

SPREP and SINU Sign MoU to Enhance Climate Resilience and Environmental Protection

Solomon Islands National University (SINU) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) have signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Apia, Samoa on 23 May 2024. The signing ceremony was attended by Professor Transform Aqorau, Vice Chancellor of SINU, and Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra, Director General of SPREP.

This MoU signifies a strategic collaboration between SINU and SPREP aimed at addressing the pressing issues of climate change and environmental protection in the Pacific region. The agreement outlines a comprehensive framework for cooperation in various areas, including climate change adaptation, environmental sustainability, and capacity building.

Key Highlights of the MoU:

1. **Exchange Programmes:** The agreement facilitates the exchange of faculty, students, and research staff between SINU and SPREP, fostering academic and professional growth.

2. **Joint Research Initiatives:** Both parties will collaborate on joint research projects focusing on climate change impacts, traditional knowledge integration, and sustainable practices.

3. **Community Engagement:** The MoU emphasises the importance of community-based approaches, encouraging the involvement of local communities in environmental conservation efforts and climate resilience initiatives.

4. **Educational Programmes:** SINU and SPREP will work together to develop new academic programmes that integrate traditional knowledge with modern scientific research, creating a unique and culturally relevant educational experience for students.

5. **Environmental Awareness:** The collaboration will support awareness-raising efforts and policy advocacy to promote environmental protection and sustainable development in the Pacific region.

The signing of the MoU coincided with the Pacific Oceans Pacific Climate Change Conference held in Apia, where Professor Transform Aqorau delivered the keynote address on "Harnessing Ancestral Wisdom: Traditional Knowledge and Practices for Climate Resilience." In his speech, Professor Aqorau highlighted the vital role of traditional knowledge in addressing climate change, em-

phasizing that integrating ancestral wisdom with contemporary scientific methods can lead to innovative and sustainable solutions.

In his Keynote Address Professor Aqorau said, "By harnessing the wisdom of our ancestors and the rich tapestry of traditional knowledge, we can discover culturally appropriate solutions to the environmental crises we face. Our path forward lies not in replacing our cherished cultures but in turning to our heritage for resilience and strength. By weaving these time-tested practices into our official policies, we reinforce our unique identity and lead the way in climate resilience."

"The establishment of living labs and the Centre for Islands Futures at SINU exemplifies how we can integrate indigenous knowledge with modern scientific research to create resilient and sustainable communities. These initiatives are not just educational hubs but centers for community engagement where local wisdom is valued, and new ideas are tested in real-world settings."

Professor Transform Aqorau said, "The signing of this MoU marks a significant milestone in our journey towards a sustainable and resilient Pacific. It reflects our shared commitment to environmental stewardship and climate resilience. By working together, SINU and SPREP will leverage the strengths of both traditional knowledge and scientific research to address the complex challenges of our time."

This partnership is

a testament to the power of collaboration in fostering innovation and empowering our communities."

Professor Aqorau also noted his historical connection with SPREP, having been one of the negotiators and signatories of the SPREP Agreement as the Plenipotentiary of Solomon Islands in 1993. This enduring relationship underscores the deep commitment and shared vision of both institutions in promoting sustainable development and environmental protection in the Pacific region.



SINU VC Prof.Transform Aqorau and Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra, Director General of SPREP signed the MOU.

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SINU to Host Fifth Pacific Oceans Pacific Climate Change Conference in 2026

Solomon Islands National University (SINU) is proud to announce that it will be hosting the Fifth Pacific Oceans Pacific Climate Change Conference from 15 to 17 June 2026, in Honiara, Solomon Islands. This prestigious event will serve as a vital platform for discussing climate change impacts, adaptation strategies, and collaborative efforts within the Pacific region, aligning with the upcoming COP31 to be hosted by Australia later in the same year.

Background on the Pacific Oceans Pacific Climate Change Conference:

The Pacific Oceans Pacific Climate Change Conference is a biennial event that attracts leading researchers, policymakers, and practitioners from across the Pacific region and beyond. It serves as a vital forum for fostering dialogue and collaboration among diverse stakeholders who are at the forefront of addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change. The primary aim of the Conference is to share cutting-edge research, innovative practices, and develop actionable strategies that can effectively combat the adverse effects of climate change.

