UniFiji
The University of Fiji
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Honourable Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum's Lecture

The Attorney General and Minister of Economy, Public Enteprises, Civil Service and Communications, Honourable Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum as the keynote speaker at the Vice-Chancellor's Public Lecture.

The Attorney General and Minister of Economy, Public Enterprises, Civil Service and Communications, Honourable Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, was the keynote speaker at the Vice-Chancellor's Public Lecture on July 31, 2017.

Honourable Sayed-Khaiyum addressed the University staff and students on various topics including social media, intellectual honesty, economy, Fiji's debt, the 2017/2018 National Budget, Government policies regarding health, education, infrastructure, minimum wage and climate change.

Social Media

While speaking on social media and its impacts, Honourable Attorney General stated that users need to be responsible in using social media platforms.

He questioned whether youth as millennials, are using the availability of technology and access to information to empower themselves and others.

"The issue about using social media in a responsible manner, in the form of empowerment, is critical. Access to technology and information, must give us the ability to empower ourselves. It must give you the ability to find the truth," he further stated.

Intellectual Honesty

The Honourable Minister also explained the importance of having intellectual honesty and objectivity while analysing matters.

"When we analyse matters, when we comment on matters, we need to understand if we are being objective about it. What are the mindsets that we are using to analyse the issue? You are the future leaders of the country. You, in a few years, will be in huge leadership roles. You, in a few years, will determine how the economy of this country is run. Apart from the fact that one needs to have an open mind, we need to have intellectual honesty. If we are going to anaylse anything as a country, our politicians whether in government or the opposition, business personnel and leaders need to have intellectual honesty," he commented.

Honourable Sayed-Khaiyum also responded to questions by students and staff of The University of Fiji on Tertiary Education Loans Scheme (TELS), policies regarding intellectual property rights and copyright issues, Women's Expo, effectiveness of the rehabilitation centres of Fiji Corrections Services, write-offs in the Auditor General's Report as well as buffer zones for costal management.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- The Vice-Chancellor's Press Conference
- ATM Launch
- Eco-Tourism Course
- Professor Narsey's Book Collection
- PACAM Workshop
- Open Day
- COP23 session 5
- COP23 session 6
- Professional Writing Workshop
- UniFiji-McDonald's Eco-Contest
- Innovation Challenge
- Medical Students Travel to Monash University
- International Mangrove Day
- Career's Teachers Workshop
- UniFiji Scoops 3rd Best Paper Award
- UniFiji Students Association
- Alumni Network
- Community Outreach Programme
- School of Law Seminar

Upcoming Events

The Vice-Chancellor's Press Conference

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir, held a press conference on July 5, 2017. Professor Misir spoke on various topics including internal reviews and external accreditation, climate change and COP23 awareness sessions as well as the Domestic Violence Research Unit.

- Internal Reviews and Accreditation

The University has taken initiatives to undergo internal reviews for all its Schools. The Schools already internally reviewed are now stirring towards external accreditation.

- COP23 Awareness Sessions

The University of Fiji recognizes the importance of Fiji's Presidency to COP23 and the impacts of climate change on the Small Island Developing States and as a result creates awareness among students and staff on COP23. The Awareness Sessions, initiated by the Vice-Chancellor and organized by the School of Science and Technology, focuses on enlightening COP23 issues and Oceans on a monthly basis until the meeting in Bonn, Germany in November, 2017.

The University of Fiji together with sponsor, McDonald's Fiji hosted the UniFiji-McDonald's Eco-Contest and created awareness on climate, energy and environment in the Pacific. It provided a platform for high school students to learn and share means through which these issues can be effectively dealt with.

The fifth COP23 awareness session was held on Friday, July 21, 2017.

The session was hosted by two presenters from a local non-governmental organisation (NGO), Diverse Voices for Action and Equality (DIVA).

The presentation provided an understanding of feminist politics, overview of linkages between gender and climate justice and an insight into the 'Just transition to a Plastic Free Pacific' and 'Women Defend Commons' campaigns linking to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A sixth session was hosted on Friday, July 28, 2017. The session was coordinated by Mr. Ravinesh Ram, a Research Scientist in Aquaculture/ Post-Harvest Fisheries from James Cook University, Townsville, Australia. In his presentation, Mr. Ram highlighted that the increasing temperatures of marine environments led to high levels of coral mortality, which led to fish migration from Fiji's ocean in search of new habitat and food.

