

**Tuesday, 10 October, 2018**

### Press Release

#### **Fiji National University (FNU) Pledges to Support National Cybersecurity Awareness Month 2018 as a Champion**

**Suva, Fiji Islands.** The Fiji National University (FNU) today announced that it has become a Champion of National Cybersecurity Awareness Month (NCSAM) 2018. FNU will be joining a growing global effort among businesses, government agencies, colleges and universities, associations, nonprofit organisations and individuals to promote awareness of online safety and privacy.

A multi-layered and far-reaching campaign held annually in October, NCSAM was created as a collaborative effort between government and industry to ensure all digital citizens have the resources needed to stay safe and secure online while also protecting their personal information. As an official Champion, the Fiji National University recognises its commitment to cybersecurity, online safety and privacy.

FNU's Director ICT Anuj Prakash said being part of the Champion of National Cybersecurity Awareness Month was a great initiative given the University's recent expansion on the cyber platform.

The University has completed the expansion of 1Gbps Internet bandwidth connectivity to AARNet (Australian Academic and Research Network) and the installation of almost 900 Wi-Fi access points under the Walesi initiative across all 30 campuses/centers and halls of residences.

"Following the upgrade of the FNU network there is increased cyber activity. Students also connect their devices to the University network. All these no doubt has increased the vulnerability and threats to and from FNU networks. We have more than 7,000 computers and laptops connected at any one time. Every FNU student and staff is a consumer and has online access at the university/work and home. Thus there is a great need for everyone to learn good cybersecurity practices and use the internet safely and responsibly. This will ensure that the networks and the multiple devices including smart phones, tablets, laptops are secure," said Prakash.

"Similar to work, our personal online lives (social, online shopping, games) need smart cybersecurity. We live in a digital world where the Internet is a shared resource and to ensure its secure and safe for all users is a shared responsibility and not only relying on the ICT Department."

As part of this program, the Fiji National University will organise awareness activities for *staff and students on cyber-related threats and how these can be avoided.*

Co-founded and led by the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), NCSAM has grown exponentially since its inception, reaching consumers, small and medium-sized businesses, corporations, government entities, the military, educational institutions and young people nationally and internationally. NCSAM 2017 was an unprecedented success, generating 4,316 news stories – an increase of 68

percent in comparison to NCSAM 2016's media coverage. Kicking off its 15th year, NCSAM 2018 presents an unparalleled opportunity to leverage the month's tremendous adoption growth over the last several years and expand cybersecurity and privacy education and awareness globally.

"The Champion program continues to be a such a strong foundation for National Cyber Security Awareness Month's ongoing and impactful success. In 2017, 1,050 organizations enlisted to support the month – a 21-percent increase from the previous year," said Russ Schrader, NCSA's executive director.

"We are thankful to our 2018 Champion organisations for their support and commitment to our shared responsibility of promoting cybersecurity, online safety awareness and the opportunity to protect our privacy."

For more information about NCSAM 2018, the Champion program and how to participate in a wide variety of activities, visit [staysafeonline.org/ncsam](https://staysafeonline.org/ncsam). You can also follow and use the official NCSAM hashtag **#CyberAware** on social media throughout the month.

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**About the Fiji National University:** The Fiji National University (FNU) was established through the merger of 7 government-owned tertiary institutions in Fiji, and commenced operations from 1 January 2010. The constituent institutions are found at over 40 different locations across Fiji, and collectively offer Certificates, Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas, Degrees, Postgraduate qualifications and Skills Upgrading for those who are already in employment. Approximately 30,000 students pass through the University each year. Over the last six years of its operations, the University has registered major achievements with regard to new programme delivery, quality improvements and contribution to research and publications via its 5 Colleges: The College of Humanities & Education (CHE), the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences (CMNHS), the College of Engineering, Science & Technology (CEST), the College of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (CAFF), the College of Business, Hospitality & Tourism Studies (CBHTS) and the National Training & Productivity Centre (NTPC).

#### **About National Cybersecurity Awareness Month**

NCSAM is designed to engage and educate public- and private-sector partners through events and initiatives with the goal of raising awareness about cybersecurity in order to increase the resiliency of the nation in the event of a cyber incident. Since the Presidential proclamation establishing NCSAM in 2004, the initiative has been formally recognized by Congress, federal, state and local governments and leaders from industry and academia. This united effort is necessary to maintain a cyberspace that is safer and more resilient and remains a source of tremendous opportunity and growth for years to come. For more information, visit [staysafeonline.org/ncsam](https://staysafeonline.org/ncsam) or [dhs.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month](https://dhs.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month).

#### **About NCSA**

[NCSA](https://www.ncsa.org) is the nation's leading nonprofit, public-private partnership promoting cybersecurity and privacy education and awareness. NCSA works with a broad array of stakeholders in government, industry and civil society. NCSA's primary partners are DHS and NCSA's Board of Directors, which includes representatives from ADP; Aetna; AT&T Services Inc.; Bank of America; CDK Global, LLC; Cisco; Comcast Corporation; ESET North America; Facebook; Google; Intel Corporation; Logical Operations; Marriott International; Mastercard; Microsoft Corporation; Mimecast; NXP Semiconductors; Raytheon; RSA, the Security Division of EMC; Salesforce; Symantec Corporation; TeleSign; Visa and Wells Fargo. NCSA's core efforts include National Cyber Security Awareness Month (October); Data Privacy Day (Jan. 28); STOP. THINK. CONNECT™; and [CyberSecure My Business™](https://www.ncsa.org/cybersecure-my-business), which offers webinars, web resources and workshops to help businesses be resistant to and resilient from cyberattacks. For more information on NCSA, please visit [staysafeonline.org/about](https://staysafeonline.org/about).

**About STOP. THINK. CONNECT.**

STOP. THINK. CONNECT.™ is the global online safety awareness campaign to help all digital citizens stay safer and more secure online. The message was created by an unprecedented coalition of private companies, nonprofits and government organizations with leadership provided by NCSA and the APWG. The campaign was launched in October of 2010 by the STOP. THINK. CONNECT.™ Messaging Convention in partnership with the U.S. government, including the White House. NCSA, in partnership with the APWG, continues to lead the campaign. DHS leads the federal engagement in the campaign. Learn how to get involved by following STOP. THINK. CONNECT.™ on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and visiting [stopthinkconnect.org](http://stopthinkconnect.org).