



The University of Fiji

(An Entity of Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji)



Issue 2 | 2022



UNIPULSE

The University of Fiji's Centre for Women in Leadership Hosts First Public Lecture – Watch Women Win



Ms Antonia Watson (Left) with The University of Fiji Team and Guests at the Samabula Campus

The University of Fiji's Centre for Women in Leadership had its first public event on Wednesday 21 September 2022 at the University's Samabula Campus. The UniFiji Centre for Women in Leadership aims to provide training and mentorship to women for national leadership. The keynote speaker at the event was the Group Chief Executive Officer of ANZ Bank New Zealand, Ms Antonia Watson who presented a powerful lecture on the topic "Watch Women Win".

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She spoke on winning as a female leader, her professional journey especially the lessons learnt along the way, and what it meant for all women. *Watch Women Win* was a piece of research that was released in New Zealand by ANZ late last year.

"We launched the *Watch Women Win* report because we were concerned that there was a lack of confidence, a fear of failure and judgment holding back a lot of young women in sports," said Ms Watson. "It always seems harder to achieve your dreams if you're a girl, woman, or minority. While the barriers seem the same, so too are the solutions - encouragement, having visible role models, supporting others, and celebrating the steps of success and those already achieving," said Ms Watson.

Ms Watson said that building a strong network, supporting and knowing each other was crucial for women to progress in their life. "Having been a woman leader in the business community for many decades now, I've come to the conclusion that women can only break the glass ceiling of leadership and success if we have male counterparts who see us and treat us as equals," said Ms Watson. Ms Watson ended the lecture by talking about values that are critical for leading saying that values are learned over time and are at the core of who you are as a person. "I want to work with smart, inspiring and good-hearted people because I've found that they generally make high performing employees who make better decisions for our shareholders, customers, staff and our other stakeholders. I reckon life is too short to work with people you don't like," concluded Ms Watson.

Fiji Women Lawyers Association Vice-President Ms Mele Rakai provided commentary and observations from a Fijian perspective going back in history on the journey and rise of female leadership in Fiji in politics, the judiciary, the legal fraternity and representation of women in corporate boards across Fiji using statistics from the FWRM research released in September 2020. While there has been some improvement there was still more to be done in Fiji to achieve gender equality, said Ms Rakai. Moving the vote of thanks, The University of Fiji Student Association Acting President Ms Maca Ratabua reiterated that behind a successful woman is a progressive man who could be her father or her partner to always support her. The event was held pursuant to the Gender Responsiveness and Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching KPIs in the University of Fiji's Strategic Plan 2022-2026.

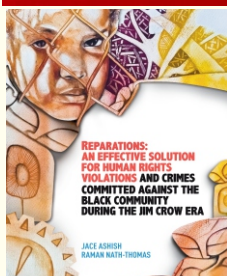
Editorial

This issue of our UNIPULSE illustrates how much The University of Fiji has achieved since the last UNIPULSE was published this year. Quite apart from everyone being involved in our big Drua Voyage launch which was held at the Saweni Campus and zoomed to Samabula Campus (described in this issue), the University staff and students were also busy with our core business of teaching and with fulfilling the Strategic Plan 2022-2026 goals of ensuring that we offered a rounded education to staff and students by establishing clubs and societies which are all functioning well. We are also well on the way to greening the campuses through our Gaia Garden project. By this time next year we hope to have set up our own organic MarketPlace which will offer healthy and fresh produce to the public as well as to our University Community. On that note the first batch of our University of Fiji Yummy Honey has been bottled and presented as gifts to the Council and we are thinking of how to market our organic honey more widely.

The University is planning to internally review all its programmes in 2023 to see which ones remain a priority and what needs to be re-considered in view of duplication at other universities or low student enrollments over a period of time affecting revenue. This exercise will be led by our Quality Assurance and Academic Development Teams who will present a paper to the Senior Management Team and to the Senate in September and then to the Council. The University of Fiji is set to become a first choice university once this review is completed as it will offer programmes that are not only in demand globally but will help build a knowledge-based society in Fiji. This issue of UNIPULSE shows the unique perspective on higher education that the University is already heading towards with the help of the entire University Community. I warmly thank the Founders, the Council, Senate and all Committees for the innovations and support provided in 2022. I wish everyone happy holidays!

Professor Shaista Shameem

The University of Fiji Press's Inaugural Monograph Launch



From Left: Dr Erica Myers-Davis, from the Royal Society of Arts, Oceania Board. with Jace Raman Nath-Thomas at the book launch. Nath-Thomas is a graduate of New York University and decided to publish the monograph titled “Reparations: An Effective Solution for Human Rights Violations and Crimes Committed Against the Black Community During the Jim Crow Era” with The University of Fiji.

The University of Fiji Wins Debate Competition on Climate Change



From left standing: Ezra Pickering, Neha Puran, Adilah Riaz and Aadarsh Kumar.

From left sitting: UFSA Treasurer, Jona Toga, Vice Chancellor, Professor Shaista Shameem, the then UFSA Interim Secretary, Leone Vurakanina

The University of Fiji's Debate Team 4 won the Dialogue Fiji's Inter-University Debates on Climate Change on August 31st at the USP Laucala Campus's OCAPS Pavilion.

The team took the coveted trophy away after a nail-biting difficult final round which started in April.

The team members were all medical students at the Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences - Aadarsh Kumar, Neha Puran, Adilah Riaz and Ezra Pickering.

The Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Shaista Shameem congratulated the students on the win and urged other students to be part of the University's Debate Team.

The competition was part of Dialogue Fiji's European Union-funded project "Building Community Resilience to Climate Change through Civil Society Action (CRCC)" in the Pacific.

The Debate topics covered various aspects of Climate Change, Mitigation and Approaches.

The question for the first round was "Fiji's target to achieve net-zero emission by 2050 is not feasible". Team UniFiji, on the affirmative side, competed with Team USP, on the negative side. Team UniFiji won Round 1.

Round 2 saw a debate on the topic "Organic agriculture is impractical in Fiji". Team FNU competed with Team USP. USP won Round 2.

The final Debate Topic was "Climate action by countries like Fiji does not matter". Team UniFiji was on the Affirmative side and Team USP on the Negative side. UniFiji Team won.

The UniFiji Debate team received \$600 in cash prize money, a winner's trophy, and gold medals.

The debate team also won the first round of the Dialogue Fiji-hosted "Inter University Debate on Elections" in April. They finished second in the final contest on April 9th, on the topic "Social Media is Good for Elections and Democracy."

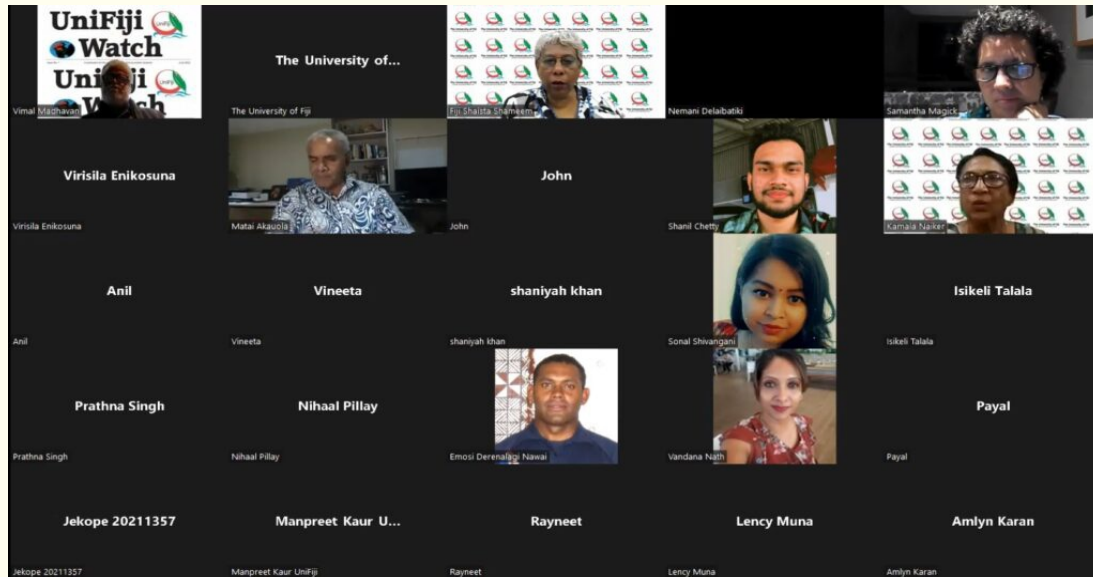
Participating in extracurricular activities is part of the University's Strategic Plan 2022-2026's strategic cultural transformations. These activities are part of the University's 'Journey in Holistic Education,' which emphasizes the Gurukul and Drua Voyage.

