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PRESS RELEASE

Goundar launches his second Book

Fiji National University (FNU) academic and writer Prashneel R. Goundar launched his second book *Writing and Publishing in Fiji: Narratives from Fijian Writers* (2018, USP Press) an edited volume with Vinesh Maharaj (USP) yesterday.

The book features chapters by eminent writers such as Professor Satendra Nandan, Professor Wadan Naresy, Professor Subramani, Professor Brij Lal, Daryl Tarte, and emerging writers such as Subashni Kumar, Ravnil Narayan, Neelam Singh, Prashneel Goundar, Avitesh Deepak Kumar, Manpreet Kaur, Kamala Lakshmi Naiker, Bhagwanji Bhindi, Sanjaleen Prasad, Praveen Chandra, Maharaj Kumari Bhindi and Lia Bogitini.

Acting Dean of College of Humanities and Education, Professor Unaisi Walu Nabobo Baba who has also written the foreword of *Writing and Publishing in Fiji: Narratives from Fijian Writers*, launched the book at Natabua Campus, Lautoka.

While launching the book, the Chief Guest Professor Baba commented "in Prashneel Goundar, I see the next Subramani of the South Pacific".

She also acknowledged the support of Vinesh Maharaj in enabling many of the works of local academics published through USP Press. Professor Baba praised the Department of Language & Literature for maintaining the standard of publishing quality work and urged everyone to purchase a copy of this unique anthology.

In congratulating Goundar, the Head of Department for Language & Literature, Dr. Vasemaca Alifereti commented that the horizon seems very bright for Mr. Goundar, especially with the publication achievement despite his busy teaching schedule.

Goundar is an academic and writer based in Fiji. He works for the Fiji National University, Department of Language and Literature as a Lecturer in Language. He is a graduate of the University of Fiji and holds a Master of Arts degree in Teaching in English as a Second Language (MATESL).

Goundar's first book was published last year, *'In Simple Words'* (2017). He has published more than 40 scholarly articles, book reviews, critical essays, and book chapters in Fiji, Australia, India, Croatia, Tunisia and the United Kingdom with Cambridge University Press. Goundar is a Member of the Editorial Board of *International Journal of Literature, Language and Linguistics* (Premier Publishers) USA and Nigeria, *International Journal of Political Science and Development* as well as for *International Journal of English Literature and Culture* (Academic Research Journal Publishers), Nigeria. He is also the Chief Education Editor for Positively Transforming World (PTW) based in Melbourne, Australia.

In August 2017, his writing *'Future Directions for Youth in Advancing the Hindu Dharma'* was awarded first place at the Fiji National Hindu Youth Conference organized by Vishva Hindu Parishad (Fiji). Goundar is also a Member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities' Research, Knowledge and Information (ACU RKI) Community and Association for Fiji Writers and Artists.

Goundar has taught students from over 19 different countries including; Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Denmark, Korea, China, Spain, Russia, Taiwan, Czech Republic, Mongolia, Norway, New Caledonia, Turkey, Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria and Thailand. In 2014, adventure caught his soul and he decided to travel to Christchurch New Zealand, Hong Kong, South Korea and China. Prior to joining the Fiji National University, he was the Deputy Director for Projects Abroad (Fiji) a UK based organization.

Reflecting on his journey of editing this book with Vinesh Maharaj, Goundar shared that it was all a team effort.

“An anthology such as this could only be made possible by the collaborative effort of a team. As editors, we were fortunate to work with individuals who responded to our invite and supported the initiative enthusiastically. The idea of this book developed soon after Vinesh and I attended the first meeting of the Association of Fiji Writers-Artists (AFWA) in July 2017 held at The University of Fiji. The gathering of illustrious and budding writers and artists raised significant questions after which, it was planned to invite writers to submit narratives on issues, challenges and ways to empower writing and publishing in Fiji”.

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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).