

Dr. Connolly delivers first SINU-Australia Seminar

The first public lecture of the 2024 SINU-Australia Seminar series was successfully delivered to students, staff and members of the public on Thursday 27 February 2024 at the SINU Panatina Lecture Theatre.

In the first seminar Dr. Pete Connolly from the University of New South Wales reflected on his studies and 'Chinese Interests in Melanesia', with a deep dive on China's political, economic and security statecraft.

The seminar is an eye opener for participants who engaged in a question and answer session at the end of Dr. Connolly's presentation.

Speaking at the seminar the SINU Vice Chancellor (VC) Professor

With that, the SINU VC thanked Dr. Connolly for availing himself and sharing his research with SINU students, staff and members of the public.

The seminar is the first of the four seminar series under the SINU-Australia seminar series.

Following the successful delivery of the first seminar, SINU anticipates the next three seminars which will be delivered later this year.

The next three speakers are as follows; Rory Medcalf from the Australia National University who is also the Head of the National Security College, Richard McGregor from the Lowy Institute, Senior fellow for East Asia, and ofcourse James Batley from the Australian National University, Department of Pacific Affairs, Distinguished Fellow.



Dr. Pete Connolly and SINU VC Prof. Transform Aqorau posed for a photo at the Panatina Lecture Theatre.

Transform Aqorau said it is an honour for SINU to host such a seminar to allow students, staff and members of the public to come and listen to various topics on offer.

Prof. Aqorau said SINU as an institution is open to any diplomatic friends who wish to come and present about their programs in Solomon Islands.

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SINU Forestry Department takes ownership of a new Lucas Mill

The Forestry Department under the Faculty of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (FAFF) recently took ownership of a new Lucas Mill.

Huge thanks to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for donating the Lucas Sawmill under the Integrated Forest Management Project.

The new Lucas Mill was officially handed over to the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) Forestry Department in a brief handover ceremony FAFF on Friday, 1st March 2024 witnessed by representatives from both SINU and FAO.



FAO Forestry Officer Raushan Kumar hands over the Lucas Mill to IPD Director Darius Darlyn Ramo witnessed by SINU staff .

Speaking during the handover ceremony, the Head of the Forestry Department Carlos Hiro said the donation of the Lucas Mill by FAO represents not only a valuable addition to the department's resources but also a symbol of collective commitment to nurturing the next generation of forestry students.

According to FAO Forestry Officer Raushan Kumar, the donation of the Lucas Mill is a long pending commitment from FAO under the integrated Forest Management Project.

"This Lucas sawmill was supposed to be here actually last year, but it couldn't happen because of some technical issues like; technical capacity, technical specification not matching and we wanted to have a sustainable kind of a robust system that can run for at least few years continuously so that was the reason today it is here."

"Why the Lucas Sawmill was brought into the SINU is a very interesting story."



FAO Forestry Officer Raushan Kumar speaking at the handover ceremony .



SINU Institution Planning Division (IPD) Darius Darlyn Ramo speaking on behalf of SINU.

"When we started having the stakeholders' consultations people were saying that you know we are going to promote conservation, promote forestry enhancement, forest governing enhancement, why are we giving instruments which cut the forest?"

"This question was posed to us, but the answer lies in a different perspective."

"The answer is that there is a lot of logging happening in the country, how can we reduce it?"

"The answer is downstream processing, the answer is value addition to the timbers, so that while processing the timber in the country you get most of the revenue."

"You will be exporting less round logs to different countries, reducing logging activities and reducing pressure out of the ecosystem."

"So that was the idea to train the youths on how to process the timber in house and add value and get better value out of it."

"So that was the reason this particular training was fore-sighted at that point of time."



Forestry staff and students witnessing the handover ceremony .

Mr Kumar further stated, "The second reason was that when we started establishing the bachelor degree in forestry and bachelor degree course in environmental studies, this particular item was also one of the practical courses which needed to be taught during the practical sessions of the bachelor degree in forestry course including the diploma course."

"So that is why this instrument is here, that is why FAO is committed to have a sustainable knowledge base built in the country and as you know that FAO is also a knowledge organization and we support this initiative."

"We are pleased to invest in such activities and are fully committed to providing additional opportunities to SINU through this project. We encourage SINU to explore technological advancements, and we assure you that we will remain available for support, both during and beyond the lifespan of this project. Feel free to reach out to us at any time."

Speaking in response to Mr. Kumar, the SINU Institution Planning Division (IPD) Darius Darlyn Ramo thanked FAO for the significant support towards the SINU Forestry Department.

The IPD Director said SINU as the leading institution in the country, highly values such partnership with FAO and is looking forward to further fruitful collaboration in the future.

SINU Faculty of Education & Humanities marks International Women's Day

Solomon Islands National University (SINU) Faculty of Education & Humanities gathered this afternoon at the Faculty's Conference room to mark International Women's Day (IWU) on 8 March at SINU Panatina Campus.

