

September 14, 2011

Accreditation of FNU's Accounting Programmes by Fiji Institute of Accountants

It has been announced by the Fiji Institute of Accountants (FIA), the body representing accounting professionals in Fiji, that Fiji National University's accounting programmes including its Bachelor of Commerce degree (majoring in Accounting) and Bachelor of Accounting degree are now accredited as a pathway for full CA (Chartered Accountant) membership of FIA.

The FIA has also accredited our Diploma in Accounting programme for affiliate member's of the Institute.

The accreditation has come about as a result of FNU Accounting programmes being examined in detail by Prof Kieth (or Keith?) Houghton, a renowned Professor of Accounting based at Australian National University.

FNU is honoured by such recognition. It means a lot to us, our graduates and to prospective employers in Fiji and abroad.

For FNU, this is the outcome of an independent, externally implemented process, and which has demonstrated that the quality of our programmes is second to none. We have put in place measures to ensure that quality of all the other programmes is commensurate with top ranked universities in the United State of America and in the Pacific basin.

This will also hold special significance for our graduates. They are now assured that their degree is second to none. They will now be able to gain Chartered Accountant status by fulfilling additional professional requirements of the FIA. Countries that our graduates find employment in will now be aware that these employees have gone through study programmes that are of duly certified international standard.

In addition, local industry can be assured that our graduates are of a high quality. They can expect a finished product from FNU.

FNU looks forward to the recruitment of more senior staff with PhDs to boost our research and publication profile as well as offer Postgraduate programmes. We have already taken several steps to implement this. We will be announcing details in the near future.

The College has established excellent ties with the industry through the Fiji Institute of Accountants and we look forward to further strengthening these to benefit both the parties.

FIA president Divik Deo said this is an important step by the University as the accreditation which is effective immediately will benefit students who are studying or those that have already graduated from FNU.

Mr Deo said this will mean that those who seek the services of FNU graduates will be protected as the graduates are affiliated with a professional accounting body. He pointed out that

accreditation is a process that all universities go through to ensure that the qualifications they offer are of good quality.

He said some of the factors that were used as accreditation criteria were library resourcing, and, academic staff-to-student ratio.

Dr Mahendra Reddy

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