

## Handbook and Calendar 2018



The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir.

In preparation for next year's handbook and calendar, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir, held several sessions with the staff at Saweni campus last month.

Discussions were on inclusion of new regulations; including the postgraduate regulations. The University of Fiji is on the threshold of an academic take-off vis-à-vis the Strategic Plan's knowledge-based development framework, powering the mainstream curriculum and co-curricular activities in conjunction with a variety of modes of delivery.

The Vice-Chancellor's message to the staff on the 2018 Calendar and handbooks is as follows:

"Drawing from Crow and Dabars' recent work, *Designing the New American University* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015) and introducing some important qualifications for national contextual purposes, this imminent academic take-off intends to use a pro-active focus to achieve: (1) a persisting academic platform for the production of new knowledge and innovation through a penetrative connectivity with pedagogy and research; (2) a deepening accessibility to students from diversified demographic and socio-economic backgrounds; and (3) an institutional commitment to reach maximum societal impact consistent with the size of enrolment demand and national needs."

The focus on (1) through (3) not only may generate new knowledge and innovation, but also work-readiness students.

As a precursor to familiarize them with the global village phenomenon and its implications that may impact a rapidly changing world of work within an evolutionary knowledge society in Fiji, students could become master-learners, inclusive of full exposure to interdisciplinary modes of learning and teaching. A major requirement to realize these foci (1) through (3) is the institution of a solid and enduring regulations framework at this University.

The University of Fiji's regulations within its Handbook/Calendar, among other things, may reinforce public accountability for Government Subventions/other Government's funds, uphold students' interests, and preserve the integrity of this University.

The notion that any senior management and advisory group at any university can secure approvals for some of its policy decisions from the Senate and the Council, may induce a latent complacency to encourage limited engagement in wider consultations across the university spectrum on significant matters, endearing to all staff.

Meaningful university democracy and not exclusion make for good governance. Protecting the human rights of all students and all staff, and perhaps, other active stakeholders, and institutionalizing a healthy democracy are critical to sustain a robust stability of this University's structure and functioning with roots in international best practices.

As a starting point, the Handbook/Calendar becomes a critical tool to achieve good governance and persisting stability at this University.

And so, it is vital to attract inputs from all staff in the current 'regulations' consultation process on the 2018 Handbook/Calendar, to correct deficiencies and implement a fresh outlook on the University's modus operandi.

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### Upcoming Event



#### Invitation

The Vice Chancellor, Staff and Students of the University of Fiji cordially invite you to:

#### The 2017 Sir Moti Tikaram Memorial Lecture

"Sir Moti Tikaram – Champion of Civil Society"

by Sir Anand Satyanand GONZALVES QSO KStJ, 19th Governor General of New Zealand

On: Friday 29th September 2017

From: 5:30 pm (Guests to be seated by 5:15 pm)

At: The GPH, Suva

Rsvp: [Nikhil@unifiji.ac.fj](mailto:Nikhil@unifiji.ac.fj)



# The Vice-Chancellor's Public Lectures



Associate Professor, Umesh Sharma during the public lecture.

Associate Professor, Umesh Sharma, from the Department of Accounting at the University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand conducted the Vice-Chancellor's public lecture on Friday, August 25, 2017.

Dr. Sharma spoke on his research paper "The changes and challenges for indigenous owned businesses: A Pacific Islands case study". He explained the many differences between the operations of Chinese businesses and indigenous owned businesses in Tonga.

His findings showed that many indigenous owned businesses in Tonga did not follow proper accounting procedures including the separate entity principle which treated business entities as separate from their owners and that 52 percent of the research participants felt that culture and religious beliefs were the biggest challenges faced by the indigenous businesses.

"Two thirds of the indigenous people said that fulfillment of social obligatory functions were the key reason for having businesses and not for profit-making purpose, while 100 percent of the Chinese businesses believed that the sole purpose of running a business was to make profits," he said.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Misir said that the research is a setting stage for some very multi and interdisciplinary research as well as some game changing situations vis-a-vis the western world.

The Vice-Chancellor Public lectures are held every month on various topics.

## Marketing Outreach in Vanua Levu



Marketing and Public Relations Officer, Ms. Shirley Prasad, with students during the Vanua Levu School Visits.

