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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FNU partners with Skills International Limited**

**Suva, Fiji Islands.** Fiji National University achieved another milestone following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with New Zealand's Skills International Limited.

The MoU signed by FNU's Vice Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey and Skills Chief Executive Officer, Mr Garry Fiddensen will open new and higher standards of training opportunities for potential students.

Skills is a renowned educational institute that provides integrated competency-based standards, qualifications and quality assurance to positively impact on people's employment lives world-wide.

Through this partnership, the National Training & Productivity Centre will have access to and use of Skills expertise and organisational resources and meet the growing demands from the industry.

Professor Healey said as the agreement will bring many positive benefits to FNU students.

"We are Fiji's national university and I think FNU has a very special place in the education landscape, in fact internationally we are truly unusual. We are a dual sector university; we have the TVET and higher education and in addition we have our national productivity organisation, NTPC as one of the central pillars of our University and that's actually very rare. If you look across NTPC, our five colleges and Fiji Maritime Academy, we really reach into every area of the society in the sense that there's no part of the economy in the workforce we don't touch," said Professor Healey.

According to Professor Healey such partnerships are vital to the development of the nation adding continuous input from established international organisations such as Skills will lift the quality and marketability of students.

"We are providing education for young people who want to enter into vocational careers whether that's electricians, plumbers, painters and so on. For those school leavers we offer higher education all the way from diplomas, bachelor's degrees, PhDs and for NTPC we reach all those currently in work through the levy funded system. And we have offer whole rough courses and accreditation of training from those short courses through to rather long ones. So I think that makes us very special and I'm very proud of the fact that we are such a comprehensive University and I'm proud of the fact that as a consequence of these three component parts the Higher Education, TVET and NTPC, we really provide a kind of integrated whole secondary education for

the whole country and that is something we can be proud of and we need to build on,” said Professor Healey.

Skills CEO, Mr Garry Fissenden said the partnership highlights their passion and commitment in development of youths in the region.

“One of our core skills is actually getting bright young people through apprentices; we look after electrical, plumbing, roofing, scaffolding and crane drivers in terms of our core trade stuff. That’s certainly one of our skills we want to bring into our partnership with FNU. We like to partner with high quality individuals and high quality companies because we can’t afford to be involved with anything that’s not of quality so Fiji National University is a natural fit for us,” said Mr Fissenden.

The NZ institute looks after 22 sectors is quality controlled by the New Zealand qualifications authority.

**For further information, please contact the Communications Office on 339 4000 extension 2890/2886 or Senior Public Relations Officer, Ranbeer Singh on Email: [SPRO@fnu.ac.fj](mailto:SPRO@fnu.ac.fj) or Phone: 9895267**

**About the Fiji National University:** The Fiji National University (FNU) was established through the merger of 7 government-owned tertiary institutions in Fiji, and commenced operations from 1 January 2010. The constituent institutions are found at over 40 different locations across Fiji, and collectively offer Certificates, Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas, Degrees, Postgraduate qualifications and Skills Upgrading for those who are already in employment. Approximately 30,000 students pass through the University each year. Over the last six years of its operations, the University has registered major achievements with regard to new programme delivery, quality improvements and contribution to research and publications via its 5 Colleges: The College of Humanities & Education (CHE), the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences (CMNHS), the College of Engineering, Science & Technology (CEST), the College of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (CAFF), the College of Business, Hospitality & Tourism Studies (CBHTS) and the National Training & Productivity Centre (NTPC).