The Conference is renowned for its unique approach to integrating traditional knowledge with contemporary scientific research. This integration not only enriches the understanding of climate change impacts and adaptation measures but also ensures that solutions are culturally relevant and sustainable. By bringing together the wisdom of indigenous communities and the advancements of modern science, the Conference promotes holistic and inclusive approaches to climate resilience.

In addition to its scientific and cultural focus, the Pacific Oceans Pacific Climate Change Conference places a strong emphasis on promoting sustainable practices across various sectors. This includes encouraging sustainable agriculture, renewable energy initiatives, conservation efforts, and climate-smart infrastructure development. The event highlights successful case studies and best practices from across the region, providing a platform for knowledge exchange and capacity building.

Furthermore, the Conference enhances climate resilience in the Pacific Islands by facilitating the development of robust policy frameworks and community-driven initiatives. It supports the creation of resilient ecosystems and communities through collaborative efforts and innovative solutions tailored to the specific needs and conditions of Pacific Island nations. By fostering partnerships and networking opportunities, the Conference plays a crucial role in strengthening regional cooperation and ensuring a coordinated response to the global climate crisis.

The Pacific Oceans Pacific Climate Change Conference stands as a beacon of hope and progress, driving forward the collective efforts of the Pacific community to build a sustainable and resilient future in the face of climate change.

Significance of the 2026 Conference:

The 2026 Conference in Honiara will be a pivotal event leading up to COP31, serving as a critical pathway that bridges regional efforts with global climate negotiations. This Conference will provide an unparalleled opportunity for Melanesia to showcase its collaborative efforts, innovative research, and practical solutions to climate change. It will be a stage where the unique challenges faced by Pacific Island nations, such as rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and environmental degradation, are brought to the forefront, highlighting the urgent need for targeted and effective climate action.

The event will shine a spotlight on the innovative solutions being developed within the region. These solutions often blend traditional knowledge with cutting-edge scientific research, creating culturally relevant and sustainable approaches to climate resilience. From community-based conservation projects and sustainable agricultural practices to renewable energy initiatives and disaster preparedness strategies, the Conference will demonstrate how Melanesian nations are leading by example in their response to climate change.

Moreover, the 2026 Conference will underscore the vital importance of regional cooperation in addressing climate change. It will provide a platform for Pacific Island nations to come together, share their experiences, and collaborate on common goals. This collective approach is essential for amplifying their voices and ensuring that their specific needs and perspectives are represented in global climate discussions. The Conference will enhance the visibility of Melanesian contributions on the global stage, showcasing the region's resilience, creativity, and commitment to sustainable development.

By hosting this significant gathering, the Solomon Islands and SINU will play a central role in facilitating dialogue and cooperation among Pacific nations and the international community. The Conference will also help to build momentum towards COP31, ensuring that the concerns and solutions of Pacific Island nations are prominently fea-

tured in the global climate agenda. This event is not only a testament to the region's proactive stance on climate change but also an opportunity to influence global policies and actions in favour of more inclusive and effective climate solutions.

Benefits to SINU and the Solomon Islands:

Hosting this Conference will bring significant benefits to SINU and the Solomon Islands on multiple fronts. First and foremost, it will position SINU as a preeminent institution in climate change research and education within the Pacific region and beyond. By serving as the host, SINU will attract leading academics, researchers, and policymakers from around the world, fostering invaluable academic collaborations. These partnerships will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and innovative practices, enhancing the university's research capabilities and educational offerings. As a result, SINU will become a hub for cutting-edge climate research, drawing international scholars and students eager to engage with its pioneering programmes and initiatives.

The Conference will also deliver substantial economic benefits to the local community. The influx of delegates, researchers, and other participants will boost the local economy through increased demand for accommodation, transportation, dining, and other services. This economic activity will create job opportunities and support local businesses, contributing to the overall economic development of Honiara and the wider Solomon Islands. Additionally, the event is expected to increase tourism, as visitors will have the opportunity to explore the natural beauty and cultural heritage of the Solomon Islands. This heightened visibility will enhance the country's profile as a desirable destination for both academic and leisure travel.

Moreover, the Conference will provide a high-profile platform for the Solomon Islands to showcase its commitment to environmental sustainability and climate resilience. By hosting this significant event, the Solomon Islands will highlight its proactive stance on climate change and its efforts to implement sustainable practices. This will enhance the country's reputation as a leader in climate action within the Pacific region. The event will also provide an opportunity to present successful local initiatives, share best practices, and inspire other nations to adopt similar approaches. The visibility gained through the Conference will underscore the Solomon Islands' dedication to preserving its unique ecosystems and cultural heritage in the face of climate challenges.

