



Form left: Fiji's Roving Ambassador in the Pacific, Ratu Tui Cavuilati, the Korean Ambassador, H.E. Mr Nam-Jin Zeon, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, and the Vice-Chancellor of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra.

Fiji Government Signs Agreement with Republic of Korea for USP Project

The Government of the Republic of Fiji Islands, on behalf of the University of the South Pacific signed an Agreement in the form of a *Record of Discussions (RoD)* with the Government of the Republic of Korea at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Civil Aviation on Friday 7 May 2010.

The RoD was signed by the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea based in Suva, H.E. Mr Nam-Jin Zeon and Fiji's Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Civil Aviation, the Honourable Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, representing the Government of the Republic of Fiji Islands, on behalf of the University of the South Pacific and its 12 member countries, in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra.

The RoD outlines the responsibilities of all parties necessary for the successful implementation of a Renewable Energy project titled, **'Renewable Energy Generation, Resource Assessment, and Capacity Building Programme for Sustainable Economic Development of the Pacific Island Countries'**, which will be implemented by the University of the South Pacific.

Fiji's Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Civil Aviation, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, thanked the Government of Korea for this timely and valuable assistance to USP which will not only benefit Fiji but the other Pacific Island Countries as well. Ratu Inoke went on to say, "The objectives of the project are noble. It will equip the region

with the tools to provide secure and sustainable clean energy and to contribute to the balanced and harmonious development of Pacific Island Countries by providing educational assistance to students. The successful implementation of the project will in turn strengthen the relationship in the field of 'Renewable Energy' between the Republic of Korea and the Pacific Island Countries". The Minister added, "Given the pressing issue of Climate Change, Renewable Energy is no longer an option for all Pacific Island countries, but a necessity".

H.E. Mr Nam-Jin Zeon said that his Government was very pleased to provide this assistance for the Renewable Energy project. The Ambassador says, "Korea considers it important that it shares its technical expertise and experience in renewable energy with the countries of the South Pacific that are particularly vulnerable to Climate Change. Korea has taken a leadership role on climate change issues in Asia, and looks forward to assisting the Pacific Island Countries, through projects such as this, to prosper and develop economically in a sustainable manner that does not harm the natural environment".

The Vice-Chancellor of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra said, "It is encouraging that the Republic of Korea recognises the urgency and importance of developing renewable energy resources in the Pacific Islands in order to build a sustainable future for our peoples. The University of the South Pacific, with its fourteen campuses, is best placed to implement a regional project that requires multiple sites and support for personnel on the ground. By

supporting this project, the Fiji Government is assisting its neighbours in the region to access Korean scientific expertise and advice. The pioneering scientific work being done at USP will, in concert with that being done in Korea, offer important practical benefits to the region".

Professor Chandra further said, "USP has decided to play a very active role in taking the region towards energy-independence and to significantly increase its activities in this field by directing more resources to Renewable Energy related work. USP is also collaborating with a number of overseas institutions in this field to ensure that the region does not lag behind technologically".

The project will run over a period of 30 months, and will be based at USP's Laucala Campus in Suva, Fiji. The sites of the *Integrated Renewable Energy Resource Assessment Systems (IRERAS)* will be located in all the 12 member countries of the USP.

In addition to providing US\$2 Million for the project, KOICA will contribute technical assistance through Project Managers and will also provide equipment and materials.

The RoD comes about after a series of discussions held between the University of the South Pacific and its stake holders and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), representing the Government of the Republic of Korea.

Also present at the signing, was the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Technology and Environment (FSTE), Dr Anjeela Jokhan, and other representatives from the faculty. ■

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Tsunami Warning Cancelled after Vanuatu Quake

A tsunami warning had been cancelled for Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and New Caledonia after a quake struck near Vanuatu shortly after 5am on Friday 28 May.

The 7.2-magnitude earthquake was 20km deep but never considered a potential threat to New Zealand and an advisory notice issued by the New Zealand Ministry of Civil Defence was cancelled shortly before 7am.

The Ministry said, "Scientific analysis suggests that there is no threat to New Zealand, based on the earthquake magnitude, location and orientation to New Zealand".

Earlier the Ministry said it was issuing an 'advisory' notice and not a 'warning' although earthquakes of 7.2 had the potential to generate a tsunami. It briefly advised people in coastal areas to stay off beaches, out of the water, and not to go sightseeing. The quake happened on Friday morning and was centered 485km northwest of the capital, Port Vila, at a depth of 36km. Authorities in Vanuatu said they were checking for information on both the quake and the regional tsunami alert.

"We're expecting to issue an alert for any tsunami threat shortly, but we have no report of a tsunami from Luganville," said the director of Vanuatu's Meteorological Office, who only gave his name as Salesa. Luganville is the town closest to the quake's epicentre.

Solomon Islands will go to Polls on 04 Aug

The Solomon Islands will go to the polls on 4 August 2010 and a formal announcement is expected soon from Governor-General Sir Frank Kabui, the *Solomon Star* newspaper has reported.

