

The University of Fiji | April | ISSUE 1 2021

## The University of Fiji discounts its Year 1 fees in 2021 to encourage students to attend the University despite the slash in TELS sponsorship.

The University of Fiji has encouraged students to attend the University despite the removal of TELS by the Government for students with Year 13 marks of between 200 and 249.

Acting Vice Chancellor Professor Shaista Shameem said the removal of TELS support for students with 200-249 marks was a big blow to many high school students who could previously obtain a university education through TELS support.

Professor Shameem said that because of the challenge such students and their parents would now face, the University had decided to discount fees.

First year students who join the School of Business and Economics, the School of Humanities and Arts, the School of Science and Technology, the Justice Devendra Pathik School of Law and the Centre for iTaukei studies saw a reduction of 12% or more in tuition fees in 2021.

Students enrolling in the Foundation Studies Programme will enjoy a 44% reduction in fees in 2021. In addition, students who find it difficult to pay their fees upfront will be able to arrange payment plans with the Finance Office.

Professor Shameem said the University was founded on the principle of accessibility to higher education for those facing hardship or lack of equal opportunity, and the University was duty-bound to ensure that no one who wanted higher education would

would miss out because of lack of sponsorship.

The University offers programmes in 2021 using the "Face-to-Face Online" methodology, incorporating the "virtual classroom" to help reduce travel and accommodation costs for students. Face to face classes are staggered accordingly. The University has also set up computer labs in Tavua, Lautoka, Sigatoka, Kinoya and Labasa for students who have difficulties with internet connectivity and to reduce travel costs.

In addition, the University will establish its Ba Campus as soon as renovations are complete. Students can contact the University for further information regarding the fee reduction.

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# EDITORIAL

This issue of UNIPULSE was to be published in December, however, TCs Yasa and Ana imposed a delay, hence it is released now.

The highlights of 2020 at UniFiji were all, inevitably, moderated by the lurking subtext of Covid-19. However, despite this setback, we managed to maintain a steady progress and were able to consider planning for 2021 and beyond. The University of Fiji Staff and Students were at the centre of the University's progress in 2020 and I express my sincere thanks for their diligent attention, not only to the maintenance of our standards, but also to the advancement of our mandate in higher education.

The Strategic Plan 2017-2021 will come to its natural end this year and we hope to start on the Strategic Plan 2022-2026 within a few weeks with consultations with the University Community as well as our wider community.

Higher education world-wide is in crisis, that is obvious. It is in crisis in many ways but two stand out- the first is in the quality of delivery of education against the background of the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, and the second, perhaps more importantly, is in the limited employment choices now facing graduates. The second crisis is caused by the collapse of industry in many cases and the contracting global (and national) economy. 'Economic growth' which is the engine that makes jobs available, is a matter of concern, not only among the economists but also for the nation states and governments everywhere. In countries where Covid-19 continues to rage unabated, any idea of how to fix the flagging economy has to take second precedence to the drive to get the pandemic under control. As more variants of Covid-19 are discovered (4000 at last count), the panacea of the vaccine currently being issued may be short-lived.

As a University we cannot afford to sit back and wait for things to become 'normal' again. WHO and other experts say that the virus is here to stay; it is how we manage it and carry on with our lives that counts. Breaking the chain in transmission is the only way to manage it, scientists tell us, and that is what the University of Fiji is supporting. We are fortunate that we can continue with learning and teaching without the use of heavy personal protection gear as other colleagues overseas cannot.

Under the circumstances, as we move deeper into 2021 academic life, the University administration will continue to emphasise health and safety of all staff and students, but especially of those who are immuno-compromised. In normal circumstances, the immuno-compromised status of personnel in an employment context or in a service would not be of much concern at all; however, Covid-19 has made this an OHS issue for us. Institutional risk mitigation now, invariably, takes into account the grave risk imposed by the persistence and evolution of Covid-19 in an employment context; the onus is on those responsible for health and safety of any organisation to minimise such risks.

In our context, the real test is to see whether we can provide quality education in every sphere and, simultaneously, to mitigate the health risks we face due to the advancement of Covid-19 and its variants.

The University, nevertheless, is planning big events in 2021 to advise on higher education at national level as well as to provide optimum service to students as they move towards graduation and employment.