UniFiji, in its effort to broaden its student recruitment spectrum, for the first time, had a successful marketing outreach programme at schools in Vanua Levu.

Ms. Shirley Prasad, Marketing and Public Relations Officer visited over 20 schools in Labasa, Bua and Savusavu. Ms. Salaseini Naivaluvou from School of Law accompanied her for four out of the eight days of this excursion.

Students were advised on the University's course offerings, fees structures as well as why UniFiji would be a suitable choice for them. The Principals and the community welcomed the UniFiji outreach programme and hoped that the university would bring its teaching services right to the North in future.

With increased and improved teaching and learning resources, The University of Fiji has the capability to recruit more students at both campuses. The Suva campus which became a fully-fledged campus from this year now has two newly built lecture theaters with a seating capacity of 250.

Ms Prasad said that she was extremely grateful to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir for approving this excursion.

"I hail from Labasa and always wished I could give back something to the community. What's more valuable than guiding them to get good education? During my high school days, we hardly had any universities coming to inform us about their programmes and various career paths that followed as an outcome of the subject we did in high school. I saw this opportunity to create an outreach programme for the Year 13 students," Ms. Prasad stated.

The team also held a road show to further reach prospective students in the Northern Division. Over 300 students have filled in application forms and many others have showed interest in choosing UniFiji as their University.

The University has plans for more visits to schools in the near future.

## Textbook Donations



Professor Ruvendra Nandan handing over the books to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir.

The University of Fiji received a generous gift of sixteen (16) Accounting and Finance text books worth approximately FJD5000 from Professor Chris Patel, Associate Professor Parmod Chand and Dr. Rajni Mala from Macquarie University, Sydney on Friday, August 29, 2017.

The donors are ex-University of the South Pacific staff and renowned academics in Australia.

Professor Ruvendra Nandan of the School of Business and Economic (UniFiji), on behalf of the donors handed over the collection of books to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir.

At the ceremony, Professor Nandan said that the books are extremely valuable resources to the University.

"The books will be particularly useful as they are all fairly recent editions and students can refer to the books for their assignments and research," he stated.

The Vice-Chancellor, while receiving the books thanked the donors and highlighted the importance of academics to give back to their country of origin to promote a knowledgeable society.

The University is also grateful to Mr. Parmodh Rai for his help in expediting the dispatch process.



## UniFiji Student Volunteer Program



UniFiji Student Volunteer Group with coordinator, Ms. Shirley Prasad.

The Vice-Chancellor Professor Prem Misir had envisioned the establishment of the University of Fiji Volunteer Corps, earlier this year. Last month, the group was formed where 40 students signed in to do volunteer work at university events and community outreach programmes. The group comprises of students from different areas of studies as well as different years of study.

In line with the University's strategic plan, UniFiji Student Volunteer Programme has a vital role to play in ensuring that the University educates a student as a whole person; that it graduates students with a heightened sense of social consciousness who are able to serve as agents of and for social change and societal transformation; that its graduates are instilled with the attitude, spirit and values and human solidarity.

The University of Fiji, through the Student Volunteer Programme puts knowledge at the service of the university and the local community. The process benefits the communities and enhances the quality of the university's research, teaching and learning. UniFiji Student Volunteer Programme is a link between research, knowledge application and learning.

The mission of the Volunteer Corps relates to a renewed sense of obligation, a new sense of duty, and a new season of service. The modus operandi, among others, will be to execute this new horizon may include speaking in schools, recruiting additional volunteers, and teaching people about the power of service.

The activities and the outreach programmes by this group will be coordinated by Ms. Shirley Prasad, the Marketing and PR Officer.

## Pacific American Climate Fund (PACAM)

Coastal areas world-wide are suffering significant, perceptible, and quick degradation in water quality, biodiversity, and various other critical parameters as a direct result of climate change.

Developing this human and technical capability is an important contribution to the Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON) of the Group on Earth Observation.

With a grant from USAID's, Pacific American Climate Fund (PACAM) at The University of Fiji embarked on a research to explore the utility of satellite imagery to identify and classify coral reefs, marine benthic habitats and seagrass at two coastal communities in Fiji: Votua, Ba, where corals have experienced reduced growth rates, higher mortality due to bleaching, and increased damage by severe weather; and at Komave, Coral Coast which has healthier fringing reefs attributed to conservation practices.