- Domestic Violence Research unit

The University has plans to introduce a Domestic Violence Research unit. The plans are still in the pipeline. Professor Misir said that domestic violence is growing and needs to be addressed. The University intends to play a role in this but will take a research-based approach. The research will help gather evidence, new knowledge and innovations to combat violence against women.

Westpac ATM Launch

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir, Acting General Manager Westpac, Mr. Elliott Griffin (4th from Left), staff of UniFiji and Westpac during the ATM launch.

The University of Fiji in partnership with Westpac launched the Automated Teller Machine (ATM) on July 19, 2017.

The ATM eliminates the need for students and staff to travel to the cities for banking transactions including withdrawal of money.

The Chief Guest, Acting General Manager Westpac, Fiji, Mr. Elliott Griffin said that Westpac prides itself on providing exceptional service to all customers.

"We are here to help in both big and small things that matter to our customers, no matter who they are or what their circumstances," she stated.

Speaking at the launch, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir, said that the academic-industry collaboration was an important aspect of the Strategic Plan.

"The installation of the ATM is an outcome of the academic-industry collaboration with Westpac. The ATM will benefit the staff and students of the University, the Pandit Vishnu Deo staff and students as well as Gurukul Primary School staff and the whole of Saweni area," he concluded.

UniFiji's New Eco-tourism Course

The University of Fiji now offers a new online eco-tourism course from Semester 2, 2017.

The eco-tourism course will benefit students intending to pursue a career in sustainable tourism.

Dr. Ranasinghe Amaradasa, Dean, School of Business and Economics (SoBE), explained that the new eco-tourism course offered students an insight into the tourism industry.

"This course exposes the students to knowledge in eco-tourism that will assist students in critical evaluation and effective management of the tourism sector," he explained.

SoBE also offers online courses in Accounting and Economics at Foundation level from Semester 2, 2017. Online courses enable flexible learning for students having difficulty in attending face-to-face classes at the University's Campuses.

COP23 Sixth Awareness Session

The University of Fiji recognizes the impacts of climate change on the Small Island Developing States. UniFiji creates monthly awareness activities to support climate change issues in the lead up to Fiji's Presidency to COP23 in November, 2017 in Bonn, Germany. UniFiji hosted the sixth COP23 awareness session on Friday, July 28, 2017.

Initiated by the Vice-Chancellor and facilitated by the School of Science & Technology, the sixth session was conducted by Mr. Ravinesh Ram, a Research Scientist in Aquaculture/ Post-Harvest Fisheries from James Cook University, Townsville, Australia.

Speaking at the session, Mr. Ram said that the increasing temperatures of marine environments led to high levels of coral mortality, which led to fish migration from Fiji's ocean in search of new habitat and food. Changing climate and warmer conditions would result in an emergence of marine diseases and an uncontrolled growth of invasive species such as prickly seaweed that would survive extreme conditions and this would pose a threat to Fiji's marine diversity.

"A strong management of fisheries products is essential for our future generations," he concluded.

The University of Fiji hosted the seventh COP23 awareness seminar session on the August 11, 2017. The focused on Renewable Energy and Climate Change Mitigation.

Professional Writing for Career and Business

Facilitators of the Workshop Ms. Manpreet Kaur and Ms. Sanjaleen Prasad with the attendees of the Workshop.

The University of Fiji organised a Workshop on Professional Writing for Career and Business for R.C Manubhai Company Limited on Saturday, July 29, 2017.

The Workshop was attended by 36 participants from various sections within R.C Manubhai Company Limited's Western Division Branches. The Workshop focused on imparting knowledge on the four skills paramount in any organization: listen, speak, read and write and also aims to address professionalism and ethics within workplace for enhanced human resources.

The University's emphasis on short courses aims to meet short-term industry training needs especially in the western division.

The facilitators of the Workshop were Ms. Manpreet Kaur and Ms. Sanjaleen Prasad, English Lecturers in the LLC Department from the School of Humanities and Arts.

The duo also organized a workshop for Khelvin Realtors on June 14-16, 2017. The participants who attended the workshop were from various sectors within Khelvin Realtors.