The date was decided by the Electoral Commission two weeks ago, but protocol demands that only the Governor-General can announce the date to the nation. Sir Frank arrived back from a week-long visit to the Republic of China [Taiwan] last week. Sources have told the newspaper that caretaker Prime Minister Derek Sikua conveyed his government's endorsement of the date in a letter to Sir Frank before he travelled to Papua New Guinea a week ago.

"Yes, the election will be on August 4. I've actually conveyed that in a letter to the Governor-General before I came," Prime Minister Sikua was quoted as saying in PNG.

"I expect His Excellency should be announcing it [the date] any day now," the sources quoted Dr Sikua as having said.

Up to 250, 000 people are expected to cast their vote in an election which will decide the Members of the ninth Parliament. This year's election is expected to be the most expensive, with pundits claiming the cost could be as high as \$200 million in campaign funds, including costs to be borne by the Government. A record number of political parties have registered to contest the 50-seat single chamber parliament.

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**ODN Biennial Conference,
April 14-15, 2010**

Around 70 Social Science researchers, policy-makers and development practitioners from around the Oceania region engaged in extensive discussion on 'Regionalism and Service Delivery' during the 2 day conference organised by the Oceania Development Network (ODN). Representatives came from Fiji, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Australia and New Zealand. Dr Ramona Angelescu, Political Adviser and ODN Liaison of The Global Development Network (GDN) based in Delhi represented the GDN. The ODN biennial conference which was held at the Naviti Resort in Fiji from April 14 - 15 was organised in partnership with the University of the South Pacific and the Global Development Network, and funded by AusAID and NZAID.

The conference included plenary sessions, smaller parallel sessions, as well as panel discussions and also allowed for informal discussions. Prominent among the paper presenters were a relatively large number of young researchers who presented their research findings on a number of contemporary policy-related areas.

The opening address which warmly welcomed participants to Fiji and also touched on the link between security and development, was delivered by Fiji's Minister for Defence, National Security and Disaster Management and Immigration, Ratu Epeli Ganilau. The opening keynote plenary speaker, Mr Iosefa Maiava, Head of the Pacific Office of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP) provided a very interesting perspective on 'Regionalism as a Response to the Global Economic Crises and Climate Change.' According to Mr Maiava, in a context where less than 20% of the Pacific citizens have formal social security, vulnerability is high and in many cases state capacity is limited. Regionalism is viewed as a strategy for enhancing service delivery at the national level, through capacity building and supplementations; and through the application of common standards and norms, including quality and governance.

Over the two days, participants were presented with papers, they listened to panelists and discussed and debated a rich array of research topics relating to service delivery in the Pacific. These included regional level endeavors in trade and economic integration, regional cooperation and response to globalisation, regional oversight initiatives in governance and accountability, currency union, quality of data services for policy making, South-South cooperation between Pacific Island Countries (PICs) and emerging donors such as China, South Korea, India etc, progress on Millennium Development Goals. National level research presentations included a whole variety of current topics such as public sector reforms, institutional causes of poverty, privatisation failures, vulnerability to external and internal shocks and policy making, the global recession's impact on service delivery in PNG, impacts of migration in Fiji, local government and service delivery, urban service delivery, gender mainstreaming, the deterioration of social capital, housing sector policy making, CSOs and service delivery in the health sector, gender and service delivery, fair trade and women in business, and many more.

This conference also marked the occasion for the transfer of the ODN Secretariat from the National University of Samoa, chaired by Dr Wood Salele and coordinated by Anita Latai to the University of the South Pacific in Fiji, under the new leadership of Professor Biman Prasad, Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics (FBE), at USP.

The Fijian country report on migration conducted as part of the GDN 'Development on the Move' Global Research Project was also presented during the conference. ■

**The new Chair of the ODN Secretariat,
Professor Biman Prasad**



USP/Government of Australia Launch Partnership Framework

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of the South Pacific, Professor Rajesh Chandra, and the Minister-Counsellor of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) at the Australian High Commission in Suva, Ms Judith Robinson, marked the start of a new phase in Australia's support to USP as they announced the **Commonwealth of Australia - USP Partnership Framework**.

The Partnership is worth approximately **F\$32.75 million (A\$18.35 million) over the three years 2010-2012** and will result in a closer, stronger and more flexible working arrangement focused on the achievement of shared goals. These include improved student services, increased research capacity to provide services to member governments and people, and strengthened administration and academic programmes. The Partnership makes a significant contribution to the core budget of USP.

At a cocktail held on the evening of Tuesday 18 May 2010 at the University's Laucala Campus in Suva Fiji, to mark the launch of this new partnership, the Vice-Chancellor of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra remarked, *"The contribution to the budget supports the University's core business of preparing the region's future leaders who, as part of the University's drive toward greater relevance to the region, are all being encouraged and supported to develop a strong Pacific consciousness, to understand, appreciate, and preserve the natural environment, to be competent in ICT, to comprehend and value good governance, and to achieve higher standards of English competency through the phased introduction of 4 generic courses"*.