Philosophically we must be prepared for working in a different way in 2021. This calls for creativity in methodology for both academia and administration. At the University of Fiji, we have imagination in abundance to be able to take control of our work and professional lives in order to find both as fulfilling as possible despite any obstacles.

## Hindi Stakeholders Roundtable

The University of Fiji's Hindi section of the Language, Literature and Communication Department recently coordinated a Hindi Stakeholder Roundtable meeting to discuss the future of the Hindi language and identify strategies to improve its teaching in primary and secondary schools.

The meeting was held on December 12, 2020 and included, among others, representatives from the Indian High Commission, the Hindi Teachers' Association, Ministry of Education, Arya Pratinidhi Sabha and Hindi Parishad. The Indian High Commission, Ministry of Education Hindi Officers and the Hindi Teachers' Association will hold workshops to improve the Hindi language teaching skills and techniques at the primary and secondary school levels. In the meantime, Curriculum Development Unit officers, members of the Hindi Teachers' Association and Fiji National University and The University of Fiji lecturers will address the need to review the Hindi curriculum being taught in schools and systematically develop it. The stakeholders' meeting also resolved to raise community awareness and work on a proposal to make "mother tongue" languages compulsory up to Year 10. There are plans to host an annual appreciation awards ceremony at which six Hindi language secondary school teachers will be recognised for their commitment to the teaching of the language. Quarterly roundtable meetings will now be held to ensure plans are in motion.

## Professor Subramani's New Book

A renowned local literary giant and UniFiji Professor in English, Professor Subramani, has published a new book titled "Reason to Imagine". It is a work of non-fiction in English and a deviation from Professor Subramani's previous book "Fiji Maa; Mother of a Thousand (2019)", written in Fiji Hindi. Professor Subramani has established for himself the distinctive identity as a writer who creates in two languages simultaneously or alternatively, employing multiple genres. The UniFiji-based writer argues that bilingual authors have the capacity to push the boundaries of writing because of the intersection of two languages, apart from access to the resources of those languages, and the advantage of dual perspectives, world-views and philosophies. This gives them enormous advantage to innovate, experiment and produce something genuinely original and avant-garde in imaginative literature. The University of the South Pacific's Professor Sudesh Mishra said the real test of a scholar is his or her capacity for intellectual restlessness.

"In these essays," Professor Mishra said, "whether he is reflecting on education, vernacular languages, social cohesion, homegrown epistemologies or on his own journey as a writer, Subramani is a scholar par excellence because his interventions are driven by an audacious intellectual restlessness. This 'restlessness' as a virtue is exemplified in his external and internal journey". In one of the essays, Professor Subramani is travelling to Assam for a literature festival and is worried about state of the world with the advent of Donald Trump and at the same time he is inwardly thinking of his students in Fiji who are beginning to treat books with indifference, even disdain; he is cheered by the respect India still shows for books, placed at the top of the list of countries that read for pleasure. The new work by Professor Subramani presents educators and policy-makers many subjects to debate, from the retrieval of local epistemologies (systems of knowledge), the reform on an outdated curriculum, re-imagining university education, the state of reading culture, building communities, to the protection of endangered vernacular languages. A tone of urgency resonates throughout the book that conveys Professor Subramani's belief that time is running out on these issues. Those aspiring to write and learn the 'craft' of writing, can follow the journey of this Fijian writer who discovered early, as a child the 'reason to imagine', and then to create fiction and non-fiction in the English and Fiji Hindi languages.

## Professor Merchant Donates Chairs to Lautoka Hospital

The Dean of UPSM&HS, Professor Fred Merchant presented six new hi-impact office chairs and a Breville 6-litre coffee maker to the Accident and Emergency (A&E) Department at the Lautoka Hospital on Friday, November 13, 2020. The chairs cost over \$1000 and will replace the worn-out and discarded staff chairs in the Department.

"These ergonomically-designed chairs, while offering a bit of comfort for the staff of this high-stress department, will go a long way in relieving some of the leg-weary extended work hours of dedicated hardworking staff," said Professor Merchant. Professor Merchant had previously

donated portable x-ray view boxes to the A&E department, Female Medical Ward, and Male Medical Ward at Lautoka Hospital on behalf of the UPSM&HS.



Professor Fred Merchant donating the chairs to the staff of the Accident and Emergency Department at Lautoka Hospital.

