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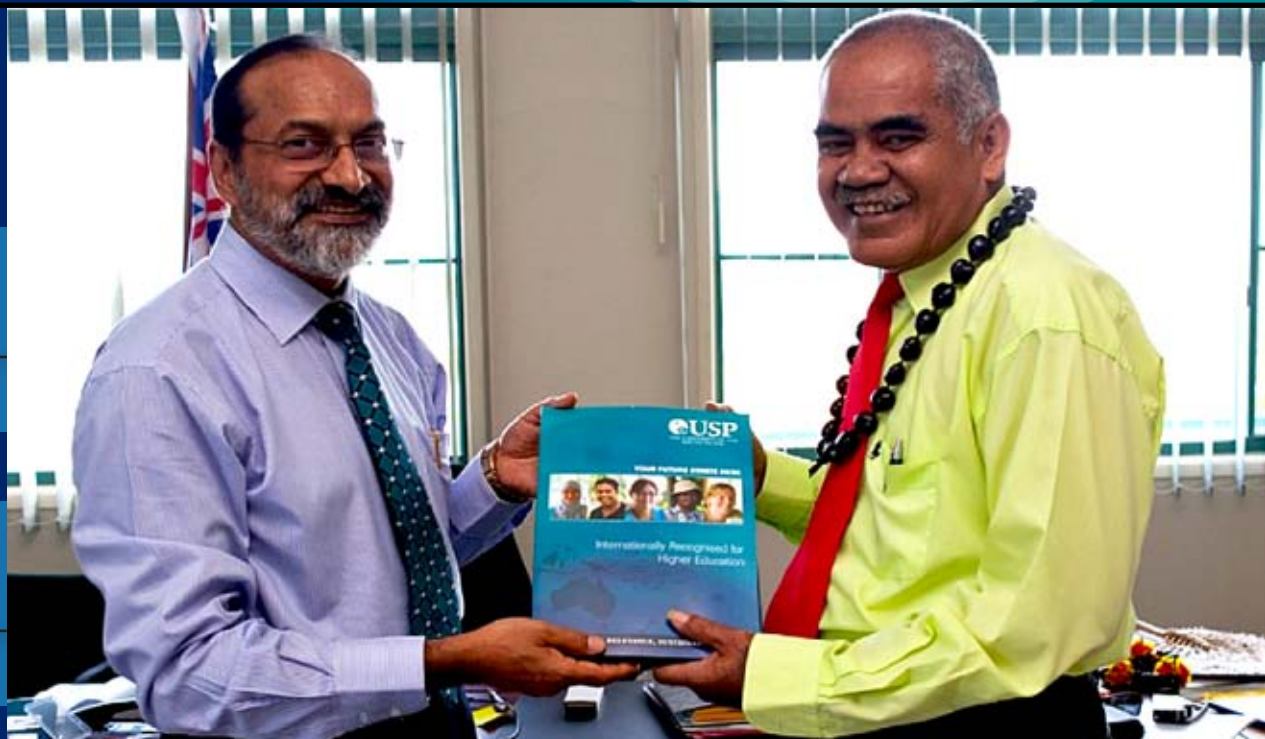
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TUVALU PRIME MINISTER PROMISES CONTINUED STRONG SUPPORT TO USP

The Vice-Chancellor and President of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra and the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Honourable Willy Telavi.

The Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of the South Pacific, Professor Rajesh Chandra recently accompanied the President of JICA, Mrs Sadako Ogata, on her visit to Tuvalu.

During the visit, Professor Chandra paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Honourable Willy Telavi.

Professor Chandra briefed the Prime Minister on the recent developments at the University, including the continued strong support from member countries and development partners; the continued reforms and transformation of the University to enhance quality and promote sustainability; the strong focus on regional campus development; and the good progress being made with the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2010 - 2012.

He also discussed the situation of the Tuvalu Campus, highlighting the need for the Government to allocate some additional adjoining land to allow the University to construct a major addition to the campus as the current campus is already fully built.

The Prime Minister expressed his satisfaction with the changes at the University, particularly the improvement in its finances. He indicated that USP had made a significant contribution to the development of Tuvalu and he wanted

USP to provide even more courses and programmes in Tuvalu.

