

APRIL GRADUATION A SUCCESS

Tradition came to life as the flags of the University of the South Pacific's 12 member countries once again decked the stage at the Vodafone Arena, to mark the April 2010 Graduation of the Class of 2009 of the University's Laucala Campus.

Graduation ceremonies establish a milestone for successful scholars who wish to pursue higher achievements and the USP's April graduation was no exception.

Conferring the certificates, diplomas and degrees on the graduates, was the President of the Republic of Nauru who is also the Chancellor of the University of the South Pacific, His Excellency, the Honorable Marcus Stephen.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Rajesh Chandra, addressed families and friends with an encouraging statement saying, "It is a proud moment for parents and guardians because their dreams of giving their sons and daughters quality education has finally come to fruition".

Professor Chandra also highlighted a few accomplishments of the University, such as:

- The financial status – which continues to improve strongly, considering the difficulties the 12 member countries are facing in relation to the global economic crisis;



- The positive feedback on the Strategic Plan especially by the University's overseas donors;
- The construction of a multi-purpose state-of-the-art lecture theatre;
- The continued demand for highly internationally recognised programmes, that have boosted enrolment at the beginning of the year; and
- The Laucala Campus Master Plan and the Plans for the other Campuses as well, and this should give us a fair idea of what the Laucala Campus and the other University Campuses should look and feel like, right up to the year 2030.

Out of the 1,210 students that graduated, there was one PhD graduate, 126 Masters graduates, 158 Post Graduates, 787 degree graduates, 68 diploma graduates and 14 certificate level graduates.

The Vice-Chancellor concluded his address with a salutary note by quoting from the great visionary Nelson Mandela, who stated, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world".

Professor Chandra added, "It is my plea to all the graduates to be ethical and transparent in whatever career path you choose, and more importantly to contribute to the development of your communities and your respective nations." ■

The Chancellor of the University of the South Pacific, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Nauru, the Honourable Marcus Stephen, visited Fiji last week to officiate at the April 2010 Graduation Ceremony for Laucala Campus.

Chancellor's Visit to USP

His Excellency called on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Rajesh Chandra at Laucala Campus on Thursday 8 April 2010. Professor Chandra, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dr Esther Williams and the Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching, Dr Eci Nabalarua, briefed the Chancellor on the graduation ceremony and other important developments, including the Strategic Plan 2010-2012 implementation.

The Vice-Chancellor hosted His Excellency to a cocktail in the evening, at the Suva Holiday Inn, which was attended by dignitaries and members of the diplomatic corps, Ministers and senior Fiji government representatives and the Senior Management of USP and other staff members.

In his speech at the cocktail, Professor Chandra welcomed the Chancellor and highlighted that apart from being a Head of State for his Country and a member of the Pacific Islands Forum, His Excellency had a very colorful sporting career as a professional weight lifter, who had won several gold medals at past International meets like the Olympics, Commonwealth and South Pacific games.

The Vice-Chancellor also added that to balance his excellency's success in the sporting arena, his political career was equally impressive. After rising through the ranks of the Bank of Nauru to becoming General Manager, His Excellency launched his politi-

cal career by running for office, first becoming a member of Nauru's parliament and then becoming Minister of Finance right up to the point where he ran for the highest office in the land, and has been elected President of the Republic of Nauru, twice consecutively.

On Friday 9 April 2010, in the presence of dignitaries, members of the diplomatic corps and other invited guests, the University staff, parents and families, the Chancellor conferred certificates, diplomas and degrees to over 1200 graduates at the Vodafone Arena. The graduation ceremony was a success and was the second that the Chancellor has officiated. His Excellency's first USP graduation as Chancellor of the University was last September's Laucala Campus graduation, where he was also installed or 'robed' as Chancellor of USP.

The position of Chancellor of the University of the South Pacific is held for a one year term, by the Head of State of one of the USP 12 member countries, and the position rotates alphabetically by name of the member country. ■



His Excellency the Honourable Marcus Stephen

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Tonga Parliament Enacts Political Reforms

Tonga's Legislative Assembly has enacted a law allowing for 17 MPs to be popularly elected, with nine to be chosen from among the noble families.

This means that democratically elected MPs will have a majority in Parliament for the first time following the next elections due in November.

The Parliament is still to determine the boundaries for the 17 seats but our correspondent said this was likely to be resolved by Tuesday when the MPs are due to rise.

