

FNU wins prestigious award at South Pacific Stock Exchange (SPX) Awards Night

The Fiji National University's (FNU) 2018 annual report was awarded the Best Presentation and Content for Unlisted Organisations at the recent South Pacific Stock Exchange (SPX) Awards Night held at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva.

The win came as welcome news for Vice-Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey and the Marketing and Communication Team who had worked tirelessly on the annual document to make it as relevant as possible based on feedback from SPX.

"Winning the 2019 SPX Award for the Best Presentation and Content for Unlisted Organisations is a great testimony to our commitment to be accountable to the people of Fiji," said a proud Professor Healey after receiving the award from Acting Prime Minister and Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications Honourable Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

Reflecting on the win, Professor Healey said it was a great learning journey for the University, adding that having a well-outlined document ensures the institution is transparent and remains committed in using public funds in an accountable manner.

"Since our establishment in 2010, Fiji National University has followed the same broad structure for its Annual Reports. In 2017, with the creation of a new Marketing and Communications Division, we made a great effort to improve the visual impact of the Annual Report – even giving it the theme of "A Year of Transilience". We were so pleased with it, we decided to enter it in the 2018 SPX competition," explained the VC.

"We did not expect to win in our first year (and we didn't), but we did enter in the hope of getting constructive feedback on ways to improve our reporting to stakeholders. After the competition, the judges came to visit us and, with a bit of prompting, were blisteringly frank in their assessment."

"As a document, they told us, our 2017 Annual Report was highly professional, and beautifully laid out with excellent pictorials. As a report to our stakeholders, on the other hand, it scored a C-, saying almost nothing about our corporate governance, our Council sub-committees, and our performance on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). My takeaway after the feedback was that the judges found our 2017 Annual Report to be a glossy 'feel



Acting Prime Minister and Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications Honourable Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum presents Fiji National University Vice-Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey with the Best Presentation and Content for Unlisted Organisations Award at the recent South Pacific Stock Exchange (SPX) Awards Night held at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva.

good' alumni magazine, with a financial report tacked on the end."

"The Director of Marketing and Communications, Jenies Mudiliar, and her team worked hard to redesign the structure of the 2018 Annual Report to align it with the Reserve Bank of Fiji guidelines. Although these guidelines are designed for listed companies, in some ways it is even more important for public bodies like universities to be transparent because our stakeholders are not sophisticated financial investors, but all of us – students, parents, employers, professional bodies and government," added Professor Healey.

Professor Healey said the SPX win has provided the university with a great boost, as well as setting the bar higher as they prepare to work on the 2019 Annual Report.

The Fiji National University was shortlisted for the Best Presentation and Content for Unlisted Organisations with two other organisations.

The SPX Awards Night is organised as part of the institutions broader mission to increase financial literacy amongst Fijians. The SPX has been running an annual competition for unlisted public and private organisations, as well as for companies listed on the stock exchange, to assess the extent to which their annual reports explain the organisation's activities and achievements in a way that is comprehensible to their stakeholders.

The 2018 FNU Annual Report can be viewed here: https://www.fnu.ac.fj/new/images/FNU_Annual_Report_2018.pdf