Hosting the Fifth Pacific Oceans Pacific Climate Change Conference will position SINU as a leader in climate education and research, stimulate the local economy, increase tourism, and solidify the Solomon Islands' reputation as a committed advocate for environmental sustainability and climate resilience. This event will not only benefit the academic and economic landscape but also contribute to the global discourse on climate change, highlighting the critical role of Pacific Island nations in shaping a sustainable future.

The organisation of the Conference will be a collaborative effort involving the Solomon Islands Government, Victoria University in New Zealand, the National University of Samoa, SPREP, and the Pacific Climate Change Center. This collective approach ensures a comprehensive and inclusive programme, drawing on the strengths and expertise of each partner institution.

Quote from Professor Transform Aqorau said, "We are deeply honoured to host the Fifth Pacific Oceans Pacific Climate Change Conference in Honiara. This event reflects our commitment to addressing climate change and underscores the collaborative efforts between SINU, the Solomon Islands Government, and our esteemed partners. It is a unique opportunity for Melanesia to showcase its innovative research and traditional knowledge, contributing to the global discourse on climate resilience. We look forward to welcoming delegates from around the world to our shores and to fostering meaningful discussions that will drive positive change for our region and beyond."

The Conference promises to be a landmark event, bringing together diverse voices and perspectives to tackle one of the most pressing issues of our time. The Solomon Islands and SINU are proud to play a pivotal role in this important regional gathering.

SINU Vice Chancellor Addresses SINUGSA Annual Meeting

Solomon Islands National University (SINU) Vice Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau addressed the Annual Meeting of the SINU General Staff Association (GSA) today. This event highlighted the collective achievements and future aspirations of the University, with a particular focus on the welfare and development of its staff.

In his address, Professor Aqorau expressed heartfelt gratitude to the staff for their unwavering commitment and dedication, which form the bedrock of the University's success. He acknowledged the vital roles played by all staff members and reiterated his commitment to addressing their concerns and needs.

A key theme of the Vice Chancellor's address was the importance of collective bargaining and the role of the newly established General Staff Association in fostering a supportive environment. Professor Aqorau emphasized that the formation of the GSA is a monumental milestone, demonstrating collective strength and a shared commitment to improving staff welfare. Key Messages from the Vice Chancellor's Address included:

1. **Establishment of a Staff Education Fund:** Professor Aqorau encouraged the development of a Staff Education Fund to provide financial support for further education and professional development opportunities. This initiative aims to enhance the skills and knowledge of staff, contributing to the University's mission and vision.
2. **Formation of a Credit Union:** The Vice Chancellor proposed the formation of a Credit Union to offer staff access to low-interest loans and promote financial stability. This initiative is designed to foster a culture of saving and financial prudence among staff members.
3. **Promoting a Savings Culture:** Professor Aqorau highlighted the importance of regular savings to secure futures and prepare



for unforeseen circumstances. He urged staff to adopt a habit of saving a portion of their earnings.

4. **Establishment of a Staff Welfare Fund:** Emphasizing the need for a Staff Welfare Fund, the Vice Chancellor outlined its purpose in providing support during times of need, such as healthcare emergencies and other unforeseen challenges.

5. **Commitment to Staff Welfare and Housing:** Professor Aqorau reiterated his dedication to addressing staff welfare and housing issues, pledging to work tirelessly with the Executive to develop



SINU staff who attended the SINUGSA annual meeting.

solutions that provide stability and comfort.

6. **Ongoing Professional Development:** The Vice Chancellor stressed the importance of continuous professional development, ensuring that staff remain marketable and equipped with necessary skills.
7. **Preparing for Retirement:** The address included strategies for effective retirement preparation, highlighting the importance of professional development, financial planning, health and wellness, networking, and exploring new interests.

Professor Aqorau concluded his address with a call to excellence, urging staff to continue working together to create a supportive and forward-thinking environment at SINU. Professor Aqorau said, "The establishment of the General Staff Association marks a significant milestone for SINU. It is a testament to our collective strength and commitment to improving the welfare of all staff members. This Association is not just a step forward; it is a leap towards a more inclusive and supportive community where every staff member's contributions are valued and recognized. Together, we can create a brighter future for SINU, fostering an environment of excellence and mutual support."



