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FNU in the Media THIS WEEK

The Fiji National University Newsletter tracks media coverage of FNU events on a weekly basis. The following news can be found on the website which shows how FNU was featured in the media in the past week.

- PM opens productivity promotion workshop
- PM wants to build Fijian brand
- Fiji hosts 54th Session of Asian Productivity Organisation Workshop Meeting
- Vendor aims for uni
- Fiji to harness talents to compete



(L-R) Chief Guest Prime Minister Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama and Secretary General Mari Amano with FNU Vice Chancellor Dr Ganesh Chand at the 54th APO meeting at the Sheraton Resort in Nadi.

FNU has made its mark: PM

Fiji National University has made a mark not only nationally and in the region, but internationally as well, Fiji's Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has told the 54th workshop meeting of the heads of National Productivity Organisations (NPOs) in Nadi this week.

National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC) as the NPO of Fiji is hosting the annual event, attended by delegates from 19 Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) member countries.

Delivering the keynote address the Prime Minister emphasised that education and training institutions have a key role to play in helping employees, employers, the business sector and governmental organisations become more productive.

"It was with this in mind, and with a view to realise greater economies of scale and effects, that my government merged all the key higher educational institutions in the country to form the Fiji National University or FNU in 2009," he said.

The Prime Minister said Fiji had joined APO in 1984 to take advantage of the large body of knowledge and experience in productivity that had developed within APO member countries.

"Asia was on the move. It was growing. It was a force to be reckoned with in technology, industry and trade. Asian manufacturers were transforming the world marketplace, often displacing iconic American and European companies that had once been dominant. And it was clear that this Asian resurgence was driven by productivity and, above all, quality.

"Today, we no longer talk about an Asian resurgence; we talk about an Asian standard in automobiles, electronics, optics, capital goods, and services, just to name a few sectors," he said.

"We wanted to be a part of that movement. We wanted to capture the energy, optimism, and spirit of innovation that was driving Asia for ourselves and I believe we have. We still have a lot of work to do, but there is no doubt that

we are a different country than we were when we started with APO. Fiji wants to compete with the best in a global marketplace that is more competitive and includes more players every day."

The Prime Minister acknowledged APO's strong role in building the capacity of NTPC saying Fijians have advanced with their own efforts to be more productive and efficient, to encourage better management, and to stay abreast of the changes that affect the world's economy.

"Our goal is to institutionalise the commitment to quality, to constant improvement, and to commitment to excellence. The goal of productivity in itself means a constant reflection, a constant assessment and critique," he said.

"It takes a national commitment to build a nation, and improving national productivity is no different. All of us—producers, retailers and wholesalers, government, labour, the financial community, the business community,

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Fiji National University was part of the government-led International Day for the Eradication of Poverty roadshow held recently in Natewa village, Cakaudrove.

The University's Registrar Jone Dakuvula, a team from the government-sponsored Sustainable Livelihood Project (SLP) and three staff members from Labasa Campus were among exhibitors at the three day event from October 16 to 18.

People living in the Natewa and neighbouring districts were part of the three-day event where they were assisted with information concerning banking,

microfinancing, education and the various educational opportunities available at FNU.

The programme was officially opened by the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, Peniana Lalabalavu.

SLP Manager, Seru Mataidrau said the roadshow is a plus in advocating for SLP programmes and in creating awareness of the kind of training programmes they offer.

"It advertises and emphasises our objective to enhance to a sustainable level, the livelihood of our target groups, the rural

and maritime communities.

"It made people aware that a good number of their domestic burdens, some income-generating interests, and for certain school leavers, a chance at resuming educational interests could be addressed by the empowering trainings we offer, and that they are a direct measure at keeping poverty allayed," he said.

Targeting the rural and maritime communities, the SLP programme offers short course trainings that help generate income. Programmes include the

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JOB VACANCIES

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FNU has made its mark: PM

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employee organisations, the education sector, trade unions and consumers have to be fully engaged in the effort."

The Prime Minister said a nation must invest in its people if it is to be productive.

