marked by an increase in research publications, expanded research training initiatives, and the successful hosting of FNU's inaugural Research Symposium.

In his address, Professor Paul Iji, PVCR&I, emphasized the importance of strategic alignment and innovation in enhancing research impact. He noted that the workshop provided a vital platform to consolidate progress, foster collaboration, and ensure that research efforts remain responsive to national and regional priorities.

Key Outcomes of the Workshop

- Identification of priority research areas aligned with Fiji's development agenda and regional needs.

- Strengthening strategies to increase research income and diversify funding sources.
- Enhancing staff research capacity through targeted training, mentorship, and postgraduate support.
- Promoting interdisciplinary research and expanding international collaborations.
- Advancing discussions on the development of an academic workload model in consultation with HR, PVCL&T and PVCRI.
- Exploring the establishment of postdoctoral fellowship positions through the ACIAR, PACT and other funding schemes.
- Enhancing University-wide awareness and participation in global rankings, including the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings.
- Encouraging colleges to expand and utilize adjunct academic appointments and other volunteer schemes.

The workshop also underscored the importance of translating research into tangible outcomes, strengthening community engagement, and enhancing the visibility and impact of research outputs.

The Fiji National University remains committed to fostering a vibrant and impactful research culture that contributes meaningfully to national development and addresses key challenges across the Pacific region.

For more information, please contact:

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