Other law changes enacted include the registration fee for candidates rising to just over US\$200 instead of the \$500 the Government had been promoting.

And limits on campaign funding, which were going to be lifted substantially, have been kept at just over US\$5,000 after a plea from the pro-democracy MPs.

South Pacific Nations Fight to Protect Humpback Whales

A group of South Pacific nations is fighting to protect the humpback whale, by creating a number of sanctuaries in the region.

There are now eleven countries including Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Samoa which are part of the whale sanctuary, banning whaling in a 290,000 square kilometre exclusion zone.

They say these safe havens are critical for whales as many migrate south each year through these sanctuaries.

The countries are gathering in Auckland before the next International Whaling Commission meeting in Morocco in June.

Tokelau is the latest country to join and has gone against New Zealand which is not part of the whale sanctuary.

New Zealand says all marine mammals are protected in its waters under legislation.

New Zealand recently declared it would consider allowing the whaling nations like Japan to kill some whales in an attempt to save others.

Dr Akanisi Kedrayate is new Dean of Faculty of Arts and Law

On Thursday April 1 2010, a day before the graduation ceremony at Laucala Campus, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Rajesh Chandra, was pleased to announce that the University has appointed Dr Akanisi Kedrayate, as the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Law (FAL), for the next three years.

Professor Chandra said, "Dr Kedrayate had been acting in the position for a long period of time since the passing away of Professor Bob Hughes. The Vice-Chancellor adds, "She brings to the job proven management experience, strong people skills, and a strong commitment to the Strategic Plan and the 'change' agenda. She is also passionate about learning and teaching, and believes strongly in the regional nature and responsibilities of the University".

Professor Chandra warmly welcomed Dr Kedrayate to the Senior Management Team (SMT), in her substantive role and said he had every confidence that she will do an excellent job as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Law.



Education Sustainability Development Forum

From the 18 - 20 March 2010, the University of the South Pacific, as the Pacific centre of excellence in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), hosted a Pacific Regional Symposium on strengthening institutional capacity followed by an ESD Forum for Pacific Educators.

The purpose of the symposium is to enable a clearer understanding on benchmarking ESD between the three Network of Island Universities (NIU) and EDULINK partner institutions of the University of the South Pacific (USP), the National University of Samoa (NUS) and the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG). It also proposes to trace international and regional ESD frameworks/instruments, explore ways in which the institutions can strengthen their work in the area of ESD mainstreaming, and to enhance inter-university and Pacific regional ESD collaboration, by providing a forum for dialogue on the role of educators, and their linkages to all other ESD stakeholders. The symposium also provides an avenue for capacity building which establishes the forum to provide a reinvigoration and enhancement of ideas, philosophies, educational perspectives and practices on ESD in the Pacific.

Coordinator, Aliti Koroi said, "It was rather unfortunate for partner UPNG, who could not make it to the symposium". She added, "Nevertheless, we were fortunate to have with us the team from the National University of Samoa headed by their Vice-Chancellor and President of the university, Professor Asofou Leapai So'o".

Professor Asofou Leapai So'o also attended the Edulink Project Management Team Meeting and more so the Joint ESD Board Meeting, to discuss the overall policy and fiduciary responsibility for the NIU network. He also paid a courtesy visit to the Vice-Chancellor of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra, where they discussed many other issues pertaining to the network, the two universities have developed through the project.

Ms Koroi also mentioned how they were fortunate to have some of the best in the Pacific and from our very own institution, present on the topic. The symposium ended on Saturday 20 March, with the participants returning to their own institutions and organisations, with a clearer understanding and appreciation for ESD and the great work that they each are engaged in. ■



The Vice-Chancellor and President of the National University of Samoa, Professor Asofou Leapai So'o, (left) made a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra, (centre). The Dean of the Faculty of Science, Technology and Environment, Dr Anjeela Jokhan (right), was also present.

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Japanese Contractors hand over the keys to the new Japan-Pacific ICT Centre at USP in the presence of the Japanese Ambassador

New Japan-Pacific ICT Building Handed Over to USP

The Japanese Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Yutaka Yoshizawa, and the representatives of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), officially witnessed the handing over of keys to the new **Japan-Pacific ICT building** on Laucala Campus, from the Japanese Building Contractors to the University of the South Pacific on Monday 12 April 2010.