The Prime Minister promised to expedite the Government's consideration of the University's request for additional land. He also expressed his gratitude for the University's willingness to extend *USPNet* to the neighbouring Augmented USP Foundation Programme premises and a college.

The Vice-Chancellor also paid courtesy calls to the Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister of Education, Honourable Kausea Natano and the Minister of Finance and National Planning, Honourable Lotoala Metia.

In both these discussions, the Ministers provided strong support for USP.

In particular, the Government agreed to look at the possibility of offering scholarships for cohort-based postgraduate offerings in Tuvalu along the lines of what is happening with the MBA programme in many other countries.

Professor Chandra was also able to hold a forum for students and staff of the USP Tuvalu Campus as part of the series of discussions he has been having with the other campuses.

STAR

TRAINING OF TRAINERS: PHASE 2

The training of the University of the South Pacific's academic and professional staff who have committed to train their colleagues to transform the University's curriculum to one that is intentionally focused on achieving the Graduate Attributes ended very successfully in Suva on 15 July 2011.

The response from the 38 USP's trainers to the experience itself and the skills of the experts from the US Higher Learning Commission (HLC) was universally positive.

The eight-day intensive Phase 2 workshop led by Professor Robert Mundhenk, Professor Susan Hatfield and Professor Janice Denton, was absolutely critical for training on learning outcomes, rubrics, and curriculum mapping of graduate attributes.

In his address at a cocktail event hosted by the Vice-Chancellor and President of USP to honour and support the valuable work undertaken by the USP trainers, Professor Rajesh Chandra thanked USP staff trainers and the HLC consultants for their commitment.

He congratulated them on the significant progress they had made together on this vital initiative and thanked Professor Susan Kelly, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching and Student Services), for her leadership and recognised the trainers as "leaders of curriculum transformation".

Professor Chandra took the opportunity to remind the whole USP community that deep and enduring curriculum transformation is an integral component of USP's Strategic Plan, and is mandated by the USP Council.

He highlighted that it is essential to our future as a continuing, far-reaching, high quality, relevant force for good in the region and the world.

In his response, Professor Mundhenk said "this is a ground breaking project that, once completed will be seen as a model for all higher education institutions that are seeking to connect institutional goals with student performance in a very real and measurable way".

From now until mid- September, when the four-day, Phase 3 of the training will be held, USP trainers will be working closely with their discipline and school colleagues on the relationship between USP Graduate Attributes and USP outcomes.

Together they will develop programme outcomes and link these outcomes to institutional outcomes. STAR trainers will also introduce their colleagues to the concepts and practice of curriculum mapping and to identify courses that support three of the key USP outcomes: ethical conduct, critical thinking and communication (English proficiency).

USP HOSTS SPICTEX

The Permanent Secretary for Industry and Trade, Mrs Saipora Mataikabara gives her address at the opening of SPICTEX 2011.



The South Pacific Information and Communications Technology Exposition (SPICTEX) was officially opened at the University of the South Pacific's Laucala Campus in Suva on 20 July 2011.

The inaugural four-day ICT expo, which was opened by the Permanent Secretary for Industry and Trade, Mrs Saipora Mataikabara, was intended for stakeholders in the Information and Communication sectors.

Being the first of its kind for Fiji and the region, SPICTEX is an initiative of the Faculty of Science, Technology and Environment (FSTE) at USP, in partnership with the Government of Fiji and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The major objectives of SPICTEX were to establish links between the industries and regional educational institutes, create greater ICT awareness, showcase the Japan-Pacific ICT Centre and provide information to the general public about ICT and its influence in the society.

In welcoming the guests, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Regional Campuses), Dr Esther Williams extended USP's sincere gratitude to the Governments of Fiji and Japan and JICA for their cooperation and assistance towards the expo.

Highlighting the important role ICT plays in the lives of people, Dr Williams said that, "it is revolutionizing what we do and how we live."

She explained that USP has been involved in the development of ICT since its establishment in 1968, largely because it serves 12 member countries. This, Dr Williams stated is possible through a sophisticated network called the *USPNET*, which is used to reach out to students throughout the great Pacific Ocean.

She added that the establishment of the Japan-Pacific ICT Centre at USP continues to expand the University's role as a leader in ICT education and research for the region.

