



The University of Fiji

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

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The Vice-Chancellor's message

The University of Fiji – the 12th Year Anniversary

The University of Fiji today celebrates its 12th Birthday Anniversary, after 12 years of weathering the storm and initiating new knowledge and innovation from the onset of its humble beginnings in 2005.

With the new academic year 2017 unfolding on a high, the University is on a roll with increased student numbers, as an incisive projection in its Five-Year **Strategic Plan 2017-2021: The Global Path to Academic Excellence and Building a Knowledge-Based Society**. Within this Strategic Plan, internationalization, interdisciplinary, and academic-industry collaboration are some of the significant strategic platforms for the delivery of tertiary education at the University and for the development of a knowledge society in Fiji. Intrinsically, to advance this knowledge-based development framework, where knowledge and not physical capital is the source of wealth for social and economic development, this University, through constant, quality, relevant and significant research studies, strives to generate new strategic knowledge and innovation.

The University now operates as a fully operational Suva Campus with a State-of-the-art lecture theatre. And the expanded MBBS programme at the Suva Campus stands tall in its contribution to alleviate the growing shortage of medical doctors in Fiji. Today, the University has circa 2000 alumni, inclusive of 109 medical graduates, many with full employment in the world of work; and, indeed, a continuing source of motivation to receive tertiary education at this FHEC-fully registered and recognized local University. Without a doubt, too, the University of Fiji feels doubly proud about its FHEC-approved Master's degree in Renewable Energy Management, the first of its kind in Fiji.

And its Decree enables it to fulfill these post-secondary educational needs of the varying Fiji communities and global communities desiring to obtain tertiary education at the University. Undoubtedly, today, the University displays a distinct prominence of articulating and operationalizing a widening and deepening student access for academically qualified students, especially for students with a low socioeconomic status.

In consonance with the essence of the new strategic plan, the University now reaches out to the corporate world through its two successful Academic-Industry collaboration events in June 2016 in Nadi and August 2016 Suva, respectively, all in aid of generating sponsored funding, providing work-ready graduates for meeting employability demands, and offering Online and Short Courses/workshops.

Also, the Schools and Centres are now working toward an internal review of their respective programs and courses, and, in this context, the School of Humanities and Arts (SOHA) took the lead in this endeavor, culminating in a positive feedback from the reviewers. The game plan of the internal reviews is to bring this University into a state of institutional readiness for external accreditation of its programs.

It is exciting times for the University as it now has a fully operational Rabindranath Tagore Centre (RTC), with formal inauguration through the Indian High Commissioner to Fiji, and with its housing quarters in the University Library. Note also the newly-formed BEMA for the School of Law at the Suva Campus.

The University of Fiji's sponsorship of the centennial commemoration of the Abolition of Indian Indentureship entails a global academic conference from March 22-24, 2017, further institutionalizing and recognizing the University of Fiji as the South Pacific's Global University. The University also will host the upcoming Knowledge-Based Development Conference and Research Day at Saweni Campus on May 6, 2017.

With myriad developments fast becoming a reality, the Quality Assurance Department, as another new development, now has leverage to provide professional guidance to ensure quality learning and teaching, with appropriate back-up support from the FHEC. And consistent with its progressive outlook, the University is venturing into evidenced-based and research-based learning and teaching, gradually utilizing a polymath approach; as well as ensuring that early-career academics actively engage in interdisciplinary and international collaborative research to generate a new knowledge.

And so, in this new thrust to develop a knowledge society in Fiji, the overall strategic objectives of this University are to deliver the long-term resources to support and advance its pre-eminent position

– nationally, regionally, and internationally – as an intellectual powerhouse of excellent learning, teaching, and research; and to enable it to offer added support to its five fundamental priorities of students, research, academics, partnerships, and people; priorities that will make the University progressively competitive in the tertiary education market.

I salute the University Community on its mammoth contributions, catapulting this University to scale new heights and new horizons!!!

Happy Birthday to the University of Fiji!!!

Kind regards,

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