

## Western Province Tourism Association signs MOU with SINU.

**T**he Western Province Tourism Association (WPTA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SINU to design, implement, and sustain its Human Resource Capacity. The parties signed the MOU on August 7th, 2020, when a delegation from SINU led by the Vice-Chancellor visited the Western Province.

The MOU covers areas to build a platform to nurture the professional Basic skills training and management to boost and maintain standard on service delivery. The MOU also includes the development and delivery of quality short courses through SINU’s Centre for National Productivity for hotels, restaurants, retailing, transportation, travel agencies, tour companies, tourist attractions, leisure, recreation and sport, and the cultural industries.

The MOU also covers programs to best link supply chain for SME’s such as taxi services land & sea, organic food supply, fishing, and arts & crafts, in communities to industries. Training and career development programs will ensure to increase professional skills and training to emphasize high-quality services, which will promote coherent, integrated, and high-standard delivery of its Tourism services.

Vice-Chancellor Dr. Ganesh Chand and President of Western Province Tourism Association Mr. Kilo Paza signed the MOU.

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*By: Renee Bisili  
PR Graduate Intern*

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**Vice-Chancellor Dr. Ganesh Chand and President of WPTA Mr. Kilo Paza shook hands after the signing Ceremony.**

*Photo Credit: SINU EOVC Mr. Vinod Narayan*

## Dr. Transform Aqorau Joins SINU as Visiting Professor

**O**ur very own and a renowned academic and SI appointed Ambassador to the United Nations Dr. Transform Aqorau joined Solomon Islands National University as visiting Professor at the newly established Institute of Ocean, Islands, and Sustainable Development. The institute was recently established under the re-structured SINU from January 2020.

Dr. Aqorau described the establishment of the institute as a brilliant idea for the country and what the Solomon Islands really need, as it will be a focal point in which applied research can be done on our natural resources since we have an economy that is dependent on our natural resources. “The Solomon Islands should have done this a long time ago.” Dr. Aqorau emphasized.

“I am so humbled to be invited by SINU to be a visiting professor for ocean studies. It is really a privilege and honour to be given this association to share my knowledge and my network to help build the institute to an internationally reputable institute that will be able to partner with other international institutes and that can also bring in resources to the country.” Dr. Aqorau said.

“The Institute could potentially be flagships for SINU where real expertise can be developed in the work that we’re doing that sustain our economy around our forestry, agriculture, oceans, and resources.” explained Dr. Aqorau.

He expects more collaboration between the agencies in the country such as the Ministry of Fisheries, FFA, World fish, etc. with the new Institute since we have world-class fisheries facilities at SINU.

“Part of the drive for the institute is to set up a post-graduate program in natural resources and eventually leading up to a master’s program. It is a huge opportunity for people who are working and want to up-skill their knowledge by doing applied research. We’re working on a program in which our graduands will be able to stand on their own in the region and in the world.” Dr. Aqorau stated.

Dr. Aqorau also shared his views on the place of Universities in knowledge creation. He said, “Building a University is an evolutionary process and it’s not easy. A University is a place where you promote intellectual ideas and the more you reach out to people from outside, the more knowledge you bring in. Knowledge is not stacked only to us Solomon Islanders, knowledge is a universal thing, and we need to be more open-minded about people who come here because our students will be enriched by the experience that they get from people all over the world coming here to work and teach.

We have to make our University an attractive one, and students from overseas who wish to do research on our natural resources should do it here, get enrolled in our programs, and do the research at SINU; this will also enrich the programs we’re offering.” Dr. Aqorau concluded.

Dr. Transform Aqorau will be with SINU until such time the COVID-19 pandemic is over and he is able to travel to the United States to take up his appointment as the SI Ambassador to the United Nations.

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*Visiting Professor Dr. Transform Aqorau*

## Faculty of Education and Humanities' LIT611 STUDENTS CREATIVE PERFORMANCE

**S**inging, swaying of grass-skirts, and traditional chants ignited FOPA Village on the 6th of August. Madam Roselyn Maneipuri's year two LIT611 students were allowed to showcase their creative performance. Ms. Maneipuri stated that her course, South Pacific Literature, involves poems, short stories & plays written by students.

As part of their major project for semester one, their performance indicates whether they can meet their course objectives and that they understand the concept of the topic: Birth to death. The performance theme was Life Cycle, by which the students were assessed based on their ability to create a script, narrate and illustrate our diverse cultural rituals from Lord-Howe, Rennel & Bellona, Choiseul, Isabel, Temotu, Makira and Guadalcanal province.

This literature performance has occurred for three consecutive years, and Madam Roselyn Maneipuri mentioned that compared to previous acts, she was pleased with the effort and commitment students put into preparation for the show. There were two

main groups for the performance, the first being the students majoring in English and the second being the students who took English as their minor. Each group consists of six and four sub-groups respectively.

All groups displayed an array of skits, songs, and dances portraying different stages of human life and the traditional ceremonies that celebrate the birth of a newborn, adolescence, marriage, or death of a village chief.

It was an amazing experience to watch the literature students indulge themselves in and be part of the cultural journey of celebrating the gift of life and death. They captured not only the audiences' attention but their coordinator, Madam Roselyn Maneipuri with their colorful costumes and astounding performance. Their hard-work throughout semester one was clearly shown during their show and it sure has taught us the importance of preserving our culture; that we value and practice our traditions and norms as we journey through the cycle of life.

