

THE 2026 ACHIEVEMENTS QUARTER 1, 2026

(January to March Report)

From the Office of the Vice Chancellor.





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Fiji National University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Unaisi Nabobo Baba.

A Note from the Vice-Chancellor

Bula Vinaka and warm greetings to the Fiji National University Vuvale,

Quarter One of 2026 marks a defining and exciting new chapter for the Fiji National University. In a historic milestone for the institution, FNU officially transitioned to operate under the Office of the Prime Minister within the Ministry of Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics. This marks a significant moment for the University and the future of Higher Education and national development in Fiji.

This transition signals Government's strong confidence in the Fiji National University as a strategic national institution entrusted with supporting workforce readiness, research, innovation, leadership development, and the transformation of communities across Fiji and the Pacific region. It also reflects the growing role of FNU in shaping national priorities and contributing meaningfully towards Fiji's long-term development agenda.

During the First Quarter, the Fiji National University (Amendment) Act 2026 was also successfully reviewed marking a significant milestone for the institution. The new Act strengthens the governance framework and future direction of the University while positioning FNU to operate more strategically in alignment with national priorities and Fiji's long-term development agenda. This development signals a new chapter for the University as it continues its institutional transformation and strengthens its role as Fiji's national university and the largest university in the Pacific region.

This report is also significant as it serves as one of the first major institutional reports presented to our new FNU Council's term. It provides Council members and stakeholders with an overview of the University's strategic direction, progress, and achievements during the first three months of 2026, while reflecting the broader goals outlined in the University's Vision and Mission 2024 and Corporate Plan 2026.

As we entered the new academic year 2026, the University has continued to strengthen its commitment to excellence in Higher Education and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). Across all Colleges, Divisions, and campuses, staff and students commenced the year with renewed energy, dedication, and a shared commitment to service and academic success.

The journey to this point has not been easy.

Over recent years, Fiji National University has experienced some of its most difficult periods. Despite limited resources, financial pressures, operational challenges, and increasing demands, staff across the University have continued to work tirelessly and make sacrifices to ensure that the institution remained operational and continued to serve students and communities throughout Fiji. Behind steadfast in their every achievement captured in this report are individuals and teams who have remained committed to the University and the nation during challenging times.

It is because of this resilience, professionalism, teamwork, and commitment that Quarter One of 2026 has already recorded significant progress across the University's strategic priority areas.

These achievements included successful nationwide enrolment and outreach campaigns, increased student participation and orientation activities, approval of new academic programmes, strengthening of governance and institutional systems,

expansion of industry and regional partnerships, community-based outreach initiatives, and continued investment in research and higher degree training.

One of the major milestones during Quarter One was the continued development and opening of the Naiyaca Campus, reflecting FNU's commitment to expanding access and strengthening its presence in the Northern Division. The University also continued to deepen partnerships through engagements with government ministries, regional organisations, development partners, industry stakeholders, and international institutions.

FNU further strengthened its regional leadership role through engagements with the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) and Pacific Community (SPC), particularly in areas relating to TVET micro-qualifications, climate resilience, indigenous knowledge systems, and regional workforce development. Community engagement initiatives and outreach programmes also continued across rural and maritime communities, reinforcing the University's commitment to inclusive and transformative education.

Research, innovation, and student welfare remained central to the University's work during Quarter One. Significant achievements included higher degree completions, grant-funded research initiatives, establishment of strategic collaborations, expansion of the FNU Foundation support programmes, digital transformation initiatives, and continued efforts to improve teaching, learning, and institutional quality systems.

The University also recorded strong student enrolment figures and continued progress in institutional reforms, governance improvements, workforce development initiatives, and strategic partnerships that continue to position FNU as a leading institution in the Pacific region.

These achievements demonstrate the Fiji National University's strong alignment with the National Development Plan (NDP) 2025–2029 and Vision 2050 through quality education and training, strengthened workforce readiness, research excellence, innovation, and meaningful service to communities across Fiji and the Pacific region.

I wish to acknowledge and thank our new University Council, Senior Leadership Team, management, staff, students, alumni, industry partners, our Ministry, other government ministries, development agencies, and stakeholders for their continued support, commitment, and contributions throughout Quarter One.

As we move forward into the remainder of 2026, the Fiji National University remains committed to strengthening institutional excellence, innovation, inclusivity, and regional leadership as we continue transforming lives through education, research, and service.



Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba

Vice-Chancellor

Fiji National University



The Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for the Fiji National University, the Honorable Sitiveni Rabuka.

OUR UNIVERSITY'S...

Vision

To be the leading dual-sector university in the Pacific.

Mission

To serve the people and economy of Fiji and the Pacific by offering employability-focused education, impactful research, proactive stakeholder engagement, and leadership in sustainability.

