

## FNU inks partnership to promote French language and culture



FNU Vice-Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey (left) with French Ambassador to Fiji, His Excellency Jean-Francois Fitou (middle) and AFS Executive Director Thomas Feldstein (right).

A new partnership has been inked between the Fiji National University (FNU), French Embassy in Fiji and the Alliance Française de Suva (AFS), which will allow FNU to offer French language courses to its students from the next academic year.

Speaking during the MOU signing French Ambassador to Fiji, His Excellency Jean-Francois Fitou said the French language has been an essential part of success in the tourism and hospitality sector not only in Fiji but globally as well.

“This partnership is aimed to expand the cooperation and collaboration between the three parties to organize the teaching of French language at FNU’s Nasese and Namaka Campuses,” said His Excellency Fitou.

The new Certificate programmes will be introduced to FNU’s College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism students who are undertaking programmes in bakery and pastry, cookery and restaurant services.

FNU Vice-Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey said French has been, for many centuries, a language of the kitchen therefore young students need to have the ability to understand this language.

“We live in a country where we understand the importance of language and the importance of being able to communicate across with language with barriers,” said Professor Healey.

“This MOU is another milestone in the history of FNU. We are all committed to taking the collaboration to the next higher level. The Certificate programmes offered by FNU will take place from 2020,” added VC Healey.

A French-language office has already been set up at FNU’s Namaka Campus in Nadi.

“The office is a point of information on studies in France and French culture, and the main activity is to deliver French courses for FNU students and professors,” he said.

A resource centre on FNU’s Namaka Campus will be progressively developed by Alliance Française de Suva (AFS), a non-profit organisation responsible for teaching French in Fiji.

AFS Executive Director Thomas Feldstein while acknowledging FNU’s support towards the partnership, stated the new programme will help build a network of students familiar with the French language.

“We also plan to provide internships for some students from Fiji to French-speaking territories in Pacific including French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Vanuatu,” said Feldstein.



FNU Vice-Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey while speaking at the MOU signing this morning.