The University's Strategic Plan – underpinned by *quality, relevance and sustainability* – is the roadmap for the University's response to the region's human resource development needs, and was fully endorsed by all member countries and donors.

In continuing his remarks at the cocktail launch, Professor Chandra said, *"Australia has been a valued and devoted development partner for the USP from the very beginning and remains one of our strongest allies. On behalf of the member governments and the University community, I*



The Minister-Counsellor of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) at the Australian High Commission in Suva, Ms Judith Robinson, and the Vice-Chancellor of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra, at the launch of the Partnership Agreement.

quality graduates entering the Pacific workforce. USP is central to delivering on this vision".

thank the Australian Government most sincerely for its assistance to USP. I would like to assure the Government of Australia, through you Minister-Counsellor, that your taxpayers' funds will be utilised wisely for the region".

Professor Chandra affirmed, *"We are confident that we will meet the expectations of the Australian Government – and indeed of all our member governments and stakeholders. You will find us a reliable cost-effective, innovative and sustainable partner; conscious of the goodwill and support of the Government and people of Australia, ever since the establishment of USP 42 years ago".* He added, *"We will eagerly explore further ways in which we can work even better and more closely in the future".*

In her remarks, the Australian Minister-Counsellor, Ms Judith Robinson said, *"USP is one of the major providers of tertiary education in the Pacific. It provides education and training, targeted research and consultancy services and technical expertise to its member countries, development partners, and other Pacific regional organisations".*

The Minister-Counsellor further said, *"As a primary source of graduates in the region, USP is a key contributor to the development of Pacific island countries. The Government of Australia is currently sponsoring around three hundred students from the region to study at USP, through the Australian Regional Development Scholarships Scheme. We strongly support our Pacific island neighbours in their efforts to have high*

"Australia's intention is to continue to strengthen our engagement with USP by improving the effectiveness of the partnership while continuing to focus on results for the Pacific", said Ms Robinson.

The Minister-Counsellor said, *"Together with USP, Australia is establishing the Pacific Islands Centre for Public Administration. The USP is a natural partner for such a centre given its presence throughout the Pacific and its existing role in building public sector skills and future leadership across the region".* She added, *"The centre will provide tailored support for countries to improve the planning and performance of their public administrations and to improve the skills of public servants".*

Ms Robinson says, *"We look forward to working with the Vice Chancellor over the coming months to establish this exciting new centre for the region".* She also reflected on the fact that ever since Professor Chandra took up the position of Vice-Chancellor at the University, things have improved significantly. *"Therefore we have great confidence in the University and we look forward to continuing this important and strong relationship",* she said.

The Australia - USP Partnership not only funds the continuous improvement of the University's capacity and services, but is also an opportunity to assist the University's member countries to improve the quality of education in the region, achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's), and address other critical development issues. ■

STAFF PROFILE | SINIVA MOLU LAUPEPA | English Language Tutor (SLS)



Length of time employed at USP: 7 years

Home Country: Tuvalu

Campus: Laucala

How do you usually begin your working day?

I say my prayers thanking God for my blessings and asking Him for his guidance, protection and wisdom to take me through the day's work.

What is the best part of your current work?

Accomplishing the objectives of my work each day.

What is your best practical remedy for work and life stress?

This is dependent on the kinds of work and life stress one may encounter. If it was personal stress, a face-to-face talk would be the best remedy, otherwise take a break and go to a place of your liking that's soothing, quiet, and away from work.

What is the most unusual/unexpected event that has ever happened to you?

The chance to get my grand-daughter back here in Suva

Best advice you've ever been given, or have given to students at USP?

One's success lies in one's hands, not in any others

Who inspires you and why?

My maternal grandmother inspires me because she struggled all alone to bring up her seven children by herself, when her husband passed away from illness. The youngest child was not even a year old. The courage and the strength she had to conquer life on her own, had made me realise that there is nothing in this world a man cannot do.

What have been your main career highlights?

Teaching and meeting students on Moodle.

What books are you reading at the moment, and why?

Have not read any books for some time now

What are some challenges faced by young people in the Pacific?

I think lack of self-confidence is one of the major challenges youth in the Pacific are facing. The majority of the youth nowadays do not realise that they have unique potentials which could be the foundation and starting point of their success in life.

What are your hopes for the Pacific region in 2009 and beyond?

That there would be more collaboration between and amongst the different Pacific island countries and hopefully to hold 'get-together' events to establish and foster understanding amongst the different peoples of the Pacific, to bring about closeness and peace.

USP Journalism Student Picked to Attend IOC Young Reporters Programme



Rashneel Kumar (right) with Cook Islands News Managing Editor, Mr John Woods in Rarotonga

Final year Journalism student at the University of the South Pacific, **Rashneel Kumar** has been selected to attend the **'Young Reporters Programme'** during the **Youth Olympics in Singapore**.