The University has established a number of clubs and societies for both staff and students to join, including the Chess Club, the Thespian Society, Film Society, Sports Club, Mooting Club, Debating Club, Toastmasters, Rucksack Club, Literary Society, Quiz Team, Gaia Garden Club, Age of Aquarius Band, University Choir, SPASE, Art and Craft Club and many others.



From left: Ezra Pickering, Neha Puran, Adilah Riaz and Aadarsh Kumar.

The University of Fiji Launches Online Student Newspaper 'UniFiji Watch'.



The University of Fiji launched its very first online student newspaper, UniFiji Watch, on Monday 12 September, 2022. UniFiji Watch was created by pioneer students of the University's new Bachelor of Journalism and Media Studies programme (BJMS). UniFiji Watch was launched virtually by the Managing Editor of Islands Business Samantha Magick. Attending the launch were senior journalists of Fiji and members of the media and communications industry as well as members of the public by video link. The Guest Speaker Samantha Magick advised journalism students to read from a variety of sources, to listen well and watch events carefully in order to learn the art of storytelling in journalism.

She emphasized that because the Journalism and Media Programme students were based in the West of Viti Levu at the University's Saweni Campus, they had a good opportunity to cover stories and experiences with a different perspective.

She encouraged the students to connect community stories to their newspaper. Samantha Magick emphasized that students needed to also become very familiar with digital journalism and reporting as every news medium now had a digital component. She encouraged journalism students to explore issues from every angle before deciding how to best represent a story in Fiji or the region.

The Vice Chancellor Professor Shaista Shameem, explaining the process of starting a new Journalism and Media Programme, said the University was determined to consult with senior journalists and the media industry from the very beginning so that the Programme could be enriched by insights from the experts in the media. As a result, the programme facilitated placements for students in the media industry newsrooms from Year 1 and encouraged students to develop their own newspaper and also radio broadcasts through the University's Vox Populi Radio Service.

Having these practical interventions early in the Programme allowed the students to receive hands-on training from the start to help them gain confidence and knowledge in their chosen careers as journalists, broadcasters and, indeed, in any profession in the media industry. At the University of Fiji, the students were taught journalism in context and as a craft. The media was also known as 'the Fourth Estate' and journalists had to be aware of their roles as educators and not just as providers of information to the public, Professor Shameem said.

The UniFiji official launch was followed by a High Level Panel discussion moderated by Professor Shameem on the topic "Issues for Fiji Journalists During Election Year 2022." Renowned journalists Mr Nemani Delaibatiki, Editor Fiji Sun, Mr Mataiasi Akauola Nimataiwalu, Mr Vimal Madhavan, Ms Samantha Magick, and Mr Sitiveni Halofaki, General Manager of Fiji Television, were amongst the speakers.

All panelists said that covering elections in previous years was very different from covering elections after the 2013 Constitution. Senior journalist and Fiji Sun Editor Nemani Delaibatiki said that reporting had come a long way since he first started in the Fiji Times newsroom in the 1970s. The challenge today was to report on issues in such a way that people could put them into context. He stated that the media must present factual and accurate information in order for voters to make informed decisions on polling day, he said.

Journalism lecturer at The University of Fiji, Mataiasi Akauola stated that the landscape had indeed changed, posing new challenges for journalists. However, as a former Director of the Media Industry Development Authority (MIDA), he advised journalists to play by the rules.

Vimal Madhavan, another lecturer, with background in the Fiji Times, Islands Business and Welsh newspapers, said that while the world had changed a lot the principles of journalism remained the same; these were accuracy, understanding of the social context and an ability to judge the quality of news as events unfolded, and an understanding of what people wanted to know about. That was the sentiment behind UniFiji Watch which his students had developed as part of their course in semester 1.

UniFiji Watch will be produced by the Journalism and Media students regularly during the academic year. It is available on-line on the University of Fiji website.

Loss and Damage and the Climate Negotiations Workshop

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Mr. Pita Tagicakakirewa and Vice Chancellor Professor Shaista Shameem with participants at the Loss and Damage and the Climate Negotiations workshop.



The University of Fiji hosted a two-day workshop on "Loss and Damage and the Climate Negotiations" in collaboration with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, the Pacific Islands Development Forum, Linköping University in Sweden, and the Australian National University Institute for Climate, Energy, and Disaster Solutions. The workshop was held at the Grand Pacific Hotel on October 13 and 14, 2022.

The workshop was officiated by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Mr. Pita Tagicakakirewa. The Vice Chancellor, Professor Shaista Shameem, stated at the conference that

the workshop would further elucidate the nuances that were critical to seeking redress from those who caused the environmental harm which, in normal circumstances, would be seen in the law as negligence on one end of the spectrum and foreseeability on the other.

"These are the two legal principles that, since time immemorial, have been part of tort law. The fact that loss and damage, and therefore torts, is now part of the language of science is indeed something radical and innovative that this workshop is addressing with people who are most affected by climate change. Just recently, the United Nations Human Rights Council Committee provided a way forward in damage claims by Torres Strait Islanders in Australia by providing a number of important decisions- which develop tort law in a way that embraces human rights principles, for example the 'right to life', relating to climate change within the framework of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights. This is a landmark decision or view that will have far-reaching effects in our region as well as internationally," she said.

She also stated that going to court is appealing to litigators, particularly for human rights violations in Fiji, but that there must be room for mediation in this claims space.

"The devastating effect of climate change is everyone's problem now and I believe that loss and damage can be dealt with also through negotiations and mediation, both of which are as important as claims made in court through tort law. It is the strategy to be used for these claims that will define how successful we will be in obtaining a successful outcome not only for

our vulnerable groups in the Pacific but for humanity as a whole," she said. Ms Priyatma Singh of the School of Science and Technology stated that, while financial issues rightfully take precedence at the international level, there were outstanding questions about how loss and damage (L&D) should be interpreted and addressed at different levels, especially given the diverse perspectives, experiences, and knowledge of different stakeholders. The workshop was a timely event that brought together participants working on environmental and climate issues in Pacific island states with an international, national, regional, or local focus, as well as researchers, industry leaders, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), representatives from communities dealing with loss and damage impacts, and media to discuss loss and damage from a Pacific perspective. The workshop provided insights into the world of L&D as experienced by the Pacific people. She said that a diverse group of participants reiterated the fact that the Pacific Island countries contribute the least to the climate crisis, yet we pay the ultimate price for our world's carbon addiction. "Loss and Damage is already a lived reality for many of our communities, who underlined the need for urgent support to address L&D in the Pacific. The discussions also included the ongoing negotiations on specific funding for L&D, the operationalization of the Santiago Network for L&D, placing economic value to non-economic losses and the tipping point for adaptation," she said. The University of Fiji and its collaborators will continue to support L&D discussions and initiatives in the Pacific and communicate lessons to the wider audiences both regionally and internationally.



