

Opening maritime management possibilities

Maritime careers on shore opened up in a training session at the University last week.

FNU School of Maritime Studies and Maritime Advisory Committee held a one day training on Derrick Campus Samabula to discuss the scope of the maritime industry's training needs with industry participants, particularly training unavailable in Fiji.

Strategic Plan Facilitator for the Maritime School, Phil Gerlach chaired the activity and said it was productive, with participants putting fresh ideas on how to promote and market shore based training.

“It was an industry consultation on the planning process and we got some useful input.”

He said Fiji needed to implement a wide marketing plan to actively advocate the need for shore based training.

“Youngsters do not know there is a career path in shore based maritime employment because the industry does not talk to them about it.”

FNU could contribute by adopting the programmes as early as 2014, beginning with a Bachelors course in Maritime Management, Mr Gerlach said.

The programmes would improve the skill base, create jobs and show leadership in areas previously known only in Australia and New Zealand.

Students would be marketable and much more suitable for wide range of jobs.