The Young Reporters initiative will see the *International Olympic Committee (IOC)* bring 26 young journalists from five continents to the Youth Games in Singapore from August 14 – 26, offering them homes in the Youth Olympic Village alongside athletes and specialised media training from senior sports journalists.

Mr Kumar, a part time sports reporter at *The Fiji Times*, said he was thrilled by his selection.

"I am really looking forward to the trip," said Mr Kumar, who had a stint with the *Cook Islands News* newspaper during the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga.

The Young Reporters' programme aims to include 18 to 24 year old journalists from the five continents or inhabited regions of the globe - Africa, the Americas, Asia, the Pacific and Europe, right in the middle of the Games for 14 days, with full access to the competition venues.

Head of Journalism at USP Mr Shailendra Singh said that Mr Kumar was a deserving candidate for the training. "*Rashneel has a keen interest in Sport Journalism. He has developed into a good sports writer,*" said Mr Singh.

At the 2008 USP Journalism student awards night, Rashneel Kumar won the *Most Promising Student Award*. Last year he won the *Best Sports Reporter Award* for his coverage of the Cook Islands Mini Games.

Mr Singh thanked the Fiji Sports Association National Olympic Committee for facilitating the training trip, for which the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will cover airfares, accommodation, meals and full tuition.

Professional trainers and seasoned journalists will act as mentors and coaches at the Young Reporters Program.

"*This is my biggest break and I'm really honoured to be part of this inaugural event,*" said Mr Kumar. "*It's a great privilege to represent Fiji and the Oceania region.*" ■

STUDENT PROFILE | ELLA BENNION | PGD Social Policy/Admin

Why did you choose to study at USP?

USP wasn't even a second thought. It's where I've always wanted to study. The unique learning environment in terms of cultural diversity is second to none.

What do you enjoy most about uni life?

The friendships and acquaintances made along the way and of course the enhancement of relevant knowledge especially to our Pacific context. I find that very fascinating.

What do you find most difficult or challenging?

At this level things have changed as I'm more organized and have developed better coping strategies, thanks to Psychology courses. Initially it was very challenging, difficult almost to adjust to the formal structures of learning, as it had been a while since I had taken up studies.

What do you like best about your programme of study?

My undergrad studies in Sociology/Psychology/Community Development were really the best foundation for my Post grad studies in Social Policy/Admin. This program is the best because of the learning environment – it actually harnesses our passion to make a difference in our society and contribute to the social development of our people through their interactions with their resources. We are very fortunate to have a lecturer who is passionate about this program and the issues that really matter since that has enabled to think more critically. It's a great skill to have.

What can't you live without on campus?

Friends most definitely. They can be strength to draw from, when times are tough.

What could improve your studying experience at USP?

I will have to say the post grad facilities especially for FAL students. I think we need to upgrade the facilities so I'll leave it at that because there maybe plans in the near future to do so.

What is your best survival study tip?

Always go over your day's work. Do your assigned readings. Review previous years' exam papers. The exam format is the key – from my ex-



perience. Do not do all-nighters! They only mess up your system. Study enough so that you get enough rest; drink a lot of water and eat well.

What do you do to relax when you're not studying?

I love to write letters to friends & loved ones- not emails but the old fashion way, pen & paper! Listening to my music and quizzing my kids or enjoying a good conversation with good friends over a hot cuppa anywhere.

What makes a good lecturer?

I believe you can tell from how passionate one is about the course in spite of having to repeat it every semester or so. They will obviously know their stuff and encourage you to ask questions – an opportunity one should take, as it will pay off. A good lecturer is empathetic, approachable yet firm. All my lecturers have always been on the top of their game and I have a great respect for all of them.

Who is your role model or mentor, and why?

My dad is my role model. He'd always remind my siblings and I that we determine our day. And to me that's very powerful because I can choose to be miserable or choose to be productive and in the process find contentment.

What career(s) will your course prepare you for?

I believe my options are limitless because a sociologist can put a human face on issues like poverty, climate change issues, population issues, policies, women empowerment, economics and so forth. I stand to be corrected but in my view, sociologists can bring about a balance between economic and social policies.

What are some challenges facing (young) people in the Pacific?

I think globalization has something to do with the problems faced by young people today. Despite the advancement in technology, young people do not want to return to the villages or rural areas after their education to contribute to development because governments and learning institutions do not fully facilitate their return. Hence the attraction to remain in the urban centres is great, therefore giving rise to more social problems. Our resources are abundant and if young people are taught about their traditions by their parent, combine that traditional knowledge with the best of science they can make their resources work for them. This could raise their living standards and eradicate poverty etc. It's achievable.

What are some challenges facing women in the Pacific?

The biggest challenge is the mindset of a patriarchal society – male domination. Changing the mindset is easier said than done. Women for so long have been less valued despite some progress. Half of the population in the Pacific is women so to empower them would bring about changes exponentially. Women's contribution to society is priceless!

What are your hopes for the Pacific in 2009 and beyond?