Values

Care – for ourselves and each other

Honesty – in the spirit of continuous improvement

Accountability – to our students, stakeholders and funders

Service – to our communities, nation and region

Excellence – in everything we do

Key PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2026

Priority Area	KPIs
Priority Area 1: Inclusiveness & Diversity: People, Place and Cultures	• Celebration of cultural traditions and practices by the University Community. • Increase in research especially in aspects of traditions including languages of the Pacific. • Increase in research in traditional medicine and agricultural practices. • Organise and hold, or support, conferences in indigenous knowledge and national heritage.
Priority Area 2: Educational Excellence & Students Affirming Experiences in TVET and Higher Education	• Ensure and sustain appropriate qualification of all teaching and newly recruited academic staff. • Provide incentives for qualification upgrading by TVET and Higher Education staff. • Institute outstanding Teaching and Research Awards for academic staff. • Provide incentives for high level academic publications.
Priority Area 3: Research, Innovation, Social and Technological Development	• Invest in relevant and appropriate infrastructure to support scientific research with real societal outcomes. • Support and incentivise female graduate or HDR students in STEM areas. • Engage with universities outside the region for collaborative research in AI.
Priority Area 4: Financial Sustainability, Endowment and Enterprise	• Undertake initiative to establish financial endowments from the community through naming of FNU buildings. • Engage actively with international development partners to fund FNU expertise in researching socio-economic issues. • Fine tune and enhance online programmes to international standards to attract subscribers outside the region.
Priority Area 5: Education for Employment and Professionalisation	• Strengthen skills training in TVET programmes to provide employment-ready graduates. • Ensure complete accreditation of FNU Courses and programmes to international standards. • Establish and strengthen programme quality control processes. • Actively pursue initiatives to establish and attract international students.

KPI Achievement SUMMARY TABLE

The table below provides a summary of selected achievements from Quarter One 2026 that are aligned to the Fiji National University Strategic Priority Areas and corresponding Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) outlined above. The activities highlighted demonstrate the collective efforts of the University's Colleges, Divisions, Offices, and Sections in advancing FNU's strategic goals and supporting national and regional development priorities.

College/Division/Section	Priority Area	KPI Achieved	Description of Activity	Date Achieved
Office of the Vice-Chancellor	Priority Area 1: Inclusiveness & Diversity: People, Place and Cultures	Organise and support conferences in indigenous knowledge and national heritage	Public presentation on the Diploma in Vanua Leadership in Vanuatu focusing on indigenous knowledge systems and culturally grounded leadership solutions.	Jan–Mar 2026
	Priority Area 3: Research, Innovation, Social and Technological Development	Engage with universities outside the region for collaborative research	FNU supported MSG and SPC initiatives on TVET Micro Qualifications and regional education pathways in Melanesia.	Jan–Mar 2026
Office of Learning & Teaching	Priority Area 2: Educational Excellence & Students Affirming Experiences in TVET and Higher Education	Ensure and sustain appropriate qualification of teaching staff	Seven award programmes approved by Senate including CETVET and CMNHS programmes.	Jan–Mar 2026
	Priority Area 5: Education for Employment and Professionalisation	Actively pursue initiatives to establish and attract international students	Placement of 92 sponsored regional students including DFAT-AAPS, Manaaki Scholars and Nauru scholars.	Jan–Mar 2026
College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS)	Priority Area 1: Inclusiveness & Diversity: People, Place and Cultures	Celebration of cultural traditions and practices by the University community	CMNHS Multicultural Week celebrations held under the theme "Cultural Dialogue – Weaving Culture through Health Education."	Jan–Mar 2026
	Priority Area 2: Educational Excellence & Students Affirming Experiences in TVET and Higher Education	Provide incentives for qualification upgrading	Three staff supported for postgraduate studies including two PhD studies.	Jan–Mar 2026
	Priority Area 3: Research, Innovation, Social and Technological Development	Increase research in traditional medicine and agricultural practices	Initiated development of the "iTaukei Health Glossary" with USP and FNU linguists and experts.	Jan–Mar 2026
College of Humanities, Education and Law (CHEL)	Priority Area 1: Inclusiveness & Diversity: People, Place and Cultures	Celebration of cultural traditions and practices	Planning for Vernacular Week and cultural engagement initiatives commenced across campuses.	Jan–Mar 2026

	Priority Area 3: Research, Innovation, Social and Technological Development	Support scientific research with real societal outcomes	Collaboration with UNESCO and Ministry of Education on Social & Emotional Learning workshops.	Jan–Mar 2026
College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS)	Priority Area 5: Education for Employment and Professionalisation	Strengthen skills training to provide employment-ready graduates	Participation in Fiji Tourism Convention strengthened industry engagement and professional exposure for students.	22–23 January 2026
College of Engineering, Technical Vocational Education and Training (CETVET)	Priority Area 3: Research, Innovation, Social and Technological Development	Support scientific research with real societal outcomes	Research initiated on Traditional Ecological Knowledge associated with Wild Food Plants in Fiji communities.	Jan–Mar 2026
	Priority Area 3: Research, Innovation, Social and Technological Development	Invest in relevant infrastructure to support research	Eco-brick design house construction undertaken in Lau through PhD research.	Jan–Mar 2026
	Priority Area 4: Financial Sustainability, Endowment and Enterprise	Engage actively with international development partners	Two international grant proposals secured through UNDP and UNESCAP.	Jan–Mar 2026
College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF)	Priority Area 3: Research, Innovation, Social and Technological Development	Invest in relevant infrastructure to support research	Taiwan Technical Mission established demonstration plots supporting high-value crop research and learning.	Jan–Mar 2026
	Priority Area 1: Inclusiveness & Diversity: People, Place and Cultures	Celebration of cultural traditions and practices	International Day of Forest celebrated by staff and students recognising the importance of forests.	Jan–Mar 2026
Research Office	Priority Area 3: Research, Innovation, Social and Technological Development	Engage with universities outside the region for collaborative research	Coordinated international collaboration for the Centre for Melanesian Food and Ethnomedicine and facilitated conference participation in Spain.	Jan–Mar 2026
TVET	Priority Area 5: Education for Employment and Professionalisation	Strengthen skills training in TVET programmes	National TVET Forum brought together 120 stakeholders focusing on workforce readiness and inclusivity.	Jan–Mar 2026
FNU Foundation	Priority Area 4: Financial Sustainability, Endowment and Enterprise	Undertake initiatives to establish financial endowments and community support	Foundation operationalised Veilomani Pantry, Closet and Coffee Forward initiatives supporting over 150 students.	Jan–Mar 2026
Partnerships	Priority Area 3: Research, Innovation, Social and Technological Development	Engage with universities outside the region for collaborative research	Launch of Pacific's first Pathogen Genomics and AMR Laboratory in partnership with University of Otago.	Jan–Mar 2026

Achievements by Office of the Vice-Chancellor

Engagement in Port Vila, Vanuatu (Jan–March 2026)

During the first quarter of 2026, Fiji National University (FNU) advanced three significant initiatives in Port Vila, Vanuatu, underscoring its leadership role within the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) framework.