The faculty's Dean Dr. Patricia Rodie organized the small event, getting women together in her faculty to reflect on this year's theme "**Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress.**"

The women had a round-the-table discussion and reflection on their personal and professional journey.

Reflecting on the theme, Dr. Rodie said that this year's

that they could seek employment and earn an income or start their own business using the knowledge and skills they have learned during their studies."

Dr. Rodie said that SINU is tackling economic disempowerment by playing the different roles that the institution plays towards the educa-



tion of young women and girls who passed through the Solomon Islands National University.

In closing her reflection Dr Rodie wanted to encourage everyone: "Let us inspire our young girls to work hard and complete their studies successfully and to secure a job after completing studies and also encourage them to start their own business if they want to and capable to do it using the knowledge and skills they have learned from this institution."

theme is aimed at promoting the economic empowerment of women.

"I believe FEH and SINU at large have over the years been providing learning opportunities for young girls and women to pursue studies towards their career of choice so

Meanwhile, Dr. Rodie said that over the years, she realized that women in academia weren't invited to the national international Women's Day celebration and that she hopes in the future, women in academia can also be part of the larger celebration and also share their stories as well.



The International Women's Day is celebrated annually worldwide on March 8.

SINU and WWSI Forge Partnership for Community Development

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) is proud to announce a ground-breaking Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with World Vision Solomon Islands (WWSI).

The MOU was signed by SINU Vice Chancellor Dr Transform Aqorau and WWSI Country Director Jimmy Nadapdap signed the MOU on Monday, 11-03-2024 at the Kukum Lecture Theatre witnessed by staff from both parties.

This collaboration is set to bring about significant advancements in community development through targeted research and evi-



dence-based policy analysis.

Speaking during the signing ceremony yesterday, SINU Vice-Chancellor expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership, stating, "This MoU between SINU and World Vision Solomon Islands marks a significant milestone in our joint efforts to enhance community development through research and evidence-based policy analysis. Our partnership will leverage the strengths of both institutions to address pressing societal challenges."

The collaboration aims to provide mutual support, with SINU contributing to World Vision's baseline studies and policy analysis, and World Vision offering SINU staff and students opportunities to engage in research in rural areas.

Dr Aqorau highlighted the reciprocal benefits, saying, "SINU staff and students will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful research in rural areas, bridging the gap between academic knowledge and real-world application. This hands-on experience is invaluable for our students' learning and professional development."



Dr Aqorau further emphasized the commitment to creating a positive impact, stating, "By working together with World Vision Solomon Islands, SINU aims to foster a culture of research and innovation that is deeply connected to the needs of our communities. This partnership is a testament to our commitment to creating a positive impact through education and research."

The MoU between SINU and WWSI is a pledge to work collaboratively towards sustainable development and social progress. "We are excited about the potential of this partnership to transform lives and build a brighter future for the Solomon Islands," Dr Aqorau concluded.

This partnership is a significant step forward in the collaborative efforts between academia and non-governmental organizations to drive positive change in the Solomon Islands.

Speaking at the signing ceremony yesterday WWSI Country Director Mr Nadapdap thanked SINU for signing the partnership with WWSI stating, "the whole thing that we trying to do here for the community and Solomon Islands"

"So I wish to express my deepest gratitude to those that play a huge and important role in making today's partnership become reality."

"I think I remember the first time I met with Dr. Transform quite a while ago and there has been conversation after conversation and let's make this partnership into something that we can mutually agree upon, so I would like to recognize the



support of Dr. Transform and distinguish presentive from SINU."

Mr. Nadapdap said World Vision will bring to the table a wealth of experience working with communities here in the Solomon Islands.

He said one of the spirits coming from last year's celebration of the 40 years' anniversary is that WWSI is continuing to strive to make a positive impact stating, "We cannot do it unless we partner strategically and unless we partner with institutions such as SINU."

With that, he said the MOU is not just a document, but a promise to collaborate to innovate and to transform life in Solomon Islands moving forward.

Staff Profile

Name: Adrian Orelly

Province: Western Province (Marovo Lagoon)

Age: 27

Work station: Kukum campus

Department: Business Investment & Commercial Services

Job title: Assistant Finance Officer

Qualification: Bachelor In Accounting

How long have you been working here? I have been privileged to contribute my skills and expertise to the Solomon Islands National University, working within the esteemed Business Investment & Commercial Services department for the past five years, since 2019.

Tell us about your job:

My Job comes in two folds:

Student Support: - Manage invoices for students accessing BICS services.

Address student inquiries and provide any necessary assistance

Administrative Duties: - Assist the BICS Manager in formulating departmental budgets.

Participate in developing and delivering the departmental annual work plan initiatives.

Provide financial guidance to BICS management.

Ensure accurate recording of all BICS revenue in the university's accounting system for reporting purposes.

What do you like about SINU and your job? SINU's dynamic environment, as a young and growing university, fuels my passion to be part of its future success story. I find purpose in directly contributing to student achievement through my work, and the opportunity to be a part of SINU's legacy as it flourishes is deeply motivating.



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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.