"To be productive, a nation must harness the talents, energies and aspirations of its people. And the people will freely give of those talents and energies if they know that their government has established a level playing field, that they can get substantive justice, that they will not have to overcome corruption, that they can have access to credit, and that they will be rewarded for their effort," he said.

He called on the respective stakeholders to effectively play their roles.

"It takes a national commitment to build a nation, and improving national productivity is no different. All of us—producers, retailers and wholesalers, government, labour, the financial community, the business community, employee organisations, the education sector, trade unions and consumers—have to be fully engaged in the effort," said the Prime Minister.

FNU's Vice Chancellor Dr Ganesh Chand said it was imperative for FNU to deliver its best.

"Being a small island country subject to all the vulnerabilities imaginable, including the challenges of operating in an intensely competitive globalised world, it is imperative that we deliver our products and services with utmost reliability, efficiency, quality, and value.

"We remain committed as the NPO of Fiji, with an even greater support from the government today, to promote productivity in the country and foster closer relations with the APO and other NPOs," said Dr Chand.

The objective of the APO is to increase productivity in the countries of Asia and the Pacific region through mutual co-operation between countries. The purpose of this meeting is to undertake strategic planning and confirm APO programmes for the coming years until 2016.

APO membership is by national governments, which puts the responsibility for the promotion of productivity in the nation, on the government of the day, through the respective National Productivity Organisations.

Countries attending the meeting include Bangladesh, Cambodia, Republic of China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The APO is the largest productivity promotion organisation in the world.

A part of poverty eradication efforts

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two-week Technical and non-Technical Trainings, and the 1-week Teak preparation and planting programmes.

The team was happy with the feedback from the people of Cakaudrove.

"Individuals indicated their eagerness to be engaged for some training and District coordinators grabbed the opportunity to collect TNA Forms for their districts as they indicated their hope to be visited next year," said Mr Mataidrau.

He said young people have shown exemplary determination and enormous potential in their talent presentation during the 3-day event, especially in the oratory items.

Speaking after the trip, Labasa Campus staff member, Samuela Vuruna said the weather was bad but it did not dampen the spirit of the people of Natewa, Tunuloa, Kioa Island and neighbouring tikinas and villages.

"Our booth was mostly visited by parents and school leavers on the first day. We were able to deliver properly and the most covered area was the programmes offered by FNU," he said.

Students from Napuka Secondary School and Vatuvonu Adventist Junior Secondary also attended the event on the second day.

Productivity is an attitude

Productivity is an attitude of mind that needs to be shaped overtime, says the newly-appointed chairperson of the 54th workshop meeting of heads of National Productivity Organisations (NPOs) Kamlesh Prakash.

Mr Prakash (pictured) is the Director of the National Training and Productivity Centre, and therefore the head of Fiji's NPO. He said promoting productivity was about taking a holistic approach, nurturing a culture of improvement and encouraging responsive behaviour.

"Productivity is everyone's business. It involves the government, private and public sector, NGOs, communities and even schools. Everyone has to play their role in order for us to achieve higher performance and outputs," he said.

Mr Prakash said the NPOs meeting was an opportunity for member countries to reflect on the achievements of their respective countries in terms of productivity promotion and contribution to their economic

development.

He emphasised that training and effective management of staff teamwork and IT and technology were key elements of achieving higher productivity.

"Productivity is a journey and there is no finishing line. We all have to work together continuously and lift the level of productivity. There needs to be an understanding between the NPO and key stakeholders and for all to work together in tandem," said Mr Prakash.

NTPC Advisory Board Chairman and chief executive of the Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation, Nesbitt Hazelman, said the business sector was keen to work more closely with the government and Fiji National University to promote productivity in the country.

"The government initiative of gaining investor confidence and developing our infrastructure and institutions is remarkable and we look forward to



greater support in our efforts to promote productivity, TVET and higher education and research through the FNU," said Mr Hazelman.

He assured the NPO delegates that the business sector would like to play a greater role in the productivity movement in Asia and the Pacific and that his members looked forward to working with the Asian Productivity Organisation and the member countries.