Ms Priyatma Singh addressing the participants at the "Loss and Damage and the Climate Negotiations" Workshop.

The University of Fiji Student Wins Open Category at Chess Tournament



Dr Ricardo Corpuz, Co-Chair of the UniFiji Chess Association, Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences participants at the tournament with Professor Ranasinghe Amaradasa, Co-Chair of the UniFiji Chess Association.

The University of Fiji's student, Navisheel Prasad won the highly contested Open Category at the P. Meghji-Courts Rapid Chess Championship held on 9th July, 2022.

The Year 6 MBBS student at the Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences, also caused the biggest upset of the tournament beating Rudr Prasad. Rudr Prasad is part of the team that will represent Fiji at the upcoming Olympiad in Chennai at the end of July. Navisheel and Rudr had 6 points at the end of tournament but Navisheel won on tie break.

Speaking about his win, Navisheel said the tournament was very challenging, entertaining and a nice break from University life especially since taking part in an over the board experience was like no other.

"When I played against the highest rated player in the tournament, I was a bit nervous and was just hoping for a draw, especially since I had the black pieces. When I saw that after repeated attempts by him to gain a winning advantage fail and just burning time, I drew out the end game as long as I could to burn more of his time and started to go for the win myself. After a very challenging end game I needed up winning," he said.

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Fiji Professor Shaista Shameem said the University was proud to be associated with the Fiji Chess Federation which provides ongoing opportunities for the staff and students of the University to form friendships with other chess players in Fiji and refine their game. Chess is a strategic game that allows the University to fulfill its mission to become the think tank of Fiji in regards to policy in all areas of national life, Professor Shameem said.

Dr Ravikesh Prasad of the Fiji Chess Federation said he was pleased to see increasing number of participants from The University of Fiji at the tournaments and encouraged more students to take part in chess.

Dr Prasad further said he was glad to see participation from Napolioni Seru (12 years) who had travelled from Suva for the Championship. The Year 8 Rishikul Primary School student has always been interested in playing chess.

His mother, Salote Seru said that Napolioni started

playing a little chess at 3 years old with his family. As he grew up, he started showing keen interest in the game playing with his cousins, uncles, aunts and grandparents. Ms Seru said that after learning of the tournaments being played at The University of Fiji from her daughter (who is a MBBS student at the University), she decided to bring Napolioni to allow him to play and advance in the game of chess.

Luisa Corpuz bagged the first prize in the Women's Category. Nisheel Vignesh Chandra of Sangam Sadhu Kuppaswamy Memorial College won the Secondary category while Ricardo Luis Corpuz IV of Gurukul Primary School won the Primary Category.

The University will be hosting all national, and even international tournaments in future as requested by the Fiji Chess Federation. The possibility of having an inter-tertiary competition will also be explored if other major Universities take a similar initiative.



From left: Tanvi Prasad and Navisheel Prasad during the last round of the P. Meghji-Courts Rapid Chess Championship.

Small Business Idea Competition



The University of Fiji Team and Participants

The University of Fiji's School of Business and Economics (SoBE) took the initiative to instigate young people to present their small business ideas through a Small Business Idea Competition.

The Small Business Idea Competition was organised to enhance the School's community engagement pursuant to the Strategic Plan 2022-2026 goals. In total the School received 66 online applications, out of which 20 were shortlisted. Both high school students and adults took part in the competition. An online orientation programme was delivered to the short-listed candidates by SoBE staff who also convened an online business plan

development training for 4 weeks. Training was provided in the areas of business and business name registration, finance and financial controls, marketing and promotional strategies, operations, inventory control and supply chain management, human resource, organization structure and contracts of employment, deciding on choosing an appropriate location, packaging, labeling and branding, storage, transportation and distribution, conducting SWOT analysis, and future investment plans.

At the end of the training the candidates were asked to develop their own Business Plans for their small business idea which had to be submitted within 1 week. These were then screened by the judges and award committee members.

The judges of the awards competition were Mr Tarlochan Singh from Sun Insurance, Mr Lawrence Kumar from Promax

Consulting, The University of Fiji's Dean SoBE, Professor Ranasinghe Amaradasa, and HOD Management, Dr Navneel Prasad. The University of Fiji's Vice Chancellor Professor Shaista Shameem said that this was an excellent initiative which facilitated the goals of the University's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 not only by meeting community and social responsibility requirements but also its holistic learning and teaching strategy of the Drua Voyage and Gurukul.

Mr Tarlochan Singh encouraged the awardees to continue working on their small business idea because all successful businesses started small.

"If you have a small business idea, don't shy away, give it thought, do a bit of training, do a bit of talking with your colleagues, talk to your friends, or share with your parents, and flourish your idea," he said.



Ms Saakshi Ashlyne Goundar with her mother and brother.



From Left: Ms Shreya Shivashna Kumar, Mr Tarlochan Singh, and Mr Lawrence Kumar.

Mr Lawrence Kumar congratulated the winners and encouraged the participants to keep finding ways to improve their ideas as no business was perfect.

He said that he was amazed with the creativity amongst the participants, for example, one proposed to set up a Maths Coaching Service, another proposed to establish a virtual art gallery.

There were three winners each in the Adult Category and the Secondary School Category. The first prize winner in the Adult Category was Ms Saakshi Ashlyne Goundar from Lautoka and first prize winner in the Secondary School Category was Ms Shreya Shivashna Kumar, a student from Swami Vivekananda College in Nadi.

The awards will be an annual event for SoBE.

Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) Reaccredited by Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand



From left: Mr Mohammed Riaz Azam, Mr Aman Lal, Mr Shivneil Kumar Raj, Ms Zahra Khan, Head of Accounting and Finance Department, Ms Sandhiya Roy, and Dean, School of Business and Economics, Professor Ranasinghe Amaradasa.

The University of Fiji's Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) programme holds triple accreditation after receiving reaccreditation by the Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (Chartered Accountants ANZ).

The Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) programme has also been accredited by The Fiji Institute of Accountants (FIA) and CPA Australia.

Ms Sandhiya Roy, Head of the Accounting and Finance Department said that the programme was unique and prestigious because the same programme at the other two universities in Fiji was only FIA and CPA Australia accredited.

CA ANZ has over 120,000 members in Australia, New Zealand, and around the world. Following a thorough review process, the Department of Accounting and Finance received a confirmation letter on June 6, 2022. This programme's initial accreditation was obtained in 2018.

Ms Roy stated that this was a remarkable achievement for the University, indicating that the programmes were aligned with Australian and New Zealand standards, as well as the international accounting profession requirements.

"This reaccreditation has enhanced the credibility of this programme. The reaccreditation signposts that the Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) programme offered at The University of Fiji is updated to meet the contemporary demands of the accounting profession," she said.

The fundamental knowledge areas of this programme are financial accounting and reporting, auditing and assurance, taxation, business law, finance and financial management, management accounting, business acumen, information and communications technology, and quantitative methods. The programme also aims to develop the professional skills such as interpersonal and communication skills, ethical principles, professional values and integrity, and critical thinking skills.

Ms Roy stated that internationally recognized qualifications gave graduates the confidence to stand out in the workplace amongst other graduates.

"The programme is aligned with the new accreditation guidelines which means our graduates are adequately equipped with the capabilities they need in the future and in this dynamic business environment. With this, graduates are now presented with a broadened opportunity to explore job opportunities in the global market and also work towards becoming a Chartered Accountant through their professional experience, and get an internationally recognised designation," she concluded.

Staff and Student Orientation Festival



Students at the Staff and Student Orientation Festival.

The University of Fiji celebrated the first day of a week-long staff and student Orientation Festival on August 8, 2022.