The project is in its final year and has been able to attain many of its goals including building local capacity to derive land and submerged habitat classification maps, including processing of large volumes of regional satellite imagery of island territories; developing a robust data processing system to produce high resolution thematic maps that illustrate the human uses and characteristics of global coastal ecosystems, including coral reefs, wetlands and coastal aquaculture system and many more.

However, in its final year, the project aims to develop a user-friendly interface, so that stakeholders can easily access information regarding marine reserves, ecotourism and sustainable management of marine resources and improve existing courses or develop new courses at The University of Fiji.

The project is in collaboration with the Institute for Remote Sensing at the University of Florida and this represents a contribution to the Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON) of the Group on Earth Observation (GEO).

## SoST participates in Ba River 'Clean Up' Campaign



SoST students during the 'Clean Up' Campaign in Ba.

In an effort to encourage and maintain a litter free and healthier Ba River, UniFiji students and staff from Department of Science, School of Science and Technology (SoST) participated in a 'Clean Up' campaign along a certain section of the Ba Riverbank on Friday, August 25, 2017.

The 'Clean Up' campaign which was organized by non-governmental organization, the World Wide Fund for Nature – Pacific, comes under WWF-Pacific's Pacific American Climate Fund (PACAM) climate change project of 'Strengthening Governance and Building Resiliency of Communities in Fiji' that is funded by USAID. The campaign is also in line with the PACAM projects 'Sustainable Healthy Rivers for All' campaign that looks at promoting effective sustainable management practices along the rivers of Fiji.

Over the past few months, WWF-Pacific has been working with communities in Nailaga district to advocate for a healthier and cleaner Ba River. The Ba River, which is 83 km long, is home to 36 communities that live along the river, 17 of which solely rely on the Ba River for their daily survival. The nine Ba Riverside carnival contestants, Ba Town Council staff, Nailaga district communities and various government entities were also part of the 2 hour 'Clean Up' campaign. More than 200 kilograms of rubbish was collected and sorted.

Ms. Priyatma Singh, of UniFiji's School of Science and Technology, highlighted that the science students and staff were happy to participate in the clean-up as the initiative is in support of Fiji's presidency for COP 23 and environmental awareness. WWF-Pacific's PACAM project manager, Mr. Vinesh Kumar, highlighted that the need for a healthier and cleaner Ba River is critical for the livelihoods of the communities in Ba.

"This 'Clean Up' campaign will go a long way in not only reducing the disposal of rubbish along the Ba riverbank but promote civil pride and the notion of making an effective change for the environment," said Mr. Kumar.

WWF-Pacific and stakeholders plan to hold more clean up campaigns over the next few months.



## Masters in Educational Leadership

The University of Fiji offers a unique and one of its kind programme in Fiji - the Master of Educational Leadership.

The Master of Educational Leadership degree is designed to provide aspiring and current educational leaders with an understanding of recent developments in theory, research and practice in educational leadership in order to equip them to lead educational organisations and become better and well qualified leaders.

Master of Educational Leadership is an innovative, practice-focused and evidence-based postgraduate degree that prepares teachers and school administrators for leadership positions in schools and other educational institutions. The degree aims to support serving teachers and educators seeking to achieve Masters level accreditation for the highest standards of critique and application of theories of educational leadership to practice.

The Master of Educational Leadership offers the opportunity for in-depth study of research relevant to educational leadership and the chance to critique and contribute to the educational research that is shaping Fiji's educational policy and practice. It provides practicing teachers with the theoretical understandings and practical skills needed to make a difference to the quality of education in their current and future workplaces.

The programme is offered at the Labasa Centre as well as Suva and Saweni campuses. Speaking about the programme, Dean of the School of Humanities and Arts (SoHA), Associate Professor, Dr. Wahab Ali said that the programme is exceptional for those who intend to build up their knowledge and skills for being a good leader.

"Our programme is excellent because having the promotion and becoming a Principal is not all; one needs to have those qualities of a good leader. The programme changes the leadership style in the professional and personal lives," he said.

Dr. Ali further elaborated that Master of Educational Leadership programme expands the knowledge and professional skills of experienced educators and leaders, by ensuring effective, enlightened and accountable leadership in Fiji.

**The programme is also registered with the Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC).**



Mohammed Feroz, Principal,

"My greatest achievement was completing my Masters programme and getting promotion straightaway. The university has shaped my future well."



