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PRESS RELEASE

FNU becomes 'Gold Sponsor' for Commonwealth Conference

Suva, Fiji Islands.

The Fiji National University today presented a \$20,000 cheque to the Ministry of Education to secure Gold Sponsorship ahead of next month's high-profile 20th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEM) which will be held at Sheraton Fiji Resort, on Denarau Island in Nadi.

This is the first time a pacific island country has been selected to host the conference which is expected to attract close to 400 local and international delegates.

A total of 52 commonwealth education ministers are expected to converge in Nadi from the 19 – 23 February for the conference deliberating on the theme 'Sustainability and Resilience: Can Education Deliver?'

Permanent Secretary for Education, Heritage and Arts, Iowane Tiko said the sponsorship highlighted the University's commitment towards development of quality education and will greatly assist in achieving the conference's objectives.

"On behalf of the honourable Minister and senior staff we would like to extend our greatest acknowledgement to FNU for the good token of assistance that you have come forward with in our efforts to try and secure sponsorship for this very important meeting. Fiji is lucky enough to be the first in the South Pacific Island to host the CCEM and on behalf of the Ministry we greatly appreciate the generous donation we receiving this afternoon," said the Permanent Secretary.

"The theme is expected to stress and address the important mitigation measures for climate change and globalisation through partnerships; and to build resilience for sustainable development. The theme will set the platform for the development of a policy agenda to address the climate change crisis faced by Fiji and other small island states," said Mr Tiko.

FNU Director Marketing & Communications, Jenies Mudiliar said the University is delighted to partner with the Ministry of Education to host such an auspicious event.

"As the country's national university, we are very supportive of the Ministry of Education and of the initiative you have taken and this is actually a very proud moment for the University as well," said the Director.

“We are also very enthusiastic about the theme which we feel is very relevant to the Pacific Island countries as we are very vulnerable to climate change and this conference will no doubt bring to the table a lot of knowledge sharing, discussions, initiatives and innovative ideas for sustainable development in the region through education,” said Ms Mudiliar.

The conference will enable education ministers to consider new education systems to respond to global concerns such as climate change and migration, and deliver skills development, smooth transitions into employment and cultural and traditional knowledge.

For further information, please contact the Litia Tuiqaga on Email: prol-lt@fnu.ac.fj or Phone: 3394000 ext. 2886

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).