In welcoming staff to Semester 2 and students back to campus after nearly two years of online learning and teaching, the Vice Chancellor Professor Shaista Shameem said that the University was implementing a new style of learning and teaching called the Hyflex Mode which was available via the TopHat Platform. The TopHat Platform had been used by staff and students during lockdown with effective results. The Hyflex Mode allows students to attend lectures either in person or virtually simultaneously.

Professor Shameem said the flexible learning platform available at the University allowed everyone to learn at the same time- whether in person or on-line. This made it easier for everyone to attend all their lectures and not miss out due to work commitments or lack of mobility.

During her welcome address Professor Shameem also outlined the University of Fiji's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 which emphasizes the University's move to a holistic education with both hard qualifications and human values taught together. She explained the eight themes of the Strategic Plan as being Learning and Teaching; Student Support Services and Student Affairs; Research; Community Engagement, Environmental and Social Responsibilities; Infrastructure and Systems; Governance and Financial Stability; Risk Management; and Accountability Framework. Professor Shameem stated that the University was no longer focused on resilience but was instead moving into a period of renaissance. As such the University was being oxygenated and rejuvenated. Professor Shameem stated that the University was embarked on the Drua Voyage powered by Gurukul- seen as a journey into holistic education. The Gurukul ancient teaching and learning approach emphasized the full development of students.

The Vice Chancellor stated that as part of the University's social responsibility to Planet Earth, the University was greening its campuses through its Gaia Landscape Programme, and advocating for zero waste, with the University promoting reusing and recycling as well as alternative sources of fuel. Professor Shameem also said that due to limited employment in many areas in Fiji the University was preparing its students for the international job market and providing them with support to find jobs wherever they could.

Ms Maca Ratabua, Acting President of the UniFiji Student Association (UFSA), also welcomed the students, informing them of UFSA's Constitution and encouraging them to join the University's clubs and societies.

The University has established a number of clubs and societies for both staff and students to join, such as the Chess Club, the Thespian Society, Film Society, Sports Club, Mooting Club, Debating Club, Toastmasters, Rucksack Club, Literary Society, Quiz Team, Gaia Garden Club, Age of Aquarius Band, University Choir, SPASE, Art and Craft Club and many others.



Professor Shaista Shameem

The University of Fiji Launches the Drua Voyage



The Vice Chancellor, Professor Shaista Shameem, Pro Chancellor, Ambassador Kamlesh Arya, Chief Guest, Ratu Iliesa Cebaivalu, the Taukei Sawaieke, Ms Andrea Siodmok and other guests at the Drua Voyage Project launch.

The University of Fiji marked 18 October 2022 as an important date on its calendar as it launched the "Drua Voyage: Climate Change Resilience and Renaissance Project" at its Saweni Campus. The official launch included a traditional ceremony at the Saweni Campus after which the Drua was taken to Vuda Marina and launched into the water to symbolize the beginning of the Drua Voyage.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Guest, Ratu Iliesa Cebaivalu, the Taukei Sawaieke, said that the Drua Voyage Project was a journey in holistic education. The spirituality and protocols regarding crafting a Drua was holistic to the indigenous people and ensured social and social cohesion, and it culminated in the protection and continued sustainability of the Vanua – the land, rivers, trees, crops, weather.

"The Drua was more than just an object. It was a nexus where the people, the tangible and the intangible synergized and sustained holistic growth and development. And therein is the crux of the Drua Voyage Project. The University of Fiji stands on the edge of reclaiming and reconnecting how holistic sustainability was safeguarded for the betterment of all," he said.

He said that the Drua Voyage Project was the bastion from which true holistic education ground in ancient values of the Vanua and value added with the Gurukul philosophy would chart the way forward for the future.

He also said that more needed to be done to combat climate change but the solutions were already embedded in the language, values, kinship and traditions of the Vanua.

"The trick is knowing how to tap into this ancient ideology and contextualize it to suit today's situation. In doing so, the University of Fiji will not only be educating for mere qualification, through the Drua Voyage Project it will re-equip and re-empower its students and tomorrow's leaders to be lifelong custodians of the people and the environment via its heightened ways of learning, unlearning, and re-learning," he said.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Shaista Shameem said the Drua Voyage Project research methodology is informed by three fundamental philosophies: "The first is the Gurukul holistic educational philosophy of the founders of the University, the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha, where education is not linear but interactive; the second is the notion of a 'journey' represented by the Drua itself as epitomizing a long and challenging voyage towards a goal, in our case the goal of a holistic higher education; and the third is represented by the work of the Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, commonly known as the RSA in short, which sent its representative Ms Andrea Siodmok from London for our event," she said.

She further said that given recent past of Covid 19 crisis as well as the economic problems created by the war in Ukraine and, the ongoing impact of climate change, they are very aware that Universities have a duty to contribute to social change for the public good.

“That means not just thinking about sustaining all life on our planet but also ensuring we leave a good legacy for the generations to come. We need to make certain that we will be seen as good ancestors by the future generations. Thus, our Drua Voyage Project will fulfil a number of commitments of the University of Fiji towards our Strategic Plan, including our mission statement to be 'the critic and conscience of society', to protect our environment for the future. That means not only to build resilience but also to embark on a renaissance which will allow us to use all our innovative skills and knowledge to dream of a better future for us all,” she said.

Dr Andrea Siodmok, Fellow and Chief Impact Officer of the Royal Society of Arts, spoke about the inception and contributions of the Royal Society of Arts.



She said that three things were critical to achieve a thriving future and they were knowledge, action and agency.

“They say 'knowledge is what is left when you have forgotten what you learned'. Think about that, knowledge is what is left when you have *forgotten what you learned*. Years from today, what knowledge will stay with you from today? I know I have gained so much from hearing our honoured guests speak at the book launch yesterday and those speaking today. This is an exciting moment -- a moment that is full of potential,” she said.

She said that Participative Action Research showed the importance of doing not just thinking.

“Research informed by practice and practice informed by research. Through action we have potential to build wisdom, the highest form of knowledge. It is in wisdom that we see patterns more clearly, that we see potential consequences, that enables us to predict. They say people are not risk averse; they are surprise averse,” she said.

She also said that all change, however large, started small, starts with individuals, started with people.

“I cannot think of a more fitting beginning for a journey than the revival of the Drua and the course it will steer. The knowledge it will bring, the action it will catalyse and the agency it will foster. We are going to uncharted places, but we have the constellation of the night skies to guide us. We have what we need to begin,” she said. Ratu Iliesa Cebaivalu and Ms Andrea Siodmok boarded the Drua and sailed around the Vuda Marina area. This officially marked the launch of the Drua Voyage journey.

The Drua will set sail early next year with selected staff and students to areas near the University's Saweni Campus.

The video link to the Drua Voyage Launch montage is :

<http://www.unifiji.ac.fj/druamontage>



Multi-cultural Celebrations

The University of Fiji decided to hold a joint celebration on Friday 21st October for all important and special days in October and November to illustrate the diversity of the University Community in all its splendour.

Organized by a combined staff and student committee representing all the special days in October, the celebrations involved students and staff at both Saweni and Samabula Campuses of the University. The special days celebrated were Fiji Day, Diwali, Prophet Mohammed's birthday, Teachers Day, Pinktober and, looking ahead, Movember.

The day's events included multi-cultural performances, speeches, prayers and friendly competitions for best-dressed persons and best-decorated office for Diwali. The University Community was entertained throughout the celebrations by its recently-formed Age of Aquarius Band which was named to signify the dawning of the Age of Aquarius which is the international age for freedoms, equal representation, artistic expression and peace.

The University of Fiji's Vice Chancellor, Professor Shaista Shameem, congratulated the Organizing Committee for its innovative thinking and said that the multi-cultural event marking all special days in October and November 2022 was a unique way to show that the University was celebrating its renaissance after the long period of Covid-19 restrictions.

