

Sir Dr. Nathan K. Kere is the New SINU Chancellor

The Solomon Islands National University has a new Chancellor; He is one of our renowned Medical experts and academics Sir Dr. Nathan K. Kere. He has accepted his appointment by the Minister of Education and Human Resource Development Hon. Lanelle Tanangada MP on the recommendation of SINU Council as the next Chancellor for SINU for a term of two years.

Sir Dr. Kere replaced Chief Justice Sir Albert R. Palmar whose term as SINU Chancellor lapsed on 7th March 2020. Sir Albert conferred 3468 certificates in two graduation ceremonies held in 2018 and 2019.

Sir Dr. Kere is currently a Medical Officer and Managing Director of East Medical Centre, his private medical center in Honiara. He possessed vast experience in the field of medicine particularly in private, government, international NGOs, and multinational corporations and has served at the regional and international levels. He was knighted with Knight Commander of St. Michael & St. George (KCMG) by the Queen for services to Medicine and Community development.

Sir Dr. Kere also has vast experience in tertiary education level, having served once as the Chair of SICHE council and a consultant to Fiji School of



Sir Dr. Nathan Kere

Medicine, an external examiner, and contributed to the establishment of Masters in Tropical Health in the University of Queensland. He was also a visiting lecturer to some Universities in Thailand and Malaysia and once an internal lecturer at London University.

Sir Dr. Kere obtained his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in London and has published numerous scientific articles all over the world to contribute to the control of infectious diseases, particularly on Malaria and also NDCs. He also published several SIG local scientific and official documents. As part of his Ph.D. studies, Sir Dr. Kere invented the bed-nets from mosquitoes that are now used by many across the globe.

Sir Dr. Kere's first graduation ceremony with SINU as the University Chancellor will be in November 2020.

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SINU TEAM VISITS GOLDIE COLLEGE NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

A delegate from the Solomon Islands National University (members from the Faculty of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry; Property and Campus Management Department; SAS Manager and Public relations Department) embarked on a short trip to the Western Province from the 5th to 9th of October 2020. This was no ordinary trip as there was a huge agenda for the team, they purposely went to the Western Province to accompany FAFF members to assess the current state of the SINU Poitete campus in Kolombangara Island and to accompany and see what the FOR512 students will experience during their practical at KFPL.

Thus, on their way to Ringgi Kolombangara, the SINU team paid a visit to Goldie College, a well-distinguished national high-school in the Western Province, for a promotional talk. By tradition, the team was given a warm welcome with the school anthem sung by the scholars and staff of Goldie. Mr. Frank Lui (Senior Technical Officer & Assistant Property Manager) started with the opening remarks on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and SINU. He briefly addressed their purpose at visiting Goldie College and the staff got the chance to introduce them and share a few words of advice for the crowd before doing their presentation. Acting SAS Manager Mr. Chrisma Laubua stated that "this trip is to bring awareness to current form 5,6 and 7 students so that they can be familiar with the programs offered at SINU's University Preparatory College".

"As for the junior forms, it is equally important that you are here today because this talk will give you an insight on what career pathways are available at SINU and what will motivate you to go along your education journey." Topics covered during the talk were not only based on UPC program offers, admissions, and entry requirements. Acting FAFF Dean and Acting Head of School also discussed the various programs offered under their faculty. Acting Dean, Lovelyn Otoiasi highlighted that the faculty values the wealth of the country in terms of natural resources. "Our core objective is to equip and develop the capacity of natural resource management in the Solomon Islands." Ms. Claire Oiire further emphasized the programs offered under FAFF, specifically on Forestry. She urged the students to start thinking

about their future and make the right choices for their career path. She also highlighted that a Forestry bachelor program is currently in the development stage.

At the end of the informative session, there were several questions directed towards the SINU staff by many curious students and Goldie staff members. Before farewelling the SINU team, the Goldie Home Economics form four students prepared a meal to share at a meet & greet between the SINU delegation and Goldie Staff.

Goldie College Principal Deidre Zeke was so grateful to have representatives from SINU to avail their time for her students and to clarify queries that many had in regards to the various processes of securing a spot at our only national university. Students commended this session and stated that it is such a great opportunity for them because they have options and they believe this will have an impact on their career path. SINU plans to travel to other Secondary schools located in Western Province soon for similar awareness talks that can encourage high school students to set their standards high and achieve their career aspirations.

