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PRESS RELEASE

FNU and PIRF sign new partnership

Suva, Fiji Islands. The Fiji National University (FNU) today formalised a partnership with the Pacific Islands Rainforest Foundation (PIRF) for collaboration in the areas of academic and educational activities including practical attachments for students.

Acting Dean College of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (CAFF), Professor John Chelliah acknowledged the Foundation's contribution in assisting the University foster key objectives of providing the best and holistic education and training to students.

According to Professor Chelliah, PIRF has been instrumental in the development of the CAFF's curriculum. The foundation is represented on the College's industry advisory committee.

"In the recent past the Foundation has provided industrial attachment for our students, giving them first-hand experience of working and expectations of the forest industry. This increases the level of employability for our graduates. Further, the Foundation has employed a number of our graduates," said Professor Chelliah.

Through this partnership the two parties will undertake a range of activities in terms of education and training in the following areas:

1. Exchange of students and interns
2. Exchange of faculty and staff
3. Joint research activities and publications
4. Exchange of academic materials
5. Special short-term academic programmes

PIRF Chairman, Mr Philip Gerlach said the MoU paves way for closer and more meaningful collaboration between the two organisations.

Mr Gerlach said they were keen on commencing a research on medicinal outcomes of forestry products in Fiji.

"Thank you FNU for these graduates because without them we wouldn't have a forestry unit at all. There are many endemic species and we are committed to the development of

programmes which will protect the endemic species including the endangered ones. The Foundation was setup by a group of people who cared about stopping the illegal and legal logging of Fiji's rainforest," said Mr Gerlach.

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 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).