MSG Melanesian National Universities – TVET Micro Qualifications

FNU supported the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in completing Phase 1 of the Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) Micro-Qualifications on Adolescent Education and Training. This milestone established the qualification framework, learning outcomes, and governance structures, with a strong focus on adolescent girls' health and wellbeing in Vanuatu. The successful completion of Phase 1 positions the qualification for delivery approval and regional recognition, marking an important step in strengthening TVET pathways across Melanesia.



FNU Team pictured with participants from Vanuatu National University and SPC facilitators.

Diploma in Vanua Leadership (DVL) – Public Presentation

Dr. Sereima Naisisili delivered a public lecture at the Vanuatu National University to an audience of academics, chiefs, and community representatives. The presentation highlighted the Diploma in Vanua Leadership as a culturally grounded response to pressing socio-economic challenges such as domestic violence, teenage pregnancies, and drug abuse. The programme emphasizes indigenous knowledge systems and Vanua identity as solutions to community leadership challenges. FNU stands ready to support similar initiatives with traditional chiefs in Vanuatu, reinforcing its commitment to culturally resonant leadership education.

Confirmation of MSG Vice Chancellors' Meeting in Fiji (2026)

It was confirmed that the MSG Vice Chancellors' Meeting will be held in Fiji in **2026**. This meeting will finalize the agenda for the Melanesian Arts and Culture Festival (MACFEST). FNU has been allocated several leadership roles, including leading on TVET programmes and micro-credentials, drafting proposals for the Melanesian Institute of Island Futures/Climate Finance (MIIFCF), supporting the MSG Secretariat in climate finance readiness under the Green Climate Fund (GCF), facilitating multi-country proposals and Emerging Leaders Group participation, and promoting language and culture integration across curricula.



The FNU delegation pictured with MSG Secretariat staff.

QUARTER 1 *Achievements*

1

Comparative Enrolment Headcount for two years as at 31st March

Comparative Enrolment Headcount for two years.

Figure 1

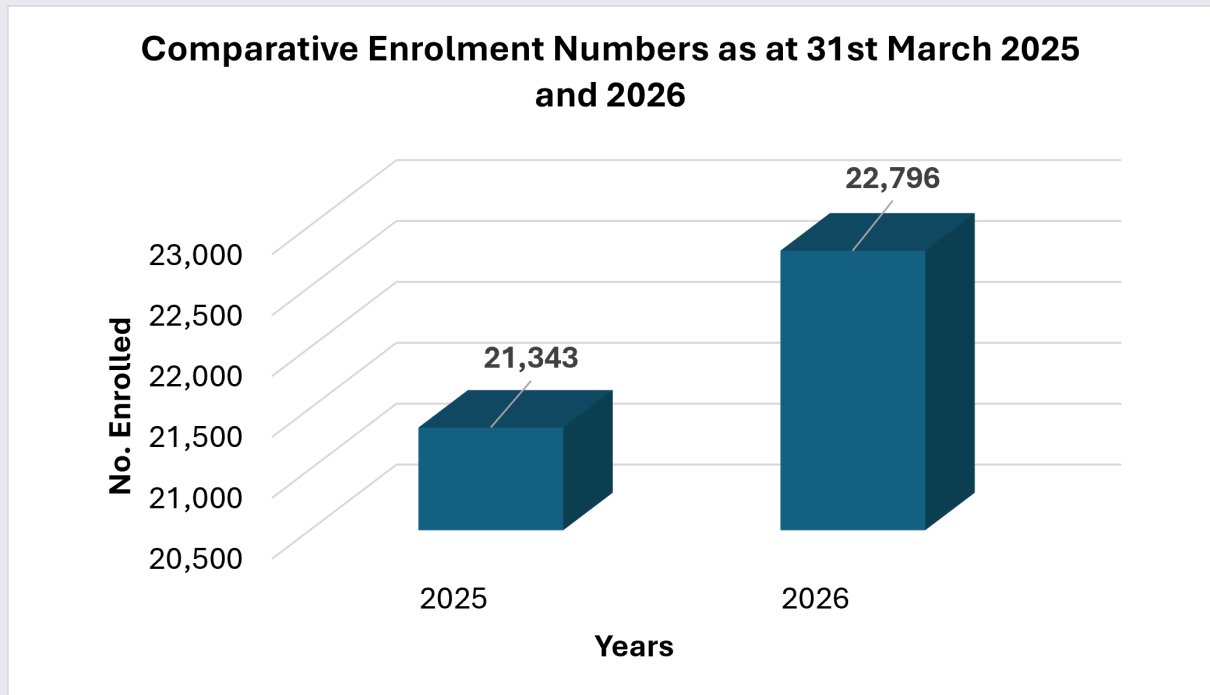


Figure 1 indicates the growth in enrolment numbers when compared with the same period last year. The enrolment rate has increased by 6.81percent and reached 22,796 students enrolled by March 31st 2026.