Health collaboration to improve quality of life

The need for a cleft lip/palate database was the main focus at discussions during a Cleft Programme Workshop recently organised jointly by the Ministry of Health and the Dental Department of the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences.

According to Dr Joan Lal, chief dental officer at Suva's Colonial War Memorial Hospital, cleft procedures are currently being done on an ad-hoc basis, but there is no inter-disciplinary approach to the issue.

"Cleft lip/palate are easily corrected conditions that can improve a child's quality of life," said Dr Lal.

The workshop is a collaborative initiative between Fiji's Ministry of Health, Fiji National University's College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Interplast and the Ruel Foundation who will spearhead a pilot project to compile a database for use by all in the management of childrens' treatment.

Dr. David Healey, a specialist orthodontist from New Zealand highlighted that children born with cleft lip/palate



NZ Orthodontist specialist Dr David Healey during the Cleft Workshop.

needed surgery as early as 3 months and will continue to need surgical treatment until their 19th birthday.

"While these surgeries are available free in Fiji through Interplast, the following limitations exist – limited hospital post-surgical care, limited patient information/support, little to no second surgeries,

no pre-surgical orthodontology, no bone grafting and no maxillofacial surgery."

Fiji has the capacity to provide these full services, continued Dr. Healey.

This pilot project will greatly improve the quality of care for cleft lip/palate patients and also provide much needed support for their families.



Peter Sipeli

- 1. What is your position at FNU?**
Project Management/Community Health Projects, CMNHS.
- 2. What do you like best about your job?**
Working with students and being around in the community lending a helping hand.
- 3. How do you handle stressful situations?**
Firstly by addressing the problem, to working with stakeholders to address the students.
- 4. Other than appearance, what is the first thing that people notice about you?**
My wonderful personality.
- 5. Where are you originally from?**
I was born and raised in Lami, it is home and where I am from.
- 6. What are some of the major research projects you have been involved with?**
Educating for a sustainable lifestyle, exploratory projects using art as a tool to communicate about health.
- 7. What are your BEST life skills?**
The ability to make people laugh.
- 8. The 4 things your friends say you are...**
Fun, easy to talk to, productive and hard-working.
- 9. What are 5 things you "can't live without?"**
My phone, laptop, books, running and cup cakes.
- 10. What are you most passionate about?**
Copyrights.
- 11. What are you are most thankful for?**
My parents, friends and the Internet.
- 12. How do you typically spend your leisure time?**
Sleeping and reading.
- 13. What are some of the community projects you have been involved with?**
Hibiscus Health & Wellness booth for FNU, for 5 years now.
And the Fiji Village Project, 3 years now.

Watch out against GMOs

Genetically modified organisms affect your environment, society, economy and health, staff and students of Fiji National University's College of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries heard at a presentation last week by STOP OGM Pacifique's secretary Clair Chauvet.

The representatives from the New Caledonia-based non-governmental organization are in the country creating awareness on the effects of genetically modified organisms (GMO). She said people always confused themselves between hybrids and GMOs.

GMOs are living organisms whose gene pool has been modified by humans to give them new properties and the secretary said, they could be found in plants, animals or micro-organisms and are used in many areas.

"These organisms harm the soil and affect people's health because you eat things which are used to kill other insects. Farmers also get poorer because they have to buy these expensive seeds while



CAFF staff and students at the seminar during the presentation by the New Caledonia-based NGO on GMO.

exports may decrease since some developed countries do not import GMO products," Chauvet said.

Her comments sparked some interesting questions from FNU academics.

"However, we are a small developing country and after climate change effects, we will need GMO species to survive and feed us. If there are no GMOs, how are we going to survive, by hunting?" lecturer, Maika Tabukovu asked.

He was told that GMOs are not the only solution to that problem.

Another academic Hiagi Foraete asked: "You are only telling us about the negative effects, there is some positive effect of GMOs too, isn't it?"

Foraete was told that the negatives of the GMOs outweigh the positives. Chauvet said that there was only a short term production increase but in the long run, productivity would decline.