SINU HR Director Acting raising a question during the meeting.

Solomon Islands National University Receives Tata Buses from the Solomon Islands Government

Solomon Islands National University (SINU) is pleased to announce the receipt of three Tata buses with a carrying capacity of thirty-one passengers, each equipped with hand handles to accommodate additional passengers. These buses were graciously handed over by the Honourable Prime Minister Jeremiah Manele as part of the legacy of the Pacific Games. The buses were originally donated by the Government of India to the Solomon Islands Government for use by the National Hosting Authority during the Pacific Games.

"We are deeply honoured and grateful to receive these Tata buses, which will significantly enhance the mobility and accessibility for both our staff and students across our three campuses. This generous contribution from the Government of India, facilitated by the Solomon Islands Government and the National Hosting Authority, exemplifies the lasting positive impact of the Pacific Games. These buses will not only improve our daily operations but also foster a greater sense of unity and convenience within our University community. On behalf of SINU, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the National Hosting Authority for their unwavering support and for including us in the enduring legacy of the Pacific Games."



SINU VC posed for a group photo with the government delegation during the hand over ceremony.

These generous donations are a testament to the enduring legacy of the Pacific Games, which has brought substantial benefits to the Solomon Islands. SINU, as the largest beneficiary of the Games, has witnessed over \$200 million worth of investments in infrastructure and now proudly adds these buses to its assets.

The Vice Chancellor of SINU, Professor Transform Aqorau, expressed his gratitude and highlighted the impact these vehicles will have on the University community:



Tata buses that the government donated to SINU and other stakeholders in Honiara recently.

SINU continues to strive towards excellence in education and development, and the addition of these buses marks another milestone in its journey towards becoming an internationally recognised institution.

Home Economics students ends semester one in style

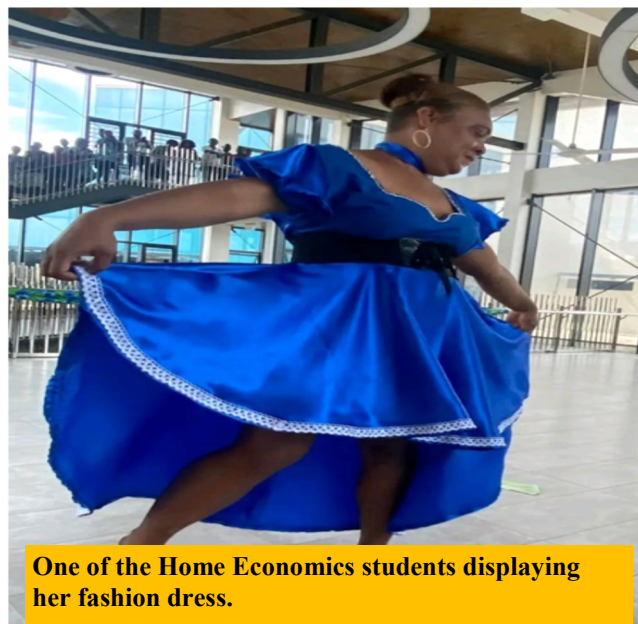
Students enrolled in the Unit HEC602: Apparel Design and Flat Pattern Making concluded the semester in style.

Sixty-one students modeled the garments they designed and constructed.

On Thursday last week, the students were presenting their work in a simple yet entertaining manner.

It was incredibly rewarding to see students effectively apply their skills in drafting, designing and styling to create their own unique garments. Showcasing their work is essential for students, as it allows them to demonstrate what they have learned throughout the semester.

I believe this event will boost student morale and at the same time serve as a form of promotion for the program. We can still improve on our efforts, but this year's event was a significant success.



One of the Home Economics students displaying her fashion dress.

Staff Profile

Name: : Mary Satini

Province: Western

Age: 63

Work station: Kukum Campus

Department: PFP

Job title: Janitor

Qualification: Class seven at Lengana Primary
Simbo, Western Province.

How long have you been working here? I joined SINU in 2014 and this year marks a decade working at SINU as a Janitor.

Tell us about your job: I look after the Kukum Lecture Theatre and my job is to keep the facility clean and tidy at all times.

What do you like about SINU and your job? I like working at SINU because it has a nice working environment that comes with many privileges. I like my job as a Janitor because it playing a crucial role in ensuring SINU facilities are clean and well maintained.



U n i V o i s

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About Us:

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."