The Professional Writing Workshops provided the Corporate Sector personnels with an opportunity to further enhance fortify and sharpen their communicative skills in order to better deliver and serve the Fijian customers at large.

Natabua Wins UniFiji- McDonald's Eco-Contest

Winners- Natabua High School students with staff of School of Science and Technology at UniFiji.

Natabua High School was the official winner of the UniFiji-McDonald's Eco-Contest, hosted at the UniFiji Saweni campus on Thursday, June 29, 2017.dvocating to the community as much as possible on environmental issues.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor Professor Prem Misir, said that the Eco-Contest was initiated to provide a platform for young high school students to learn and familiarize themselves to current pressing environmental issues.

"The pressing need to acclimatize to climate change related risks has escalated over the last decade and the issue of climate change taking its toll in many island nations has surfaced in recent discourses. There is an urgent need for awareness and action," he stated.

Natabua High School walked away with a laptop and each student received $200 cash while the runners up, Votualevu College won $400 cash prize for the school and $200 cash for each participating student.

Consisting of four year 13 students, the Natabua High School team said that they would take the ideas learnt from the quiz and impart their knowledge to students as well as community members.

The runner up, Votualevu College students, also shared the same sentiment of sharing the knowledge gained from the quiz and advocating to the community as much as possible on environmental issues.

UniFiji USAID-PACAM Project Workshop

Participants at the USAID Pacific- American Climate Fund (PACAM) Project Workshop

The University of Fiji hosted a Workshop for its USAID Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM) Project "Developing Base Maps of Tropical Aquatic Resources in the Pacific" at the Tanoa Waterfront Hotel on Thursday July 13, 2017.

The partners of the project include the University of South Florida (USF) and Secretariat of the Pacific Community Geoscience Division (SPC-GSD).

The keynote speaker at the Workshop, Commissioner West, Mr. Manasa Tagicakibau, said that the Workshop brought together the key stakeholders from all works of life, including the Non-Governmental Organisations and other Government agencies to exchange information and experiences gained from the implementation of the climate change adaptation projects.

"We need to develop accurate, high-resolution base maps, against which to measure future changes and to develop place-based resource management plans that will have significant economic value in terms of fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism, amongst others," he said.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir, said that the maps and databases generated during this project enables The University of Fiji and other research institutions to carry out interdisciplinary studies.

The project is in its final year and will conclude on April 14, 2018. For more information about the Project please visit the PACAM website at http://www.unifiji.ac.fj/pacam/

UniFiji Open Day

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir, and Registrar Mr. Kamlesh Arya with students during the Open Day.

The University of Fiji recognises its Open Day as an important annual event and is anticipated by staff as well as prospective students of the University.

The University recognizes its role to provide life-long learning opportunities to all through a student-friendly environment with creative thinking and innovative values to advance knowledge-based development.

The main objective of the Open Day was to allow prospective students to visit the University to explore more on the programmes and student services offered by the University.

The UniFiji Open Day was hosted on Friday 7 and Saturday 8 July, 2017 with the theme "After High School, It Must Be UniFiji".

"The two days provided an opportunity not only to the secondary school students but also to the numerous people in the workforce to explore the programmes offered at UniFiji. Potential students also registered in their choice of programmes," stated Coordinator of the Open Day, Ms. Shirley Prasad.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir, welcomed students and spoke on the value of quality education, multi-disciplinary studies as well as using a knowledge-based development framework in education.

This year, the University enrolled students for Semester 2, 2017 as well as Semester 1, 2018 during the Open Day.

People participating in the Open Day also had free Non-Communicable Diseases check-up by the staff and students of Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UPSM & HS).

UniFiji's fifth COP 23 Awareness Seminar

DIVA for Equality members with staff and students of UniFiji.

The University of Fiji recognises the impacts of climate change on the Small Island Developing States. UniFiji creates monthly awareness activities to support climate change issues in the lead up to Fiji's Presidency to COP23 in November, 2017 in Bonn, Germany. UniFiji hosted the fifth COP23 awareness session on Friday, July 21, 2017.

Initiated by the Vice-Chancellor and facilitated by the School of Science & Technology, the fifth session was conducted by a local NGO, Diverse Voices and Action (DIVA) for Equality.

