



## SINU farewell outgoing PVCC

**T**he Solomon Islands National University (SINU) on Thursday 04 April 2024 honoured the Service of Mr. Shadrach Fanega who served as the Pro-Vice Chancellor Corporate (PVCC) for the past three years.

Mr. Fanega’s contract with SINU ends this week, as he steps down to facilitate the recruitment process for the PVCC position.

In a speech honouring the outgoing PVCC, SINU Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof. Transform Aqorau spoke highly of Mr. Fanega's integrity.

“It is with a deep sense of gratitude and profound respect that we gather here today to honour Shadrach Fanega for his exemplary service to our institution.”

“As we mark the conclusion of his tenure as Pro Vice Chancellor Corporate today, it is fitting that we reflect on the remarkable journey and invaluable contributions he has made, not only in his recent role but throughout his longstanding affiliation with SINU.”

“Shadrach's association with SINU, initially as a member of the SINU Council and subsequently in his executive capacity, has been characterized by an unwavering commitment to excellence, integrity, and visionary leadership.”

“His tenure has been a period of significant transformation and progress, during which his strategic acumen and profound understanding of the administrative complexities of higher education have greatly benefited our university.”

“Under his stewardship, SINU has navigated the complexities of institutional growth and development, demonstrating a remarkable capacity to adapt and thrive in the dynamic landscape of higher education.”

“Shadrach’s leadership has been instrumental in fostering a culture of accountability, transparency, and innovation, thereby enhancing our university's reputation and operational efficacy.”

“His contributions extend beyond administrative excellence; they embody a legacy of nurturing and empowering our academic community. He has been a staunch advocate for academic rigor, re-

search excellence, and the holistic development of our students and staff.”

“His efforts have significantly enriched our academic programs and institutional capabilities, ensuring that SINU is not only a place of learning but a beacon of knowledge and innovation in the Pacific region.”



SINU VC Prof. Transform Aqorau presents a token of appreciation to Mr. Shadrach Fanega.

“As Shadrach's contract lapses and he stands down to allow for the recruitment process to finalize, it is important to recognise that his legacy will continue to influence the strategic direction and ethos of SINU for many years to come.”

“His foresight and dedication have laid a solid foundation upon which the future of our university will be built, ensuring that SINU remains at the forefront of academic and research excellence.”

“I extend my heartfelt thanks to Shadrach Fanega for his commitment, service, and the indelible mark he has left on the University.”

“We are profoundly grateful for his contributions and wish him every success in his future endeavours. May his journey ahead be as impactful and fulfilling as his time with us at SINU.”

“As I come to the closure of my short speech, let us reflect on the theme of our gathering, "Celebrating Excellence and Dedication: Honouring the Service of Mr. Shadrach Fanega at the Solomon Islands National University.”

“Today, we have acknowledged not just the tenure of a Pro Vice

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Chancellor but celebrated a legacy of unwavering commitment and transformative leadership that Mr. Fanega has bequeathed to our university.”

“His journey at SINU has been a testament to what can be achieved with dedication, foresight, and a deep-rooted desire to serve and uplift others.”

In the narrative of Shadrach's contributions, we find a profound alignment with the scriptural verse from Colossians 3:23-24, which eloquently encapsulates the essence of his service: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

“His service, characterised by integrity, diligence, and a visionary approach, has not only propelled the university forward but has also served as a beacon of inspiration for all of us.”

“The legacy of Mr. Fanega at SINU is a narrative of hope, aspiration, and unwavering commitment to the greater good, echoing the biblical call to serve with all one's heart and as unto the Lord.”

“As we say thank you to Shadrach and celebrate his monumental contributions, let us carry forward the torch of excellence and dedication that he has passed on to us.”

“May his legacy inspire us to serve with equal passion and commitment, ensuring that the University continues to flourish and



SINU staff and MEHRD PS posed for a group photo with the SINU outgoing PVCC Mr. Shadrach Fanega .

