

## FNU to establish collaboration with High Commission of Canada



*FNU Vice Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey with Academic Relations and Public Affairs Manager, High Commission of Canada Mary Hayman.*

The Fiji National University (FNU) will partner with the High Commission of Canada, based in Canberra, Australia to work on key priority areas including professional staff development.

This was part of the discussions held today between the FNU Vice Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey and the High Commission of Canada representative Mary Lou Hayman.

Hayman, who is the Manager Academic Relations and Public Affairs at High Commission of Canada in Canberra is currently on a visit to Pacific Island countries including Fiji to explore areas of collaboration between regional Universities and Canada.

FNU Vice Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey said they were happy with the inaugural discussions and looked forward to strengthening ties with the Canadian High Commission.

“One such area of particular interest for us is the professional development of our staff. These are staff that are looking for opportunities to upgrade academic qualifications to PhD levels by studying at Canadian Universities or perhaps more promisingly looking at the scope for the Canadian College system to support our TVET staff in upgrading their teaching qualifications,” said Professor Healey.

The Vice-Chancellor spoke highly of the Canadian education system which he added placed a lot of significance on training programs specifically for TVET teachers.

“So that’s an area we are very excited about. We also looked at areas of potential search collaboration which align with our national priorities, many things like climate change adaptation, combatting NCDs and food security,” VC Healey commented.

The visiting High Commission rep described her meeting with the Fiji National University team as ‘fantastic’.

Hayman said there was several potential areas of collaboration adding they will also assist FNU in aligning its research priorities.

“Some of these areas are of great interest and importance to Canada, particularly anything around Climate change and coastal management, food security areas and health issues and I really hope that we will be able to see that collaborations in the future between Canada and FNU,” she said.

Hayman met with VC Professor Nigel Healey, Pro Vice Chancellor Learning and Teaching Professor James Pounder and Dean College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies Professor Ram Karan.