## UniFiji Launches Innovative Online Chat Platform

The University, on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020 launched an innovative online chat forum for its potential and current students and stakeholders. Members of the public who visit the University website will be able to connect with staff to respond to their queries or observations. The platform will provide guidance and advice to its potential students. Registrar of the University, Ms Karishma Mani, confirmed that all enquiries would be received at the University and responded to in a timely manner. The platform will be open from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday. According to 99 Firms website, 79% of consumers prefer live chat because they offer instant responses. Live chats have the highest consumer satisfaction rate at 92%.

# Former United States Ambassador launches the University of Fiji's Lawn Chess and donates Medical Textbooks.



Former Ambassador His Excellency Joseph Cella and Professor Fred Merchant launching the UniFiji Lawn Chess Set.

The former American Ambassador, Joseph J. Cella, on October 21st launched the University of Fiji's Lawn Chess Board. Mr. Cella was at the University to donate medical textbooks, but he was invited to also launch the University's Lawn Chess Board. He made the first move in the inaugural game. Acting Vice Chancellor Professor Shaista Shameem said that the University's Lawn Chess

set, made with oversize pieces, is possibly the first in Fiji to be available for Fijian national chess tournaments. The University has established a Chess Club for possible national championships. The books were a gift from the Embassy in partnership with the Asia Foundation. Professor Shameem said that The University of Fiji was small and mostly privately-funded and had to really stretch to make ends meet. "But we are big on two things – we have the ambition to be the best, and we are committed to providing service to the people. We see education as a service to the people. Our programmes have been established with that focus in mind," she said. In response Mr. Cella said "It is an

extension of our country to yours, the Embassy to you as individuals and as an institution".

"I am an alumnus of a privately funded liberal Arts college so I know the sacrifice but the great work that goes under their roof and I know those are here. It augments the great work of your teachers and your leadership."

Prior to visiting the Saweni Campus, Mr. Cella had presented medical books to the Samabula Campus Library. Subsequently, he invited Justice Devendra Pathik School of Law students to watch a series of legal films at the United States Embassy in Suva.



Former Ambassador His Excellency Joseph Cella meeting with Pro-Chancellor, Mr Kamlesh Arya, Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Shaista Shameem and Professor Fred Merchant.

## Public Consultations on Proposed Marine Protected Areas

On the 29th October, 2020, Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice students of the University of Fiji attended their first public consultation conducted by the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Fisheries to discuss the effective management of Fiji's Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

The Fiji Government had committed itself in 2005 to protecting up to 30 per cent of the country's marine areas using 'a comprehensive ecologically representative network of MPAs that was going to be effectively managed and financed'.

The Oceania Regional Office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) and other government agencies and NGO partners had officially presented a draft map of Fiji's offshore zone to the Ministry of Fisheries. The consultations held in October last year enabled the GDLP students to participate in the study of the draft maps which demarcated environmental protection zones and outlined legislation already in place to protect natural resources such as measures to control overfishing, pollution and the harming of animal life.

The graduates participated in group discussions and mingled with stakeholders, including scientists, specialists and community representatives.

Of particular interest was the issue of bilateral treaties that allowed fishing by foreign countries within Fiji's exclusive economic zone, but were factors that did not seem relevant to discussions related to MPAs.

The consultation did present the opportunity for the graduates to thoroughly scrutinize the proposal to declare 30 per cent of Fiji's marine areas as "protected".

The experience they gained in being part of a process that would ultimately contribute to fulfilling Fiji's commitment to the environment was appreciated.



From left: Dean, School of Science and Technology, Professor Anirudh Singh, Acting Permanent Secretary and Director-General Digital Government Transformation, Cybersecurity and Communications, Ms. Tupoutua'h Baravilala, the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shaista Shameem, Head of Department, Computer Science and Mathematics, Mr. Jone Vukinagauna.

## Global Citizen Dialogue on the Future of the Internet

The University in collaboration with its international partner Missions Publiques, hosted a Global Citizen Dialogue on the Future of the Internet on Saturday, October 3, 2020. The theme of the occasion was "We, The Internet".

Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shaista Shameem, said that the dialogue could not have come at a more opportune time. "Covid-19 has forced us all to go almost exclusively online for everything; work, study, communication, trade and exchange, and entertainment," she said.