Mr. Pradeep Singh, Vice-Principal, Valebasoga Secondary School.

"The University of Fiji has been my choice for doing the Masters in Educational Leadership as the courses offered are empowering and the support provided by the course coordinators is excellent.

The programme itself covers a wide range of issues which are apt and relevant towards equipping educational leaders to become charismatic leaders. It gives an opportunity to me to make a difference at workplace by empowering my fellow colleagues with prudent leadership skills."

## Master's Degree in Renewable Energy Management



The pioneering group of students for the newly-launched Master's in Renewable Energy Management (MREM) programme, accompanied staff of Department of Science and Programme Coordinator Dr. Anirudh Singh (fifth from right).

### First of its kind in Fiji!

The Master's in Renewable Energy Management (MREM) programme commenced at The University of Fiji on February 13, 2017 with an initial enrolment of 12 students.

Interest in Renewable Energy has come from diverse areas of the economy, including the teaching, research and the industrial sectors. Those registered for the programme include practicing scientists, engineers and power generation project managers in addition to teachers and young University staff. The programme is now in the second semester.

Students are actively involved in research work as part of their course assessment. In addition to the current research being carried out by students under the Centre of Renewable Energy (CORE) other areas of interest include Butoni wind farm, prospects of biodiesel production in Fiji and prospects of bioethanol production for which talks are currently underway for a possible research collaboration with the Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC).

The first two courses offered in Semester 1, 2017 were coordinated by Associate Professor Anirudh Singh and included REM400: Renewable Energy Technology I (Biomass) and REM401: Renewable Energy Technology II (Wind Energy & Solar PV). Students in semester 2 are enrolled in REM402: Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development and REM403: Energy Economics and Management (Coordinated by Dr. Ranasinghe Amarasena).

The REM programme has also welcomed on board the Energy Policy expert - Dr. Evanthe Michalena who has been conducting some lectures on Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development.

## Sai Medical Conference

The University of Fiji's Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UPSM & HS) hosted its bi-annual Sai Conference with the Sai Group from Australia.

The conference highlighted the aspect of pain management as well as contributing four points to the continued professional points.

Speaking about the Conference, Dean of UPSM & HS, Dr. Elick Narayan, said that the pain management is overrated but very undertreated.

"The students, through the Sai Conference, learnt about different kinds of pain, how the pain can be managed in Fiji and the Pacific Islands," he stated.

Apart from the Conference, the Sai Group also provided books for the library as well as taking approximately 20 students from UPSM & HS to Vanua Levu, yearly.

These students will be able to get hands on experience in learning from the professionals and screened around 5000 cases.

UniFiji hosts two Sai Conferences each year with one being conducted in May with the SaiT Group from New Zealand and the other in August with the Sai Group from Australia.



## Academic-Industry Collaboration Dinner



Professor Prem Misir with Ms. Rajneesh Charan during the Academic-Industry Collaboration Dinner

The University of Fiji hosted its Academic-Industry Collaboration Dinner on Friday, August 18, 2017 at Tanoa Waterfront Hotel, Lautoka.

Initiated by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir, the collaboration dinner signifies the importance of the relationship between industries and academics. Professor Misir in his welcome note, stated that The University of Fiji is a global University and reliance on industry collaborations will further its vision for a knowledge-based society. The collaboration strengthens University's role to create work-ready graduates and enhances industry-based research. The dinner hosted many industry, Government and Non-Governmental representatives.

Speaking at the dinner, Ms. Rajneesh Charan, the General Manager Information Systems of Fiji Sugar Corporation emphasized on the importance of practical application of classroom theory to work life.

Another corporate sector representation, Mr. Richard Donaldson, the Human Resources Manager of Air Terminal Services, said that the academic-industry partnership the capacity and efficiency of the organisations. The University looks forward to foster more collaboration with the corporate industry.

## UPSM & HS Students' Community Engagements



Ms. Sylvia Singh during the community engagement at Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Primary School in Saru.

The Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UPSM & HS) held a community engagement at medical camp at Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Primary School in Saru, on June 1, 2017.

Dr. Bijendra Ram and Dr. Ricardo Corpuz accompanied the students to the camp and conducted NCD screening, blood pressure, blood glucose, eye testing, patient history taking as well as examination and diagnosis.