DIVA for Equality is also co-convener of Pacific Partnerships on Gender, Climate Change & Sustainable Development; the Pacific Urgent Action Hub for Climate Justice, and Women and Gender Constituency Liaison to the COP 23 Presidency.

DIVA's Political Advisor, Ms. Noelene Nabulivou and Management Collective, Ms. Maria Nailevu spoke on the topic 'The Gender Dimension of Climate Justice'.

The presentation provided an understanding of feminist politics, overview of linkages between gender and climate justice and an insight into the 'Just transition to a Plastic Free Pacific' and 'Women Defend Commons' campaigns linking to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The sixth COP23 awareness seminar session was on the topic, "Effect of Climate Change on Fisheries" and was held on Friday, July 28, 2017.

School of Law Students Participate in Innovation Challenge Launch

Dean SoL, Professor Shaista Shameem with students and other participants at the Innovation Challenge Launch.

The School of Law (SoL) students at the Suva Campus participated in the Innovation Challenge Launch by ANZ on July 7, 2017. The Challenge was launched with the aim to collaborate students and industries.

This initiative will see university students, leading software experts, designers and entrepreneurs collaborate to accelerate digital innovation in the Pacific. Speaking at the launch, Professor Shaista Shameen, Dean of SoL said that the challenge would allow students to network with stakeholders.

"This initiative helps students towards their employment leading to the transition period from now and work," she stated.

The challenge will commence on August 5, 2017. SoL is looking forward to a fruitful day formulating solutions to the opportunity statement "Digitalising the Pacific – uncovering barriers to the uptake of digital channels in the financial ecosystem, to help our people and communities thrive."

Medical Students Travel to Monash University

Friends4Fiji with Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences students..

Two students of The University of Fiji's Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UPSM & HS) will soon be travelling to the Monash University, Melbourne, as part of a student exchange programme.

The Friends4Fiji Initiative in collaboration with the Monash University has offered substantially to the Fijian Medical Students in the form of material aid; student exchange programmes, staff development workshops and research-evidence based learning modules.

Under the student exchange programme, the two students travelling to Monash University are Mr. Kishan Chand, a final year MBBS student and Mr. Tui Lasike, Year 5 MBBS student.

"With the knowledge I gain from my visit, I aspire to improve research, clinical medicine, advocacy and health promotion for the Fiji Islands in future," said Mr. Chand.

The students' trip is fully-funded by Monash University for two weeks from August 18 to September 10, 2017.

UniFiji collaborates with Ministry of Fisheries & Forestry for International Mangrove Day

UniFiji staff and students during the Mangrove planting activity at Saweni beach.

Students from The University of Fiji worked alongside officers from the Ministry of Fisheries & Forestry (MFF) in a Mangrove Planting activity at Saweni Beach. The initiative was carried out to commemorate International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem which is celebrated annually on July 26.

In his presentation to students at The University of Fiji's Saweni Campus, Forestry Officer Mr. Lekima Tiko, stressed the importance of forests in mitigating climate change by removing carbondioxide from the atmosphere.

The conservation of Mangrove forests is crucial because this ecosystem not only removes carbondioxide from the atmosphere but it also mitigates the effects of climate change such as sea level rise and extreme weather events serving as natural barriers against huge waves therefore preserving our coastlines.

Students and MFF officers braved the western heat to plant a total of 1000 mangrove seedlings. The University of Fiji will be monitoring the survival rate and growth of these seedlings as part of its undergraduate Ecology lab practicals. The extent of mangrove growth will be measured using GIS points taken during the initial planting and monitored on a quarterly basis.

Vosa Vakarautaki nei Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum

A sureta na Vunilawa ka Minisita ni Veika Vakailavo, Cakacaka Vakamatanitu kei na Vakauitukutuku na Janisela ni Yunivesiti me mai Vosa e Matanalevu ena 31 ni Julai, 2017 ka vakarautaka na Valenivolavola ni Vice Janisela

A mai vosa o Sayed-Khaiyum vei ira na gonevuli ena levu na ulutaga ka oka kina na veitaratara ena ivolamata, yalodina ena kena vakayagataki na vakasama vakavuli, veikavakailavo, na dinau nei Viti, na ituvatuva vakailavo ni yabaki 2017/2018, na polisi ni matanitu me baleta na tiko bulabula, na vuli, iyaya ni veiqaravi, na iyalayala e ra ni isau ni tamata cakacaka kei na draki veisau.

