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## Press Release

### FNU appoints two new Pro- Vice Chancellors

The Fiji National University has appointed two new senior executives in the last two months.

Professor James Pounder has been appointed as the Pro-Vice Chancellor Learning and Teaching while Professor Mohini Singh has been appointed as the Pro-Vice Chancellor Research.

Originally from England, Professor Pounder has held the post of Director of Teaching and Learning at Lingnan University in Hong Kong since 2012, where he had strategic responsibility for the learning environment and teaching quality throughout the university.

He holds two PhDs (in management and education).

Fiji National University Vice-Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey said Professor Pounder, who has an extensive international experience in Asia and Middle-East countries, best met the selection criteria.

“Following the job search, the recruitment and selection committee received approximately 30 outstanding applicants from around the world,” said Professor Healey.

The FNU Vice-Chancellor added that Professor Pounder has an impressive record of leading educational innovation in a multicultural setting with a strong current publications record in learning and teaching.

His duties included liaising with the Hong Kong University Grants Committee on all matters relating to teaching and learning quality and he was a key member of the Teaching and Learning Development Committee of the University Grants Committee.

Professor Pounder who took up his new role last month said he is honored to have been offered a chance to join FNU.

“My objective is to help the national university become university of choice especially in the teaching and learning area,” he said.

Meanwhile Professor Healey also welcomed Pro-Vice Chancellor Research Professor Mohini Singh.

Originally from Fiji, Professor Singh has been an academic with Australian universities for the last thirty years.

Professor Healey said the new Pro-Vice Chancellor Research is well known for her work in the fields of Information Technology and Innovation Management, e-Business and e-Government, e-Services, Digital Entrepreneurship and Social Media.

“Professor Singh has an extensive research and research management experience and her work is exemplified by more than 150 refereed publications including books, book chapters, journal and conference papers,” he said.

Other outcomes of her research include delivery of key note addresses at international forums, and presentation of her research to the Parliament of Victoria for policy development on telecommunications infrastructure for rural

Victoria.

Professor Singh has held several leadership positions some which include Deputy Head Research & Innovation, Deputy Head of School Industry Engagement, Director Postgraduate Programs, Director of Research Units and has served as a member on Academic and Advisory Boards.

She is an Honorary Professor at Victoria University in Australia, and has been a visiting Professor at Brunel University in the U.K., an invited Professor at IESEG Graduate School in France, Monash University and at the University of South Australia.

Professor Singh who took up the office last week, has also supervised a large number of PhD students to completion, coordinated higher degree programs and taught Research Methods in PhD programs.

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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).