The villagers that were screened were not regular to hospitals because of transportation and distance issues.

Another engagement project was held at Vellovelo community on May 31, 2017. The students educated women on the topic 'Family Planning' and created awareness on some of the Sexual Transmission Disease that is present in the country.

The community engagement projects are embedded into the medical curriculum. It is a way to create awareness on a number of diseases and issues present in Fiji as well as conduct check-ups to better expose the students for a better learning process.

## Creative Circle

A vakayacori ena siga Vakaraubuka, 15 ni Seviteba, 2017 na porokaramu ni Creative Circle mai na Tabana ni Umavosa VakaValagi, Vakacacali kei na Veitaratara ena uto ni vakasama qo, "Creativity, an Art"

Na porokaramu qo e tokona na bulibuli-ka ena vakacacali, na cakacaka ni liga kei na vuli vakat-aki koya ena Yunivesiti

Ena nona vosa tiko ena soqo oya, a vakaraitaka na Vice Janisela, o Parofesa Prem Misir ni kena vakayagataki na veika e vulici sa icavacava ni porosese ni vulika

E kaya ni kena vakayagataki na veika e vulici sa uto ni bulibuli-ka. Na kunei vou ni dua na ka e vakavuna na bulibuli-ka. Era tiki bibi kece ni porosese ni kunekunetaki ni veika vou na vakai-balebaletaka se vakaveiwekanitaka, na vakatarotaro, na vakadigova, na veisemati ni veitaratara kei na vakatovotovo.

A vakaraitaka na iliuliu ni Tabana ni Umavosa, Vakacacali kei na Veitaratara, Qasenivuli Kamala Naiker ni veivakauqeti dina na UniFiji ni rawa ni umana vata mai vei ira na gonevuli kei na qasenivuli na veimataqali ivukivuki/iwalewale ka vakavutuniyautaka kina na porokaramu.

E kaya o koya, "Na Creative Circle e sasaga me vakarautaka na drake ni kena vakadewataki se vakabulabultaki na cakacaka ni liga kei na veika vakavanua ni vanua veicurumaki vaka Pasifika.

E vakaraitaki na duidui taledi ni veiumatamata duidui era bula veimaliwai e Viti kei na loma ni Yunivesiti ka nakita na Creative Circle me vakadeitaka vei ira na sarasara.

Na nodra bulibuli-ka na gonevuli duidui umatamata e ilutua ni porokaramu ni Creative Circle ni yabaki qo. Sa vakanamata tu yani na timi ni Creative Circle me cicivaka tale e vuqa na soqo vaka qo ena veisiga ni mataka.



## Mr. Amit Prakash Presents Paper at the LEBCSR - 17

Assistant lecturer of the School of Business and Economics (SoBE), Mr. Amit Prakash, presented his paper titled "Diversifying Bond Market and Its Challenges in Fiji" at the 4th Singapore International Conference on Studies in Law, Education, Business and Corporate Social Responsibilities (LEBCSR - 17).

He also delivered the keynote address on "Financial Literacy: The Dilemma of Known but Unknown".

The keynote addressed the predicament that the individuals despite being financial literate (knowing) they act as financially illiterate (unknown) and that is "Financial literacy: The dilemma of Known but Unknown".

The pivotal aspect of disseminating financial literacy education was to up skill and strengthen financial behaviour of future investors of Fiji. The keynote address outlined the costs, benefits and approach to a better financial future.

An integral component of the address was to empower students to move beyond traditional savings strategies.



## Hindi Day Celebrations



Secondary School Oratory Contest Winners with Ms. Manisha Ramrakha, The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir and Second Secretary of the Indian High Commission, Mr. Anil Sharma, at the Hindi Day Celebrations.

The University of Fiji hosted the Hindi Day celebrations themed "Importance of Hindi Language in Promoting Indian Culture" on Saturday, September 16, 2017.

Language has a prominent effect on culture, which eventually shapes the society. Hence, to protect culture and society, language preservation is paramount.

The Chief Guest at the Ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir, emphasized the significance of respecting languages other than the mother tongue.

"We need to have greater mutual respect for each other regardless of who we are, which ethnic group we belong to, which language we speak. I think as long as we continue to have mutual respect and dialogues, Hindi will have a stronger and more prominent place," he commented.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ms. Manisha Ramrakha, Head of the Hindi Department at UniFiji, said that today the Government through its education system largely supports the awareness and promotion of Hindi Language in Fiji.