Healthy eating habits should be passed from adults to children.

That was the message emphasised by Nestle Fiji Ltd during their healthy eating noodle promotion visit to National Training and Productivity Centre in Nasese last week.

The healthy eating talk, more commonly known as "Kana Vinaka" session, was enjoyed by NTPC staff and students who said it was a timely reminder.

"We all like eating noodles but how to eat it in a healthy way is what I learnt today. It

Healthy eating habits

people often have a misconception about noodles.

"People often regard noodle as a cheap junk food but that is not the case. It is about how you eat it. We encourage people to make noodles in a healthy way with lots of vegetables.

"It is important to keep your meals balanced and have food from all three food groups. It is important to note that when you make food, your children

see and learn from you. Therefore, you must pass on healthy eating habits to you children. Personnel hygiene is also important while preparing and eating food," said Ms Blumel.



Nestle staff during a demo of healthy eating at NTPC Nasese Campus.

was the creative side of making noodles with health benefits for example using lots of vegetables is very important," said Reshma Devi.

Nestle Fiji Sampling Manager Bridget Blumel said

Be safe, OHS lecturer tells employees

Every employee must understand the basics of Occupational Health and Safety legislations in a workplace.

OHS lecturer and workshop coordinator Sailasa Kalouniviti said it was a statutory requirement that all workplaces conduct OHS training.

He said the University was also doing its part to ensure its staff had gone through the basic OHS training.

"It's a legislative requirement that OHS committees are

established or representatives be appointed in a workplace," he said.

"We have to understand the basics first. Health and safety is everyone's concern. A lot of work places still lack in this area," he said.

Mr Kalouniviti made the comments while conducting a three-day workshop on OHS modules 1&2 for representatives and committee members.

He said the aim of the workshop was to provide reps

and committee members with the basic skills.

He said workshop participants needed to understand the principles of hazard identification and risk assessment control strategies.

He said participants would develop positive attitude to OHS and identify the intent and purpose of the Act, regulations and codes of practice.

"Attitudes towards health and safety should change after learning some aspects of the OHS legislation," he said.

Student Profile Disaster awareness draws northern schools to FNU



Hilda Wratten | Solomon Islands.

- 1. Which campus are you studying on?**
Koronivia Campus, College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.
- 2. What programme are you enrolled in?**
Bachelor of Science in Agriculture.
- 3. What inspired you to take up this programme?**
To be employed with the Ministry of Agriculture in my home country so for now I am just focused on upskilling myself and on further studies.
- 4. What do you enjoy about University life?**
Meeting other students from different parts of Fiji and sharing a common interest in our field of study.
- 5. What is your favourite activity on Campus?**
Taking part in campus activities like sports, socialising with friends and meeting new friends.
- 6. What things distract you on Campus?**
Koronivia is a small campus and the facilities are limited and when students are noisy in the campus foyer, that is the most distracting thing here.
- 7. How do you manage your stress?**
Just by staying home and taking rest. Sometimes we go out as a group of friends.
- 8. Who is your role model or mentor?**
I owe my success to my father, who has been so supportive since my primary education. Also to my Director of Research in Agriculture, who encouraged me to do further studies.
- 9. What will your course prepare you for?**
To become a better research officer and to apply the knowledge gained in my field of work.
- 10. Who do you find the most supportive of your study endeavours?**
My husband and children are very supportive on my studies.
- 11. Hobbies?**
Listening to music and watching movies.
- 12. What are your dreams?**
To be a role model in my area of work and if age permits, to do a specialised study in plant breeding.
- 13. Your personal motto?**
Never underestimate yourself!

International Day for Disaster Reduction was recently marked on Labasa Campus, with more than 400 students from Vunika Primary School and Naleba Primary School becoming part of the festivities.

Organised by College of Humanities and Education Senior Lecturer, Pardeep Lal (pictured), the day had the theme "Living with Disability and Disasters".

Mr Lal said International Day for Disaster Reduction was important because people with disabilities need to be cared for.