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*By: Renee Bisili  
PR Graduate Intern*



*Students performing the Choiseul Province Culture on Bride price*

## Mr. Veira Pulekera on Scientific Research and Legal Frameworks in Solomon Islands



*Mr. Veira Pulekera giving the talk at FAFF*

**F**aculty of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries hosted an informative seminar on “Scientific Research and Legal Frameworks in the Solomon Islands on August 5th, 2020. Guest speaker Mr. Veira Talilotu Pulekera, Principal Conservation Officer at the Wildlife Trade, Species Management and Research Environment and Conservation Division of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology (MECDM) delivered the presentation.

Scientific research purposely for biodiversity and bioprospecting was conducted in collaborations with NGOs, institutions, and other stakeholders in provinces and rural villages around the Solomon Islands. Scientific research allows us to build national knowledge and information on our country’s biodiversity, and contributions on how communities, sectors & government protects, maintains, manages, uses, develops it for now and tomorrow’s needs. SI’s has high biodiversity—tropical rainforest and coral and fish biodiversity,

high endemism. Bioresearch includes; biodiversity studies conducted on ecological areas and species distribution, ranges and status, ecological habitats, and environmental services towards natural surroundings and importance to human well-being.

Bioprospecting, on the other hand, involves the collection of genetic materials (derivatives) of plants and animals from land and sea for commercial purposes, such as pharmaceutical, cosmetic, and medicinal. In order to safeguard the implementation of scientific research, the legal framework must be established within the country to guide and regulate the process. Protected Areas Act 2010 and PA Regulation 2012, provided the platform and relevant provisions for such activity in our country, Solomon Island. Wildlife Protection and Management Act 1998, and WPMA regulation 2008, including (WPMA 2017 amended) provides other significant provisions for CITES species.

There are also related regulatory frameworks that support ECD-mandated laws, e.g. Fisheries law, Environment Act, ABS – Nagoya Protocols, and even provincial ordinances to protect the access to researching BD. Scientific research results bring positive outcomes; biodiversity conservation baseline data, and commercialization purposes of potential plants and animals. It also informs government agencies, stakeholders in many ways in terms of proper management, sustainability and conservation purposes, rehabilitation challenges (community-based conservation- on the ground). National gaps, the system itself remains in infant stages- collection and coordination by ECD and working with partners. Other needs for the future include research-based analysis for policy development, long-monitoring on BD trends (loss) and ecosystem valuation, and ABS issues.

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# Career Opportunities

## Expression of Interest

### Lecturers/Assistant Lecturers/Tutors/ Markers

Expressions of interest are called from qualified applicants for a number of vacancies at the Lecturer, Assistant Lecturer, Tutor ranks as well as markers in the following subjects:

**Commerce:** Accounting, Economics, Management, Secretarial Studies

**Sciences:** Maths, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Computer Sciences

**Humanities:** English, Communication, History, Geography, Teaching Training / Education

**Natural Resources:** Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Environmental Science

**TVET:** Construction, Carpentry & Joinery, Industrial Drafting, Surveying, Plumbing, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, Welding & Electrical Technology, Photovoltaic Energy Systems, Automotive Engineering, Marine Engineering, Nautical Sciences, and Hospitality

**Nursing & Health Sciences:** Nursing, Microbiology.

Qualified applicants may be engaged on part-time basis or full-time for a semester, depending on student numbers at SINU.

The minimum qualification requirements for the positions are:

**Tutor:** a Bachelor degree with a GPA of at least 3.0 in the subject, or a PGD in the subject.

**Assistant Lecturer:** A PGD in the subject (or at least a Bachelors degree with a minimum GPA of 3.5 in the subject and one year teaching experience).

**Lecturer:** At least a Masters degree in the subject.

**TVET Positions:** At least a Trade Diploma in the specific trade with at least 3 years of direct industrial experience. **For Tutor positions**, at least a Trade Certificate at Level III is necessary. **For Maritime**, at least a Master Class 3 certification is necessary.

**Markers:** In higher education subjects, markers must have at least a good Bachelor degree in the subject area. **For TVET positions**, at least a Trade Certificate at level IV with 3 years of industry experience, is necessary.

EOIs without transcripts will not be considered. Preference for the above positions is for citizens of Solomon Islands. However, where citizens are not available with the requisite MQRs, non-citizens would be considered.

Please send your EOIs (which must contain your result transcripts, clearly showing your grades), to: [sinu.recruitment@sinu.edu.sb](mailto:sinu.recruitment@sinu.edu.sb) by 6pm, Friday 21 August 2020.

## About Us:



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Solomon Islands National University (SINU) is the Prime and ONLY National University of Solomon Islands.

Founded in 2013, SINU is striving to be one of the Best Education and Research Institute in the Region.

Our VISION: "A quality National University, raising Standards of education and applied research in the Pacific Region."

Our Mission: "Championing the pursuit of knowledge, skills, academic inquiry and applied research to transform lives through higher education and training, inclusive of diverse communities, while providing relevant solutions for the Solomon Islands."