The heartening part of such a Dialogue, Professor Shameem said, was that it came with the oversight of the United Nations, the results of which will have been delivered to the UN Secretary General through the UN High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation. Professor Shameem said that the internet had transformed from being a tool of efficiency to an indispensable vehicle of life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

"At this University, we are finding imaginative and creative ways of delivering lessons online. The most important aspect of this is that we are not likely to go back to what used to be, because our teaching and learning has suddenly and unexpectedly improved and has created its own market and following among the staff and students." Professor Shameem said that with online teaching of a particular quality, the University was able to emulate actual physical classroom, a methodology called "Face to Face Online".

"We can now offer our programmes internationally without students having to leave their countries; and our working students are finding it easier to attend classes when they do not have to leave their desks and rush to physical lecture rooms.

Professor Anirudh Singh, Dean of the School of Science and Technology, said that more than 100 participants from all walks of life participated in the exchange. "It is really important to have dialogues like this because it helps people learn about the true capabilities of the Internet," he said. Mr Inoke Sarava, from Ba, said that he was glad to have attended the Dialogue. "The whole concept about digital and online is an urban language for me. To come here and be enlightened, I see how far I have been left behind. I have experienced and gathered so much today, in a short amount of time and now I want to go deeper," he said. Ms. Sikiti Toga, from Lami, Suva, said that she learned the risks associated with data sharing and much more from the Dialogue. The Global Citizen Dialogue on the Future of the Internet was part of a phase of global citizen deliberation and participatory democracy, the goal of which was to allow citizens to express their voices on the Internet's future. Citizens' recommendations at the Dialogue has been presented to local and regional governments and also to the Internet Governance Forum 2020 under the theme "Internet United."

**"Covid-19 has forced us all to go almost exclusively online for everything - work, study, communication, trade and exchange, and entertainment,"**

# Workshop for Careers Teachers and Principals

A workshop hailed as innovative and informative was held on September 19, at the University for Career Teachers and Principals. The workshop briefed the participants about the programmes offered by the University in 2021 within the limitations imposed by Covid-19. The keynote address was delivered by Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Shaista Shameem at the University's Suva Campus and simulcast to its Saweni Campus and participants in Labasa. Professor Shameem said it was no secret that the pandemic had placed huge restrictions on the ability of high school teachers to properly advise their students about the future. 'Industry' the world over, she said, was facing serious repercussions.

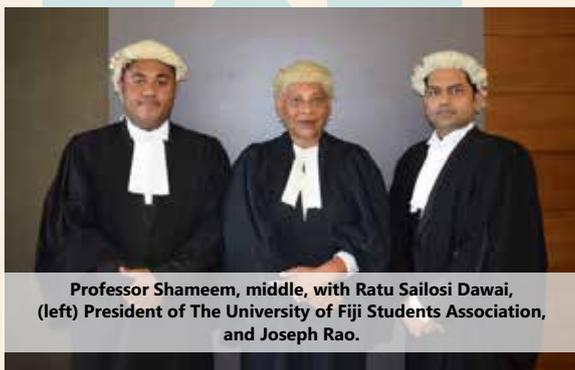
Professor Shameem said the pandemic's impact on the global economy was felt even in a small nation like Fiji, as evidenced by fewer jobs being available to graduates. The University was obliged, therefore, to inform high school students who would normally have contemplated a university education, to consider the range of options that it was now able to provide in the current uncertain climate.

Professor Shameem said that the University was able to offer a range of alternatives to its normal offerings and seriously consider how it could make its programmes more affordable. She said the University was proud that its programmes were given full recognition on the Fiji Higher Education's Quality Framework. The participants asked questions about access to affordable quality education, access to and delivery of virtual learning and virtual classrooms, IT competence, students' concerns about their future and the teachers' own concerns about how best to advise their students and guide them towards their goals despite limited career options. The University's Deans provided an outline of the individual programmes in their Schools and senior administrators explained the entry requirements.

Professor Shameem with Careers Teachers and Principals at the Workshop at Samabula Campus.



## JDP SoL Students Admission to Bar



Professor Shameem, middle, with Ratu Sailosi Dawai, (left) President of The University of Fiji Students Association, and Joseph Rao.