"At a time when conflict, stigma, discrimination, pandemics, as well as unhealthy and uncouth personal opinions about others expressed publicly by people who should know better, are all rife, not only internationally but in the Pacific and Fiji too, the University's multi-cultural celebrations represented a blueprint for action for the public good. It was an example to others that harmony and unity are much more sustainable for our people and our place, and also for the entire planet", Professor Shameem said.

She said that the staff and students of the University had a duty to ensure that they caused no harm to people and the environment by hard words or dishonourable actions. The multi-cultural celebrations were an excellent way for the University to exhibit the principle of goodwill with, and for, all the communities in Fiji. If only influencers, persons in authority and power, and those with an economic stake in Fiji, could follow the example of the University of Fiji, everyone would benefit, she said.

Professor Shameem said Diwali especially signified happiness and love. Celebrating Diwali and the other festivals and important dates in October and November provided a signal to the University to ensure it acted for the common good in all that it did. That is the undertaking given in the University's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 as encompassing its resilience as well as its renaissance, Professor Shameem said.



The Vice Chancellor, Professor Shaista Shameem, UFSA President, Ms Maca Ratabua (left of the Vice Chancellor), Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences staff and students with the winning Thaali won by Office of the Vice Chancellor at the Multicultural celebration.

Clean Energy Status and Prospects in Fiji and the Oceania Region Webinar

Dr. Ramendra Prasad of the Science Department delivered a keynote address on the "Clean Energy Status and Prospects in Fiji and the Oceania Region" webinar on May 25, 2022, with participants from North America, South America, Europe, Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and North Africa.

The Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) is a high-level global forum for promoting clean energy policies and programmes, sharing lessons learned and best practices, and encouraging the transition to a global clean energy economy. Initiatives are based on common interests shared by participating governments and other stakeholders.

Adopted at the seventh Clean Energy Ministerial in 2016, the Framework for the Clean Energy Ministerial defines the CEM governance structure and outlines the mission statement, objectives, membership, and guiding principles.

On May 2018, the 9th Clean Energy Ministerial meeting in Copenhagen/Malmö established the Regional and Global Energy Interconnection (RGEI) Initiative.

The goals of RGEI are to discuss a conducive policy and regulatory framework for regional and global power system integration, to build consensus on facilitating energy transition through increased renewable energy consumption and enhanced grid interconnection, and to encourage CEM member countries to participate in the RGEI process and seize collaborative opportunities. China, Chile, Finland, Korea, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates are all members of the RGEI Initiative.

The operating agent is the Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization (GEIDCO).

Back to Ba Carnival

The University of Fiji was part of the Back to Ba Carnival for a week by promoting its programmes and activities from a well-decorated tent. The Vice Chancellor was invited to be the Chief Guest at the Bollywood Cultural event on Thursday, August 18th, 2022.

Speaking at the event, she said, as part of a renaissance strategy, after two years of concentrating on resilience to cope with Covid-19 harsh realities, the people of Fiji needed to get back to singing, dancing and celebrating their culture again at festivals such as the Back to Ba Carnival being held this week in Ba town.

Congratulating the Chairperson and Committee members for having the courage to host the festival despite all obstacles, Professor Shameem said Bollywood Night represented the significance and robustness of cultural integrity and renaissance within a national context that was equally important and special. While Bollywood was merely one form of expression of art, music and dance of an entire vast continent from which the people of Indian origin in Fiji had come, it was a manifestation of cultural expression that was international and not just local.

Professor Shameem said that cultural identity and national identity were not mutually exclusive. A nation state showed its maturity if the leaders knew how to foster cultural integrity of its people within national identity without cancelling out one or the other, Professor Shameem said. Such wisdom to balance both cultural self-worth and national pride was not automatically acquired but needed deep understanding of the societies in Fiji, their history, the people's dreams and aspirations and their pride in their roots and artistic expression.

Cultural, linguistic and artistic identity was the glue that held a community together in its social environment, and represented a psychological desire as a human condition, she said.

Professor Shameem said those who tried to subsume cultural identity totally into a much broader spectrum, for example the nation state or a geographic region, had failed. Authorities had often condemned and even punished groups, particularly cultural, religious or ethnic groups, for not assimilating enough in national identity instead of maintaining their cultural or linguistic and social integrity and practices.

But maintaining cultural identity and practices and linguistic solidarity gives people a feeling of self-worth and psychological strength and is not easily demolished, even by brainwashing or propaganda, as history had shown, she said.

Bollywood, as much as any other type of cultural expression, was not the whole identity represented by India. India, as a vast continent, was much more than Bollywood, being such a diverse country from top to bottom. The wonderful mix in Fiji of people of Indian origin shows just how diverse Indian culture is.



Professor Shaista Shameem with staff and stakeholders of the University at the Back to Ba Carnival.

Nevertheless, while Bollywood was not India in totality, it represented the most international of the artistic expressions of Indian culture that the whole world knew about and enjoyed. Bollywood's far reach as a form of media entertainment made those in Fiji familiar with that artistic expression proud of their rich and diverse cultural heritage in an otherwise national context in which they were also spiritedly located through birth, history and firm commitment, she said.

Fijian renaissance after the harsh reality of Covid-19 required a fine balance between national pride on the one hand and loyalty to our respective rich cultural identities on the other.

Commitment to cultural and linguistic distinctiveness and pride in one's social origins should be seen as the strength of the Fijian national identity and celebrated as often and robustly as possible. Professor Shameem said that adopting a balance between cultural integrity and national identity would guarantee Fiji's transformation from mere resilience to celebratory renaissance.

Provide SDG Audits of Industry says Professor Shaista Shameem.



Vice Chancellor Professor Shaista Shameem with staff and students who were part of the University's delegation at FHEC's Inaugural Higher Education Forum.

"Industries that wish to employ graduates from the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) in Fiji should be asked to provide the Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC) with an audit report of their compliance with the Sustainable Developments Goals (SDGs) before they can be considered to be suitable for employment of graduates.

This was stated by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Fiji, Professor Shaista Shameem in her presentation at the 'Transformation of Higher Education' 3-day Forum hosted by the FHEC in Nadi. Professor Shameem said that in January this year FHEC had requested all higher education institutions to implement the SDGs. The University of Fiji had put in place its Strategic Plan 2022-2026 to facilitate the request. However, while industry was an important partner with HEIs for providing employment opportunities, the main industries in Fiji needed to provide real evidence that they themselves were complying with SDGs, she told the Forum.

Professor Shameem said the main industries in Fiji were tourism, sugar (and agriculture more broadly), manufacturing, mining, fisheries and forestry. The University of Fiji requested FHEC to undertake an SDG audit of all these industries to allow HEIs to implement the SDGs properly. The United Nations SDGs are intended to be reached by 2030 which is just 8 years away, said Professor Shameem. It was imperative for the FHEC to provide HEIs with the audit report so that universities and others could advise their students accordingly. Industries that complied with the SDGs or had a plan for compliance with benchmarks would be promoted for employment by the University.

Similarly, said Professor Shameem, the University was considering the SDG rating of professional organisations such as law, finance and accounting firms. Recent studies had shown that many private sector professional firms advised on investment in tax havens, removing important tax revenue from public spending on health, education, social welfare, and infrastructure development including for roads and easier access to public facilities.

SDG compliance reports on such firms were also required for the University of Fiji to fulfil FHEC's request for SDG implementation, she said.