Speaking at the opening of SPICTEX, Mrs Mataikabara reiterated the importance of ICT as a tool that empowers people in businesses and also in domestic livelihoods.

"The ICT sector is an economic driver. It provides a cross sectional linkage to productive services and improves the living standards of people by connecting them to the rest of the world," she said.

She acknowledged the role of the Japan Pacific ICT Centre in promoting regional ICT capabilities through training and providing incubation services for ICT businesses.

According to Mrs Mataikabara, the role of educational institutes like USP is totally critical in training students on the use of ICT at the national and regional levels.

She described some of the recent developments in the ICT sector in Fiji which include: the liberalization of the telecommunications sector; introduction of the ICT Levy which will be used for funding infrastructure developments for rolling out services to the un-served rural population; the establishment of the Telecommunications Authority of Fiji - an independent regulator of the telecommunications sector and the formulation of the Crimes Decree of 2010 to address any cyber crime related offenses.

Mrs Mataikabara pointed out that while ICT development remains a challenge for the region due to the small population size and isolated locations, there are opportunities for regional cooperation for ICT development.

The exposition also included symposiums on '*Regional ICT Issues*,' '*ICT in Education*' and '*ICT in Business*,' panel discussions on '*Cyber Security*' and '*Business Incubation*,' essay and drawing competitions, computer quizzes and Lego Robotic competitions for school students as well as product and service exhibitions by ICT companies.



Opening Ceremony

CHEMICAL SOCIETY PROMOTES CHEMISTRY

The Chemical Society of the South Pacific (CSSP) is celebrating the International Year of Chemistry by organising several activities for secondary schools around Fiji.

The United Nations declared 2011 as the International Year of Chemistry with the theme '*Chemistry - Our Life, Our Future*'. This is done to commemorate the achievements of chemistry and its contributions to humankind.

On 25 June 2011, activities such as titration, chem-battle and poster designing competitions were organised throughout Fiji at four different centres; the USP chemistry labs at the Laucala Campus, Nadi Muslim College, Xavier College and Labasa College. A total of 71 schools and close to 500 students participated in the event.

These activities allowed chemistry students to apply their knowledge to solve chemistry related problems or to explain the importance of chemistry through posters.

According to Dr David Rohindra, Senior Lecturer in Chemistry at USP, the number of students participating in these activities has increased over the years.

"Through these events, CSSP is able to promote chemistry among the general public and attract young people into this field as well as highlight the importance of chemistry in solving global and regional problems," he added.

The titration competition also attracted lot of interest among students who had the opportunity to use latest equipments and glassware for their experiments, which is not widely available in many schools.

The National Coordinator for the competition, Ms Riteshma Devi, said that, "CSSP through these activities is able to bring the knowledge and use of modern equipment and glassware in chemistry to the doorsteps of the students for learning. This, she said, generates interest among students about the importance of chemistry in everyday life.

The competition was divided into two categories; senior (Form 6) and advanced (Form 7).

In the senior category, students were to determine the amount of acetyl salicylic acid in the pharmaceutical tablet, Aspirin. While, in the advanced category students had to determine how much iron was present in steel-wool.

The Coordinator of the chem-battle and poster designing competitions, Ms Roselyn Lata highlighted that the competitions were a success.

"Students who were good academically showed their talents in answering questions while those who were good in art, used it to explain the importance of chemistry by designing excellent posters," she said.

Top scorers from the preliminary rounds in all the activities will compete in the grand final on 15 October, 2011 at the USP Laucala Campus.

Meanwhile, the importance of studying chemistry as a career was further boosted when two teams from the University of the South Pacific visited 40 schools around Viti-Levu from 4th - 7th July. During the visit, the different programmes offered at USP in science were explained to the students and what combination of subjects could give them better opportunity for employability.

They also gave out experimental kits to work on a global water experiment where students determined the quality of drinking water. The results will be uploaded to the IUPAC website where the quality of drinking water from other countries can also be compared.



Ms Siera Pasuna, a high school student competes in the advanced division of the Titration Competition.

STAFF PROFILE | SHARON SMITH-MCGOWAN | P.A. TO THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



What is the length of time you've been employed at USP?

19 ½ years.

