

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

10 August



What an exciting week we have ahead of us at the Fiji National University!

We are starting this week with real momentum, with major developments, new partnerships and new opportunities taking shape across our university.

This week, we will sign a significant agreement with the Unit Trust of Fiji (UTOF) that will pave the way for multimillion-dollar development projects for FNU.

Through this partnership, we will be able to progress major projects that will strengthen our infrastructure and create better spaces for teaching, learning, research and innovation.

At the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, we will celebrate the groundbreaking of the new KOICA-funded Simulation Centre. This Centre will provide modern simulation-based learning facilities for our healthcare students.

These are among the major milestones for FNU.

For some time, we have been talking about the University we want to build and the facilities our students and staff deserve. We are now seeing those plans move forward, and that is something we should all be excited about.

Imagine what this means for our students. They will have greater opportunities to practise clinical procedures, respond to realistic healthcare scenarios and build their confidence before entering our hospitals and health facilities.

This is an investment in our students and in the future of healthcare in Fiji and the Pacific.

And that is only part of what is happening this week!

Today, our Office of Research and Innovation joins ACIAR and the University of the South Pacific in launching the new phase of the Pacific Agricultural Scholarship and Support (PASS) Programme.

PASS is helping us invest in the next generation of Pacific researchers and professionals in agriculture, fisheries and forestry. At a time when our region is dealing with food security, climate change and the sustainable management of our natural resources, we need our own researchers developing knowledge and solutions that respond to our Pacific realities.

We are also looking forward to welcoming scholars, practitioners and community leaders to our Nasinu Campus for the 2nd Pasifika Philosophies Conference, held in partnership with Pasifika Communities University.

Under the theme, "Pasifika Philosophies, Leadership, Weaving Futures," the conference provides an important space for Pacific knowledge, leadership and ways of thinking to be shared and celebrated.

On Wednesday, another important international engagement comes to FNU when we welcome the Director General of the International Solar Alliance, Mr Ashish Khanna, to our Derrick Campus.

Our staff and students will have the opportunity to engage directly with him through a roundtable discussion and seminar on renewable energy, climate change and sustainable development.

These are important conversations for Fiji, and I am pleased that FNU continues to be a place where these conversations can happen.

There will also be plenty of colour, language and culture across our University as the College of Humanities, Education and Law celebrates Vernacular Week.

I hope our FNU Vuvale will embrace it!

The excitement of this week follows what was a truly significant week for FNU in Vualiku.

Last week, we opened the FNU Foundation Northern Hub and the Literacy and Numeracy Centre and, after many years of waiting, marked the groundbreaking of the Fiji National University Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere Labasa Campus.

Following the groundbreaking, I sent an FNU team to Savusavu to visit land that has generously been gifted to the University by the landowners for the future development of an FNU TVET Centre.

Our work in Labasa and Savusavu forms part of our wider commitment through the Vualiku Project and our support for the Look North Policy. We want to bring education and skills training closer to our people and ensure that where you live does not determine the opportunities available to you.

When I look at what is happening across FNU at the moment, I am excited about where we are heading.

There is much happening across our university, and none of it would be possible without the hard work and commitment of our people.

To our staff, vinaka vakalevu. Your work is moving this University forward.

And to our students, I want you to know that these developments are ultimately about you. We are working to build a university that gives you better opportunities today and creates even greater opportunities for those who will come after you.

As we begin another busy week, I wish all our staff and students well. Let us continue to support one another, make the most of the opportunities before us and continue moving forward together as one FNU Vuvale.