The Project will strengthen USP's ability to provide cutting-edge ICT services to the Pacific region through the introduction of new Computer and Information Science degree programmes, enhancing the utilization of USNet for the delivery of distance learning, and supporting maximum utilization of the new Japan-Pacific ICT Centre, as a regional centre of excellence.

Construction of the new **Japan-Pacific ICT Centre, a \$US 21.5 million (F\$43 million), Japanese Grant Aid Project, was completed last month on schedule.**

The Japanese Ambassador also announced, "Japan is now in the process of awarding another tender, to the tune of 857 million yen which is equivalent to FJD\$16.1 million, for phase II works on the construction of a multi-purpose Lecture Theatre, and work on this should commence as early as June this year".

In her address, the Pro-Chancellor of USP, the Honorable Flame Naomi Mata'afa, who was in attendance along with the Vice-Chancellor Professor Rajesh Chandra, said that the Japan-Pacific ICT Centre is a shining example of the strong and strengthening relationship between Japan and USP. She said that this investment must surely reflect Japan's confidence in USP's role as a quality provider of higher education in the region, especially its ability to increase access to higher education through its Distance and Flexible Learning programmes.

"Let me say that we feel very strongly that our relationship with Japan is deepening and strength-

ening and we are fully committed to demonstrating to Japan, that we will use its assistance to the fullest advantage of our students and especially our regional member countries, while strongly supporting Fiji's aspirations to develop ICT related industries," the Pro Chancellor said.

The 'soft' opening was also attended by other dignitaries, and the Education Minister of Vanuatu. The Fiji government was represented by the Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and the Acting Permanent Secretary for Education.

All 12 USP member countries are expected to benefit from the project, which is being implemented under JICA's Pacific Regional Programme to utilize ICT for advancing human development and ensuring human security in the Pacific Region.

The **official opening** of the **new Japan-Pacific ICT building** will be held in a few month's time. ■

STAFF PROFILE | GRAHAM KNOWLES | Research Manager



Length of time employed at USP: From around St Valentine's day 2010

Home Country: Ireland or New Zealand depending on the rugby

Campus: Laucala

How do you usually begin your working day?

By saying hello to staff in the Research Office and try and share a joke with them; they occasionally laugh.

What is the best part of your current work?

The freedom to learn something new, or interesting every day.

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

To remember a quote from *Gone with the Wind*, a novel about the American Civil War, when Scarlett O'Hara, a petulant young woman of wealth and privilege loses everything including the man she thinks she loves. Amid such disaster she says, "After all tomorrow is another day"

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

Asleep in Madang, Papua New Guinea, and being woken by a death adder in my bed, and having to get a 10 year-old boy to remove it. Muggers you talk to, but not snakes.

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

Advice that I have been given, by my grandfather, who never left the UK, he said "See the world" and the best advice that I have given, "See the world and then come home".

Who inspires you and why?

This is a toss-up between Charles Darwin and my mother-in-law. The former changed the world, for the better; the latter changed my life, for the better; which is more important?

What have been your main career highlights?

Working in developing countries, especially in Papua New Guinea and Sarawak where wealth was not confused with wisdom.

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

I generally have two books on the go because it prolongs the period of pleasure. I am now reading Michael Gladwell's book "On What the Dog Saw" he makes tomato sauce, bad dogs and broken windows interesting. The other book is 'Lord Jim' by Joseph Conrad. It's about one man's struggle with the frailty of human nature and discovering courage. I like the book because Conrad can write a whole page about a bead of sweat and keep me engrossed by his powers of observation.

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

To remain optimistic even in the eye of the storm.

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

Peace and Prosperity. ■

USP 2010 MEDALS AND PRIZES CEREMONY

Medal Recipients for 2010 with the Vice-Chancellor of USP Professor Rajesh Chandra

It was a proud moment for 13 University of the South Pacific scholars and their families when they were presented with gold medals and cash prizes at the University of the South Pacific's 2010 Medals and Prizes Awards Ceremony.

Each recipient had a story to tell of how they had come so far to deserve such an outstanding award. The Medals and Prizes Ceremony was held just two days prior to the actual April Graduation Ceremony, where over 1200 students graduated.

Gold medals are awarded to students who have achieved the highest Grade Point Average (GPA), which is the measure of the overall level of a student's achievement. The recipients are also awarded with cash prizes which are generally donated by corporate sponsors.

