

UniVois



PRC successfully handed over SINU dormitory building project to SIG

Twenty-five days before the country host the Pacific Games the People's Republic of China (PRC) successfully handed over Solomon Islands National University (SINU) Dormitory building project to the Solomon Islands Government today.

Charge'd affair of the PRC Embassy in Solomon Islands Mr.Ding Youghua handed over three complete four story dormitory buildings and a multipurpose hall to the government of Solomon Islands received by the Guest of Honor Prime Minister and Minister for Pacific Games 2023 Hon.Manasseh Sogavare.

Speaking during the handing over ceremony this morning Charge'd affair of the PRC Embassy in the Solomon Islands Mr. Ding said PRC is happy to deliver the facilities just in time before the country host the Pacific Games next month.

The dormitories are part of the ongoing support that PRC rendered to Solomon Islands to ensure Solomon Islands is ready to host the games next month.

He said dormitory buildings are gifts from China to Solomon Islands.

Upon receiving the key to the newly built dormitories Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare thanked PRC for its commitment and continued support towards Solomon Islands in its preparation to host the games.

Prime Minister Sogavare highlighted that the continued support from PRC is an indication that his DCGA government's decision to switch ties from Taiwan to China in September of 2019 is a right decision made in the best interest of the country.

The three dormitories will be used to house athletes from visiting counties who will be here to compete in the games.

SINU Vice Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau who also present at the handing over ceremony welcomed the new development at SINU.

Professor Transform said, "Today marks a pivotal moment in the history of the Solomon Islands National University (SINU), as we celebrate the grand handover ceremony of the SINU Dormitory Buildings. These magnificent structures, graciously built by China as a gift to the Solomon Islands Government, played host to Pacific Games partici-



Charge'd affair of the PRC Embassy in Solomon Islands Mr.Ding Youghua handed over a key to Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare witnessed by reps from PRC, SINU, and SIG.

pants, serving as their home away from home. Now, they transition to their new purpose - fostering education and enriching lives at SINU"

He said, "The value of these new dormitories to the University cannot be overstated. Beyond their brick and mortar, they symbolize a space for growth, innovation, and collaboration. Housing numerous students, these buildings will be the birthplace of new ideas, intellectual debates, and lifelong friendships. They will facilitate an environment conducive to learning, allowing students to focus on their academic pursuits while living in comfort Furthermore, these dormitories open doors to a multitude of opportunities for SINU. They can attract international students, bolster our reputation for quality facilities, and further establish our University as a top educational institution in the Pacific region.

However, with such a precious gift comes responsibility. These buildings are more than just structures; they are a testament to the friendship between China and the Solomon Islands. We must honour this bond by ensuring that these dormitories are well-maintained and cared for, ensuring that they stand as a beacon of partnership for generations to come."

Professor Aqorau said "we express our profound gratitude to the Government of China and the Solomon Islands Government for this incredible investment in our future. The SINU Dormitory Buildings are not just buildings but symbols of friendship, growth, and a brighter tomorrow for all our students. Let's cherish them, nurture the minds within, and continue our journey towards excellence together."

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Guests stand in respect for the national anthem of PRC and Solomon Islands.



Warriors welcome PM Sogavare to the handing over ceremony



SINU Pro Vice-Chancellor Corporate Shadrach Fanega arrives for the handing over ceremony.



Two of the new PRC funded dormitories at Kukum campus.



PM Sogavare delivers the keynote address.



PRC funded multi-purpose hall at Kukum campus.



SINU staff and SIG staff at the handing over ceremony.



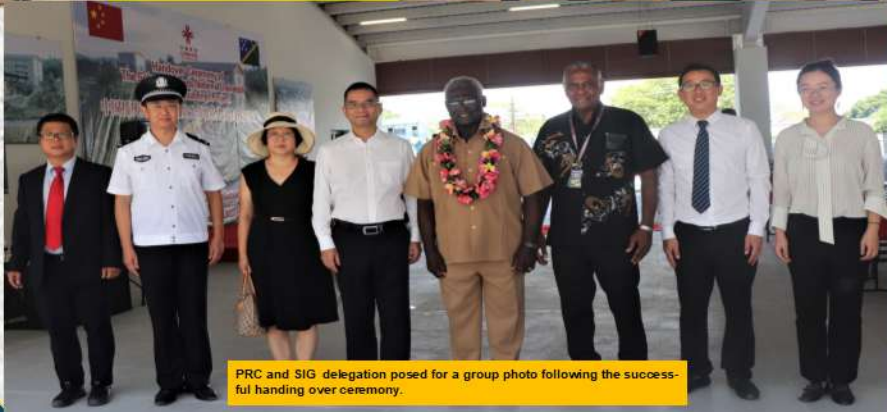
New female dormitory at Kukum campus



PRC and SIG delegation toured the new building.



SINU Vice Chancellor Professor Aqorau and NHA Chairman Dr. Jimmie Rodgers having a chat during the handing over ceremony.



PRC and SIG delegation posed for a group photo following the successful handing over ceremony.