I hope that more of our people seriously think about sustainable development because our future is here now and what we do now will affect generations that follow. It is also my hope that more USP graduates will return to their respective communities and be the custodians of relevant knowledge that will empower them and not allow them to be 'duped' by knowledge based on ideals that are unrealistic in our Pacific context. Lastly, that the spirit of friendship; reciprocity; love and kindness which our people are renowned for endures. ■



SAS Prepares for New Location

The Student Academic Services (SAS) will be relocating its office in June, 2010. The new office will be situated at Level 1 (and part of Level 2) of the Communications Building, previously occupied by the Information Technology Services (ITS) section of the University.

This is an exciting and sentimental development for the SAS as it leaves its current 'home' of over three decades. *"Ever since I can remember, the Academic Office has always been in the Administration building"*, says Mrs Litia Konusi, the Acting Group Manager for SAS. Mrs Konusi, who has served at the Academic Office since the 1980s, says the Academic Office has evolved dramatically through the decades including the staffing level.

The SAS functions and services is guided by its mission to be responsive, adaptable and innovative in the provision of academic services to the University's internal and external clientele and stakeholders in the formulation, promulgation and implementation of Senate-approved academic policy and regulations, and the efficient and effective administration of student academic services in support of the University's vision to be *'proactive, deliver excellence, be highly regarded locally, regionally and internationally and to provide sustainable solutions in the Pacific.'*

SAS is made up of five teams – Data, Enrolment, Assessment, Administration and Student Services. The Student Services team is the face of the SAS to its customers – the students. One of the main challenges with the current location is the lack of immediate connectivity with other teams as they are located in two other separate buildings away from the Student Services Centre. *"We see this problem being eliminated once the SAS is able to house its teams all under the same roof"*, says Mrs Konusi. Other benefits deduced from this relocation include:

- Faster flow of information to students

- Reducing its turnaround service times significantly.
- Closer vicinity to faculties, and business centres, accommodation and medical/counselling centres for students.
- Enhanced work/storage space and workflow for its staff
- Improved working environment and facilities for its staff

"It's a great move for both the students and staff sake!" Mrs Konusi reiterated.

She also explained that with all the teams located together, it would be easier to discuss academic processes directly with the relevant team/staff for improved understanding. This means that during enrolment/registration periods, the relevant Enrolment team staff will complement the Student Services team serving students at the Front Office or Call Centre, similarly for graduation and exam periods.

Two imminent processes at SAS for June are Semester 1 2010 Exams and Student Exchange preparation for Semester 2, 2010 studies abroad.

The preparations for exams in terms of exam script completion, duplication and dispatch to regional campuses is already underway. *"Students will have to ensure that they are properly registered for their courses to avoid unnecessary delays on exam days,"* says Mr Timoci Tuivaga, the Manager-Assessment. This includes checking on SOLS account that status of enrolment is 'Fully Registered' (RE) for each course, campus and exam site of registration is accurate, no financial HOLD is due, and that a valid student ID card is available with the student.

Students can liaise with SAS for clarification at the Student Services Centre from Monday – Thursday at 9am – 4pm, Fridays at 8.30am – 3pm.

The Call Centre staff are also available to answer

your queries by phone on (679) 323 1444 from 8am – 5pm Monday to Friday or by email: helpdesk@student.usp.ac.fj

The preparation for successful students to go on the Student Exchange programme for Semester 2, 2010 is expected to intensify in June, 2010. The Coordinator Student Exchange programme, Ms Salanieta Vakalala explained that despite the challenges of putting together travel documents, course cross credits, finances, etc, the students are more excited about sightseeing, making new friends, studying and cultural experiences. This was reflected through reports of returning students:

"I had met so many people and made friends with people of different cultures and this has made me realise the importance of having our own identity I must say that studying at VIC Uni is one that is highly interactive in a way that even in Lectures, students do participate and lecturers allow the flow of discussions and the same thing happens in tutorials." Josateki Temo S11035437, Bachelor of Commerce went to Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia 2009

"My exchange trip to Canada has left me with memories that will never be forgotten...If I could live those months as an exchange student at the University of Guelph all over again, I would!..." Nafiza Patel S11049503, Bachelor of Commerce went to University of Guelph, Canada 2009.

"Learning some Japanese before the trip is essential in capturing and understanding their cultural practices... I was absorbed by the interesting discussions my 'parents' and I had at the dinner table. Japanese meals are very delicious and healthy..." Marilyn Simmons S11041386, BAGCED went to Sonoda Womens University, Japan. 2009

"...I sure was able to draw on a lot of differences between what goes on in Canadian society and the Pacific...There are a lot of differences between students in a Canadian society and USP; for example, during lectures the majority of the students do not use books and pens but their laptops..." Tahere Siisialafia, BA Psychology and Sociology, Semester 2 2009 went to Simon Fraser University, Canada. ■

ADMISSION Semester 2 2010 is Now OPEN!!!!

