

Tuesday 2 October, 2018

Press Release

FNU collaborates with UNSW for research and capacity development

The Fiji National University (FNU) has strengthened its partnership with The University of the New South Wales (UNSW) in areas of cooperative research and research capacity development, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The MoU which was signed at FNU's Nasinu Campus yesterday afternoon, will see the two institutions collaborate to build research capacity of staff and postgraduate students in the areas of Health, Engineering and other disciplines.

Under this partnership UNSW staff will supervise FNU students undertaking certain Higher Research Degrees (HRDs). FNU students will also have an opportunity to apply for scholarships to pursue further studies at the Australian University.

FNU Pro Vice Chancellor – Learning and Teaching, Professor James Pounder commended UNSW for formalizing the partnership which will pave the way for developing research capabilities, identify research areas of national interests and undertake actual research within the agreed framework.

Professor Pounder said one of the fundamental roles of FNU was creation of new knowledge through research and creative works.

“This collaboration with UNSW recognises the intention to focus on both knowledge creation through research and to build research capacity,” said the Pro Vice Chancellor.

“FNU as a research institution rededicates to explore, investigate and meet the new emerging challenges on the island nation and offer a futuristic vision to our society, besides providing a window to our diverse sociocultural past and present.”

Other activities to be undertaken as part of the MoU include:

1. Student Mobility – each university will identify suitable programmes to enable mobility of undergraduate and postgraduate (coursework) students.
2. Staff Exchange – academic staff from both universities are nominated to participate in an exchange program to study or teach. Visiting Research Fellows can undertake advanced study or research.

The President and Vice Chancellor of UNSW, Professor Ian Jacobs said they were pleased to partner with Fiji's national university and collaborate on important research topics.

“We are extremely excited about this partnership. We have had a very fruitful collaboration earlier with FNU's College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) in areas of Reproductive Health and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs),” said Professor Jacobs.

“Therefore, we are not entirely new to each other in terms of partnership and collaboration. With further discussions between the two universities, we identified areas of research in other disciplines that will see mutual benefits for both institutions.”

Ends.

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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).