Professor Shameem said that statutory institutions such as FHEC and the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (TSLs) could not require HEIs on the one hand to have their programmes supported by industry and on the other hand not provide evidence of the industries which were SDG compliant. However, once the SDG compliance audit was done, the HEIs would be pleased to form linkages and partnerships with the SDG compliant firms. Professor Shameem also said that an important source of revenue for Fiji was remittances. This required development of human capital with emphasis on a knowledge-based labour force which would be transferrable overseas. The University of Fiji was focused on such development of human capital for the global labour market since remittances formed a significant portion of Fiji's revenue.

Celebrating International Day of Rural Women.

The University of Fiji Vice Chancellor, Professor Shaista Shameem, speaking as Chief Guest at the International Day of Rural Women hosted by the Lautoka Market Vendors Association and supported by UN Women on Friday 28th October at the Sugar City Mall in Lautoka, told the gathering that a completely new world order was needed to provide support and comfort to women market vendors who sacrificed so much in order to enable people in office jobs to put food on the table for their own families daily.

Professor Shameem said the town and

city councils should take a good hard look at whether the amenities and facilities provided to market vendors were adequate in sanitation, clean water supply, a place where they could make their own tea, and well-being while they spent long hours in the market supplying fresh vegetables and produce to the public.

She urged the Market Vendors Association to call for their proper representation in provincial, town and city councils to make their voices heard by those in authority and power so that their conditions of life and work could improve.

Professor Shameem said women market vendors for several years had seen themselves as 'critical agents of change in the fight against rural poverty, hunger and malnutrition', but no one else seemed to give them the support they needed because ad hoc policies which affected their representation in civic life were implemented without sufficient and meaningful consultation. She urged the Lautoka Women Vendors Association to lead the way in calling for their proper representation in town and city councils so that their work lives could improve as they took responsibility for feeding families in Fiji with cost-effective and nutritious produce daily, sacrificing their own needs along the way.

Professor Shameem said that a new movement was being launched, called the Design for Life which looked at rebalancing the world, ensuring resilience in all aspects of life, and actively planning regeneration and renaissance for the future. The movement had people, places and planet as its core values. This was the movement that the University of Fiji was fostering among civil society groups. She said that in the Design for Life effort, everyone should seriously ask town planners whether they were designing towns and cities for the public good, or only for the betterment of some people at the expense of others. This included road planning, parks, public buildings construction and pedestrian access. The concept of the civic market needed to be carefully considered in this perspective to ensure that every user had the same rights as others to public spaces and amenities.

Professor Shameem also noted the points made earlier this year at a Labasa Women Vendors workshop where the women vendors and participants said they needed (i) price control for vegetables from the suppliers; (ii) better roads and infrastructure so that access to the markets for their own produce was made easier; (iii) consultation before laws were passed that affected their work as market vendors, especially laws about adequate provincial, town and city council representation; (iv) access to proper and comprehensive information from the authorities; (v) ramps in markets and other public places for people with disabilities and older women; and (vi) a voice at all levels of civic life. Professor Shameem said she would add animal welfare in towns and cities to the list.

On representation, Professor Shameem said that, in the past, town and city councils were elected and so women market vendors could go to their representatives who were voted in on all the councils and express their voices to seek help. But now this avenue of easy access to the councils was not possible for them as no one had the time and easy access to the bureaucrats running civic life. The current model was alienating for the ordinary people who could not wait in line for long hours to be heard on their issues. She called on all town and city councils to ensure that women market vendors had all the amenities they required at their places of work so that they could feed the rest of the population with comfort. And she called on women market vendors to express their voices so that they could be heard by their town and city councils.

Professor Shameem said she herself often stopped at a vegetable stall on the way home after a busy day in the office, sometimes very late in the evening, and without the market vendors near her place of work she would not be able to feed her family with fresh vegetables and produce. She said she was indebted to the market vendors as they allowed her to fulfil her duties to her own family.

She called to the public to speak up on the women vendors' behalf also as it was unfair to expect them to go at it alone.



Professor Shaista Shameem with the women vendors at the Lautoka Market.

Sugar is still the backbone of the economy says Professor Shameem

The University of Fiji Vice Chancellor Professor Shaista Shameem said that those who dismissed sugar as a 'has been' product of a bygone era should take another look at its proven resilience in the face of pandemics and other similar disasters facing Fiji and the world.

Professor Shameem said the University agreed with Fiji's Honourable Prime Minister who said at the International Sugar Organisation (ISO) Conference held in August in Lautoka that collective strategies were needed to solve the pressing challenges the industry faces.



Professor Shaista Shameem with the Prime Minister, Honourable Voreqe Bainimarama and other participants at the International Sugar Organization Workshop Fiji 2022.

Picture Credit: Sugar Research Institute of Fiji Facebook Page

She said that despite the challenges faced by the industry, the experience of the University during the height of the pandemic showed that people who lost their jobs in tourism were able to pick up work on sugar cane farms and were thus able to look after their families.

"Tourism collapsed in just a few short weeks but the tenacity of the sugar industry allowed the parents of many of our students to earn enough so that their children could continue their education", she said. Tourism failed the resilience test during the pandemic but sugar, though shaken, remained as steady as ever, thus reminding everyone that the reported demise of sugar as Fiji's economic backbone had been exaggerated, Professor Shameem said.

It is still the backbone as it achieves steady earnings for the nation and somehow is able to overcome the challenges posed by climate, pandemics, wars and political upheavals, she said.

However, at the same time, the ISO conference revealed that the sugar industry was challenged not only by global issues and natural disasters beyond our control but also by what appeared to be sheer neglect and an abysmal dereliction of duty towards the industry, she said.

Scientists presenting the results of their research at the conference showed that everything in the sugar enterprise had been ignored – from caring for the soil and farmland, to modernizing transport and transport networks, maintaining the sugar mills, finding new and better markets after the preferential arrangement in the international market for sugar had ended more than 20 years ago, exploring innovations such as ethanol production that would reduce our carbon footprint, and by sheer wastage. There were plenty of excuses at the conference for why the sugar industry had not been performing up to standard, she said.

Professor Shameem said that as an educator whose role was to find decent employment opportunities for the University of Fiji graduates in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) respecting industries she was shocked at how irresponsible the attitude of the main stakeholders had been towards the sugar industry.

She said sugar had been the oldest and most reliable contributor to the national revenue for more than a century but there had been lack of will to somehow look after it in the way it should have been.

She said all stakeholders at the conference from the industry to the authorities were pointing fingers at everyone else and to nature's forces rather than taking a good, hard look at how they themselves had not stepped up to help the industry develop the nation's wealth better than any other industry to date.

The solutions offered at the ISO conference were not imaginative. Everyone seemed to vaguely fall back on the so-called need for research when best practices were already available in other countries such as Brazil, India and Guatemala, Professor Shameem said. Just doing research seems to be an easy way out as it puts off decisive action for another day she said.

While other small producers of sugar had found innovative ways to use the sugar product to improve foreign earnings, and diversify their markets, the local industry stakeholders were seemingly oblivious to the possibilities, as the conference revealed. Professor Shameem said that since sugar had already proven its resilience during the pandemic and other crises in Fiji, it should continue to be recognized as the backbone of the economy.

Those involved in the industry should move as quickly as possible towards sugar's renaissance as a sustainable and more environmentally friendly enterprise which would then be able to attract graduates from the University of Fiji.

“Ready to Run” Campaign Training for Women Election Candidates

Building Public Confidence in Elections in Fiji Through Civil Society Action

Dialogue Fiji



Professor Shaista Shameem

Increasing the number of women in parliament is only a small part of ensuring gender balance in political life. It is even more necessary to ensure that all of society is restructured to facilitate a feminized worldview to improve the lives of everyone in Fiji since the masculinized bias in politics, the economy and social policy has been disastrous for all but a small group. This was said by the Vice Chancellor of The University of Fiji, Professor Shaista Shameem as the keynote speaker at the Dialogue Fiji Training for Women Election Candidates at the Holiday Inn on Tuesday July 26th.