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*By: Renee Bisili
PR Graduate Intern*



SINU team giving a TALK at Goldie College

FOR512 STUDENTS 6 WEEK PRACTICAL AT POITETE, KOLOMBANGARA ISLAND

The second cohort of 2019 intake students currently registered under FOR512 began their practical on October 12, 2020, at Kolombangara Forest Products Ltd (KFPL). The group of eleven students consists of four females and seven males are all assigned to the work station in Poitete on a 6-week scheduled rotation. As a part of the existing MOU with the Ministry of Forestry & Research signed in September of 2019, a unit developed as FOR512 enables students to participate in a 3-month work-related practical at various organizations such as the Ministry of Forestry & Research, JICA, Eagon Pacific Plantation and KFPL. This year, the students will only be at KFPL for six weeks, with Forestry Lecturer Mr. Peter Mahoa to chaperon them for the first three weeks before he returns to Honiara.

SINU staff and KFPL officials had a briefing with the students on October 7th, at Poitete Campus dining hall. Human Resources & Training Manager of KFPL, Mr. Tim Bula welcomed the visiting team and students. He then made a presentation about the company detailing the different information regarding the processes and procedures at KFPL. Mr. Bula emphasized in his opening remarks, "Students, you are here, and you will learn so much, but there are rules too, and they are very strict." The rules that apply in the workplace also apply in the operations area, and you are to comply with it. You will be under the same scrutiny as all our employees at KFPL." said Tim. "We are the first-ever company in the Southern hemisphere to obtain the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. Therefore, we have to comply with very stringent environmental standards and acquisitions in our workplace. And it is a requirement that we must adhere to internation-

al and domestic standards." the Manager added. The manager also announced next year's KFPL internship program. He highlighted that 3 SINU 2019 graduates have been confirmed as KFPL employees in September. "At the end of your practice here, there will be five lucky students who will be chosen to secure the internship positions commencing in February 2021. You will be evaluated during the probation period and if you pass you will officially join the amazing team at KFPL." He said. Poitete station Manager Mr. Gregory Napthalae also expressed, "We heard that you were coming months ago and now you are here and on behalf of KFPL, I am so glad to see students from SINU here today. It requires hard work and determination to look after a large group of people but I am thankful for my colleagues and their support. Teamwork and communication are very effective as we go about our daily activities." Mr. Gregory said.

Besides, Mr. Pendrine Napthalae, Forestry manager also shared his delight with the students' presence, it is an honour to be here and show what we do in our company. KFPL was established in 1989 with a 75-year lease on this beautiful island of Kolombangara however it has been 31 years since it has been operational and the beauty of it is that we have planted trees from the Southern to the very Western tip of Kolombangara. As you drive up from Ringgi, you can see our hard work and I have pride because, despite the challenges we faced, we have achieved a lot." Napthalae said.

"KFPL is very valuable in terms of the trees we grow; we have the money standing out there ready for the future. We have 44 years left, but the question is whose next? The challenge is yours, so students it is your time to prove your competency and work here at KFPL." Mr. Napthalae concluded. Afterward, the SINU representatives had the chance to tour the KFPL operation area and have a glance at what occurs behind the scenes at KFPL. It is an eye-opener for SINU staff as they can see the reality the students face at their workplace practices.

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Group photo with practical students

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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."

ALUMNI CORNER

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Mr. Pendrine Naphthale
KFPL Forestry Manager

I am a graduate of SICHE in 1995 and I am so happy to be at KFPL. SICHE groomed me and that is how I got to where I am today, with a high calibre position at KFPL. I want to raise my flag and say thank you to SICHE, now known as SINU. Thank you for building me up and I acknowledge all my past lecturers and mentors. It is SINU that shaped me and I want you, students, to know that you can make it too.

But there is something that I would give attention to; I want SINU Poitete campus to be fully activated because this school has groomed me to where I am today. All the practical avenues and resources are here at KFPL. As a product of this school, I appeal to SINU to please come back and revive our campus here in Poitete. If I can prove it to you, then please do come back for the sake of our future foresters and benefit of our people.