Three gold medals were awarded to Yashniel Dutt of the Faculty of Science, Technology and Environment (FSTE), for the most outstanding graduate in the Bachelor of Science program, Computing Science and Information Systems, while two gold medals were awarded to his col-

league, also from FSTE, Ravneel Rahitesh Kumar, for Mathematics and Physics.

For the Faculty of Arts and Law (FAL), the gold medalist for the most outstanding graduate with a major in Psychology, Lorraine Alice Evans, was also given the honour to represent her fellow graduates in delivering the 'vote of thanks' at the University's graduation ceremony two days later.

The Vice-Chancellor's prize for the University-wide Interdisciplinary prize for both female and male students, with the best combined academic performance and all-round service to the community, was awarded to James Patrick McGoan of the Faculty of Business and Economics (FBE).

Another nine recipients were also awarded medals and prizes for achieving top honors from their respective faculties and schools. Amongst the nine, were four recipients of the Vice-Chancellor's Research prize.

Close Family, friends, sponsors and academic staff gathered to witness this auspicious occasion, which was held at the Oceania Centre for Arts and Culture and Pacific Studies at the University's Laucala Campus. ■

STUDENT PROFILE | MOLENI IKA | BCom

Year of Study: 4th and final Year

Home Country: Tonga

Campus: Laucala Campus

Why did you choose to study at USP?

It wasn't actually a choice, scholarship decides where you study.

What do you enjoy most about 'uni' life?

Meeting new people and hanging out with friends

What do you find most difficult or challenging?

Trying to cope with the stress and difficulties of studying. Sometimes your personal life can interfere with your studies.

What do you like best about your programme of study?

For economics I like learning new things every day, things that have happened around you and you had no idea why or how it came to pass.

What can't you live without on campus?

I think that would have to be friends. Friends are a vital part of you, sort of like your second family away from home.

What could improve your studying experience at USP?

Well I think more practical work brings experience that can prove to be fulfilling for all students. It will help students apply their knowledge to real-life situations.

What is your best survival study tip?

Although I don't always practice it, it would be to leave everything to God in prayer and work diligently with a lot of faith.

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

Well I prefer to play rugby in the afternoon and watch movies afterwards, or just chill with my friends.



What makes a good lecturer?

A good lecturer will always be reflected on his/her students.

Who is your role model or mentor, and why?

My parents. Parents are the most inspirational people in the world, there's always something to learn from them, so pay close attention.

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

At the moment I am to be a teacher when I graduate, but as for a permanent career, I haven't yet thought that far ahead.

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

Most of us in the Pacific aren't made aware of the vast opportunities open to us. The challenge is informing young people of the important part they play in the future of their respective countries.

What are some challenges facing women in the Pacific?

Women have been for many years and are still today, in the shadow of men. However women are independent individuals with unique capabilities. The challenge is trying to find where their skills and knowledge can be put to best use.

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

I can only hope that with the bond of friendship that students share in this university, that in the near future that friendship will bear fruit to create a united Pacific islands community where we all can benefit and prosper.

Campus Life at USP

“The new Campus Life Section is committed to creating a vibrant Living and Learning environment for our students, staff and their families across all USP campuses in the Pacific.”

These were the words of the newly appointed Group Manager Campus Life, Mr Glenn Pope. The Section is dedicated to enhancing the growth of students to reach their full potential, by providing rich learning opportunities through programmes, services and facilities. In addition, ‘Glenn’, (as he prefers to be called), says, *“Campus Life is working with other key areas within USP to develop a Safe, Clean and Green campus environment; as well as a welcoming atmosphere for its students, staff and their families, that fosters cross-cultural understanding and personal development; an engaged community; and a sense of personal connection to USP, as part of our commitment to the University’s emphasis on Priority Area 2 of the USP Strategic Plan 2010-2012”*.

Studying at the University of the South Pacific is not just because of its academic excellence. When a student enrolls at USP they become part of the USP family and the new Campus Life Section is responsible for ensuring that all USP students receive a number of special services. The same applies to staff who are an essential part of the USP family concept.

Glenn says, *“We have been working on improving all areas of USP’s Campus Life Section with special focus in the areas of ‘on-campus’ accommodation facilities as well as the establishment of USP’s ‘on campus’ website (Stage 1 completed)”*. There has been a serious investment since December 2009 by the Vice-Chancellor and the Senior Management Team (SMT), in improving the quality of the existing ‘on campus’ accommodation and with the approval to construct a new 140 bed accommodation unit in the coming months, this aspect of life at campus will improve considerably.