FNU Team enrolling potential students during the 2026 FNU Roadshow.

2 Higher Education: Achievements 2026

Centre for Graduate Studies

- King's Fellows recipient PhD students Nischal Chandra, Ana Tuiketei, Usaia Gaunavou and Vidya Mudliar visited Commonwealth for a week of activities marking Commonwealth Day and celebrating the impact of the King's Fellows and the positive changes they are driving in Commonwealth Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (refer to appendix for pictures)

King's Fellows Recipients



Nischal Chandra



Ana Tuiketei



Usaia Gaunavou



Vidya Mudliar

- Successfully delivered Endnote 21 Training at Natabua and Nasinu Campuses.
- Online Database Research Information Training



- Candidature Confirmation – 4 scholars completed.
- Completion seminar with oral Presentation – 4 scholars completed
- Thesis Submission – 3 Master by Research and 3 PhD
- 2PhD for CHEL, 1 for CAFF.
- Engaged international Examiners as thesis reviewers and external supervisors to enhance academic quality.
- Thesis Submission and Graduation – 3 Master by Research and 3 PhD
- (2PhD for CHEL, 1 for CAFF) in May Graduation.

Office of Learning & Teaching Achievements 2026

Highlights of Activities of the PVC L&T: Quarter 1, 2026

- Successfully conducted New Students' Orientation across 10 venues, achieving a 67% participation rate (4,907 students), reflecting increased engagement compared to 2025.
- Achieved over 90% success in online student registration, alongside high volumes of admission processing for local, regional, and international students.
- 7 award programmes approved by Senate in Quarter 1; 5 programmes from CETVET and 2 from CMNHS.
- The Academic Integrity Policy with AI has been developed through the AI Taskforce and approved.
- International Office had placements of about 92 sponsored regional students; of which 56 new DFAT-AAPS Awardees, 14 new Manaaki Scholars MFAT (New Zealand Awardees) and 22 new Nauru scholars.
- The Course Teacher Evaluation (CTE) for 2025 has been completed – 100%.
- Established the Climate Smart Melanesia Indigenous Foods Centre (CS-MIFC) with the initial budget of \$500,000.
- 8 FNU staff were trained under the TOPPAN Esqcuria Digitisation project.



**COLLEGE OF
MEDICINE,
NURSING
AND HEALTH
SCIENCES**

Introduction

During Quarter One of 2026, the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) continued to perform well across its key areas of teaching, research, student development, and community engagement. The College strengthened its support for healthcare workforce development through academic activities, outreach programmes, strategic partnerships, and research initiatives aligned to Fiji's national health priorities.

CMNHS also continued to promote cultural inclusiveness, higher degree research, and staff and student capacity building through professional development opportunities and regional collaboration.

The following are some of the key achievements and activities recorded during Quarter One of 2026:

CMNHS New Student Orientation activities held on 25th February, 2026. CMNHS New Regional Students' were also welcomed.

CMNHS Multi-Cultural Week Celebrations

Theme: Cultural Dialogue – Weaving Culture through Health Education held on 30–31st March, 2026.

Day 2 Theme: Embracing Diversity in Culture, Knowledge and Stringer Communities.



Police Commissioner Rusiate Tudravu officiated the CMNHS Multi-Cultural Week Celebration.

Conduct Student & Staff Outreach programs at St. Vincent De Paul Home and Father Law Home

Year 4 Bachelor of Physiotherapy students at St. Vincent De Paul Home and Father Law Home (9–27 March 2026). Students delivered supervised assessments, rehabilitation plans, group exercise, mobility training, and health promotion.

Increase in research in traditional medicine and agricultural practices.

FIPHR Engaging linguists and identified experts in USP and FNU to begin work on a “iTaukei Health Glossary” – long term (5-10yrs) initiative being done in phases with ultimate goal for it being used in primary and secondary School curriculum and university programs.

Provide incentives for qualification upgrading by TVET and Higher Education staff.

Three staffs in the department are supported for Part time and full time studies – two undertaking PHD studies.

Dr Donald Wilson awarded Pacific Academy of Sciences Fellow award

FIPHR hosted dinner to congratulate Assoc Prof Dr Donald Wilson for his Pacific Academy of Sciences Fellow award



Dr Donald Wilson awarded Pacific Academy of Sciences Fellow award

26-28th March KOICA Workshop for Faculty/ GP Capacity Building Increase Higher Degree by Research enrolments

Total of 18 active HDR students enrolled at the college. Out of the 18, there are 8 new HDR students enrolled this term.

Meeting with the Acting PS-MHMS Dr Luisa Cikamatana on the alignment of CMNHS Strategic Plan 2027-32 to the Fiji MHMS.



**COLLEGE OF
HUMANITIES,
EDUCATION
AND LAW**

Introduction

During Quarter One of 2026, the College of Humanities, Education and Law (CHEL) continued to advance academic excellence, research growth, and cultural engagement across its schools and programmes. The College focused on expanding learning opportunities, strengthening postgraduate research outcomes, and enhancing collaboration with key stakeholders in the education sector.

CHEL also continued to support initiatives that promote language, culture, and social development while strengthening partnerships that contribute to national and regional educational priorities.

The following are some of the key achievements and activities recorded during Quarter One of 2026:

- The School of Education has initiated the Planning for **Vernacular Week** has commenced and **Cultural engagement initiatives** across campuses have been initiated under the leadership of Dr. Kasanita Nayasi.
- **The Bachelor of Education (Secondary) majoring in Industrial Arts program offered for the first time at Ba campus.** Enrolment includes 32 pre-service students and 8 in-service students for Semester 1, 2026.