Veitaratara ena ivolamata

Ena nona vosa tiko me baleta na veitaratara ena ivola mata kei na kena revurevu, e kaya na Vunilawa ni dodonu mera na dau kila ka vakayagataka vakadodonu o ira na dau vakayagataka na veiqaravi vou qo.

A taroga se sa ra vakayagataka tiko na veiqaravi mai na kena kunei vakarawarawa na iyaya vakatekenolojilevu kei na vakavolekataki ni tukutuku me rawa ni ra vakadetaki ira kina kei ira na tani se sega. "E ka bibi mera rawa ni vakatulewataka vakadodonu na kena ivakavakayagataki na veitaratara ena ivolamata. E dodonu meda sa vakararamataki ka vakatawani na noda vakasama ena kena sa vakarawarawataki vei keda na tekenoloji kei na itukutuku".

Yalodina ka yalododonu ena vakayagataki ni vakasama vakavuli

A vakamacalataka tale ga na minisita na bibi ni kena tarai cake na noda yalodina kei na yalododonu ena kena vakayagataki se veitarataraki na veivakasama vakavuli kei na noda taketetaka na dina ena tatasereki se vakekeli.

"Ni da tatasereki se vakekeli kina, ni da vakaraitaka noda nanuma, e dodonu meda kila se da taketetaka na dina se sega. Na itutu ni vakasama cava eda vakayagataka tiko meda tatasereki kina. O kemuni na iliuliu kei Viti nimataka. Ena vica na yabaki mai qo, o ni sa na dabeca kina na itutu levu ni veiliutaki. Ena vica na yabaki mai qo, o ni sa na vakatulewataka na cicivaki vakailavo ni vanua qo.E dina ni dodonu me tadola tiko na vakasama, e dodonu meda yalodina ka yalododonu ena kena vakayagataki se veitarataraki na veivakasama vakavuli.Kevaka me da na tatasereki se vakadigova vakamatanitu e Viti e dua na ka, e dodonu vei ira noda daunipolitiki ena loma ni matanitu se ena ito ni veisaqa, o ira na iliuliu kei na daunibisinisi mera yalodina ka yalododonu", a kaya.

A sauma tale ga na Vunilawa na nodra taro na gone kei na qasenivuli ena Yunivesiti ni Viti me baleta na Tertiary Education Loans Scheme (TELS, na polisi me baleta na dodonu ni vuku taukeni, na nodra Expo na marama, na uasivi ni veiqaravi ena vanuua ni veivakacokotaki ni valeniveivesu, na itukutuku vakaivola sa bokoci ena ripote ni Auditor General kei na tauyavutaki ni itatarovi ni vakacaca ena veibaravi.

Think Beyond Technology - Professor Subramani

From left; The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir, Pro-Chancellor Mr. Anil Tikaram and Professor Raman Subramani at the book receiving ceremony at UniFiji Saweni Campus.

Professor Subramani also spoke on the significance of the donation and the cultural value of books. He added that the Wadan Narsey Collection provided useful resource for The University of Fiji's growing Postgraduate programmes,

"The symbolic gift will represent a sense of service to the country evident among educated Fijians who want to give back to society part of what they have received from it," he concluded.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir hoped that there would be more such donations not only of books but also other resources, and endowments by magnanimous individuals - that would help The University of Fiji become a premier tertiary institution.

Among the attendees at the ceremony were distinguished guests including former Vice-Chancellor of Fiji National University and esteemed academic Dr. Ganesh Chand, National Federation Party Leader, Dr. Biman Prasad, as well as the council members of The University of Fiji.

The University of Fiji received a generous gift of 845 books from Professor Wadan Narsey's Collections on Saturday, June 24, 2017.

Professor Raman Subramani, on behalf of Professor Wadan Narsey, handed over the collection of books to the University Pro-Chancellor, Mr. Anil Tikaram, and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir.

At the ceremony, Professor Subramani urged students to be smart in their knowledge of technology and to think beyond technology.