The University's Bachelor of Laws students were admitted to the Bar by the Chief Justice the Honourable Kamal Kumar on September 24, 2020 at the Grand Pacific Hotel. The formal ceremony was presided by the Honourable Chief Justice. Senior Judges of the Fijian Court, the President of the Fiji Law Society, Wylie Clark, the Director of the Legal Aid Commission, Shahin Ali and other senior lawyers of Fiji were also present to witness the admission formalities. The Acting Vice Chancellor of The University of Fiji and Dean of the Justice Devendra Pathik School of Law, Professor Shaista Shameem said the occasion of admission to the Bar

Bar was always a proud moment not only for the School of Law and the University but also for the families of the graduates. Many families had made tremendous sacrifices so that their children could attend law school and become lawyers. Professor Shameem said she was honoured to have been asked to move two petitions- of Ratu Sailosi Dawai of Narewa and of Joseph Rao of Taveuni. Ratu Sailosi Dawai is the President of The University of Fiji Students Association and a member of the University Senate and Council. Joseph Rao scored the highest marks in LLB at the School of Law. Professor Shameem said that the JDP School of Law emphasised the importance of both hard and soft skills in its law programme as it wanted to train students to be both good lawyers and good citizens. Employers were looking for graduates who were at the top of their game. "Covid-19 has made us realise the importance of excellent legal education which is a necessity now and not a luxury," she concluded.

# Publications

1. Ekta Sharma, Ravinesh C. Deo, **Ramendra Prasad**, Alfio V. Parisi, And Nawin Raj, (2020) Deep Air Quality Forecasts: Suspended Particulate Matter Modeling With Convolutional Neural and Long Short-Term Memory Networks.
2. Moishin, M., Deo, R. C., **Prasad, R.**, Raj, R., and Abdulla, S., (2020). Development of Flood Monitoring Index for daily flood risk evaluation: case studies in Fiji. Stochastic Environmental Research and Risk Assessment.
3. Ali, M., Prasad, R., Xiang, Y., and Deo, R. C., (2020) Near real-time significant wave height forecasting with hybridized multiple linear regression algorithms. Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews
4. **Ramendra Prasad, Dhrishna Charan, Lionel Joseph**, Thong Nguyen-Huy, Ravinesh C. Deo, **Sanjay Singh**, (2021) Daily Flood Forecasts with Intelligent Data Analytic Models: Multivariate Empirical Mode Decomposition-Based Modeling Methods. In: Deo R., Samui P., Kisi O., Yaseen Z. (eds) Intelligent Data Analytics for Decision-Support Systems in Hazard Mitigation. Springer Transactions in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Springer, Singapore.
5. Thong Nguyen-Huy, Ravinesh C. Deo, Zaher Mundher Yaseen, **Ramendra Prasad**, and Shahbaz Mushtaq(2021) Bayesian Markov Chain Monte Carlo-Based Copulas: Factoring the Role of Large-Scale Climate Indices in Monthly Flood Prediction. In: Deo R., Samui P., Kisi O., Yaseen Z. (eds) Intelligent Data Analytics for Decision-Support Systems in Hazard Mitigation. Springer Transactions in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Springer, Singapore.
6. Sagthitharan Karalasingham, Ravinesh Deo, and **Ramendra Prasad**, 2021. Short-term electrical energy demand prediction under heat island effects using emotional neural network integrated with genetic algorithm. In: R. Deo, P. Samui and S.S. Roy (Editors), Predictive Modelling for Energy Management and Power Systems Engineering. Elsevier, pp. 271-298.
7. **Ali, W.** (2020) Evolving Technology and Its Impact in the Online Lives of University Students, (Book Chapter 8) Modern Perspectives in Language, Literature and Education Vol. 2, pp. 71-86
8. **Ali, W., Kaur, M.** (2020) Mediating Educational Challenges Amidst Covid-19 Pandemic, Asia Pacific Journal of Contemporary Education and Communication Technology, Volume 6, Issue 2, pp. 40-57
9. **Raj, S. K. & Singh, N. K.** (2020). Strategizing of fast food industries using a balanced scorecard approach: A case study of McDonald's Corporation. International Journal of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, 6(6), 258-273.
10. **Raj, S. & Azam, M.** (2020). Tax on Forgiven Debts: Fiji Income Tax Act Vs Islamic Perspective, International Journal of Management, Accounting and Economics, 7(6), pp. 363-369.