- **CHEL will graduate at least 3 PHD students**

The following candidates have successfully completed their PhDs:

Dr Ilisapeci Qabale,
Dr Khemendra Kumar
Dr Varanise Tagimaucia

Three additional candidates are expected to complete, with theses currently under external review or revision.

- **Sustained partnership & research collaborations.**

CHEL is collaborating with UNESCO & MoE on Social & Emotional Learning [SEL] for Research Workshops across all education districts.



Students standing next to one of the many paintings that beautify the Corridors of FNU's Natabua Campus.

**COLLEGE OF
BUSINESS,
HOSPITALITY
AND TOURISM
STUDIES**

Introduction

During Quarter One of 2026, the College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS) strengthened its industry engagement, student support services, and programme development initiatives. The College actively participated in key industry events, conducted orientation programmes across campuses, and continued to strengthen partnerships with industry stakeholders to ensure programmes remain relevant and industry-focused.

CBHTS also enhanced practical learning opportunities through hospitality and catering engagements while staff participation in regional training programmes supported professional development and collaboration opportunities.

The following are some of the key achievements and activities recorded during Quarter One of 2026:

- The College of Business enhanced its industry engagement by participating in the 2-day Fiji Tourism Convention from 22-23rd January, 2026.
- The TSLS Orientation is a key achievement as it provided important guidance and support to students, helping them better understand their studies and available assistance, which improves their overall learning experience held on 23rd February, 2026 at HTS Nasese Campus.

The **CBHTS Orientation** successfully welcomed new and existing students, providing them with essential information and resources to ensure a smooth transition into their academic journey held from 6th-19th February at four major Campuses.



CBHTS 1st Year Students Orientation

- The college successfully conducted the **PAC meeting** with active participation from industry experts and academic staff, resulting in the final vetting and refinement of the programme.
- **Drua Rugby Team Catering**
The College achieved significant milestones by providing catering services for the Drua Rugby Team, including showcasing culinary expertise in a high-profile setting. This opportunity enhanced the College's reputation for delivering quality catering under pressure. Additionally, it fostered strong industry connections, highlighting the College's capabilities in sports event hospitality.
- **Dr. Jazbeen Ali** attended and participated as a **Guest Speaker at the Australia Pacific Management Training** held on 10th March, 2026. This engagement fostered knowledge exchange, enhanced professional networks, and created opportunities for future collaboration with regional institutions and industry professionals.



CBHTS students provided catering for Swire Shipping Fijian Drua team during the 2025 Shop N Save Super Rugby Pacific.

**COLLEGE OF
ENGINEERING,
TECHNICAL
VOCATIONAL
EDUCATION
AND
TRAINING**

Introduction

During Quarter One of 2026, the College of Engineering, Technical Vocational Education and Training (CETVET) continued to strengthen its focus on research, innovation, sustainability, and industry engagement. The College advanced research initiatives in traditional ecological knowledge, sustainable construction, renewable energy, and environmental sustainability while also strengthening collaboration with government agencies, international organisations, and industry experts.

CETVET also enhanced student and staff learning through educational visits, seminars, and international engagement opportunities, while successful grant proposals further strengthened the College's contribution towards sustainable development and climate resilience in Fiji and the Pacific region.

The following are some of the key achievements and activities recorded during Quarter One of 2026:

- The research of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) associated with Wild Food Plants (WFPs) among the iTaukei communities of Fiji has been initiated by Master by research student Asaeli Naika. Approval has been granted by Ministry of iTaukei Affairs to visit a and conduct research in Korobasabasaga Communities, Namosi Province.
- World Wildlife Day was officially observed on 3 March 2026, and Fiji National University (FNU), in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, commemorated the occasion on 21 March 2026 at Kula Wild Adventure Park.
- Eco-brick design house construction has been done in Lau through Viliame Sakiti's PhD work. Next stage is to test its mechanical, thermal, and hydrological performances and incorporate revitalizing fading out traditional design and construction practice of the Vale kubu-lolo.
- The research of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) associated with Wild Food Plants (WFPs) among the iTaukei communities of Fiji has been initiated by Master by research student Asaeli Naika. Approval has been granted by Ministry of iTaukei Affairs to visit a and conduct research in Korobasabasaga Communities, Namosi Province.
- Staff members from the school (SBCE, SEEE and SOS) were part of a team from CETVET who visited the Waila Water Treatment Plant on 20th February 2026. The visit was to study the function and operating system of the plant.
- Dr. Jane Managing Director and Chief Scientific Officer at the Food Packaging Forum and Dr. Birgit from Food Packaging Forum leads scientific studies and collaborates with researchers and stakeholders across academia, industry, and public interest groups presented seminar titled "Plastic Food Packaging & Health – chemicals as key consideration" held on 9th March 2026.
- Mr. Pratarp Singh, Managing Director of ENTEC Pte Limited and Board Member of the Commonwealth Engineers Council, delivered an inspiring talk titled "Engineering the Future: Modern-Day Challenges in a Changing World" to the School of Building and Civil Engineering (SBCE) on Wednesday, 18 February 2026.

- Grant proposal submitted by SOS staff and is accepted: Establishment of a Living Laboratory for Sustainable Cooking Energy Practice in a selected Rural Community in Fiji [UNDP - USD49,990]
- Grant proposal submitted by SOS staff and is accepted: Supporting Asia-Pacific countries to close the clean cooking gap through advanced low carbon cooking technologies [The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, USD 35,000]



CETVET Students during a practical class.

**COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURE,
FISHERIES
AND
FORESTRY**

LEAF
C

Introduction

During Quarter One of 2026, the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF) continued to perform exceptionally well across its key strategic priority areas through strong partnerships, community engagement, practical learning initiatives, and research activities. The College remained committed to supporting Fiji's national development priorities by strengthening collaboration with government ministries, international organisations, and industry stakeholders while enhancing teaching, research, and outreach programmes.

CAFF also continued to meet its key performance indicators through innovative initiatives such as Living Laboratories, expanded outreach programmes, environmental sustainability activities, and infrastructure improvements that support practical learning and research development.

The following are some of the key achievements and activities recorded during Quarter One of 2026:

- Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry: Strategic, Performance Review, and Budget Planning Workshop from 23rd – 25th February. Focused on planning, performance review, and budget alignment.
- The College has proactively embraced the concept of Living Laboratories as a transformative approach to learning. This initiative actively engages students with targeted communities, extending their educational experience beyond the traditional classroom setting into real-world environments where knowledge is applied with purpose.



CAFF Students during the Living Laboratories Initiative

- **Departmental Welcome for New Students 20th and 27th February**

The CAFF Outreach Programme was conducted from 16th – 31st January across the Western, Northern, Eastern, and Central divisions, and was successfully led by Mr. Romuluse and his team; notably, this marked the **first time** the **University** extended its outreach efforts to **Rabi Island**, reflecting CAFF's commitment to reaching underserved and remote communities.



The Banaban community's 80th Anniversary.

- **Taiwan Technical Mission Institute (TTM) Demonstration Plots**

As part of practical learning and research initiatives, the Taiwan Technical Mission Institute (TTM) assisted in establishing demonstration plots at the CAFF Crop Farm, providing the necessary infrastructure and supporting the development of high-value commodities such as pearl guavas, dragon fruits, and bananas.



Mr Edward (bottom middle) Horticulture Specialist with CAFF Horticulture students and staff.

- **Workshop with Ministry of Environment and Climate Change's National Reports**

Workshop for the Nagoya Protocol, Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) from 16th – 19th March

- **International Day of Forest**

The college staff and students came together to celebrate this international event recognizing the importance of our natural forest to the ecosystem on 20th March, 2026.

- **CAFF Forest Park and Bamboo Gene Bank**

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance the learning and research environment at the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF), the Instructional Forestry Farm Complex Bamboo Gene bank has undergone significant infrastructure improvements.

- **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) – LOA**

LOA between FAO and FNU for the provision of the implementation of the pig husbandry training program in Fiji.



CAFF Staff helping students during practical classes.

**PACIFIC
CENTRE FOR
MARITIME
STUDIES**

SOLO

Introduction

During Quarter One of 2026, the Pacific Centre for Maritime Studies (PCMS) continued to strengthen maritime education and training through inclusive learning opportunities, industry compliance, and community-based programmes. The Centre maintained its focus on developing a skilled maritime workforce by expanding access to training, particularly for women and individuals in maritime and rural communities.

PCMS also remained aligned with international maritime standards through the implementation of updated International Maritime Organization (IMO) curriculum requirements while continuing to deliver training programmes that support safety, professionalism, and workforce readiness within the maritime sector.

The following are some of the key achievements and activities recorded during Quarter One of 2026:

Empowering women in the field of Maritime. The Pacific Center for Maritime (PCMS) provides equal opportunity to education for People, Places and Culture. Table 1 indicates growth in the female cadets enrolled in Diploma programs over years at PCMS.

Years	No. of Females Cadets
2024	53
2025	78
2026	63

Continuously providing community-based training to the students in the outer Island. Centre has commenced with providing training Master Class 6 and Fishing to the interested individual from Province of Macuata and Cakaudrove, North Island Fiji.

Implementation of IMO updates on PSSR curriculum mandatory effective 1st January 2026. PCMS was par with amendments and enforced training on “prevention of bullying, Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment (SASH)” which came effective from 1st January 2026



PCMS Marine Engineering students.



TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

THE
WAVE

Introduction

During Quarter One of 2026, the Fiji National University continued to strengthen its Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) initiatives through industry-focused programmes, reinforcing workforce readiness and supporting Fiji's National Development priorities. Through the leadership of the National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC), the University continued to strengthen partnerships and engagement with government agencies, industry stakeholders, and training institutions to ensure TVET delivery remains relevant, inclusive, and responsive to national and regional workforce demands.

These initiatives also supported Fiji's broader National Development agenda by promoting skills development, employability, entrepreneurship, and economic resilience across key sectors.

The following are some of the major TVET achievements recorded during Quarter One of 2026:

National TVET Forum

Theme: Addressing the skills needs in Fiji

It was held on 20th February, 2026 at Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa, Denarau, Nadi.

The TVET Forum brought together 120 stakeholders including government, industry and educators. It emphasized workforce readiness, inclusivity and alignment with industry demands.



The Minister for Youth and Sports, Honourable Jese Saukuru (sitting first from right with garland) next to the Chief Guest, Ratu Luke Dawai, FNU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba and participants during the 2026 FNU National TVET Forum in Nadi.

Collaboration with TAFE NSW

Strengthening of Partnership between FNU NTPC & TAFE NSW. Meeting was held on 9th of February, 2026.

TVET Conference

Presentation by key Government agencies on "Funding support for TVET".

Panel Discussion by Institutional partners "How to collaborate to support TVET for employability and entrepreneurship?"