Mr. Anil Sharma, Second Secretary, Indian High Commission, Fiji, re-emphasized the importance of Hindi Language and highlighted the collaborative working relationship with UniFiji.

The University of Fiji offers Degree in Hindi Language and Post Graduate in Hindi Language with the prospect of offering Masters Degree in Hindi in the coming year. Hindi Day is celebrated on September 14 throughout the world every year.

## Creative Circle



Staff and Students of The University of Fiji during the Creative Circle programme.

The Language, Literature and Communications (LLC) Department held the Creative Circle programme with the theme "Creativity, an Art" on Friday, September 15, 2017.

The platform fostered creativity through imaginative, artistic and inventive learners of the University.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir, said that the application of learning completes the learning process.

"Application of learning is the core of creativity. Discovery leads to creativity. Association or showing links and connections, questioning, observing, networking and experimenting are important aspects of the discovery process," he stated.

Coordinator and Head of the LLC Department, Ms. Kamala Naiker, commented that it was encouraging that UniFiji embraced a variety of ingenious flair of students and staff.

"The Creative Circle undertakes to provide opportunities for art and cultural expression of our multicultural Pacific society," she stated.

The programme aptly showcased the myriad talents, ingenuity and diverse culture that Fiji prides in and the University through the Creative Circle aimed to instill in its audience.

The creativity exhibited by the students of diverse ethnicity were highlights of this year's Creative Circle programme.

With success to this year's Creative Circle, the team looks forward to hosting more such events in future.

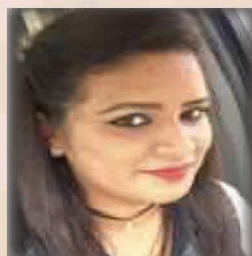
## Massive Market for UniFiji Accounting Graduates

There is an enormous career market for The University of Fiji accounting graduates at prestigious organizations as the trend over a number of years is that majority of the students are employed before graduation. The Accounting Department is well positioned to offer accounting courses best suited for industry requirements.

The accounting programme covers a wide range of areas: financial accounting, management accounting, corporate accounting, taxation, business and commercial law, auditing, business finance and information systems.

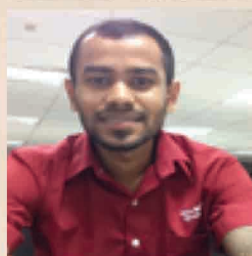
The undergraduate accounting programme is fully accredited with Fiji Institute of Accountants (FIA) and fully registered with Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC).

Students gain a wealth of knowledge and some student testimonies are as follows:



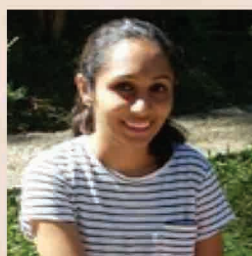
**Irin Ishika Lata: Accountant - UB Freight Australia; Studied Accounting & Management**

As a Bachelor of Commerce graduate, I am proud to say that I pursued my study from The University of Fiji, a wonderful temple of knowledge where we get a wide arena of the field and thus get to learn something new with every subject. Lecture materials were portrayed to us in a simple and understandable manner with lots of examples which related to real accounting practice in an organization. The flame of knowledge that I have obtained through The University of Fiji has certainly helped me to lay a solid foundation for my career development.



**Alveen Chand: Internal Auditor [Asco Motors]; Studied Accounting & Minor in IT.**

I chose to study accounting at UniFiji because of the in-depth coverage, semester based classes, more exposure to outer world and highly competent professors and an opportunity to study with multiracial group of students. It has been challenging three years however the support from the staff across the department made the academic journey special.



**Mayuri Parmar: Graduate Accountant (Ernst & Young); Studied Accounting & IT**

I thoroughly enjoyed my experience at The University of Fiji. The accounting faculty here is exceptional. They care about the academic and professional success of students, going above and beyond to help them in the classroom and job searches. Despite being a pure science student at Secondary School, I was able to complete my study exceptionally well. I cannot imagine a better experience elsewhere and wholeheartedly recommend the program to anyone interested in obtaining a degree in accounting.