Professor Shameem said that having more women in parliament would not solve the problems faced by Fijian society in the economy, education and infrastructure, for example roads and utilities. It would also not solve the problem of inequitable access to goods and services in society and of having insufficient national reserves to offset crises such as Covid-19 and Climate Change. As had been shown in many other countries increasing the number of women in parliament and public service did not create an improvement if the political and economic system remained exactly the same as before, she said.

What was needed was a radical change in the worldview of both men and women in all these areas of civic life. Taking the example of the economy, Professor Shameem said the economic system currently being propped up was riddled with holes like Swiss cheese and most people fell into the holes through no fault of their own. She said, similarly, the education system ignored young people's aspirations by forcing them to qualify for jobs in unsustainable industries which could not withstand the shocks of a crisis. Turning to utilities, Professor Shameem said consumers were complaining daily about the constant interruptions in the supply of electricity, water and communications. She also said that plans for climate change mitigation were hardly ever passed on to industries and nations that caused global warming due to less than robust national avenues for climate justice. Instead the private sector was seen by policy makers as the answer to all our shortcomings but, in reality, the private sector had caused many of the problems faced by the world in the first place. It would be a fallacy to state that favouring the private sector would automatically result in benefits for all.

Professor Shameem said the solution to the crises in the economy, education, politics and social life was to be found in feminizing the concept of development and progress. The value of having more women in parliament was that they could help to eliminate the male bias in economic, political and educational policy in Fiji. At the same time, women candidates needed to be more knowledgeable and assertive about the ways in which the economy, politics and social policy could be organised differently. Professor Shameem outlined a three-fold advisory plan for the women participants at the training workshop to take Fiji out of the doldrums. She said that, firstly, since women's meaningful participation was lacking at the political table what was immediately needed was de-masculinization of leadership in politics since everyone had witnessed only a one-sided view of our political economy. Secondly, she said, counting women's work in the home in housework, childcare, subsistence work and elder care was to be assessed as productive work and calculated as part of the Gross Domestic Product (GDPs). Thirdly, women's place in ideology and propaganda regarding their worth in society had to be seriously reviewed as women's lack of worth was the reason for such high incidences of violence against women, Professor Shameem said. However, having more women in parliament did not mean that there would be a de-masculinization of politics, the economy and social policy, she said. The masculine view of the world did not include only men because it could be adopted by women also. We therefore have to accept that a feminized worldview can also be adopted by men, Professor Shameem said.

Men and women both had a duty to ensure diversity in perspective as the one-sided view had made our society dysfunctional. Moreover, everyone needed to transform politics into a more ethical practice and become aware of the requirements of trust. Without earning trust no one could be successful with the voting public and once trust was gone, it was gone forever, she said.

Continued on Page 18

Professor Shameem said the participants at the training session needed to publicly ask a series of hard-hitting questions within their political parties if they wished to be considered seriously by voters. These questions were: how do we undo negative structures that harm people and the environment; how do we divert public finances to facilitate cooperation and not competition; how do we fund public spending for education, health and social welfare with a better funding formula than is currently being used; how do we, as a low income country, fund Sustainable Development Goals delivery; how do we deal with global tax evasion by multi-national companies which was calculated by the IMF in 2018 as being \$US650 billion annually; how can Fiji keep inflation in check and ensure economic stability; how do we understand what money is and how it can create social and public value as a tool for goods and services; how do we guarantee a universal basic income for everyone so that no one lives in poverty; who controls money supply and the monetary system and is this control sufficiently democratic; how can we move away from a financial system that extracts wealth from local communities and, instead, builds community wealth; and how can we grow our eco-credit portfolio and establish energy efficient schemes faster?

The new feminized perspective is represented in these questions that women election candidates should ask all their political parties which are very male dominated in number and attitude in Fiji. The feminized perspective moves us away from extractive wealth individualization of the profit motive and a divisive and binary (male versus female) worldview to one that is consultative, built on cooperation and trust, less costly to implement and more sustainable in the long run.

Adopting a feminized perspective of the economy, politics and social policy is probably the only solution to our myriad problems, Professor Shameem said.

Sasarava Households Receive Proper Water Supply



Dr Samuela Korovo with Mr Jemesa Delana at the occasion

On October 3, 2022, the Sasarava community in Ba received proper water supply after years of relying on underground water. Three generations in this community had not had proper water supply, and as such receiving steady water supply for the first time was a joyous occasion. The final year Medical students at The University of Fiji's Saweni Campus initiated this project for the Sasarava community as a mandatory activity and assessment to promote a healthy community. The project benefits 5 households, totaling approximately 30 community members. Mr Jemesa Delana, Western Divisional Manager for the Ministry of Youth and Sports, thanked The University of Fiji and its Medical students for the timely development of members of the Sasarava community. Mr. Delana expressed the government's gratitude to the relevant stakeholders involved, as well as the community, for their assistance, cooperation, and commitment to ensuring the success of this project.

Dr Samuela Korovou, Acting Dean of The University of Fiji's Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UPSM&HS), stated that the UPSM&HS was a small entity but had worked with the community to become better health providers as well as providers of other services for Fiji and the Pacific through community development. "We are happy to initiate this project in developing communities where people are nurtured in mind but also age, and age with dignity," added Dr Korovou. Members of the Sasarava community also expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Ministry of Youth and Sports for providing water filters, to the relevant stakeholders for their assistance, and especially to The University of Fiji for the project's successful completion.

यूनिवर्सिटी हिन्दी विभाग द्वारा आयोजित हिन्दी कार्यशाला एवं हिन्दी दिवस रिपोर्ट

भाषा है तो हम हैं, हम हैं तो हमारी संस्कृति और सभ्यता सुरक्षित है, अतः हमारा अस्तित्व है हमारी हिन्दी भाषा। यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ फीजी, सवेनी कैंपस पर आयोजित सभी साझेदारों की संयुक्त सभा में एकमत से संकल्प लिया गया था कि 'हिन्दी पढ़ेंगे और पढ़ाएँगे, मेरी शान मेरी हिन्दी महान' इसी के तहत लॉकडाउन समाप्त होने पर हिन्दी कार्यशालाओं का श्रीगणेश जुलाई 2022 से केन्द्रीय विभाग में किया गया।

यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ फीजी, हिन्दी विभाग द्वारा हिन्दी शिक्षक संघ फीजी और शिक्षा मन्त्रालय करिकुलम विभाग के साथ मिलकर हिन्दी कार्यशाला का आयोजन 16 जुलाई को सामाबूला कैम्पस के आलीशान हॉल में किया गया। दूसरी कार्यशाला अतिशीघ्र पश्चिमी इलाके के सभी अध्यापकों के लिए आयोजित करने की तैयारी की जा रही है। इन कार्यशालाओं का मुख्य उद्देश्य है हिन्दी शिक्षकों की कठिनाइयों का अवलोकन करना और गुणवत्तापूर्ण ढंग से पाठ प्रस्तुत करने पर बल देना। हिन्दी भाषा और संस्कृति के महत्व एवं शिक्षण पर प्रकाश डालना। विभिन्न विषयों जैसे-हिन्दी शिक्षण विधियाँ, व्याकरण एवं भाषा विज्ञान और शुद्ध लेखन कला आदि पर प्रकाश डालते हुए यह कार्यशाला तीन सत्र में विभाजित की गई थी।

