

UniFiji to Host Commonwealth Youth Forum

The Commonwealth Secretariat identified Fiji as an appropriate place to hold the Commonwealth Ministers' meeting. From this emanated the Commonwealth Youth Forum, which the University of Fiji will host on Tuesday, February 20, 2018.

The Commonwealth Youth Section is a sub-division of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Prem Misir, attended Commonwealth Youth Section Meeting and The Association of Commonwealth Universities on September 28, 2017, in London, United Kingdom. The meeting resulted in various outcomes for The University of Fiji including the Youth Forum.

While at the meeting with Commonwealth Youth Section members, Professor Prem Misir stressed that there is an increase in the percentage of young people dropping out at higher education institutions, particularly at high schools and the University level.

Speaking about the forum, Professor Misir highlighted that it was a welcome boost to The University of Fiji and this would bring international recognition as well as training and support for UniFiji students.

He further stated that there was an urgent need to focus on empowering young people in Fiji with the intention to improve socio-economic status.

"In a society like Fiji with a youth bulge, there may be issues that local youth may be facing and it is beneficial to have youth with youth work qualifications to talk and relate to local youth. As a member of the Youth Consortium, the University will be able to instruct youth work qualifications from the modules created by the Youth Section to further youth work education in the Commonwealth," he explained.

The forum will focus on youth and student engagement, non-formal education, accessibility and employability. It will be attended by over 100 people, 70 youth from the Commonwealth Youth Section and 30 from the three Universities in Fiji.

The forum will coincide with the Commonwealth Ministers' Meeting scheduled for February 21-23, 2018 and the Integrated Partners' Forum between February 19-21, 2018 in Fiji.