## Pinktober and Movember Function

In support of creating awareness of breast cancer and prostate cancer, the University held a Pinktober and Movember function at its Saweni Campus on 4 November 2020. The Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UPSM&HS) students organized the event for the University. Chief guest Assistant Minister of Health, Hon. Alexander O'Connor highlighted the need for regular self-examination and early diagnosis of cancers. "Women are encouraged to perform at-home breast examinations at least once a month, and to report any irregularities immediately to their doctor. Forty per cent of breast cancer diagnoses come from self-examination, and those that are detected early have the best chance for successful treatment. Likewise, for men, bloodstain and painful urination are possible signs of prostate cancer," he said. "The purpose of these months is to help our communities raise awareness about our health, encourage early screenings, educating all Fijians about the pressing need to fight cancer at the local level," he stated. Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shaista Shameem said that Pinktober and Movember activities were designed to mitigate and manage health risks caused by cancers. "By supporting such events the University can assist with mitigating and managing these health risks in the same way that we mitigate and manage other risks like climate change, natural disasters, and financial downturns in our operational practices and management plans." Professor Shameem said that the University's Strategic Plan 2017-2021 included a risk-management design that helped minimise potential organizational risks including health and well-being.

प्रिय हिन्दी प्रेमियों! सादर नमस्ते । हिन्दी दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ । आओ, हम सब मिलकर संकल्प लें - हिन्दी पढ़ेंगे और पढ़ाएँगे । 'मेरी शान मेरी हिन्दी महान'

'विश्व हिन्दी सचिवालय, मॉरीशस' के सहयोग से 14 अक्टूबर को 'विश्व हिन्दी दिवस', यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ फीजी पर मनाया गया । हिन्दी भाषा, साहित्य और संस्कृति के प्रचार-प्रसार के लिए, हिन्दी दिवस आयोजन के अवसर पर रचनात्मक गतिविधियों को कार्यरूप दिया गया । महामारी के प्रकोप को ध्यान में रखते हुए इस वर्ष सेकंडरी और प्राइमरी स्कूलों को आमंत्रित नहीं किया गया । यूनिवर्सिटी के विद्यार्थियों द्वारा सभी प्रतियोगिताओं और कार्यक्रमों में भाग लिया गया । ये कार्यक्रम इस प्रकार थे-

- **हिन्दी साहित्य पर आधारित पोस्टर प्रतियोगिता** - हिन्दी साहित्य से सम्बन्धित विषयों और विभिन्न साहित्य कारों के जीवन तथ्यों पर शोध कार्य करके, कलात्मक ढंग से चार्टस प्रस्तुत किए गए । सभी का कार्य अति सराहनीय था इसलिए उच्चतम पाँच बच्चों को नकद धन राशि से पुरस्कृत किया गया ।
- **स्वरचित कविता पाठ** - सभी स्तर के बच्चों द्वारा भाग लिया गया प्रथम तीन बच्चों को नकद धन राशि से पुरस्कृत किया गया । गैर हिन्दू बच्चों ने भी भाग लिया और पुरस्कार प्राप्त किए ।
- **'प्रगतिशील भविष्य और हिन्दी' विषय पर गोल मेज़ चर्चा** -हिन्दी से सम्बन्धित इस प्रकार के विषय पर हिन्दी विद्वानों का यह प्रथम सम्मेलन था जहाँ खासतौर पर हिन्दी के भविष्य को लेकर चर्चा की गई । हिन्दी के भविष्य को उज्ज्वल बनाने के लिए इस चर्चा को कायम रखने की आवश्यकता समझी गई और इस सत्र के दूसरे चरण के सम्मेलन को 12दिसम्बर, शनिवार को कार्यरूप देने का निश्चय किया गया है। इसके अन्तर्गत हिन्दी शिक्षण को रूचिकर और ज्ञानवर्द्धक बनाने की योजनाएँ बनाई जाएंगी और अगले वर्ष उन्हें कार्यरूप देने पर विचार किया जाएगा । इन सभी प्रतियोगिताओं में भाग लेने वालों को नकद धन राशि से सम्मानित करने के लिए, मैं विशेष रूप से 'विश्व हिन्दी सचिवालय, मॉरीशस' के महासचिव श्री विनोद कुमार मिश्र जी को यूनिवर्सिटी की ओर से हार्दिक धन्यवाद देती हूँ।

सभी हिन्दी प्रेमियों के लिए एक और महत्वपूर्ण सूचना है कि अगले वर्ष जनवरी में यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ फीजी द्वारा **हिन्दी शौर्ट कोर्स पठन-पाठन** की व्यवस्था की गई है, आप इसके माध्यम से अपनी भाषा हिन्दी की नींव को सुदृढ़ बना सकते हैं और इनको करने के बाद आप अपनी पढ़ाई को आगे कायम रख सकते हैं ।

