



FIJI NATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY



## VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

01 July 2024

### Dear All,

I hope this week finds you well as you continue your educational journeys.

This week has been marked by significant developments for the Fiji National University (FNU) as we continue to forge strategic partnerships and enhance our educational offerings.

I am delighted to share the successful launch of the inaugural short courses for our College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF) in collaboration with the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). These specialised programmes, including the first-of-its-kind Plant Health Clinic short course, position CAFF as a leader in plant health education and contribute significantly to strengthening integrated crop management research and agricultural sustainability in the Pacific region. We are currently hosting 25 plant health clinicians from Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu through this three-week programme.

Furthermore, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Fiji Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. This MOU signifies a shared vision and outlines a framework for collaboration in research and development, policy analysis, and scientific exploration within the realm of national security. This strategic partnership will be instrumental in supporting the development of critical defence and national security policies for Fiji.

I am also proud to announce a milestone achievement with the graduation of the first cohort of the International Introductory Certificate in Logistics and Transport programme. This programme, offered through our Pacific Centre for Maritime Studies (PCMS) in collaboration with the prestigious Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT), fills a critical gap in Fiji's educational landscape.

This first-ever certified qualification in logistics and transport from a local institution equips graduates with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in various logistics and transport roles, significantly enhancing the country's supply chain network. This achievement aligns perfectly with FNU's commitment to promoting maritime safety and resonates with the theme of "Navigating the Future: Safety First" for World Maritime Day.

As we reflect on World Maritime Day, let us all remember the critical importance of safety in maritime endeavors. I was honoured to be invited as the Guest Speaker at the commemoration of the International Day of Seafarer organised by the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji. We have a collective responsibility to support our seafarers with the necessary skills, resources, and well-being to navigate safely and effectively.

We are excited to announce the launch of a revamped monthly newspaper, Inside FNU. This publication, produced by the University's Division of Marketing and Communications, replaces the previous FNUNIKUA newsletter. Inside FNU will showcase ongoing initiatives and achievements that demonstrate the University's commitment to a sustainable future, not just for Fiji, but for the wider Pacific region.

Be sure to visit our team at the Fiji Showcase from 5 – 13 July! We will be offering academic counselling, enrolment opportunities, and instant offer letters for Semester 2 applications.

Finally, a warm reminder to our students to enjoy their semester break responsibly. Engage in activities that promote your learning and well-being and make well-informed decisions.

**Vinaka vakalevu and best wishes,**

*Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba*

**Vice-Chancellor**

**Fiji National University**