What is your home country?

Born and raised in Vanuatu but home country is now Fiji.

How do you usually begin your working day?

- I start my day with my daily prayer;
- Greet my family and colleagues;
- I am at work 7.30am/7.40am and I check my notes from the previous day and the daily diary entries for appointments and engagements;
- Prioritise my work and ensure that work is cleared daily; and
- Check updates with VC and EO.

What is the best part of your current work?

Meeting different people and learning new things.

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

Listening to music or watch a movie or relaxing with my family.

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

None so far.

What is the best advice you've ever been given, or have given to students at USP?

Education is a way out of poverty and an opportunity to a better life. (this was a message from my late parents)

Who inspires you and why?

My late parents and my family inspire me in what I do and this is important because family support provide a solid foundation to every success in life.

What have been your main career highlights?

Able to assist the underprivileged and make a change in their lives.

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

Organic farming by Charles Walters & Neal Kinsey. I love planting my vegetables and flowers and it is always good to gain more ideas and knowledge from another person's experience.

What are some challenges you think are faced by young people in the pacific?

Affordable education and the ability to find a good job.

What are your hopes for the Pacific in 2011 and beyond?

I would like to see more work/ effort done by bigger countries on the issue of Climate Change.

RETRIEVAL OF DATA FOR SMALL AREAS BY MICROCOMPUTER WORKSHOP



Participants and REDATAM resource people at the opening of the workshop.

The 'training for trainers' international workshop on the use of the Retrieval of Data for Small Areas by Microcomputer (REDATAM) software was held at the University of the South Pacific's Laucala Campus.

The workshop conducted by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Pacific Sub-Regional Office lasted from 11 - 22 July, 2011.

The REDATAM software was developed by the United Nations Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) and is globally supported by the UNFPA.

REDATAM is a user-friendly software package that gives organisations a simple means of storing, accessing and analysing large amounts of census or other data on a microcomputer. It is considered a solution to granting data-users flexible, internet-based, access to census data while maintaining standards of data confidentiality that national statistical offices must adhere to.

The workshop was a result of requests received by UNFPA from Pacific Island Countries for assistance in deploying the REDATAM software with their new census data. UNFPA is being assisted by experts from CELADE in conducting this workshop.

In his welcoming remarks at the opening of the REDATAM workshop, Professor Biman Chand Prasad, Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics (FBE) at USP, said that USP is pleased to host the workshop in partnership with the UNFPA.

"FBE has developed a long-term sustainable partnership with UNFPA to engage in a number of projects to promote capacity building in the areas of official statistics, population and demographic issues in the region," he added.

Professor Prasad also welcomed the two facilitators from the CELADE and said that he anticipates this to be the beginning of a close working partnership with CELADE.

He highlighted that FBE through the School of Economics is working with the UNFPA to improve capacity in the areas of official statistics and population issues by developing appropriate credit courses and short-term training courses for the public sector officials working in national statistical offices and ministries of planning and finance in the region.

The workshop was attended by participants from Fiji, the Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Kiribati, the Solomon Islands, Timor Leste and Vanuatu.

DISSEMINATION AND USE OF POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS RESULTS WITH GENDER CONCERN WORKSHOP



Participants and workshop resource people.

The sub-regional training on the 'Dissemination and Use of Population and Housing Census Results with Gender Concern' which was conducted jointly by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) was held from 25 - 29 July, 2011 in Suva, Fiji.

This was part of the assistance provided by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP-ESCAP), UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan towards countries in the Asia-Pacific region to strengthen their capabilities in conducting the 2010 round of population and housing census.

The workshop was one of the many courses/workshops at the national, sub-regional and regional levels for training government officials/statisticians in the collection, analysis and dissemination of high quality and timely census data with gender concern.

In his remarks at the opening of the workshop, Professor Biman Chand Prasad, Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics (FBE) welcomed the participants to USP and said that the University is "pleased" to host the workshop.

He stated that the University through FBE is working with UNFPA to improve capacity in the area of official statistics and population issues by developing

appropriate credit courses and short-term training courses for public sector officials working in national statistical offices and ministries of planning and finance in the region.