हम सभी फीजी भारतीयों के लिए यह गर्व की बात है कि हमारी यह यूनिवर्सिटी, फीजी की एकमात्र यूनिवर्सिटी है जहाँ पर **पोस्टग्रेजुएट डिप्लोमा हिन्दी लिटरेचर और मास्टर ऑफ आर्ट्स हिन्दी** की शिक्षा उपलब्ध है । बड़ी संख्या में यहाँ पर बच्चे पोस्टग्रेजुएट डिप्लोमा हिन्दी लिटरेचर और मास्टर ऑफ आर्ट्स हिन्दी की पढ़ाई कर रहे हैं। हिन्दी केवल एक भाषा ही नहीं है बल्कि यह मनुष्य के व्यावहारिक जीवन को सुदृढ़ बनाने वाली शैली है। यह मनुष्य के शारीरिक, मानसिक, बौद्धिक और आध्यात्मिक जीवन को सही दिशा दिखाने वाली सरल रीति है। अतः **चलो चलें हम हिन्दी सीखें, हिन्दी हमारी भाषा है । भाषा से भी बढ़कर पहले, हिन्दी हमारी माता है ।**

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Sa mai digitaki na Daireketa Vakatawa ni Centre for iTaukei Studies, Usaia Gaunavou me lewe ni Matabose ni Edita (Editorial Board member) ni **(IOL)**. A volavola mai o Dr Apo Aporosa, na Research Fellow mai na Yuniveasiti mai Waikato ka sureti Gaunavou me lewe ni matabose. Ena nona i vola, a vakaraitaka kina o Dr Apo ni i naki ni journal qo oya na kena tabaki na vakadidike se vakekeli era sa riviutaki oti vei na dauniriviu ka tabaka tale ga na vakekeli (research), ira na riviui, serekali, italanoa leleka kei na volavola vakavakasama (essays) ka ra a sa vakadewataki oti mai na vosa vaka Peritania ki na dua vei ira na vosa vaka Pasivika. Na kena vakadewataki kei na kena tabaki ki na vosa vaka Pasivika e gaunisala veiganiti vaka Pasivika ni kena ripotetaki lesu ki vei ira na veivanua a vakayacori kina na vakekeli kei ira na a vakaitavi kina. Ena gauna vata tale ga oya, sa rawa ni ciqomi vakarawarawa na itukutuku ni vakekeli ni vakadewataki ena umavosa e uasivi na kena ivakatagedegede vei ira na lewe i Pasivika daunivakekeli, ira na gonevuli, ira na matailawalawa kila-ka vakavuli kei ira na daunibuli lawa vakamatanitu ena nodra dui vosanivanua ena Pasivika. Na takete, oya me tabaki ga na itukutuku era sa riviutaki oti mai vei ira na dauniriviu (peer reviewed) kei ira na vakekeli era sa tabaki oti (published research). Sa kena i balebale qo ni sa na qai rawa vei iratou na Matabose ni Edita me ratou vakanamata vakatabakidua ki na rawati ni i vakatagedegede uasivi ni vakavakadewa umavosa ni i tukutuku volai ka sega ni ratou vakaosootaki iratou tale tiko ki na kena riviutaki na vakekeli.

Ena loma ni 12 na yabaki sa oti, a sotava kina o Dr Apo e levu na i vakatatao ka sega ni rawa kina ni tabaki na umavosa vaka Viti na nona vakekeli. E dua na kena i vakaraitaki, ena nodrau veitalanoa kei na Edita ni dua na kabani kilai ni tabaivola vaka Pasivika, a tukuni vua ni kena ivakarau tudei ki na kabani oya me ciqoma ga na itukutuku tabaki ena umavosa vaka Peritania. Qo na ka e vakauqeti Dr Keaka Hemi (AVC: Pacific) kei Dr Apo me rau muria e dua tale na gaunisala. Ena vuku ni tikina oya, sa tadola tale tu qo e dua na gaunisala vei kemuni na daunivakekeli se dau ni bulibuli-ka ena literija se vakacacali mo ni vakayagataka na [In our Language:Journal of Pacific Research \(IOL\)](#) mo ni tabaka kina na nomuni dui cakacaka.