- New and resuming applicants are invited to apply for studies at USP in semester 2 2010.
- Take note of particulars which you will need to attach with your application (refer to page 1 of the application form)
- If you wish to apply for cross credits, ensure that your transcripts and course prescriptions are attached as well
- You must attach results of Form 6/Form 7 or equivalent examinations

Application forms and lists of available programmes are available from the following sites:

- Students Services Centre, Laucala Campus
- A USP campus near you
- The USP website: www.usp.ac.fj/academic

Applications closes on 30 June 2010

School of Education Launches Three-Volume Series

The School of Education in the Faculty of Arts and Law (FAL) earlier this year launched three books on **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**, at the Oceania Centre for Arts, Culture and Pacific Studies, as part of an initiative by the School of Education in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO.

The books were launched by Papua New Guinea High Commissioner to Fiji, His Excellency Mr Peter Eafeare. In his remarks, he thanked the organisers and editors for putting together a useful collection of resources that highlight the importance of sustainable livelihoods and practices in the region.

The Event Coordinator and Editor Frances C. Koya said the team was confident that these books would make an important contribution to Pacific literature and publications and are a significant resource to the region and the wider international community. She said that within a day of posting the launch details online, she had received expressions of interest from within the Pacific, Australia and Europe.

The three-volume series is part of a Pacific response by the USP as the *Regional Centre of Excellence in ESD* which is in direct response to the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) and the Fo-



rum Education Ministers' Meeting (FEDMM) responses towards the compilation of the Regional ESD Framework and the Action Plan for ESD in the region.

Volume 1 **"Continuity and Survival in the Pacific"**, edited by Unaisi Nabobo-Baba, Cresantia Frances Koya and Teweiariki Teaero, provides Pacific scholars, including educators and students with a way to express their views about what 'Sustainable Living' is and how Education can provide the awareness, knowledge, skills and ultimately the behaviour we need, in order to live in our island communities, given the realities of our current situation.

Volume 2 **"Pacific Stories of Sustainable**

Living", edited by Cresantia Frances Koya, Unaisi Nabobo-Baba and Teweiariki Teaero, is equally significant as it challenges the current academic focus of mainstream formal education by providing stories from the Pacific. These stories are told through music, dance, life-stories, poetry, chant, photography and visual arts. The focus on Art, Culture, Curriculum and ESD provides an alternative view of ESD from the Pacific that is uniquely 'Pacific', bringing in indigenous knowledge to meet scientific knowledge so that our people are better able to sustain their own lives, the environment, society and the economy.

Volume 3 **"An Annotated Bibliography"**, which was commissioned by Professor Koinai Helu Thaman and compiled by Paserio Furivai, is central to those interested in further study, and is therefore a very useful text for scholars. It provides a list of bibliographic details and summaries of articles, books and websites that focus on elements and aspects of ESD in direct relation to the developing world, international development movements and the Pacific.

The books are available from the USP Book Centre on Laucala Campus and may be ordered online for those outside the region. ■

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Japanese Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Visits New Japan-Pacific ICT Centre at USP

The Japanese Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms Chinami Nishimura, visits the new Japan-Pacific ICT Centre on Laucala Campus



Japan's Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms Chinami Nishimura, paid a short visit to the University of the South Pacific on Sunday 2 May 2010. The purpose of the visit was to take a tour of the newly completed Japan-Pacific ICT Centre at USP's Laucala Campus.

The Vice-Chancellor of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra, in welcoming the Vice-Minister and her delegation, said that the University was indeed very happy and appreciative of the fact that despite her short stay in Suva, she had allowed some time to visit USP and witness for herself the very fine new addition to the University—the Japan-Pacific ICT Centre, which is a magnificent contribution from her government and the people of Japan, to the people of the Pacific.

Professor Chandra said, "The Government of Japan has a longstanding relationship with USP, and historically the University has benefited greatly from the support of the Government of Japan and its people".

He alluded to the fact that in USP, this is witnessed predominantly in the areas of marine studies, ICT and Distance and Flexible Learning. The Vice-Chancellor revealed that the Marine Studies Complex at the Lower Campus, the USPNet Enhancement, the ICT Human Capacity project and the latest – the Japan-Pacific ICT Centre, all these bear testament to the strong and growing relationship between Japan and the University of the South Pacific, and through it, to the people of the Pacific Islands.

"Let me say that we feel very strongly that our relationship with Japan is deepening and strengthening, and we are fully committed to demonstrating to Japan that we will use its assistance to the best use and fullest advantage of our students and especially our regional member countries, while strongly supporting Fiji's aspirations to develop ICT related industries", Professor Chandra said.

The Vice-Minister, Ms Chinami Nishimura, in responding to the Vice-Chancellor's welcome said through her interpreter, "The Japanese Government and the people of Japan hope that

the University will utilise the new ICT Centre and its state of the art equipment to its fullest potential, and that it will play a major role and make an impact on the future generations of the people of the Pacific".