The workshop, which was hosted at the Japan-Pacific ICT Centre at USP, was aimed at strengthening the capability of government officials on the dissemination and use of the 2010 round of population and housing census data for policy making.

Highlighting the importance of the workshop, Professor Prasad said that it provides an opportunity for participants to learn and exchange national experiences in using census results for developing national and sub-national level plans, monitoring MDGs and gender mainstreaming.

According to Professor Prasad, the training was intended for managers of the 2010 round of population and housing census at the bureau/department of national statistical agencies, senior officials of civil population registration offices, as well as heads of departments/divisions of the ministries of health and finance who develop national and sub-national plans, set goals, monitor and evaluate the progress in achieving these goals.

The workshop was attended by participants from Fiji, the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, the Solomon Islands and Timor Leste.

ACADEMIC PRESENTS RESEARCH ON ECONOMIC GROWTH, TRADE AND INTEGRATION



A presentation on '*Economic Growth, Trade and Integration: Pacific Islands research agenda for the future*' was made by the second Research Cluster Leader, Professor Biman Chand Prasad at the Japan-Pacific ICT Centre on 23 June 2011.

Professor Prasad, who is the Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics (FBE) at the University of the South Pacific, is the head for the '*Economic Growth, Trade and Integration*' cluster – one of the six USP research clusters.

This was the second presentation following the initial one on '*Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation*' by the Director of the Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (PASE-SD), Professor Murari Lal on 1 June, 2011.

Research clusters endeavor to build the University's capacity for interdisciplinary research and to better align research with the Strategic Plan 2010 - 2012 and the research and development priorities of USP member countries.

In emphasising the need for economic integration in the Pacific, Professor Prasad outlined that economic integration, which is part of regional integration, is an integral part of the development strategy.

He affirmed that Australia and New Zealand will remain important and strategic partners for further integration.

"Australia's fast economic growth over the last decade and its continued prosperity in the future will allow PICs to reap further benefits from the export of labour services, tourism and agricultural exports."

Professor Prasad explained that deeper and meaningful integration could also provide opportunities for PICs to access Asian markets and benefit from potential investments from Asia as both Australia and New Zealand are extending their trade and economic links with Asia.

He pointed out that there are a lot of barriers to integration and further studies on cultural and historical factors coming in the way of regional integration needs to be considered.

Professor Prasad highlighted several areas of research to support the policies towards integration. These included: sources of growth (exploring long-term potentials) in the PICs, analysis of constraints to economic growth, growth policies for quick turnaround of economic activity, new industries for growth and exploring sectoral linkages, assessment of external shocks to growth, growth trade-offs due to inefficiencies in structures, systems, culture, work ethics, trade in services including labour mobility, trade Agreements, EPA, PICTA, PACER Plus, MSG and the comparative study of PICs and the Caribbean Region.

Professor Prasad advised that in preparation for the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER Plus) between Australia, New Zealand and 14 PICs, which will cover trade in goods, services and investment, PICs must look at the economic reform measures that needs to be undertaken to prepare them for competition as a result of a concluded agreement.

He explained that Australia and New Zealand need to look at "a Pacific version of the Doha Development Agenda" so that appropriate funding could be provided to PICs before and after the conclusion of the PACER Plus. This, according to Professor Prasad, will enable PICs to continue to restructure and adjust to the new challenges of competition and trade.

"PICs would need to work together on the whole issue of trade and integration agreements and the current situation is not conducive as Fiji is excluded from the forum and trade negotiations," and he added that, "Fiji remains a major economic player amongst the PICs and it is important that Fiji participates in trade negotiations."

The Director for the Oceania Centre for Arts, Culture and Pacific Studies at USP, Professor Vilsoni Hereniko, is the third Research Cluster Leader and heads the '*Pacific Cultures and Societies*' cluster. Professor Hereniko will make his presentation on 4th August at the Japan-Pacific ICT Centre.

ALUMNI PROFILE | SHIMAL ARCHANA CHAND



What is your home country?

Fiji.

Which programme did you graduate in and in which year?

Bachelor of Arts in Accounting & Financial Management and Information Systems. 2010.

Who was your favorite lecturer and why?

Well, I believe all my tutors and lecturers did a wonderful job in their capacities to instil knowledge in me so I wouldn't be doing injustice by having a favorite!!

