

## FNU Partners with AIESEC to support youth empowerment

Fiji National University (FNU) hosted the 2019 Fiji Youth Speak Forum with the theme “Decent Work and Economic Growth” to actively engage, and inspire youth in Fiji on the importance of entrepreneurship.



Opening Plenary during the Youth Speak Forum at FNU Namaka Campus.

The Youth Forum is an event organised by the Association Internationale des Étudiants en Sciences Économiques et Commerciales (AIESEC), the world’s largest youth-run organization. It is an international non-governmental and not-for-profit that provides young people with leadership development, cross-cultural global internships, and volunteer exchange experiences across the globe.

The organisation brings together young leaders and business leaders for a dialogue around youth contribution to the global agenda from Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 8.

Current students of FNU had an opportunity to interact with senior leaders and to be part of big movement to generate actionable ideas that will impact the world and to stand up to make a difference in relation to SGD 8.

President of the AIESEC organising committee, Abdul Mufeez Shaheed thanked FNU for its support and providing a platform for youths to engage in meaningful dialogues relating to youth entrepreneurship.

“Youths are the future of this country and AIESEC been the largest youth – run is committed to ensure that youths are provided with the avenues to become the leaders of tomorrow,” he said.

Shaheed adds that plans are now underway to open an AIESEC branch in the western division.

The panelists for the forum were Asia Development Bank (ADB) Youth for Asia, Shruti Mehta who spoke on “Empowering Youth to Achieve the SDGs”. International Labour Organisation’s Edward Bernard who presented on “The State of Youth and Decent Work in Asia and Pacific” and John Trew from Plan International who spoke on “The Final Push for Decent Work for All”.

A brainstorming session was facilitated by Peter Loewi, United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth, Iris Caluag, Plan International and Elijah Mario, UNDP, which gave an opportunity to youths to deliberate on what decent work mean and what are the challenges facing youths while accessing decent work.

FNU Bachelor in Hospitality and Hotel Management student, Apisai Nagi was excited to be connected with the other youth delegates and to have a clear view on youth initiatives such as entrepreneurship.

“I have more knowledge and a clearer view on how youths can implement new ideas and actively support youth initiatives,” he said.

The Youth Speak Forum is taking place in conjunction with the 2019 Asian Development Bank annual meeting in Nadi



Apisai Nagi FNU student at the Youth Speak Forum.