Ms Nishimura also thanked the Vice-Chancellor and members of senior management who were present, for receiving her and her delegation on a weekend. The Vice-Minister, who studied Law at Niigata University where she received her Master's Degree in Law, and served as Adjunct Professor over the years in several other Japanese institutions of higher learning, was very impressed with the new Japan-Pacific ICT Centre.

Vice-Minister Nishimura said, "The government and people of Japan continue to be confident of the fact that our investment in the peoples of the Pacific and our friendship with their respective governments is always fruitful and strong".

The Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs' delegation was accompanied by the Japanese Ambassador to Fiji, H.E. Mr Yutaka Yoshizawa. ■

New USP Renewable Energy Head to take Research to Greater Heights

RESEARCH

The University of the South Pacific's newly-appointed **Head of Renewable Energy Programme** will play a leading role in determining the direction of *Renewable Energy Research* at the University.

Associate Professor Anirudh Singh has been appointed by the Vice-Chancellor of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra, to take up this new position.

Professor Singh said one of his first tasks will be to consolidate and facilitate the implementation of all donor-funded *Renewable Energy* projects at USP. There are now a number of EU-funded projects in *Renewable Energy*, and a US\$2 million Korean project for the region has just been announced. Future prospects include possible funding from the French and Japanese governments.

Many of these projects will be of immediate economic value to the region, including those that will provide training and capacity-building in the use of *Renewable Energy*. This will not only be of benefit to the users, but more importantly to the businesses and the *Renewable Energy* planners and policy-makers of the region. The Head will be charged with facilitating the development of short courses and programmes in *Renewable*

Energy, in particular those directed towards the training needs of policy makers, businesses and the communities of the region.

Networking is an important ingredient for the recipe for success in any project. One of the duties of this new position will therefore be to encourage *Renewable Energy-related* networking, and knowledge, research and technology transfer to the USP region and within it.

An important component of this new role will be the promotion of USP's *Renewable Energy* efforts through organizing workshops, seminars, conferences, visits and media publications and presentations. A number of such events have already been planned for this year. They include a SPREP/USP co-hosted **Renewable Energy Training Workshop** for regional government officials in July, a **Renewable Energy Forum** for the same month and the **International Conference on Renewable Energy and Climate Change** in December.

The Head of the Renewable Energy Programme will be based within the Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (PACE-SD). ■



The new Head of Renewable Energy Programme - Dr. Anirudh Singh

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USP/EU Public Forum on Climate Change



The Facilitator at the Public Forum on Climate Change, Professor Patrick Nunn delivers his opening remarks, while the seven panelists look on

Representatives from different organisations accepted an invitation to participate in a panel for a **Public Forum on Climate Change**, which was organised by the European Union in conjunction with the University of the South Pacific.

The event, which was held at the USP's AusAID lecture theatre, is part of a dialogue built towards the **16th Global Conference of the Parties (COP 16)** that is to be held in Mexico later this year. The theme **"Climate Change: Continuing the Dialogue"** presented several critical issues that are anticipated to be highlighted during the Mexico summit.

The panelists at the forum included Ms Emma Christopher Airu, Youth Representative of the Ecosian Society, Dr Norman Barth, Regional Environmental Officer at the Embassy of the United States in Fiji, Mr Bruno Julien, Former EU Ambassador to Australia, Mr Fei Mingxng, Counsellor

of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Reteta Rimon, High Commissioner of Kiribati, Mr Espen Ronneberg, Climate Change Advisor at the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and Mr Fei Tevi, General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches.

Under the direction of the facilitator, Professor Patrick Nunn, the USP's Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research and Innovation, each panelist was given five minutes to contribute ideas and experiences they encountered during the Copenhagen Convention.

The forum was a successful event, in that there was a very good turn out and cross-section of our Pacific society who participated, and given that it emphasised a lot of crucial issues that have threatened the lives of Pacific Islanders and will continue to do so, if we are not completely aware of the contributing factors that are slowly tarnishing our beautiful islands. ■

The Perfect Job Seeking Solution

The Counseling Centre in collaboration with the Student Learning Support (SLS) at Laucala Campus ran a series of sessions on **Job Seeking Skills** for final semester students who are in the process of completing their studies.

There has been an overwhelming positive response from students indicating that this is something which should continue and be expanded in the future.

SLS Team Leader, Louise Vakamocea said, "These workshops were planned to provide completing students with real experiences from the workplace and then back-up small group 'hands-on' sessions on how to write an effective job application letter and CV, how to prepare for a job interview and to develop an e-portfolio".

The workshop was launched with a session held at the U8 lecture theatre where two guest speakers from key organisations such as Fiji TV and the Fiji Development Bank shared their experiences of the 'quality' of job applications and gave many practical suggestions on how to effectively apply for positions in the workforce.

FDB representative, Mr Asaeli Tokalau, spoke on the skills sought and the right attitude required, when applying for a post. He also suggested that the present generation of graduates entering the workforce had a trait of being loyal to their profession rather than to the organization they are employed with. He elaborated that the result of this is that graduates do not remain too long in a particular organisation but

move on, often to better a position which he felt should not be incorrectly misjudged as 'job hopping' and instability on the part of the employee. Interestingly, Mr Tokalau also mentioned the concern of many employers raised recently at an Employers Federation meeting, about the low level of report writing skills of graduates entering the workforce. He challenged the students at the session, on the importance of mastering this skill.