SINU Vice Chancellor and team visited University of Queensland

The Vice Chancellor of the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) Professor Transform Aqorau and team have successfully visited the University of Queensland (UQ) from 25th -27th October 2023.

According to SINU Vice Chancellor Prof Aqorau, the purpose of the visit was to strengthen ties between SINU and UQ and explore opportunities for academic and research collaborations.

Prof Aqorau said the primary objective of the visit bring into line closely with SINU's strategic goal to become a leader in academic excellence, research and community development.

"The primary objectives of the visit align closely with our institution's strategic goals to become a leader in academic excellence, research, and community development."

"These include dialogue on potential joint research initiatives, the development of academic programs to international standards, and the establishment of reciprocal staff exchange arrangements."

On the first day, (Thursday, 26th October) the team met various scholars at UQ who have been active in research endeavours within the Solomon Islands.

Prof Aqorau highlighted the importance of the discussion stating, "these discussions were invaluable for mutual learning and exploring areas where SINU's and UQ's research interests intersect."

On the same day, Prof Aqorau and team also held a meeting with UQ Vice-Chancellor in what he described as a high-level engagement.

In the engagement with the UQ Vice-Chancellor, they discussed a range of topics which include; opportunities for collaborative programs, particularly in the health sector.

The team also visited and held talks with UQ Law Faculty and Engineering Department.

Prof Aqorau said, "Given the significance of land issues, a discussion with the Law Faculty at UQ was timely. This also presents a future area for academic and research collaborations."

"We toured the Engineering Department to explore their current research initiatives, particularly those related to coastal areas."

On the final day of the visit (Friday, 27th October), SINU team held a fruitful discussion with UQ Health Faculty.

According to Prof Aqorau, "Meetings with the Faculty of Health led to broad discussions on current research on malaria and dengue, and possibilities for joint research in public health, subject to liaising with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services." Key Outcomes and Future Directions reached include; joint Research Initiatives, Academic Programs, and Upcoming UQ visit.

"Joint Research Initiatives: There was mutual agreement on the importance of collaborative research. These initiatives will be instrumental in enhancing SINU's reputation in the international academic community."



"Academic Programs: We also discussed aligning SINU's academic programs to meet both SITESA and Australian standards, a strategic move in elevating the institution's international repute."

"Upcoming UQ Visit: We look forward to hosting a delegation from UQ in February, which will help solidify the initiatives discussed and pave the way for future collaborations."

With that, Prof Aqorau said, "The UQ-SINU partnership presents a unique



opportunity to elevate our institution's standing both nationally and internationally."

"With these advancements, we come closer to realizing SINU's vision of being a crucial player in the educational, social, and economic development of the Solomon Islands."

The team was led by Prof Aqorau along with Dr. Hugo Bugoro, Dr. John Fasi, Kezyiah Saepio, and Wanderlyn Vahimana.



SINU activates exclusive games used period

As of Monday 30-10-2023 all entry into the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) campuses requires SOL2023 Pacific Games- Access Pass.

SINU after signing the Venue Use Agreement (VUA) with the Games Organizing Committee (GOC) and the National Hosting Authority now adhered to article 2.1 and 7.2 of VUA.

SINU Staff and those who will be accessing SINU campuses from the Exclusive Games Used Period started from 27 October to 8 December 2023 are required to provide the SOL2023 Pacific Games- Access Pass to security at the gate to enter Kukum, Panatina, and Ranadi campuses.

Article 2.1 Grant of SINU Use: SINU hereby grant to SOL2023 the rights to use and shall make available to

SOL2023, the facilities which are necessary for the conduct of the event and those areas adjacent, behind or around the facilities, including fields, parking, and other attached areas pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth herein.

Article 7.2 Parking and Access: SOL2023 shall have the rights during Exclusive Games Use Period to control all premises and adjacent

SOL2023 shall access private SINU person- the Exclusive shall be dealt consultation



grant any car parking/ leges to accredited nel and vehicles during Games Use Period. This with administratively in with SINU.

SINU staff who are yet to collect their SOL2023 Pacific Games- Access Pass should collect their Access Pass from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Cooperate office.

Free training on data analysis in MS Excel ended successfully

A two days training on Data Analysis in MS Excel with AI Tool which started at SINU Kukum lecture theatre on Thursday 26 October ended successfully on Friday 27 October.

The training is facilitated by the Mr.Pappu Kapgate from India-Solomon Islands NextGen Centre for Excellence in Information Technology (IS-CEIT).

The complimentary workshop is part of the IS-CEIT effort to raise awareness about the state of the art facility within SINU, which specializes in delivering comprehensive ICT domain training.

The objective of the workshop are as follows; to learn the basic and advanced functionalities of Excel, to learn data manipulation and analysis to solve business problems using case studies, to understand common tricks in data analysis like bucketing and segmenting, to create visualisation to analyse and present data and important insights, and to understand the common errors while working with MS Excel.