In addition, the facilities and services associated with all aspects of the USP Community Recreation Centre, the Sports and Fitness Centre are being improved, with a special focus on the USP swimming pool space and services on-

fer, including extending free use to USP staff, adding BBQ and picnic facilities as well as the planned introduction of swimming, water aerobics and scuba classes. May 2010 will see the introduction of beginners’ swimming classes for adults and children (USP staff and students) and the introduction of the ‘instalment payments scheme’ for USP Fitness Centre membership to USP staff.

“In terms of the student bar operation, a number of initiatives are in the pipeline that will result in improved utilization of this resource. ‘Happy Hour’ has been introduced along with the provision of hot food and a new music system installed. The main aim is to create a venue for students to relax and socialise in a safe, secure environment on campus”, Glenn reveals.

He further adds, *“As far as Sports is concerned, we are introducing and supporting additional Sports such as Women’s Cricket (20/20), Baseball, as well as Tae-kwon-do Clubs and also building on existing Sports to ensure sustainability and personal growth opportunities for our students and staff. In addition, Campus Life will look at bringing certain community sports/events onto the Campus such as ‘Kids-Try-Athlon’ and other Fiji sporting events”*.

Glenn says, *“We understand that physical activity and recreation complement students’ academic endeavours and enhance a student’s University experience”*.

In addition to all this, many of the traditional support services such as Security, Counseling and Medical are being reviewed and improved upon as they are now located under USP’s Campus Life section. We have a 24 hour security operation that is committed to achieving safety and security on all USP campuses.

USP’s security works closely with the USP community to achieve a safe and secure environment that is conducive to learning.

In an attempt to build a deep sense of community, Campus Life will be introducing a range of exciting non-sporting activities, via its activity

department that will be open to all enrolled USP students, staff and their families. Glenn proudly reveals, *“This will include Movies under the Stars, Village Market Days @USP, Family Days, Picnic in the Park, USP’s Got Talent and a host of other exciting events. The new Campus Life Section is designed to assist USP in value, adding to the student and staff experience by bringing its students, staff and their families together and creating a USP community”*.

March 2010 saw USP sponsor the Pacific Voyage on the ‘Uto ni Yalo’ with USP staff Salome Tabuatalei being granted special leave to sail on the 3 month voyage. Colin Philp of the Fiji Islands Voyaging Society says, *“Having Salome as a crew member on the ‘Uto ni Yalo’ was a huge morale booster for the rest of the crew. She is a high profile athlete all across the Pacific because of her past performances in Athletics and lately in the Va’a”*.

USP – Campus Life Community Involvement

In April 2010, Campus Life helped to establish the ‘USP Kids-Try-Athlon series’ in partnership with Fiji Triathlon Association and the Fiji Sun. The event allowed USP to engage with the local Suva community, provided a safe and enjoyable location to conduct the series, as well as allowing USP families to participate in a community event. Additional community events are planned for 2010.

“I hope that USP’s Campus Life concept will be seen in the coming years as ‘best practice’ not only in terms of Pacific Higher Education but in Australia, New Zealand and the USA. To achieve this, USP needs to ensure that all stakeholders accept the need to buy into the concept of ‘Campus Life’ and Priority Area 2 of the USP Strategic Plan 2010-2012 – it is very much a team approach (e.g. VC/ Campus Directors/ Government sponsors / USPSPA / Facilities / Student Services, ITS, P&F etc)” said Glenn. ■

Halls of Residence



Swimming Pool



USP Kids-Try-Athlon



USP and Fijians Trust Fund Board Sign MOU

The University of the South Pacific (USP), and the Fijians Trust Fund Board (FTFB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Monday 22 March 2010.

The objective of the MOU is to provide a framework for cooperation between USP and FTFB, on a number of activities over a period of time to promote a common vision and mutual interests in the development of Fijian studies and language at the University.

In the general undertakings of the MOU, the two parties will, among other things seek to strengthen and expand their existing collaborative relationship and to undertake joint programmes, projects and activities, and research in areas of mutual interest and concern, with an emphasis on responding to historical and contemporary relations that concern the Fijian communities and other contemporaries.

The Chief Executive of the Fijians Trust Fund Board, Mr Isoa Kaloumaira, said, "The MOU is in line with the Fiji government's requirement that the Fijian language and culture be taught in all institutions of learning and this is the first step towards ensuring such learning through distance learning".