## COP23 Awareness Session 8



Dr. Rusila Savou during her address at the 8th COP23 awareness session.

The University of Fiji hosted its 8th COP23 awareness session on Friday, September 15, 2017 of its monthly COP23 awareness seminars. In recognition of the impacts of climate change on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) the session was facilitated by the School of Science & Technology Dr. Rusila Savou WWF-Pacific. She presented on Ecosystem Based Adaptation to Climate Change.

Speaking at the session, she said that the impact of climate change exacerbates the natural processes of coastal and riverbank erosion by increasing the frequency of rainfall resulting in flooding and increased sea levels.

"As a conservation organization, WWF looks to promote the use of soft measures that are innovative, cost effective, and readily available in the community. WWF will be introducing the fairly new idea of using coir logs which is made out of biodegradable and readily available coconut fiber," said Dr. Savou.

Her presentation was in line with her research in areas of costal management, protection and tsunami, river morphology, marine ecosystems, climate change and resilience on rivers and coastlines.

The 9th COP23 awareness session seminar was hosted on Wednesday, September 20, 2017 by Ms. Matisse Walkden-Brown.



The Namatakula Villagers during the Green Village Declaration.

## UniFiji Students Join Namatakula Youths for the Green Village Declaration



Centre for iTaukei Studies (CIS) students at the Namatakula Village.

Seventeen (17) students from the Centre for iTaukei Studies (CIS) at The University of Fiji joined youths from Namatakula Village, Coral Coast to declare the village a Green Village on Friday, August 25, 2017.

The University of Fiji had used Komave village and the Vusu tribe (Namatakula) "iqoliqoli" as one of the two selected sites in Fiji for their Pacific American Climate Fund (PACAM) Project in 2016.

The mapping study identified some important findings relating to depletion of corals reefs and washing away of foreshores which can have a direct effect on the marine habitat as well the presence of all forms of wastes along the foreshores.

The Namatakula Village Youths saw this as alarming for future generations food source and natural environment.

The clean up event involved replanting of indigenous plants at the beach, rubbish collection around the village and community awareness on environmental concerns.

Like the University of Fiji, the Namatakula community fully supports the government drive of COP23 as being the first village in the Western division.

Associate Professor and Director of CIS, Dr. Litiana Kuridrani, said that the campaign helped the iTaukei students to integrate indigenous knowledge and traditional coping mechanisms of climate change adaptation by means of replanting, documentation of preservation and conservation methods in the iTaukei context.

"The iTaukei studies students recognize the benefits of maintaining the Green Village initiative and are living vessels to impart change in their own communities. Change begins within you and we have to start small somewhere," said Associate Professor Dr. Kuridrani.

## हिन्दी दिवस समारोह

यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ फीजी ने १६ सितंबर, २०१७ को हिन्दी दिवस समारोह का आयोजन किया था जिसका मुख्य विषय था: "भारतीय संस्कृति के प्रचार-प्रसार में हिन्दी भाषा का महत्व।"

भाषा का संस्कृति पर एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव है जो समाज को आकार देता है इसलिए, संस्कृति और समाज की रक्षा के लिए, भाषा संरक्षण सर्वोपरि है।

समारोह में मुख्य अतिथि, उप कुलपति, प्रोफेसर प्रेम मिसिर ने मातृभाषा के अलावा अन्य भाषाओं का सम्मान करने के महत्व पर जोर दिया।

"हमें एक दूसरे के लिए अधिक पारस्परिक सम्मान की आवश्यकता है, चाहे हम कोई भी हों, हम किसी भी नस्ल के समूह से संबंधित हों या फिर किसी भी भाषा में बातें करते हों।

मुझे लगता है कि जब तक हम आपसी सम्मान और संवाद जारी रखेंगे, हिन्दी का एक मजबूत और अधिक प्रमुख स्थान होगा, उन्होंने कहा।"

यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ फीजी, हिन्दी विभाग की प्रमुख श्रीमती मनीषा रामरक्खा का कहना है कि सरकार अपनी शिक्षा प्रणाली के माध्यम से, आज फीजी में हिन्दी भाषा की जागरूकता और प्रचार में बढ़ावा देती है।