"People living with disabilities are often more vul-

nerable to disasters because they are more likely to be left out poor as they have limited access to education, health care, shelter, food and financial resources to overcome and recover from a disaster," he said.

"Emergency planners often compound these vulnerabilities by failing to consider their needs."

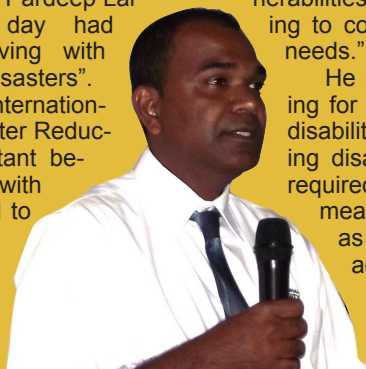
He said providing for people with disabilities during disasters often required simple measures such as planning in advance.

"With over one fifth of the

world population having some form of disability, it is important that they be included in decision making and planning so that they can take better care of themselves and the public can take responsibility to provide support to them during disasters."

Students spoke on the following topics in the English, I taukei and Hindi languages.

- **How can we take care of disabled people during disasters?**
- **What do I understand by the term natural disasters and how can I ensure safety of my family from natural disasters in Fiji?**
- **If one of my family members is disabled, what should my family do to help him/her during disasters?**



Ra keen on trade test

The people of Ra have expressed interest in learning more about trade test programmes offered by National Training and Productivity Centre.

NTPC officer Vishal Parkas said it was encouraging to note the response from the public at a recent Ra open day event organised by Ra Provincial Council.

NTPC was invited to set up an information booth at the event held at Rakiraki ground.

"Adults as well as the students were mostly querying about the trade tests offered by NTPC and they were provided with the relevant information. Potential students were given advice on what courses they could pursue after secondary school. It was a good turnout," said Mr Parkas.

Other courses queried included hospitality and financial programmes.

Mr Parkas said NTPC will continue to reach out to the public, particularly those in remote areas. The presence of NTPC in Rakiraki was largely appreciated by the people of Ra, he said.

Students sing FNU's praise

Students of Central College in Lautoka have praised the initiative undertaken by the Fiji National University to offer provisional enrollment to secondary schools.

Senior teacher Danny Narayan said the face-to-face sessions between Seventh Form students and FNU representatives enabled the students to gain first-hand information and knowledge on the programmes on offer at the institution.

Mr Narayan reminded his seventh formers how important it was to score marks that would put them in contention for placing at any of the tertiary institutions but also with a scholarship.

"Times are hard and many parents struggle to send their children to school. It's up to you students to take on the challenge," he said.

"For many of you young girls, there are many opportunities out there for you to grab. Gone are the days when women studied only office administration to become secretaries and typists."

Mr Narayan said there were opportunities for students to further their tertiary education but it was up to the students to put in the effort and make sacrifices.

Meanwhile, student Phyllis Singh said she has set her sights on entering a male-dominated field by opting for the Civil Engineering programme.

She said it was something she'd been keen to take on since her older siblings have a commerce background.

"Many girls I know are opting for either nursing, teaching or hospitality and tourism programmes. I don't want to follow them. I want to do either civil engineering or architectural design," she said.

Fellow student Rahul Prasad said he intends to pursue his studies in Engineering-Electrical and Renewable Energy.

Similar sentiments were echoed by students of Natabua High School regarding the provisional enrollment making it easier for the students to just hand over their forms to the FNU representative rather than rushing around in the New Year.

Vacancies

For job vacancies and career opportunities at Fiji National University, go to www.career.fnu.ac.fj New posts are logged each week for academic and non-academic vacancies, so check regularly for the opportunity that could lead you to a new life. Some of the positions currently available online:

- Writers-in-Residence (Re-advertised)
- Library Assistant
- Medical Receptionist
- Office Administrator (Re-advertised)
- Apprenticeship Officer
- Network Support Technician
- Network Administrator
- Systems Administrator
- IT Training Instructors
- Lecturer II in Plant Maintenance Engineering (Re-advertised)