The free workshop was attended by over 200 participants consisted of SINU staff, students, government officers, and individuals who are keen to in enhancing their data analysis skill in MS Excel.

In an email to facilitator of the workshop, the SINU Vice Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau commended Mr,Pappu Kapgate for facilitating the workshop stating it as a significant achievement.

"It is indeed a significant achievement to have engaged over 200 participants, a testament to the relevance and quality of the program offered. Workshops like these are invaluable in fostering a culture of continuous learning and adaptation, especially in the field of emerging technologies that are rapidly transforming the global academic and operational landscape."

"As the Vice Chancellor of SINU, my interest in the application of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies is profound. Your workshop resonates with our ongoing efforts to enhance operational effi

ciencies and to improve the academic environment at SINU. The integration of AI tools in data analysis is a step forward in equipping our staff and students with the necessary skills to excel in a data-driven world."

"Moreover, the use of AI in education is not just an enhancement to our existing operations but a pivotal shift towards a more sophisticated, tailored, and efficient educational experience. The insights gained from such technologies can lead to improved decision-making processes, heightened research capabilities, and the creation of a more robust academic infrastructure."

"I am particularly keen on exploring how AI can be leveraged to streamline SINU's administrative functions, personalise learning for our diverse student body, and augment our research initiatives. The success of your workshop has paved the way for further discussion on how we can integrate similar AI tools across various faculties and departments within our university."

"I look forward to possibly collaborating with your team in the future to see how your insights and expertise in AI can be incorporated into our strategic development plans. Such advancements will undoubtedly contribute to our overarching goal of building SINU into an internationally recognised university with accredited and ranked programs."



"Thank you for sharing the outcomes of the workshop. I will ensure the contents of the report are thoroughly reviewed and considered within the context of our institutional growth and development strategies."

Mr,Pappu Kapgate

SINU forms landmark Partnership with Oceans University of China and Qingdao Municipal Government

Solomon Islands National University (SINU) met with representatives from the Qingdao Municipal Government and Oceans University of China on Wednesday 01-11-2023 for a critical dialogue concerning the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed earlier this year.

The meeting was led by Professor Transform Aqorau, Vice Chancellor of SINU, Madam Lin Bin, the Deputy Secretary-General of the CPC Qingdao Municipal Government, and Professors Li Weidong, Director of International Office, and Li Jianping, Professor and Dean of Academy of Future Ocean, both from Oceans University of China.

Also in attendance were Dr Eric Katovai, Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic of SINU, and staff from the Department of Fisheries and Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries.

The central element of the discussion focused on the initiation of the China-Pacific Oceans Research Center to be established in the Solomon Islands. This proposed center will serve as an ocean observation base, conducting rigorous data collection for scientific analysis.

Additionally, it will act as an educational platform for marine talent cultivation, including the development of joint Masters and Ph.D. programs, as well as training on climate change, marine sciences, fisheries, and ocean carbon neutrality. Mechanisms for international faculty exchanges, forum hosting, and symposium organisation were also outlined as pivotal functions of the center.

Further deliberations were centered on the conceptualisation of a Joint Master's Degree Program in Fisheries and Oceans. The overarching aim is to inaugurate the program by the academic year 2025, following ongoing evaluations and assessments.

Designed to achieve academic rigor and global relevance, the program will encompass studies in fisheries management, oceanography, and the geopolitical implications of oceanic resources. The commitment to closely collaborate with accreditation bodies in both the Solomon Islands and China to meet international academic standards was also agreed upon.

The meeting additionally set forth a comprehensive research agenda for the Solomon Islands, which will prioritise Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change Adaptation, Economic Development, Community Engagement, and Policy Impact. The research will look at the sustainable management of oceanic resources, understand and mitigate the impact of changing oceanic conditions, enhance the economic value of maritime resources, and engage local communities in both research and educational initiatives.

It will also strive to translate research outcomes into actionable policies, thereby fortifying governance and developmental objectives in the Solomon Islands.

In his closing remarks, Professor Transform Aqorau, Vice Chancellor of SINU, emphasised the far-reaching implications of the MoU.

He stated, "This Memorandum of Understanding outlines a comprehensive and far-reaching blueprint for mutual engagement in areas that are of utmost importance to the global community: oceanography, fisheries, and the impacts of climate change.

These are areas that concern not just our nations but humanity at large. They present challenges that no single institution can tackle in isolation." Professor Aqorau further noted, "In forging this alliance, we commit to internationalizing higher education, particularly the joint Master's degree program in fisheries.

As a university with strong aspirations to gain international recognition, we see this collaboration as a vital stepping stone.

The joint program is not merely an academic exercise but an intellectual crucible where perspectives will be harmonized, cultures blended, and ground-breaking solutions to real-world challenges formulated.

This partnership not only strengthens the academic repertoire of both institutions but also promises to yield enduring benefits for both nations and indeed, for the world at large."



SINU staff and representatives from Oceans University of China and Qingdao Municipal Government posed for a group photo following a successful meeting at SINU on Wednesday 01-11-2023.



U n i V e r s i t y

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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.