The University will establish an Advisory Committee for the Fijian Language and Culture programme which the CEO, FTFB will chair.

The Vice-Chancellor of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra, thanked the FTFB on the positive stance taken to enter into partnership with the University and said he was delighted to sign this MOU with the FTFB.

Professor Chandra further said, "Fiji and other small nations are facing the challenges of globalization. These challenges can be particularly unsettling for indigenous people. They need to be able to anchor themselves in their culture to operate with ease and confidence at the global level. This agreement comes at an opportune time. It is not an agreement for funding, but a real partnership that will contribute to a vibrant Fijian language and culture".



The Vice-Chancellor of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra and the CEO of the FTFB, Mr Isoa Kaloumaira

The signing of the MOU is the culmination of talks and collaboration between USP and the FTFB, dating back a few years. It is initially for a year and would be reviewed for further collaboration. ■

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Form 7 Physics Workshop:

Students Get Real with Physics

A Physics workshop for Form 7 students was held at the Physics Division, School of Engineering and Physics, within the Faculty of Science, Technology and Environment (FSTE) on 15 April 2010. The workshop was jointly organized by the Physics Division at USP and the South Pacific Physics Society (SPPS).

This was immensely well received by the 14 participating schools from the Suva, Nausori, Navua, and Tailevu areas, which collectively sent a total of 91 students along with a teacher from each school. At the workshop, student groups carried out a roster of 10 experiments set up in duplicates, and heard talks on studying Physics as well as career opportunities in Physics.

The Divisional Coordinator for Physics, Dr Sushil Kumar says, "Very few schools offering Form 7 studies in Physics have adequate equipment and facilities to give their students the practical laboratory experience required for their course-work". He adds, "Many end up doing make-believe experiments on the black-board".

Both the Physics Society and the Physics Division have been aware of this for some time, and have jointly mounted laboratory workshops in a bid to provide students with the necessary practical experience. The first such workshop was held in September 2008 at Tilak High School in Lautoka, where more than 60 Form 7 students from twelve schools benefited from the event. The second workshop was held on 16 April 2009 at the Physics Division at USP where more than 65 Form 7 students from 11 schools participated.

The organizing committee also managed to fit in a tour of the Physics Division Research facilities in Renewable Energy and Communications (ICT). The President of the South Pacific Physics Society, Dr. Anirudh Singh says, "We are planning our next outreach to be a multi-disciplinary and regional one, in which we wish to team up with the other societies and divisions".

Outreach workshops such as these provide a convenient means of promoting the University amongst one of its most important stakeholders – future students. Towards this end, the program of activities included PowerPoint presentations on studying at the School of Engineering and Physics and Career openings in Physics – Renewable Energy & Environment and Electronics & Communications (ICT).

The Physics Division sincerely thanks the Dean and Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching), of the Faculty of Science, Technology and Environment (FSTE), for their continuous support in organizing this workshop.

Contact: Dr. Sushil Kumar, Physics Division, e-mail: kumar_su@usp.ac.fj ph 3232144. ■



Bringing Cutting-Edge Research in ICT to the Region

In a public lecture delivered at the University of the South Pacific on 30 March, Dr Anirudh Singh showed how the boom in the ICT industry, traffic congestion, global warming and developments in space science have led to an increasing need for research and development in communications technology. Today's technological developments however, require vast amounts of human and laboratory research resources, that neither universities nor industry alone can provide.

The next decade's technology revolution is happening in university laboratories of the world today, in places as close to home as our next-door neighbour, Australia, and hence this makes it possible for Fiji to share a piece of the action.

Science parks or R&D (Research and Development) parks, where academia and industry come together, is the answer. Interestingly enough, Fiji can share a piece of this R&D 'cake', if it wants to. It can do so by forming alliances and partnerships with institutions overseas, and Melbourne's La Trobe University is one such potential partner. Situated on the outskirts of Melbourne, it boasts eight campuses, a highly multi-disciplinary Faculty of Science, and more than 33 research centres in its R&D Park. Among the research centres and institutes are major Victorian government laboratories, Australian industries such as Rio Tinto, and major international companies such

as Microsoft, Sun Microsystem, Cisco, Intel and IBM, to name a few.

What is unique about La Trobe's R&D Park is the presence within it, of a 'Centre for Technology Infusion.' Bringing ideas to life is its main mission. Directed by former Fiji National Professor Jugdutt (Jack) Singh, the centre provides a venue for academia and industry to meet, offers researchers with essential hi-tech development facilities such as design suites, development platforms and test beds, and does a whole lot more towards the transfer of knowledge and technology from research to industry.

