

22 February, 2011

Fiji National University in conjunction with Fashion Week Limited has organised a first ever Fashion Education Conference in Fiji.

The theme of this one day conference is “Make It in Fiji” Fashion from Education to Manufacturing for Economic Gain.

Senior Lecturer in Creative Arts at the School of Communication and Creative Arts, Jerry Wong said the purpose was to bring together key stakeholders to explore the potential of implementing Fashion Education into FNU’s curriculum.

Fiji Fashion, Managing Director Ellen Whippy-Knight said current studies and research prove that Fashion Education can successfully play a significant role in the country’s creative and commercial economy through sustainable supportive links with Government departments and the private sector.

Mr Wong said he wants to see fashion and garment & textile manufacturers supplied with much needed labour that will drive production and add it’s share to the expanding local economy.

Mr Wong said FNU was actively working and planning to introduce the first ever Certificate IV in Fashion Design into the School’s curriculum this year, with the Diploma level being offered straight after the completion of Cert IV.

“This initiative is a reaction to public demand created by the introduction and consistent progress of Fiji Fashion Week,” he said.

Professor Paul Rider an international Fashion Educator from London will be the keynote speaker.

He will speak on the theme “Fashion, from Education to Commerce.... "An overview on the international Fashion & Garment Manufacturing Industry Fashion Design and how Fashion Education can successfully play a significant role in a country’s creative and commercial economy by creating employment and business opportunities.”

Participants at the conference will include representatives from the private and public sector, academics and policy makers and creative designers.

The conference will be officially opened by the Minister for Education, Mr Filipe Bole and will be held at the School of Communication and Creative Arts Campus – Raiwai.

Please send registration interests with full name and position (by Wednesday 10:00am) to: miriama.l@fnu.ac.fj or jerry.wong@fnu.ac.fj. Also send a copy to gary@fijifashionweek.com.fj

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