भारतीय उच्चायोग, फीजी के द्वितीय सचिव श्री अनिल शर्मा ने हिन्दी भाषा के महत्व पर जोर दिया और यूनिवर्सिटी के साथ सहयोग कार्य संबंधी पर भी प्रकाश डाला।

यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ फीजी में हिन्दी भाषा में डिग्री तथा पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट तक की पढ़ाई होती है और आने वाली वर्ष में मास्टर्स डिग्री की पढ़ाई भी होने लगेगी।

विश्व हिन्दी दिवस हर वर्ष १४ सितंबर को विश्व भर में मनाई जाती है।



# School of Law Holds Seminar on RAMSI

## Brief Background of RAMSI

RAMSI, or Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands, is the peace mission which was despatched by the 16-member Pacific Islands Forum in response to a call for help from the State of Solomon Islands for assistance in the restoration of peace and order in that country following the outbreak of inter-tribal violence by armed civilian groups during period 1998 to 2003. Unable to control law and order, the Solomon Islands sought help from the Pacific Islands Forum.

RAMSI was the regional response. Led by Australia, RAMSI served in the Solomon Islands from 2003 to 2017. RAMSI was made up of police and military contingents from the member countries of the Pacific Islands Forum, including Fiji. Australia was the largest contributor; both in personnel and budget support, and provided the command leadership of RAMSI throughout its deployment in the Solomon Islands.

The University of Fiji's, School of Law (SoL) held a public seminar titled "RAMSI - Success or Failure" at the Reserve Bank of Fiji, on Thursday, August 23, 2017.

The speakers at the seminar were Mr. Mataiasi Lomaloma, who served as RAMSI's Assistant Resident Co-ordinator from 2006-2017, and Mr. Sakiusa Rabuka, who served as the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat resident representative to the Solomon Islands from 2009 to 2017.

Given their first-hand knowledge of the work and operation of RAMSI, the SoL was fortunate to receive their consent to be the main speakers at the seminar, to share with the audience their assessment of the success or failure of RAMSI in achieving its mandate. The speakers highlighted that RAMSI was a great success as it stopped all violence, restored peace and order, strengthened the Police Force, rebuilt the economy, and improved standards of good governance in the Public Service

"However, RAMSI's mandate, unfortunately, did not extend into the broader area of nation building. This was to be left to the national political leadership in the Solomon Islands, both in Government and in Parliament. And it is here that one can see the deep-seated, complex and intractable nature of both State building and national unity building. Corruption is rife in the political leadership of the country," they stated. They further said that the evidence of this can be found in the Government borrowing US\$25 million from the Taiwan EXIM Bank to be spent in compensating Ministers, senior civil servants, clients among the different factions engaged in violent conflict.

"Such funds could have been better spent on public development projects to create jobs and livelihood for the thousands of young people who in absence of opportunities were compelled to resort to violence. So, it was clear from all this very sad situation in the Solomon Islands, that in any country, including Fiji, the most important ingredient for successful State building and achieving national unity is national political leadership that is honest and com-

mitted to serving the needs of the country and all its people."

The central issue of interest of the seminar was what Fiji could learn from what happened in the Solomon Islands on the essential ingredients of good national leadership to be successful in governing the State, including the effective maintenance of peace, order and security, laying the basis of a sustainable economy, ensuring accountability and transparency in government operations, and providing for the basic needs of the population.

Mr. Sitiveni Rabuka, who served as Prime Minister of Fiji from 1992 to 1999, one of the attendees of the seminar expresses that this was the kind of public discussions on the problems and challenges of national political leadership that should be very useful for Fiji's own cadre of new political leaders—to educate them and to broaden their minds on what is, and what is not, good, responsible and accountable public leadership.

"Unless our politicians broaden their minds, they can easily succumb to the politics of parochialism, clientelism and ethnic extremism, which clearly are crux of the problems in the Solomon Islands," he added.

SoL students as well as the members of the general public attended the seminar. The School of Law will continue to hold public seminars of this nature in future when an opportunity arises, for the benefit of both its students and the general public.

## RANDOM SHOTS



Girmit Centre student performing Bharatanatyam at the Hindi Day Celebrations.



Art and Craft presentation at the Creative Circle Programme.



Ms. Shirley Prasad receiving Certificate of Completion for successfully completing the Taxation Short Course.



Students sitting for exams.



UniFiji students.



Bucalevu Secondary School students and staff visit UniFiji.