केन्द्रीय विभाग के समस्त स्कूलों से एक प्रतिभागी को आमन्त्रित किया गया था। इसमें भाग लेने वाले 45 प्रतिभागी थे। इस प्रकार की कार्यशाला का आयोजन शिक्षकों के लिए अति लाभप्रद रहा क्योंकि वे विचार-विमर्श के दौरान शिक्षण सम्बन्धी अपनी विभिन्न प्रकार की शंकाओं का समाधान प्राप्त करने में सफल हो सके। इस कार्यशाला को सफल बनाने के लिए सभी प्रकार का सहयोग देने वाले सहयोगियों को और खासकर निम्न दानदाताओं को विशेष धन्यवाद देती हूँ।

सुबह की चाय का अपनी तरफ से प्रबन्ध करने के लिए श्रीमती श्यामलाजी और श्रीमती रोहिणीजी को हार्दिक एवं विशेष धन्यवाद। दोपहर के भोजन के लिए \$100.00 डॉ. रविनीत सामी डिरेक्टर फाइनेंस और \$200.00 मनीषा रामरक्खा, हिन्दी विभाग, यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ फीजी की ओर से प्राप्त हुआ। रविनीत जी, आपके अमूल्य योगदान के लिए, आयोजकों और अध्यापकों की ओर से विशेष एवं हार्दिक धन्यवाद देती हूँ।

भाषा और संस्कृति को बढ़ावा देने में निरन्तर सुझाव और समर्थन देने के लिए विश्वविद्यालय की कुलपति प्रो. शाइस्ता समीमजी को विशेष धन्यवाद और आभार व्यक्त करती हूँ। विश्वविद्यालय फीजी में हिन्दी भाषा और संस्कृति को बढ़ावा देने के लिए डबल मेज़र डिग्री (हिन्दी, अंग्रेज़ी), पोस्टग्रेड डिप्लोमा हिन्दी, मास्टर ऑफ आर्ट्स हिन्दी पढ़ाई की सम्पूर्ण सुविधाएं प्राप्त हैं। हिन्दी अध्यापकों को अपनी योग्यता बढ़ाने का पूरा अवसर दिया जा रहा है। हिन्दी के भविष्य को उज्ज्वल बनाने के लिए हिन्दी पढ़िए और पढ़ाइए।

इस वर्ष हिन्दी दिवस 15 सितम्बर को सवेनी कैंपस पर मनाया गया। यूनिवर्सिटी के सभी बच्चों के लिए कविता और भाषण प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया गया। विजेताओं को नगद धन और प्रमाण-पत्र दिए गए। यूनिवर्सिटी स्टाफ, विद्यार्थियों द्वारा संगीत, नृत्य, भाषण आदि में भाग लिया गया। मुख्य मेहमान प्रो चान्सलर एम्बेसडर पं. कमलेश आर्य ने हिन्दी बोलने और उसके अधिकधिक प्रयोग पर बल दिया। इस कार्यक्रम को सफल बनाने के लिए 'विश्व हिन्दी सचिवालय, मॉरीशस' द्वारा दी गई धनराशि \$1381.40 से जो सहयोग मिला वह अति सराहनीय है। पुरस्कार एवं मिठाई वितरण के साथ हिन्दी दिवस सफलता पूर्वक सम्पन्न हो सका। इस अनुदान के लिए महासचिव और सचिवालय के सभी सदस्यों को हार्दिक धन्यवाद। साथ ही हिन्दी दिवस को सफल बनाने के लिए सभी सहयोगियों को, एल.एल.सी डिपार्टमेंट को हार्दिक धन्यवाद।

परम सौभाग्य की बात है कि बारहवाँ विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन फरवरी 2023, में फीजी में आयोजित होने जा रहा है। यूनिवर्सिटी फीजी सम्पूर्ण सहयोग के साथ इसमें भाग लेने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। इस हिन्दी समारोह की तारीख 15, 16 और 17 फरवरी निश्चित की जा चुकी है। यह आयोजन दैनराउ, नादी में होना निश्चित हुआ है।

SA TAVOCA NA YUNIVESITI NI VITI NA SOKO NI DRUA

E makataka na Yunivesiti ni Viti na tikinisiga na 18 ni Okotova me dua na tikinisiga bibi ena nona ivolanivula ka ni tavoca kina e Saweni na porojeki na, "Soko ni Drua: Na vakalesui tale vakatotolo ni bula kei na veivakabbulabulataki levu ena vakacaca ni draki veisau. E oka ena soqo bibi qo e dua na ivalavala vakavanua ni kena cerevi na soko ni porojeki ni Drua ni bera ni vakavodoki yani ki na Vuda Marina me laki tavoci I wai me vakatakilakilataka na itekitekivu ni sokowasataki na Drua ki na baravi ni Muaira kei Viti.

A vosa na Vulagi Dokai, na iTaukei Sawaieke o Ratu Iliesa Cebaivalu ka kaya ni porojeki ni Drua qo e ilakolako ni veivakatorocaketaki vakataucoko ena vuli. Na kena vakayalotaki kei na ivalavala vakavanua dau taurivaki ena kena ta na

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Drua e kovuta na veibasogani bula kece ni kawa iTaukei ka vakataudeitaka na veisemati kei na veikadeitaki vakavanua vakaveiwekani kei na kena bula vakaveimaliwai, ka kena isoqoni na kena taqomaki ka maroroi me bula se cici balavu na Vanua kei na veika era umani kina – na qele, uciwai, waitui, veikau, itei, draki, iqoligoli.

“E sega wale ga ni dua na ka buli na Drua, E levu tale na veika e vakaibalebaletaki kina. O koya na isema ka semati iratou kina meratou cakacakavata na lewenivanua, na veika e rairai kei na veika e tabogo ka vakayaco-ka na isoqoni ni nodratou cakacaka vata mai na nodratou cakacaka yadudua. Na nodratou cakacaka vata qo e vakadeitaka me cici balavu na tubu kei na veivakatorocaketaki vakataucoko ni bula.”

E kaya okoya ni porojeki ni Drua e imamaroroi ka itataqomaki, ka rawa ni tautauri mai kina na vuli dina e taucoko yavutaki ena veika vakamareqeti vakavanua vakaitaukei makawa ni Vanua ka vakavutuniyautaka cake na filosofi ni Gurukul me qai kabasitaka na sala ki liu ena veisiga nimataka.

E kaya talega ni levu na veika me vakayacori me valuti kina na vakacaca ni draki veisau ia na kena iwali era sa muloni vata tu kei na umavosa, na veikavakamareqeti vakavanua, na veiwekani kei na ivakarau vakavanua.,

Sa dodonu me kilai na sala me curumi kina na rai se vakabauta makawa qo ka me mai vakadaberi ki na buturara vou ni gauna qo me veiganiti kaya na kena drake ni bula. Ni vakayacori qori, sa na sega wale ga ni veituberi tiko na Yunivesiti ni Viti me rawati na ivola koroi ni cakacaka, sa na rawa tale ga ki na Yunivesiti, ena vuku ni Porojeki ni Drua me vakaiyaragitaki ira ka vakaukauwataki ira na kena gonevuli kei na iliuliu nimataka mera dauveimaroroi ka dauveitaqomaki vei ira na lewenivanua kei na vanua vakavolivolita kei na veikabula ni vakamuri na veigaunisala cecere ni vuli-ka, biuta tani na veika sa vulici oti ka vuli vou tale.

PICTORIAL



From left: The Vice Chancellor, Professor Shaista Shameem, The President, His Excellency Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere, and Student Affairs Coordinator, Ratu Sailosi Dawai at a courtesy visit to the HE at State House.



Sitting from Left: Dr Kamala Naiker, Sir Anand Satyanand, Professor Tupeni Baba and Lady Susan Satyanand with Senate members and staff of the University at Sir Anand's visit to the University.



Justice Devendra Pathik, Founder of the School of Law at The University of Fiji, with Pro-Chancellor, Ambassador Kamlesh Arya, staff and students. Justice Pathik addressed the JDP School of Law students and staff at the Samabula Campus on 7th November, 2022.