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PRESS RELEASE

Australian National University partner with FNU

Suva, Fiji Islands.

Fiji National University received a timely boost of improved learning equipment from the Australian National University (ANU) earlier today.

The ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society made a donation of 100 rocks and mineral specimens and 12 petrological microscopes towards the newly introduced Certificate IV in Geology, Mining & Quarrying programme offered by the College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST).

The new certificate programme has just completed its first quarter of classes and students will be expected to carry out field studies in the second quarter, where the new donated learning materials will be vital.

Acting Dean CEST, Salabogi Mavoia said the donation is a testament of ANU's commitment to their partnership with FNU in improving in providing quality education to the people of Fiji.

"We are very fortunate as a college for the donation from our partner university. This is a collaboration that started even before the implementation of the programme and with the new equipment, students will be in a position to learn better and have greater knowledge and understanding of geology, mining and quarrying," said Mr Mavoia.

ANU representative and Senior Lecturer, Dr Sara Beavis said students will benefit greatly from the new investment.

"The teaching sets of rocks and minerals will be essential for their understanding of characteristics and properties of rocks and minerals so they will be able to identify them when out in the field," said Dr Beavis.

"I am especially interested in this field of geology and I'm happy that ANU is able to partner with FNU for this very important collaboration and I believe this is just the beginning to a very long journey."

FNU is also collaborating with ANU in the hope of developing and aligning the current Certificate IV programme into a new Diploma programme.

A Memorandum of Understanding is expected to be signed in the near future.

For further information, please contact the Litia Tuiqaqa on Email: pro-It@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).