Mr Ben Chand, Human Resource coordinator for Fiji TV also elaborated on the kind of skills his organisation looked for in prospective employees stating, "The best applications come from the people who have read the job description before writing their CVs. Your CV should be clear, informative, and simple to read, accompanied by a good covering letter that outlines the reasons for your application and highlights what you can offer your prospective employer". He added, "A CV targeted at one particular job sector will not be suitable for others. Employers place different emphasis on skills according to their needs". Mr Chand also mentioned that it is also imperative to compile a career portfolio because it is a visual representation of a person's abilities, skills, capabilities, knowledge,

qualities, and represents one's potential.

Participants of the workshop comprised a very good cross-section of Pacific island students who attend the USP, and what has become very pertinent after this workshop series, is the need for more training of this sort. ■

FDB representative, Mr Aisea Tokalau (left), and Fiji TV Human Resource Coordinator, Mr Ben Chand, at the Job Seeking Skills Workshop organised by SLS at Laucala Campus.



CAMPUS DIARY

Applications for Completion of Program / Graduation

Students who are completing their program in either Semester 1 2010, Trimester 1 2010 or Trimester 2 2010, are required to fill in the online graduation application form through your Student SOLS account. Applications are now open for the following graduation ceremonies:

- Laucala Campus Graduation Ceremony on Friday, 10th September 2010. Closing date for applications is 31st May 2010
- Emalus Campus Graduation Ceremony on Friday, 10th December 2010. Closing date for applications is 31st October 2010
- Alafua Campus Graduation Ceremony on Wednesday, 15th December 2010. Closing date for applications is 31st October 2010

Failure to apply by the above due dates will result in your application not being processed.

Students applying to graduate should also note the following:

- that you do not have any 'HOLDS'. Applicants with 'Holds' will NOT be processed,
- that all your courses are properly registered and that all your fees have been paid,
- that all internal assessment is submitted to your Course Coordinators on time to prevent any delay in the release of your final grade,
- inform Student Academic Services or your Campus Administration Office if your address has changed (i.e. Mailing and/or Vacation addresses),
- you will need to submit written approval for any course waiver/substitution from your Head of School / Division / Department (endorsed by the Associate Dean's Office) to Student Academic Services before the due date of your online graduation application.

Student Academic Services

Australian Leadership Awards Scholarship

The Australian Leadership Awards (ALA) Scholarships are provided by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) with the aim of developing leadership and linkages within the Asia-Pacific region. The Scholarships are offered to high achievers from the region to undertake **Masters** or **Doctorate** study in Australia and a Leadership Development Program. Study programs must relate to an AusAID priority development area of disability, economic growth, education, environment, food security, gender, governance, health, human rights, infrastructure, regional stability, rural development and water & sanitation.

ALA Scholarships seek to empower awardees to lead social and economic policy and development in their own countries and in the region.

Applications for the commencement of the 2011 academic year will close on 30 June 2010.

Applications can be submitted online or by mail but note that all applications either online or by mail received after **30 June 2010** will not be considered; see website details below for more information.

Mandatory requirements for ALA Scholarships application*:

- Appropriate results in one of the following English language proficiency test being achieved for no longer than two years prior to the date of the application i.e. IELTS with an overall result of at least 6.5 and no individual band less than 6; or the equivalent level of TOEFL - see the AusAID website below for further details. AusAID will not consider applications that do not meet this requirement;
- A record of high-level undergraduate or post-graduate academic achievement;
- An Unconditional Letter of Offer from an Australia

lian university

- Willingness to return to your country for at least two years immediately upon completion of the scholarship to help build human resource capacity.

* Information provided here is a summary; please refer to the ALA Scholarships Handbook for full details.

For detailed information on ALA Scholarships please visit : www.ausaid.gov.au/scholar/default.cfm or contact:

South Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA)
PO Box 2083, Govt Bldgs, Suva
26 McGregor Rd, Suva
Fax: 3302 898
Tel: 3315600
Email: scholarships@spbea.org.fj

More information can also be obtained from the Australian High Commission

Website: www.fiji.highcommission.gov.au

Centre for Flexible and Distance Learning (CFDL)

The Centre for Flexible and Distance Learning (CFDL) will be conducting the following workshops within the months of March to June.

- **M1: Introduction to Moodle**
- **M2: Increasing Student Engagement through Online Learning**
- **M3: Designing Effective Assessment Strategies**
- **M4: Managing & Monitoring Learning Achievement**
- **P1: Introduction to DFL**
- **P2: Constructive Alignment & Learning Outcomes**
- **P3: Reading & Writing for DFL**

To register your participation and for further details go to: <http://www.usp.ac.fj/index.php?id=cfdlworkshops>