4 Research Achievements 2026

- **Support the creation of the Centre for Melanesian Food and Ethnomedicine**
Research Office funded and coordinated the visit of a collaborating scientist, Ms Genia Hill to FNU, to hold discussions with PACT and the Project Leader for the Centre for Melanesian Food, Prof Jemima Lako. Research Office also coordinated the travel of the Project Leader, Prof Jemima Lako to attend a conference in Spain. Dr Lako went to meet with potential funders.
- **Improve our THE ranking and check our preparedness for full ranking**
The roadmap to full university ranking was re-presented to the members of the URC.
Staff of the research office attended webinars on THE ranking procedures.
- **Secure more scholarships**
The Agreement for the next rounds of ACIAR-PASS grant (\$4.5m) has been signed by FNU and ACIAR. The initial payment of \$900,000 is expected to be disbursed by mid-April 2026. The ACIAR PASS Scholarship will support human development in addition to scholarships. FNU may appoint postdoctoral fellows to support the regular staff who are supervising students
- **Increase the number of international visiting fellowships**
Research Office has provided for at least two visiting researchers per college under the PACT and FNU small grants. One of these has been approved for CHEL in Q1 to be used later in the year.



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The FNU Foundation

The FNU Foundation was launched in April 2025 by the Patron, Na Turaga Bale Na Tui Macuata, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere. This is an initiative of the Vice Chancellor, Professor Unaisi Nabobo – Baba,

Objective

To respond to address issue of equity that prevent our students from achieving their dreams at the Fiji National University.

Operation

A Foundation Board of Trustees has since been established to manage the affairs of the Foundation in accordance with its objects.

Key focus areas for philanthropy:

- **Scholarships and student support**

Scholarships for underserved students to pursue their aspirations without financial constraints.

- **Coffee Forward Initiative**

The Coffee Forward Initiative was born from a desire to nourish not just minds but bodies too. Proceeds will support free or subsidized meals and snacks for students facing food insecurity, ensuring they can focus on academics and thrive.

- **Veilomani Closet**

The Veilomani Closet provides free or affordable clothing to students facing financial challenges..

- **Veilomani Food Pantry.**

The Veilomani Food Pantry addresses food insecurity, offering students access to essential nourishment without judgment. This initiative allows students to focus on their education rather than daily survival, fostering a supportive and inclusive academic community.

To date, Foundation Hubs have opened across three campuses, Bonunaqwele Nadi Campus, Natabua Campus, and Ba Campus. The work has started to open a number of additional hubs at selected campuses across the country and the FNU Foundation is committed to opening in the remaining Central and Northern Divisions to assist students in those areas.

Foundation Achievements for 2026

Expansion of Student Welfare and Support Systems

The FNU Foundation successfully operationalized key welfare initiatives, including the Veilomani Pantry & Closet and Coffee Forward programs, supporting over 150 students with essential food, clothing, and toiletries. These services were expanded across multiple campuses, alongside infrastructure upgrades and the establishment of Foundation Hubs—strengthening a nationwide student support network. This year we managed to establish two Hubs, namely Ba FNU Foundation Hub on the 4th of February and the Nasinu Foundation Hub on the 2nd of April. The Labasa Hub will be launched at the end of May when the Naiyaca facility is fully completed.

Strong Partnerships and Fundraising Success

The Foundation secured impactful partnerships with corporate sponsors (including Swire Shipping scholarships and multiple MOU/MOAs), enabling scholarships, student benefits, and welfare resources. So far, the FNU Foundation managed to secure 4 full-time scholarships with SWIRE Shipping enabling 4 students to study at the Pacific Center for Maritime Studies. The scholarship includes two for Diploma in Nautical Science and two in Marine Engineering. The inaugural Grand Fundraiser Ball and staff contributions raised significant funds, reinforcing financial sustainability and expanding opportunities such as internships and alumni benefits with a portion of which is utilised to fund other Foundation activities.

Advancement in Foundation Engagement and Sustainability Initiatives

The FNU Foundation managed to secure fifty-two pledges from staff since its establishment. It was welcoming to note that individuals continue to come forward and pledge for the worthy cause. There was an increase in pledges between January and March. A total of eight additional pledges as well as numerous donations of clothing from staff were received during this period, helping clothe our vulnerable students and staff of the University. This is expected to continue to grow as the Foundation continues to establish itself in the remaining campuses around the country.

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Community Trainings

Rural Remote TVET Training Program and Graduation

RRMTVET training was held in Macuata from 16th to 27th February, 2026. The villages in the training included Wasavulu, Nasekula, Naqai, Nacula – Labasa. Total Participants – 365 students graduated in 14 TVET Courses conducted over 2 Weeks.

In 2025, six RRMTVET programmes reached 1,749 participants across Nasautoka, Drekeniwai, Wainimakutu, Vunitogoloa, Narewa–Nakavu–Navoci–Nadi, and Wailoku–Newtown. Training programs covered cookery, baking, electrical installation, plumbing, construction, garment construction, joinery, floriculture, fibre glass repair, small engine repairs, screen printing, and land management. FNU reaffirmed its commitment to supporting graduates with pathways for further learning and skill development.



Graduates of the Rural Remote TVET Training Program at the FNU Naiyaca Campus.