Some of the projects the centre is currently engaged in are the VIC6 (an acronym for Victorian Industry Collaborative IPv6). This is a collaborative effort between the universities and the Victorian state government in Australia to carry out research in the development of next generation of internet protocol (IPv6). An internet protocol is the language used in the transmission and reception of signals on the internet. If this did not exist, there would be no internet project to develop to the next generation internet protocol (IPv6). Dedicated short range communication for vehicle-to-vehicle (v2v) communications, vehicle-to-infrastructure communications, intelligent transport systems and smart sensors for a range of applications from Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), to health care and fire-fighting. At the heart of these

RESEARCH



Dr Anirudh Singh gives a public lecture on cutting-edge ICT research

technologies are Micro- and Nano-Electro-Mechanical Structures (MEMs and NEMs). These are electronic devices, a few microns in size, which incorporate both the sensors used by devices and

the logic/control hardware on the same chip. They are very advanced devices needed as building blocks for other advanced electronic devices.

So how can Fiji benefit? While it does not have the benefit of high-tech science parks, it does have a few distinctive advantages that industry finds attractive – scientifically-literate personnel and cheap labour. Indeed, USP's Mathematics Division has already been engaged in projects that develop the mathematical algorithms for v2v communications. An offer has already been made for USP to join an international collaboration with La Trobe and Beijing's Tsinghua University. Other international collaborations are now easily foreseeable with USP's \$21million ICT Centre set to come online within a month. ■

PIMRIS Launches Portal

The Pacific Islands 'Marine Portal' was launched at the University of the South Pacific (USP), on Thursday 25 March 2010.

The portal is a result of successful collaboration between the **Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information Network (PIMRIS)**, **USP** and the **International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange Programme (IODE)** of the **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)** of **UNESCO**, to improve access to Pacific marine information in the Pacific Island community.

The portal contains news, articles and directories of websites relevant to Pacific fisheries and to the coastal and marine environment of the Pacific Islands. It offers marine information for the general public, USP students and staff, decision makers and professionals who need information for their work, and is categorised as follows:

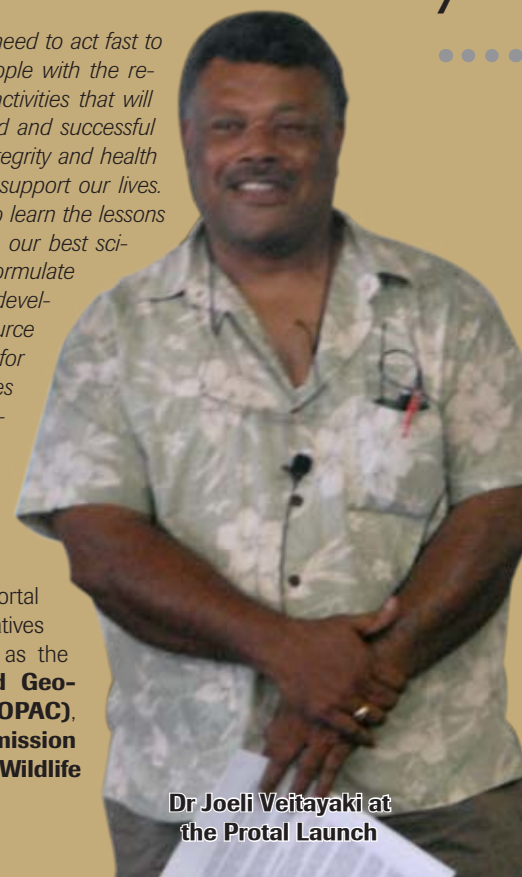
- Virtual libraries and E-Repositories
- Global Marine Databases and Resource Centers
- Pacific Organisations and Institutions
- Pacific Country Profiles
- Pacific Marine Protected Areas
- Pacific Marine Conventions, Treaties, and Legislation
- Maps, GIS Data and Ocean Observing Systems
- Training and Educational Resources
- Online Journals
- Regional Initiatives and Projects
- Key Contacts

In his address at the launch, Associate Professor Dr Joeli Veitayaki, reminisced on how things were done manually, by using cards to visit the shelves to confirm if the source that was being sought was there or not. He assured that the provision of information is becoming even more accessible and easy. Dr Veitayaki stated that our marine resources continue to dwindle as our numbers continue to explode and the ecological

services provided by our ecosystems increasingly are compromised by the effects of our activities.