What was your most memorable moment as a student?

I still remember the euphoria I felt as I walked out the examination hall having done my final unit exam after a 3 year journey, knowing I had done it well and was going to graduate with my degree the following semester.

What is your funniest moment as a student?

There was this time when I got my timetable mixed up and sat in the wrong tutorial, which was my first for that semester. Walking out clumsily when I realised it wasn't my unit tutorial was such an embarrassment!

What was your greatest achievement while studying at USP?

Passing my AF210 unit as everyone says it's the hardest unit in USP.

How do you think USP helped you in your career?

Studying at USP has molded my skills and talents and developed me intellectually and professionally thus enabling me to enter the workforce confidently.

What inspires you and why?

I get inspired by people who are independent, show initiative and are proud achievers of a task completed successfully. I believe I strive to be such an individual that's why.

After graduating from USP, what has been your greatest achievement?

My current employment as a Credit Officer with my impressive salary enables me to support myself and my younger brother who is currently in his final year at USP.

Your advice to current and future USP students?

"Some people dream of successwhile others wake up and work hard at it... So do dare to dream, but work hard at it with losing sight of your purpose and goals.

What you hope USP will be like in the future?

The premier icon of tertiary education for Fiji and the Pacific having international standards and being not just the pathway but the destination for people's success!



GLOBAL NETWORK TRAINS LOCAL RESEARCHERS

Head of the Renewable Energy Programme at USP, Dr Anirudh Singh speaks at the capacity building workshop organised by Project DIREKT.

A group of local researchers and renewable energy stakeholders were given a thorough grounding on the basics of applying for funding for renewable energy projects in the region at a workshop held at the University of the South Pacific's Laucala Campus on 14 July, 2011.

The Project DIREKT (Small Developing Island Renewable Energy Knowledge and Technology Transfer Network) organised workshop attracted around 40 participants from the local universities, government departments, Non-Government Organisations and the banking sector.

The Project's Pacific Coordinator, Dr Anirudh Singh, who is also the Head of the Renewable Energy Programme at USP, said that given the large amounts of funding available for renewable energy projects in the region, the importance of writing proposals for such funding should not be under-estimated.

"There is a lot of money available for renewable energy research but the Pacific is not able to capitalise on it. These sorts of workshops are crucial in informing people of the opportunities

that exist," he added.

Introducing the subject of proposal writing, UNDP's Dr Thomas Jensen pointed out that while the funds available globally for renewable energy projects ranged in the hundreds of millions of dollars, only a few million dollars could be attracted to the region. This was largely due to the lack of necessary proposal writing skills within the region.

A real-life example of the need for proposal writing was given by Mr Jonathan Mitchell of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS). He described the steps necessary for the successful application of the US\$66m Pacific Environment Community (PEC) fund administered by PIFS. These funds would be distributed to fourteen Forum Island Countries, each receiving US\$4m for a project in solar PV energy and desalination.

The importance of micro-hydro projects in the energy development of the region was outlined by the Department of Energy's Mr Paula Katiwewa, who described the steps involved in carrying out feasibility studies for the utilisation of such resources.

IUCN's Mr Anare Matakiviti brought the sessions to a close by outlining the steps necessary in tendering for renewable energy projects in the region.

Of note at the workshop was the presence of six representatives from the Fiji Development Bank, which, according to Dr Singh indicated the multi-disciplinary importance of renewable energy.

Project DIREKT is a global renewable energy research network of five universities that facilitates the development and use of renewable energy in the ACP region via knowledge and technology transfer and capacity building.

The project's work-plan for this year consists of two further workshops. One will be aimed specifically at a regional audience and the other will be a capacity building workshop for the renewable energy business sector of the region.

The general objective of the project is to fill the gaps in training and capacity building for all renewable energy stakeholders. Some sessions will look at renewable energy awareness for decision-makers in the near future.

STUDENT PROFILE | SIU HALANIGANO | BCOM- MANAGEMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

What is your home country?

Kingdom of Tonga.

Which campus are you studying at?

Laucala Campus.

Why do you choose to study at USP?

I chose to study at USP because I want to get a degree in my area of study.

What do you enjoy about "UNI" life?

I enjoy meeting with students from different island nations like Samoa, Kiribati, Tuvalu and others.