Professor Subramani highlighted that there was a debate going on between administrators who were 'weeding' out unread books from libraries to fill the empty shelves with computers and that there were strong arguments for both sides.

"Research on reading globally is showing declining interest in books among young people, and if they aren't reading books then it makes little sense for libraries to store books that aren't read. It is better to install computers, apart from other uses; hopefully some students will read books on the internet. This development is taking place in the name of modernization and progress; both concepts aren't unproblematic," stated Professor Subramani.

RANDOM SHOTS

UniFiji Students celebrating Holi.

Department of Science demonstration to students during Day 1 of Open Day.

Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UPSM & HS) demonstration on Day 2 of Open Day.

Careers Teachers Workshop participants with staff of The University of Fiji.

Professional Writing Workshop participants from R.C. Manubhai with facilitators Ms. Manpreet Kaur and Ms. Sanjaleen Prasad.

Participants of the Energy Workshop with staff of The University of Fiji.

Careers Teachers' Workshop

From Left: Ministry of Education, Counsellor West, Ms. Alice Pickering, Divisional Education Officer Mr. Selemo Driokamaisau, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir, Dean SOHA, Dr. Wahab Ali at the Careers Teachers' Workshop.

The University of Fiji hosted its annual Careers Teachers' Workshop themed "Empowering teachers to establish sound career paths for students", at the Saweni Campus on Saturday, July 15, 2017.

Approximately 30 Careers Teachers from various secondary schools in the Western Division participated in the Workshop.

The Guest of Honour, Divisional Education Officer, Mr. Selemo Driokamaisau highlighted the need to better inform students to make the right choices leading them to a desired career path.

The Workshop disseminated information on the expectations from the Careers Teachers by the Ministry of Education. Officer Western of the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Board (TSLB), Mr. Ravinesh Kishore, advised Careers Teachers on the regulations regarding the scholarships and loans schemes.

The workshop also featured a session on curriculum vitae/resume and cover letter writing for job applications.

Speaking at the Workshop, Counsellor West of the Ministry of Education, Ms. Alice Pickering emphasised on the important role played by the Careers Teachers in shaping students' future. "As a Careers Teacher, you need to look at the strengths in students to guide them towards a prosperous career and future," she said.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir, highlighted the need for the Careers Teachers to critically consider social order and gender scenarios while preparing students for the job market.

Another Careers Teachers' Workshop was held at the Suva Campus on Saturday, July 22, 2017. The Chief Guest at the Suva Campus was the Deputy Secretary for Primary and Secondary, Ministry of Education, Mr. Timoci Bure.

UniFiji scoops 3rd Best Paper Award

From Left- Co-author Mr. Lionel Joseph, Ms. Priyatma Singh, Dean of SOST Professor Shawkat Ali, Ms. Drishna Charan and Mr. Ravneel Raj.

The Pacific region is highly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change due to their high dependence on natural resources and limited access to funding and latest technology. Developing resilient coastal communities in the Pacific require better understanding of climate change impacts.

It is against this backdrop that the "Symposium on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Strategies in Coastal Communities" was organized by the Research and Transfer Centre, Applications of Life Sciences of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany), the International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP) and ADRA Samoa.

School of Science and Technology (SoST) academics received 3rd place for best paper award at the World Symposium on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Strategies to Costal Communities at Apia, Samoa on July 5-7, 2017.

Ms. Priyatma Singh and Mr. Kushaal Raj presented a paper titled "At the Frontline of Climate Change: Adaptation, Limitations and Way Forward for the South Pacific Island States" at the symposium, co-authored by Ms. Dhrishna Charan, Mr. Ravneel Raj and Mr. Lionel Joseph of SoST.

According to Ms. Singh, it was an honor to be recognized by prominent international scholars such as Professor Walter Leal, who heads the Research and Transfer Centre, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Management, in Germany.

The Symposium attracted approximately 100 academics and researchers from all over the world.

The Science team duly acknowledges the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir, for promoting a culture of interdisciplinary research and is also indebted to the Dean of SoST, Professor Shawkat Ali for his continued support, guidance and encouragement.