“This passage not only resonates with the spiritual dimension of Shadrach's work but also with the ethos of dedication and excellence that he has epitomized throughout his tenure at SINU.”

impact the lives of many, in alignment with the highest standards of service and academic excellence.”

“In closing, we once again extend our deepest gratitude to Mr. Shadrach Fanega for his distinguished service and enduring legacy at SINU.”

“We pray that his future endeavours are blessed with the same wisdom, strength, and guidance from the Lord that marked his time with us.”

“May his journey ahead be as rewarding and impactful as his tenure at our beloved university.”

“Thank you, Shadrach, for your remarkable service and dedication.”

“Your legacy at SINU will be cherished and celebrated for generations to come.”

Speaking in response to the VC’s remarks, the outgoing PVCC thanked the VC, members of the SINU Council and fellow SINU colleagues for their support and friendship for the past three years.

Mr. Fanega then wished SINU and its staff more prosperous years ahead.

The event was held at the SINU LokoI Fusion Café at Kukum Campus.



SINU VC Prof. Transform Aqorau and outgoing SINU PVCC Mr. Shadrach Fanega cut a cake to mark the occasion as PVCA Dr. Eric Katovai looks on.

# SINU hosts second Research Roundtable

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) this week successfully hosted a second Research Roundtable on "Addressing Harm in Distant Water Fishing in Solomon Islands Waters."

The second Research Roundtable was held at the SINU Department of Fisheries Studies on Wednesday 03 April 2024 attended by key stakeholders.

In his opening remarks during the roundtable, SINU Vice-Chancellor (VC) Professor Transform Aqorau highlighted that the stakeholders' collective endeavour remains critical in addressing the multifaceted issues posed by Distant Water Fishing (DWF) in our waters, stating a subject that

not only impacts our marine resources but also touches on the very fabric of our social and economic wellbeing.

Prof. Aqorau said given the paramount importance of social accountability in the fishing sector, a comprehensive Social Conditions Gap analysis, encompassing both domestic and foreign fishing vessels licensed to operate in Solomon Islands waters, would be invaluable.

This holistic approach would entail the following objectives:

1. Assess Company and Fleet: Conduct a thorough Risk Assessment (Tier 2 and 3) across both Solomon Islands domestic industry and foreign fishing vessels licensed by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR). This inclusive assessment aims to pinpoint potential risks and improvement areas in social accountability practices across the entire fishing sector operating within Solomon Islands



Facilitators and participants of the 2nd roundtable meeting posed for a group photo



jurisdiction.

2. Inform: Equip both the MFMR and all fishing companies operating in Solomon Islands, including those based locally and foreign entities, with comprehensive insights into their current Social Accountability standings in relation to global best practices, standards,



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guidelines, and policies. This information dissemination is vital for understanding the Solomon Islands' position in the international arena and pinpointing enhancement opportunities.

3. Guide Planning & Support: Provide systematic planning and support to address Social Accountability expectations for all assessed entities. This includes offering strategic guidance to both domestic and foreign fleet companies to elevate their social accountability practices to align with international norms and standards.



One of the participants involving in a group work activity

4. Enable: Facilitate the Solomon Islands fishing sector, encompassing both local and foreign fleets, to attain and surpass the social accountability standards required for global market access and stakeholder satisfaction. This facilitation will ensure the sector not only adheres to international standards but also secures a competitive advantage in the global market.

5. Verify and Assess On-site: Execute comprehensive on-site benchmark reviews (Tier 4) for the entire Solomon Islands Tuna Industry, including foreign vessels licensed to fish in Solomon Islands waters. This initiative will foster internal improvements in crewing and offer guidance to enhance overall competence, implementation, and transparency in on board labour practices.

6. Capability Building: Provide ISO19011 training to MFMR compliance officers and representatives from both domestic and foreign fleets operating under Solomon Islands licenses. This will bolster internal auditing capabilities, with a potential for a comprehensive capability-building needs analysis and program de-



Representatives from participating stakeholders doing a group presentation.

sign to meet identified requirements

Prof. Aqorau said incorporating both domestic and foreign fleets into this comprehensive assessment framework will ensure a holistic approach to improving social accountability standards in Solomon Islands' fishing industry, aligning it with global best practices and enhancing its international standing.

