



NTPC Director Dr Isimeli Tagicakiverata with FNU Vice-Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey and NTPC's Department of Hospitality and Tourism Fashion and Travel, Head of Training, Dr Akash Gupta during the closing of the Hospitality and Tourism Festival.

Hospitality and Tourism festival a resounding success

The week-long Hospitality and Tourism Festival ended on a high note, with a special five-course gala dinner prepared by five award-winning local chefs lead by Culinary Federation of Fiji President and celebrity chef Lance Seeto.

The event which was held at the Fiji National University's (FNU) Namaka Campus also featured a fashion show organised by Fiji Fashion Week which showcased latest designs by local designers and artists.

Chief guest and FNU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nigel Healey commended the NTPC team on taking a lead role in creating greater awareness as well as placing a spotlight on Fiji's largest income earner – Tourism.

Professor Healey said the event "provided a unique opportunity to celebrate the value of tourism to the nation, the business sector, and social well-being".



Culinary Federation of Fiji President and celebrity chef Lance Seeto discusses the five-course dinner with guests at the closing of the Hospitality and Tourism Festival.

"I am humbled to see the support and recognition this Hospitality and Tourism Festival has attracted which has enabled people working in tourism and hospitality to share ideas and find new and more effective ways of enhancing originality and productivity in the industry," VC Healey added.

Tourism is an essential driver of the Fijian economy. According to Professor Healey, in 2018, direct earnings from tourism amounted to \$2 Billion, which was approximately 20 percent of GDP.

"The multiplier effect probably magnifies this to 40 percent of GDP, as the employees and suppliers of resorts and hotels, tourist companies and restaurants, in turn, spend their income buying goods and services from other Fijian companies," explained the VC.

As an essential stakeholder of training the nation's workforce, Professor Healey highlighted the ongoing need for closer collaboration between the industry and NTPC.

"The major training programs which NTPC offers for its industry partners include Culinary Skills Training, Food and Beverage Training, Travel, Recreational, and Tourism programs, Hospitality Supervisory and Management programs, Housekeeping and Room Divisions management. NTPC also has a Hair and Beauty Academy."

"We depend on the industries for continuous collaboration so that we at NTPC can meet industry expectations in terms of skills training and developing a more productive workforce," he said.

The senior academic thanked the members of the Tourism Industry for their participation in the inaugural event and making it a success.

"This has set a benchmark, and we look forward to it becoming part of the tourism landscape in the years ahead."

NTPC's Department of Hospitality and Tourism Fashion and Travel, Head of Training, Dr Akash Gupta said the generous support from sponsors and industry led to the success of the event. He said plans are now underway to hold next years event on a larger scale.

The Festival aimed to create greater awareness of the importance Tourism plays in our economy and provide a platform for those in the industry to test their skills amongst their peers through various competitions. It also provided a spotlight on local talents through cultural performances and fashion show.



A Fiji Fashion Week model shows of the latest creations during the gala dinner.