माननीय अयाज़ सय्यद खैयूम व्याख्यान

31 जुलाई 2017

को उप-कुलपति सार्वजनिक व्याख्यान में मुख्य वक्ता अर्थव्यवस्था के अटार्नी जनरल, लोक माननीय उद्यम,सिविल सेवा और संचार, माननीय अयाज़ सय्यद खैयूम प्रमुख थे । माननीय सय्यद खैयूम ने सोशल मीडिया, बौद्धिक ईमानदारी, अर्थव्यवस्था, फीजी का कर्ज, 2017/2018 राष्ट्रीय बजट, स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा, बुनियादी ढांचे, न्यूनतम मजदूरी और जलवायु परिवर्तन के बारे में सरकारी नीतियों सहित विश्वविद्यालय के कम्रचारियों और छात्रों को संबोधित किया ।

सामाजिक मीडिया–सोशल मीडिया और उसके प्रभावों पर बोलते हुए, माननीय अटार्नी जनरल ने कहा कि उपयोगकर्ताओं को सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म का उपयोग करने के लिए जिम्मेदार होने की जरुरत है । उन्होंने इस बात पर सवाल उठाया था कि क्यायुवाएँ सहस्त्राब्दी के रूप में, प्रौद्योगिकी की उपलब्धता,खुद को और दूसरों को सशक्त बनाने के लिए सूचनाओं का उपयोग कर रहे हैं ? "सशक्तीकरण के रुप में, एक जिम्मेदार तरीके से सोशल मीडिया का उपयोग करने के बारे में मुद्दा महत्वपूर्ण है । प्रौद्योगिकी और सूचना तक पहुँच, हमें अपने को सशकत करने की क्षमता देनी चाहिए । इससे आपको सच्चाई खोजने की छमता मिलनी चाहिए, "उन्होंने आगे कहा ।

बौद्धिक ईमानदारी–माननीय मंत्री ने मामलों का विश्लेषण करते हुए बौद्धिक ईमानदारी और निष्पक्षता रखने के महत्व को समझाया । "जब हम मामलों का विश्लेषण करते हैं, जब हम मामलों पर टिप्पणी करते हैं, तो हमें यह समझने की आवश्यकता है कि क्या हम इस बारे में उद्धेश्य रखते हैं । इस मुद्दे का विश्लेषण करने के लिए हम क्या सोच रहे हैं ? आप देश के भविष्य के नेता हैं । आप, कुछ वर्षों में, बड़ी नेतृत्व की भूमिका में होंगे । आप, कुछ वर्षों में, यह निर्धारित करेंगे कि इस देश की अर्थव्यवस्था कैसे चल रही है । इस तथ्य के अलावा कि एक को खुले दिमाग की आवश्यकता है, हमें बौद्धिक ईमानदारी की आवश्यकता है । यदि हम किसी देश के रूप में कुछ भी करने के लिए जा रहे हैं, तो हमारे राजनेताओं चाहे सरकार या विपक्षी, व्यापारिक कर्मियों और नेताओं को बौद्धिक ईमानदारी की आवश्यकता होनी चाहिए, "उन्होंने टिप्पणी की । माननीय सय्यद खैयूम ने Tertiary Education Loan Scheme (TELS), बौद्धिक संपदा अधिकारों और कॉपीराइट मुद्दों, महिला एक्स्पो, फीजी सुधार सेवाओं के पुनर्वास केंद्रों की प्रभावकारिता, लिखने के बारे में नीतियाँ, तथा लागत प्रबंधन के लिए बफर ज़ोन पर यूनिवर्सिटि ऑफ फीजी के छात्राओं और कर्मचारियों के सवालों पर भी गौर किया ।

UniFiji Students Association

The University of Fiji Student Association (UFSA) officially started in 2006. The current President of the Association Mohammed Zairan Azaad, elected in 2016 with his team has brought about various changes. The initiatives carried out include:

- Development of new Rugby, volley ball and net ball grounds;
- Opening of new GYM and upgrading with new equipment;
- Representing UniFiji in youth forums;
- Purchasing of new Sports equipment;
- Setting up various committees and associations;
- Visit to Suva Campus to discuss on the various issues and student concerns; and
- Purchasing of 20 feet container for UFSA bulk.

"It was hard at the beginning to bring this association where it is today. We started from scratch but with the hard work of my team and support from the university especially from our Executive Director Finance Mr. Ravineet Sami, we were able to bring a lot of changes in the University and became active and recognised," he said.