What do you find most difficult or challenging?

Being a new student and having to adjust to university life is very difficult.

What do you like about your program of study?

I like the lecturers and tutors because they are very simple.

What can't you live without on Campus?

My textbooks!

What could improve your studying experience at USP?

Probably if there are more resource materials available in the library it would help.

What is your best survival tip?

Staying with your best friends during tough times.

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

Go for a swim.

What makes a good lecturer?

Someone who is student-oriented.

Who is your role model or mentor?

Parmod Achary (my lecturer at USP).

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

It will prepare me to be a future manager of any business firm.

What are some challenges facing young people in the Pacific?

Communication! Some young people in the Pacific find it difficult speaking in English.

What are your hopes for the Pacific in 2011 and beyond?

To be more successful in the work that is currently being carried out.



USP SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH FIJI TELEVISION LIMITED

The Vice-Chancellor and President of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra (left) with the Group Chief Executive of the Fiji Television Limited, Mr Tarun Patel (right) at the signing.



A Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the University of the South Pacific and Fiji's premier television broadcaster, Fiji Television Limited to ensure collaboration on the teaching of the Television Journalism Course.

The signing, which took place at the Chancellery Board Room, USP Laucala Campus, was held on 7 July, 2011.

Under the partnership, journalism students will have an opportunity to learn from the media experts at Fiji TV and experience the most advanced media techniques using latest technologies and other facilities provided by the training department at the Fiji Television Limited.

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor and President of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra thanked Fiji Television Limited for its confidence and trust in USP demonstrated through the collaboration with the Journalism Department at the University's Faculty of Arts and Law.

Highlighting the importance of this collaboration, Professor Chandra pointed out that the University believes that the opportunity to co-teach the Journalism Television Course with Fiji TV Limited will significantly contribute towards improving communications through the media.

He added that the initiative between the two institutions will benefit students to get a deeper understanding of the course objectives.

"The University is committed to effectively contributing to the Journalism Television Course and also welcomes any future opportunity to work closely

with the Fiji Television Limited on projects or programmes," he said.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, the MOU with Fiji TV Limited is in line with Priority Area 1 of the USP Strategic Plan 2010 - 2012, which focuses on learning and teaching.

He stated that the University acknowledges Fiji TV's support and commitment towards journalism and media in the region.

Speaking at the signing, the Group Chief Executive of the Fiji Television Limited, Mr Tarun Patel welcomed the opportunity to partner with USP.

He said that the collaboration was important as Fiji TV Limited and USP shared similar perspectives of providing service to the region in the areas of journalism and media.

Mr Patel explained that under the arrangement, Fiji TV will provide journalism students with the practical experience to balance the academic training students receive at USP. This, he said is needed as, "the circumstances which one finds in a practical environment are different to the ones in the theoretical environment."

He added that the collaboration will allow Fiji TV Limited to play an important role in assisting USP produce good journalism graduates for the region.

Mr Patel elaborated that the collaboration is seen as a stepping stone for other initiatives in the future in the field of journalism.

Present at the signing were representatives from Fiji TV Limited and USP including officials from the US Embassy.

USP COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE HEADS FOR ISLAND TIME

Workshops conducted by the Community Legal Centre in Vanuatu.



The University of the South Pacific's Community Legal Centre at the Emalus Campus with funding support from AusAID's Legal Sector Strengthening Project has embarked on a tour to the outer islands of Vanuatu.

During the visits, workshops will be conducted in an effort to bring legal literacy to the people at the grassroots-level. These workshops deal with how laws are made, how they affect families and issues of child abuse, domestic violence and child maintenance.

According to the Centre Manager, Mr Michael Blaxell, the island visits are a perfect opportunity to put legal literacy on the agenda throughout the

islands.

"It is important that everyone in Vanuatu has a good working knowledge of the legal foundations of our society," he added.

He explained that the visits help further the understanding of law in the communities, and increase people's understanding of the courts, and their access to justice.

These workshops will be facilitated by the Centre's Legal Literacy Coordinator and the student employees of the Centre.

Mr Blaxell said that "we have the lawyers of tomorrow teaching the people in our communities today and I want to thank them for their time and

contribution to the legal literacy project."