He added, to support the Ministry of Fisheries and others working in the social accountability space within the fishing industry, SINU can play a pivotal role by leveraging its academic and research capabilities.

He said SINU can contribute through the following suggested programs; providing capacity building and training programs, Research and Development Initiatives, Academic Programs, Policy Support and Advocacy, and Technological Advancement and Innovation.

He said by integrating these elements into its strategic focus, SINU can significantly contribute to enhancing social accountability in the fishing

industry, supporting the Ministry of Fisheries and other stakeholders, and ultimately fostering sustainable and ethical fishing practices in Solomon Islands waters where he said SINU stands ready to be a catalyst for chance.

“Through comprehensive training programs, targeted research initiatives, robust academic offerings, and active policy support, SINU can significantly influence the trajectory of sustainable and ethical fishing practices in the Solomon Islands.”

Prof. Aqorau holds the view that the journey towards achieving social accountability in our fisheries is a shared responsibility that requires a collective effort of the Ministry of Fisheries, industry stakeholders, academic institutions, and the community at large.



A SINU staff from the Department of Fisheries Studies participating in a group work activity.

“As SINU aligns its resources and expertise with the needs of the industry and the aspirations of our society, we are not just preparing for compliance with international standards; we are fostering a culture of integrity, sustainability, and respect for human rights in our waters.”

With that, the SINU VC said let us therefore embrace this challenge with a sense of urgency and commitment.

“I call upon each one of you, as stakeholders in the future of our fisheries, to support and engage with the initiatives of the SINU.”

“Together, we can set a new standard for social accountability in the fishing industry, creating a legacy of responsible stewardship of our ocean resources that will resonate beyond our shores and into the global arena.”

The first roundtable was held on the 9th of November last year.

Attending the second roundtable meeting were representatives from; Conservation International, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Solomon Islands Maritime Authority, WorldFish, Oxfam and SINU Department of Fisheries Studies.



Luke M. Jino from the Department of Fisheries Studies (DFS) and a female participant actively engaged in a group activity.

# Staff Profile

**Name :** Luke M. Jino

**Province:** Western and Isabel Province

**Age:** 35

**Work station:** Ranadi Campus

**Department:** Department of Fisheries Studies (DFS)

**Job title:** Assistant Lecturer in Seafood Science

**Qualification:** Master of Science - Food Science

**How long have you been working here?** 3 years

**Tell us about your job:** My core job is lecturing the Seafood courses, especially Food Chemistry, Food Materials, Food Hygiene, Food Analysis and Introduction to Analytical Chemistry.

In addition to that and working alongside my fellow colleagues, I am also involved in other projects such as:

- Bottled Tuna processing and training for students, local communities and Pacific Regional training
- Smoked Tuna processing and training
- Food Safety training
- Developing a Fish Handling Module with MFMR
- Supervising and documenting Indigenous Fishing Knowledge (IFK), especially the Aohe Eel Trap from Makira Province

**What do you like about SINU and your job?** Working in an academic institution such as SINU is quite interesting and rewarding. Interesting in that we're still a relatively young University, therefore I am looking forward to be part of the many future developments and advances we will go through; and it is rewarding, knowing that we are training the future thought leaders of our country. The work comes with its own unique challenges, but each challenge always keeps us on our toes and enable us to find innovative ways to overcome them. It is a great place to cultivate, share and challenge your knowledge with like-minded individuals and impart them to students



## About Us:



Solomon Islands National University  
P.O. Box R113  
Honiara  
Solomon Islands

[www.sinu.edu.sb](http://www.sinu.edu.sb)  
[www.facebook.com/SINU.edu](https://www.facebook.com/SINU.edu)

For Newsletter inquiries, contact our Marketing & Promotions Office on:

Phone: 42600 Ext 252 or 42631  
E-mail: [pro@sinu.edu.sb](mailto:pro@sinu.edu.sb)

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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.