The upcoming events of UFSA include social night, cultural night, UniFiji Sports Day, Inter-Tertiary Games and Ratu Sukuna Day.

UFSA has future plans to bring up a recreational centre, a futsal court, a new playground and new sports equipment for the Suva Campus.

Alumni Network

The UniFiji Alumni Association has launched its fundraising campaign, which aims to raise $1 million by 2025. The Association Executives will approach alumni, current students and prominent community figures for donations ranging from $15 and more.

"As one of the three universities in Fiji, the University has a special and important responsibility to the region," said Ms. Sandhiya Gounder, the President of the UniFiji Alumni Association.

This is the Alumni Association's first major campaign. In order to determine how funds will be spent, the Association has set designated priorities. When donors are approached for donations, they will be asked to direct their donations to those priorities. However, donors have the final say in how their money is spent, and they and the University must agree on the terms of the donation before it can be finalized. The Association's priorities fall under some campaign initiatives, including boosting student success through scholarships, attracting and retaining top faculty, enhancing facilities, building a healthier economy and powering sporting programs. Under these priorities, donors have the option to designate their funds to areas within the University including student affairs, the library and sports.

"The purpose of the campaign is to move The University of Fiji forward as a leading nationally relevant educational institution," Ms. Gounder concluded.

School of Law Seminar on 'The Future of U.S. Foreign Policy in the Pacific Region and the World: what can we expect from the Trump Administration?"

The University of Fiji's School of Law (SoL) hosted a public seminar on 'The Future of U.S. Foreign Policy in the Pacific region and the World: what can we expect from the Trump Administration?"

The seminar was attended by members of the public, public service officials, lecturers and students of the University of Fiji and NGOs.

The main speaker, Adjunct Professor Doug Brooks said that it was time for the Pacific Nations to move towards a more meaningful dialogue with the Trump Administration and present their concerns in a forthright and unequivocal way.

"The Pacific region must be appreciated by the Trump Administration as a crucial and important player on the world stage and a significant pressure group for the interests of the Presidential Administration in the Pacific," said Adjunct Professor Brooks.

Professor Shaista Shameem, Dean of SoL, said that there were divergent views on the significance of the Trump Administration to the Pacific made by the panelists.

"One of the panelists strongly expressed the view that the Trump Administration should be ignored by the Pacific Islanders as of no value to solving the problems Pacific people face, for example, climate change, in light of the conservatism with which the Trump Administration was treating issues of importance to the Pacific", stated Professor Shameem.

The panelists were Dr. James Jay Carafano, the Vice President of Kathryn; Shelby Cullom Davis from Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy; E.W. Richardson, Fellow at the Heritage Foundation; Dr. Timothy Bryar, Conflict Prevention Advisor of the Pacific Island Forum (PIF); Mr. Mark Borg, Team Leader, Programme Management at the Pacific Island Development Forum (PIDF); and Mr. Jioji Kotobalavu of the School of Law at The University of Fiji.

The seminar was live streamed via Youtube and many people over the world were able to view it and make comments.

The School, in future, will hold other similar public seminars to generate public discussion of important national and international topics.

Community Outreach Programmes

UPSM & HS students during the community outreach in Viseisei and Saru, MGM, Lautoka.

The Year 3 students of Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UPSM & HS) were involved in a community outreach programme as part of their medical curriculum.

The community outreach programme helps the student gain more confidence and hands on experience of meeting and treating people as well as enhancing professional development and motivating learning.

It also drives more passion into creating and advocating the importance of one's health and prevention as well as making them aware of conditions the people are living in and the areas that need more attention.

Under the supervision of Dr. Bijend Ram of UPSM & HS, the students conducted a research on sanitation and environment in the chiefly village of Viseisei, in Lautoka and also amongst students and parents of the Saru MGM School in Lautoka.

The research investigated the aspects of sanitation and health in conjunction with the preservation of environment. It included the members of the village and also included the year 4 and year 8 students of Vuda District School and Saru MGM School.

The initial approach was comprehensive and included multiple assessment tools and surveys. The priority of the outreach was to instil a better understanding into the vicinity of Viseisei, Vuda and the children of Saru as this will assist them combat the increase in prevalence of diseases associated with improper sanitation and interrupted environmental functioning.