

September 9, 2011

FNU Open Day

MORE than 12,000 Form Six and Seven students from across Fiji flocked to various centres of the Fiji National University this morning, to be part of the university's Open Day.

Excellent weather and spaciouly set up displays added to the enjoyment of the experience for the students, who came on official school trips from as far as Naitasiri in the southern division and the far flung Yasawa islands in the north west, to gain first hand information about the university's programmes.

The University's Samabula and Pasifika campuses in Suva, and its Nadi, Ba and Labasa campuses opened their doors to members of the community and students from secondary schools.

Speaking at the opening ceremony at Samabula Campus, Acting Vice Chancellor Dr Surendra Prasad said it was a proud day for the Fiji National University to welcome the students.

"We have been having the open day for the past few years now and this is the day that the University opens its doors and opens its heart to our visitors and in turn we ask you to open your minds especially you the students," Dr Prasad said.

He said the University offers programmes from certificate to post graduate level.

"So the main focus is for you the students and your parents to come and get a taste of what the university can offer you in terms of studies," he said.

Dr Prasad said the good thing about the FNU is that it is "our national university, a university for us".

"It is a university designed specifically for the students of Fiji to come and do a whole lot of different programmes including a variety of training".

He said most programmes were designed for Fiji and regional students.

"You are more likely to find something that suits you at the FNU than anywhere else," he said.

Dr Prasad said the University offers 2000 different courses in around 150 different programmes of studies.

Amelia Bale from Saint Joseph's School in Suva said the open day gave her an opportunity to learn about subject areas of interest, meet current undergraduate students and staff, tour the campus and facilities, and gather information on all aspects of the university.

She said she enjoyed the Fiji National University marching boys who entertained the crowd at the Samabula and Pasifika Campuses yesterday.

Said Krishneel Chand, a Form Six student of Ahmadiya Muslim College: "It is very helpful for tertiary institutions to hold the open day because it helps us gather the information we need about a course and provides an insight."

"This is our first time to visit FNU and we are satisfied with the amount of information they are providing for students," he said.

Tents and booths displaying the range of courses and career paths are set up at the five campuses, where students and members of the public also have free access today to lecture theatres, laboratories, libraries, workshops and computer rooms.

FNU is the largest university in the South Pacific enrolling more than 20,000 students from across the region.