

MG-CEIT to offer specialised IT programmes from Semester 2



Students part of the pilot programme with Master Trainer Dinesh Kumar (front row - middle) at FNU Derrick, Campus, Samabula.

The India-Fiji Mahatma Gandhi Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (MG-CEIT) will commence offering high-level industry oriented information technology courses from Semester 2 this year.

MG-CEIT has been established by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) from India in partnership with the Fiji National University (FNU). The Centre has been setup at Derrick Campus, Samabula following a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2017 between the government of India and the government of Fiji.

India's C-DAC has a remarkable history in leading the development of IT, both hardware and software. Therefore, MG-CEIT will no doubt enable students to get trained in the latest IT developments in the world.

Head of MG-CEIT, Mukesh Babu said the courses are the first of its kind to be offered in Fiji in terms of the quality and depth of training.

Babu said the courses will be of great advantage to both new graduates and for those already in the workforce.

The MG-CEIT will offer four professional certification programmes which are Certificate Course in Java Programming (CCJP), Certificate Course in Software Testing (CCST), Certificate Course in Network Security (CCNS) and Certificate Course in Business Computing (CCBC).

"This facility will train professionals to be specialists in different areas related to IT. The courses offered are cutting edge and is far different then what is being currently offered in Fiji," said Babu.

"The courses are for people who have already completed their undergraduate studies in engineering or Information Technology but want to upgrade their knowledge in other software."

"Even students in their final year of Bachelor's programme can attempt the courses as it will greatly assist them in meeting the industry standards," he said.

The skills attained from these courses will enable students to be on par with the latest developments in software. The intensive training course will enable students to gain greater specialized IT knowledge and skill and apply this in their daily work.

The Centre is currently offering training to seventeen students including FNU staff in the Certificate Course in Java Programming (CCJP). This is a pilot project which will run for 2 months.

According to Babu, since the Centre noted great interest from staff within the University, it was decided to run a special programme to enhance skills development.

These courses will be taught by staff from C-DAC and FNU, who have undertaken specialist training.

Under the MoU, six FNU staff will train in India to deliver the programmes.

Meanwhile, a Diploma in Civil Engineering final year student, who is part of this pilot programme, Reginal Lal said having such programmes offered in Fiji is a huge milestone for Fijians interested in upskilling themselves in the area of information technology.

"My experience in this class so far has been overwhelming. In Computer Science classes students are often told how C-DAC started and what it has achieved over the years. Being taught by personnel who have gone through the C-DAC training process is a wonderful opportunity," said Lal.

"I have always had the interest for programming and with the establishment of this Centre I will now be able to learn about Java, android and other programs."

Enrolment for Semester 2 commences from 10th June.



(L-R) Jonasa Rinakama, Director MG-CEIT, Mukesh Babu, Trainer, Dinesh Kumar and Eremasi Tamanisau.