The workshops have been conducted in Luganville, Santo and Craig Cove, West Ambrym on 26 - 27 July and 2 - 3 August respectively. Further workshops are scheduled for Maskylne Islands on 14 - 15 September and Lakatoro on 20 - 21 September.

The University of the South Pacific (USP) Community Legal Centre is a law firm made up of final year law students from the USP Law School. Clients are referred to the Centre from the Public Solicitor's Office. They provide legal assistance to clients under the supervision of the Manager who is a qualified lawyer.



The 2011 SPICTEX LEGO Robotics Competition at the University of the South Pacific Laucala Campus was a success among secondary school students from around the country.

The Robotics and Automation Group (RAG) which is a research and development group within the School of Engineering and Physics at USP, held the finals of the LEGO Robotics Competition on Friday 22 July at the Japan-Pacific ICT Center Engineering Lab.

The winners and runners-up from the Central/Eastern, Western, and Northern divisions from six secondary schools around took part in the one day event with the theme *'Autonomous Mobile Robots for Life Saving Applications.'*

This was the first national competition for secondary schools where students programmed their robots and competed amongst themselves.

The Secretary of RAG at USP, Mr Imran Jannif praised the interest shown by the participating students in the lead up to the finals.

He said that the competition was a worthwhile activity and a very enriching experience as well as for the Robotics and Automation group at USP.

"This year we had this national level competition

where we had a zonal competition in west, north and the central/eastern division and the finals had the winner and runner up from all the zones," Mr Jannif explained.

"Initially we used the LEGO machine as part of our teaching materials for third year Electrical & Electronics Engineering students in the BETech at USP but we realised the need for this to be introduced to a lower level because young people abroad were using this technology," he said.

Mr Jannif highlighted that throughout the competition it was evident that while this sort of material is not taught in the school curriculum, the students were enthusiastic and able to grasp things quickly.

He pointed out that such competition helps students by exposing them to the world of robotics and the world of technology and is a great platform from which their technical development can continue as in most cases students only start to use these technologies when they enter into Universities.

D. A. V College Ba, Lautoka Central College, Ramapur College, Suva Muslim College, Shri Guru Nanak Khalsa College and Labasa College were the six participating schools from the three divisions.

Mr Sairusi Nagegi, a student of Lautoka Central

College and a participant from the Western division said he was encouraged with the opportunity.

"This competition has helped me a lot because I got to learn so much on how to program a robot to do something which humans do, which is really good because in the future we can make good robots for helping us in our daily lives," Mr Nagegi said.

Northern division participant, Ashnit Charan shared similar sentiments and labeled his experience as 'amazing'.

The form seven student of Labasa Sangam College explained that the competition involved a lot of energy and makes you think outside the box.

"This has laid the platform for my future studies," Mr Charan added.

According to Mr Jannif, in terms of setting the stage for USP as the premier institution where we teach quality education, the 2011 LEGO Robotics competition demonstrates to the students that USP is a level up as compared to the other universities in the region.

"Eventually we want the competition to expand and with much more participation and possibly make it a regional competition," he added.

MINI EXPO IN LABASA AND SAVUSAVU



The University of the South Pacific's Labasa Campus organised a mini careers expo for the Northern Division in Savusavu and Labasa on 28 May and 4 June 2011 respectively.

This was done in conjunction with the Faculty of Business & Economics, Faculty of Arts & Law, Faculty of Science, Technology & Environment, Student Academic Services, and the College of Foundation Studies.

The expo marked the end of the University's two-

week marketing trip in the Northern Division with the objective to make students aware of what USP has to offer for students.

About 500 students and members of the public were in attendance over the two-day expo.

Labasa Campus Director, Dr Samuela Bogitini applauded the efforts of the USP staff and commented that, "it was a well coordinated effort from every one which will certainly have significant impact on students' future choice of tertiary studies."

The Team Leader for the Northern Marketing Team, Dr Joeli Veitayaki reaffirmed Dr Bogitini's statement, saying that, "it was a very successful trip because students were able to access important information directly from members of the Faculties and the admission processes were also clarified to students by staff from SAS."

The team visited secondary schools in the North and also had an opportunity to meet with senior civil servants and community leaders.