He said, "As humanity, we need to act fast to secure and provide our people with the resources and development activities that will allow them to have dignified and successful lives while protecting the integrity and health of the natural systems that support our lives. The best way to do that is to learn the lessons from the past and then use our best science and technology to formulate and implement sustainable development activities and resource management arrangements for use in all of our communities and countries. For that challenge, we need to have access to the best information we can get, which is what the PIMRIS PORTAL offers".

Also present at the Portal Launch were representatives of key organisations such as the **Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)**, the **South Pacific Commission (SPC)**, and the **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)**. ■



Dr Joeli Veitayaki at the Portal Launch

USP Bids Farewell to a Long Serving Staff Member

After 38 long years of service at the University of the South Pacific, Druma Kamikamica has finally called it a day.

An interview with one of the University's longest-serving staff members could be described as an emotional encounter because it instigates a feeling of nostalgia and sentiment. For Mrs Kamikamica, or 'Druma' as she prefers to be called, those were the exact feelings that lingered in the air when USP Beat spoke with her.

With her beautiful smile and dazzling personality, Druma is well known around Laucala Campus as the person who pulls off official USP functions when it comes to beautifying and decorating particular venues. This is apart from her actual daily tasks which involve administrative work. Just step into major events and functions at the University, and you will notice her meticulous magic touch. One such event was the April 9 graduation which took place at the Vodafone Arena in Laucala Bay. For those who did not know, the matching tapa design and the floral arrangement was masterminded by this incredible lady.

Druma started at the University of the South Pacific in 1971, working as a clerk and typist for the School of Education. She was unexpectedly delegated accounting duties which she had no experience or knowledge of, but with a determined and willing heart, she took on the task without complaining.

"I didn't know anything about book-keeping or anything to do with accounting, but from my own findings and a 'self-teaching' method, I tried to maintain it and was pleased with myself when I achieved it to the best of my abilities", Druma says. She added, *"We usually have this internal auditor that comes around to check on the accounts. Not once have I been called by these auditors, since they always call when something is wrong with a particular accounting work, but I don't remember any time that I was questioned".* Druma attributed this to honesty and dedication. Virtues she says, have been the backbone of her accomplishments.

To demonstrate USP's appreciation and heartfelt thanks, the Vice-Chancellor organised a morning tea in Druma's honour and praised her for her tireless effort and commitment. A well-deserved gesture for an incredible lady that has watched USP grow over the years.

It's like Druma herself says, *"When I started, it was all manual; the typewriter, the photocopier; even the examination papers were typed up on stencil and photocopied, and slowly, everything changed and became computerized. It's been great because it was a learning process at the same time, as the changes have been huge".* With watery eyes, she uttered, *"I know that the University is one of the top organisations in the region and from where it started to where it is now, USP will always be home to me".* ■



CAMPUS DIARY

The International Federation of Physical Education (FIEP) Oceania Conference

Venue: Laucala Campus, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji.

Dates: 7-9 July 2010

Web Site: <http://fiepoceania.usp.ac.fj>

Invitation:

Participants are invited to register for the physical education, sport and outdoor education conference. Registration fee for Fiji and regional participants is \$50 FJD, while those outside of the islands, the registration fee is \$250.

Registration:

To register, please download the registration form from the conference web site, make your deposit to the account provided and send in the filled form to: fiepconference@usp.ac.fj, or post it to: The Conference Secretariat, School of Education, Faculty of Arts and Law, University of the South Pacific, Laucala Campus, Suva, Fiji.

Program:

The Conference Program is already out and can be seen on our web site. Presenters are coming from around the world and the Pacific region.

Sponsors:

The School of Education, Faculty of Arts and Law, University of the South Pacific: <http://education.usp.ac.fj>

The Faculty of Arts and Law, University of the South Pacific: <http://artslaw.usp.ac.fj>

The Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC):

www.oceaniaport/onoc

The School of Sciences and Physical Education, University of Canterbury, NZ: <http://www.scpe.canterbury.ac.nz>

Inquiries:

Jeremy Dorovolomo (Jeremy), Conference Convener: Email: fiepconference@usp.ac.fj or dorovolomo_j@usp.ac.fj

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 Scholar-

ships 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 Australian 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.high-commission.gov.au