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Section Reviews for Institutional Improvement

Finance

Finance Review (recommendations are being addressed right now)

Operating Grant		
Year	Government Grant (FJD)	Tuition Income
2022	\$44,009,23 M	\$66,359,307 M
2023	\$41,456,429 M	\$64,848,431 M
2024	\$36,500,000 M	\$75,722,958 M
2025	\$35,663,898 M	\$79,334,613 M

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Partnerships

Collaboration between FNU and University of Otago for the establishment of Pathogen Genomics and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Laboratory

The Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) has proudly launched the Pacific's first-ever Pathogen Genomics and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Laboratory in collaboration with the University of Otago at its Pasifika Campus in Suva on Saturday, 28 March 2026.

This landmark initiative, delivered in collaboration with the University of Otago, marks a significant step forward in strengthening the region's capacity to respond to antimicrobial resistance and emerging infectious diseases. The establishment of the Centre positions Fiji as a regional leader in advanced health research, surveillance, and innovation.



(From left) FNU's Pro-Vice-Chancellor Corporate Services, Professor Nii-K Plange presents a token of appreciation to the University of Otago Vice-Chancellor, Honourable Grant Robertson.

TSLS Courtesy Visit to FNU for Stronger Collaboration for Student Success

The Fiji National University (FNU) was honoured to host a courtesy visit from the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (TSLS) at its Nasinu Campus held on Tuesday, 24 February 2025. The visit facilitated timely and constructive discussions on TSLS's mandates and services, key operational matters, recent developments, and future directions. It further reinforced collaboration between TSLS and FNU to ensure students receive clear, consistent, and equitable support throughout their academic journey. The collaboration reaffirmed the shared responsibility of both institutions to uphold transparency and fairness in scholarship and loan processes. This engagement strengthens our collective commitment to ensuring that students are well informed, appropriately supported, and treated equitably.



(From left) Fiji National University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Unaisi Nabobo Baba, TSLS Board Chair, Na Gone Marama Bale na Roko Tui Dreketi, Ro Teimumu Kepa, Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service Chief Executive Officer, Dr Apisalome Movono with the FNU Senior Leadership Team.

Swire Shipping Awards Four Scholarships to FNU Students

The Fiji National University (FNU) and its FNU Foundation were honoured to receive four prestigious scholarships from Swire Shipping following the signing of a tripartite Memorandum of Agreement titled “Madigi Vou” project at the FNU Nasinu Campus yesterday, 10 February 2026. Madigi Vou, meaning New Voyage or New Path, formalises Swire Shipping’s support for four students who will undertake maritime studies at FNU’s Pacific Centre for Maritime Studies (PCMS). The scholarships include two awards in the Diploma in Marine Engineering (Level 5) and two in the Diploma in Nautical Science (Level 5), strengthening pathways for young Fijians to enter and thrive in the maritime sector.



Lania Alexander Robertson receives scholarship to pursue a Diploma in Marine Engineering Level 5 at the Pacific Centre for Maritimes Studies.

RCL Services Pte Limited Strengthen Workforce through Leadership Training Partnership with FNU.

The Fiji National University's (FNU) National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC) has formalised a strategic partnership with RCL Services Pte Limited, operating under Recoveriescorp, through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) yesterday. The agreement marks a significant milestone for Fiji's business sector, with RCL Services Pte Limited, operating under Recoveriescorp becoming the first Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) company in the country to undergo a structured leadership and management training programme through the University.



From Left Eric Martin, Bob Mitchell, Jitendra Singh and (standing) Ashaana Lata during the MOU signing

Other MoUs.

FNU Strengthens Medical Research Capacity Through International Collaborative Workshop with University of Auckland



Participants of the Medical Research Workshop.

Conclusion

The first quarter of 2026 has demonstrated Fiji National University's resilience, innovation, and commitment to its strategic priorities. Achievements across Colleges, Divisions, and Offices reflect the University's capacity to deliver quality education, strengthen workforce readiness, expand research excellence, and deepen community and regional engagement.

From advancing regional leadership in Melanesia through MSG initiatives, to expanding student enrolment and welfare support, enhancing TVET and Higher Education programmes, and securing international partnerships and research grants, FNU has continued to position itself as a transformative institution for Fiji and the Pacific.

These accomplishments underscore the collective efforts of staff, students, industry partners, government stakeholders, and communities. Together, they reinforce FNU's role as a driver of inclusive growth, cultural resilience, and sustainable development. As the University moves forward into the next quarters of 2026, the focus will remain on consolidating these gains, addressing challenges, and ensuring that FNU's mission—to transform lives through education, research, innovation, and service—continues to guide its journey towards Vision 2050 and the National Development Plan 2025–2029.





Naiyaca Campus temporary classrooms.



CMNHS Acting Dean, Dr Amelia Turagabeci addressing students during the CMNHS Dean's Dialogue.



Vice-Chancellor Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba with Heads of the Western Campuses and their teams aboard the Interlink Vessel while returning to Suva following the Northern Campuses visitation.



Graphic Arts student during class.



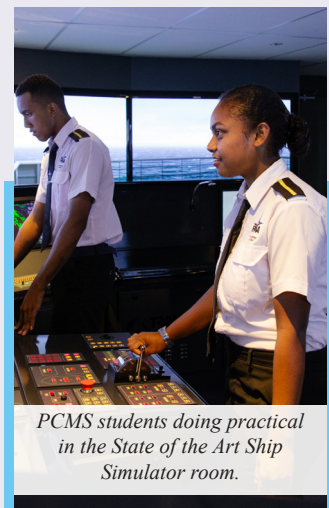
Vice-Chancellor led a team to explore possible sites in Taveuni.



CBHTS Cookery students.



SLT members meeting with the Permanent Secretary for National Planning Development and Statistics on March 30, 2026.



PCMS students doing practical in the State of the Art Ship Simulator room.



