



The University of Fiji

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Press Release:

UniFiji- Entering New Era as A Vision University



Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Subramani with Deans (from left) Professor Anirudh Singh, Professor Tupeni Baba, Professor Frederick Merchant, Professor Ruvendra Nandan and Professor Shaista Shameem

The University of Fiji is entering into a new era as 'A Vision University'. It is on the edge of a significant leap forward in its academic and intellectual life. The governance of the University is in the hands of prominent academics who aim to take the institution forward in realising its full potential as a university.

With Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Subramani at the helm of leadership, discussions have already started to find fields of learning where The University of Fiji can make a real difference such as research in Science and Technology that will serve the surrounding communities, establishing Institute of Hindi Language and Culture to complement the work of Institute of iTaukei Studies, and a Graduate School for Postgraduate Studies and Research.

Professor Subramani is a distinguished Fijian writer, literary critic and educator. He is widely published with his new works like *'Fiji Maa; Mother of a Thousand'* (2018), *'Wild Flowers'* (2017), and *'Reclaiming the Nation'* (2016).

Professor Ruvendra Nandan, the Dean of the School of Business and Economics (SoBE) and Professor in Accounting, is an esteemed Accounting scholar with numerous publications to his name. One of the recent ones being *'Management Accounting Needs of SMEs and the Role of Professional Accountants: A Renewed Research Agenda (2010)'*. He pioneered getting the Chartered Practicing Accountants Australia's (CPA) Chartered

Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ) accreditations for Bachelor of Commerce programme at UniFiji.

Professor Tupeni Baba, Professor in Education and Dean for School of Humanities and Arts (SoHA), is a renowned academic and former political leader. He has been a Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister in his political career. Professor Baba has been a Consultant in areas of Research, Evaluation, Pacific Education and Pacific Development and has a varied range of publications with the most recent one being '*Na Vuku ni Vanua: Wisdom of the Land*' (2014).

Professor Shaista Shameen, the Dean of Justice Devendra Pathik School of Law (JDP SoL), is a strong legal advocate of holistic development of student life. She was previously the Director of Fiji Human Rights Commission. Professor Shameem has the International Relations and Diplomacy (INR) programmes under her school and recently added PhD programmes in Law and International Relations and Diplomacy for JDP SoL. She is a Fellow of Royal Society of Arts (London).

Professor Anirudh Singh, Dean of the School of Science and technology (SoST), is the Professor in Physics and Programme Coordinator of the Masters in Renewable Energy Management. He has widely published, his recent publications being '*Talking Renewables – A renewable energy primer for everyone*' (2018). Professor Singh comes with a wealth of knowledge as a researchers and teacher of science.

Professor Frederick Merchant, Dean of Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Science (UPSM&HS), has a long and widely recognized Science-Pharmaceutical-Surgical career. He joined UPSM & HS in its inaugural year, 2009, as Professor of Surgery and Anatomy. He brings with him vast surgical experience. He has Fellowships in Surgical Oncology and Blunt/Penetrating Trauma and Cardiovascular Surgery combined with Research and Clinical Teaching. He has many scientific publications as well as articles in creative writing under his name.

With a line of well qualified and broadly experienced Deans, and with the Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Subramani's leadership, The University of Fiji is ready for a significant leap forward as the nation's premier Higher education institution.