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PRESS RELEASE

FNUAA formalises partnership with FEO

Suva, Fiji Islands. The Fiji National University Alumni Association (FNUAA) today formalised a partnership with the Fijian Elections Office (FEO) to conduct the Alumni elections for office bearers next month.

Speaking at the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing, FNU Vice Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey said transparency and legitimacy in elections of representative bodies was critical.

Professor Healey said the University was happy to partner with FEO for this important process.

“The role that FEO plays is very critical and important. We have within the University two very important and young representative bodies; FNUAA and Fiji National University Student Association (FNUSA) and we were really pleased that the elections for these bodies took place in a very fair and transparent way brokered by the Elections Office,” said Professor Healey.

“We want to maintain a very close association with our alumni in order to encourage them to stay connected to the University, and to give back to the University in various ways.

“It is equally important for the alumni association that the elections take place in a very fair and transparent way so that the alumnus has confidence that the President truly represents the body. We are very proud that as Fiji’s national university, we are working hand-in-hand with FEO to make sure that all our dealings are transparent and fair,” Professor Healey added.

The Supervisor of Elections, Mr Mohammed Saneem acknowledged FNUAA’s confidence in FEO to conduct the elections for the association.

Mr Saneem said the FNUAA elections would be a significant achievement as they would use the Electronic Voting machines for the first time.

“Earlier on we advertised widely that that Electronic Voting machines are only for small scale elections, Trade Union Elections and University Elections and I’m grateful to the Alumni Association for accepting the offer to conduct elections using these Machines,” said Mr Saneem.

“We will be conducting this election for the Alumni Association in January, and I understand that the Association will now embark on a massive registration drive so that they are able to engage as many FNU Alumni as possible.”

“This year we ran the second Student Association election for the Fiji National University Students Association and we look forward to continuing this partnership with the Student Association. It is an interesting area for us as these are the future generations of the country and giving them an exposure to good election practices is what we are all about.”

Mr Saneem said the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) has invited Fiji to consider hosting a regional training centre on elections.

He said FEO is looking forward to having further discussions with FNU in terms of the possibility of having the University as a key partner in becoming this crucial hub for the Pacific region.

“This will be an AWEB initiative in the Pacific Region and the Regional Training centre will be a platform for AWEB to progress technology in elections, and to progress capacity building in elections in the whole region.”

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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).