



**FIJI NATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY**



Solomon Islands National University

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

### **BETWEEN**

#### **THE FIJI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

herein referred as "**FNU**", created by virtue of Decree with effect on 27 October 2009 now known as FNU Act, with its head office located at Lot DSS 1722, 5 ½ Miles, Kings Road, Nasinu, Fiji,  
represented herein by its

**Vice-Chancellor, Professor Unaisi Nabobo Baba**

### **AND**

#### **SOLOMON ISLANDS NATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

herein referred as "**SINU**", created by the Solomon Islands National University Act (2012) with its principal office located at Kukum Campus in Honiara, Solomon Islands, represented herein by its

**Vice-Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau**

with FNU and WSU, hereinafter separately referred to as a "**Party**" or mutually referred to as the "**Parties**".

### **PREAMBLE**

The Parties will cooperate and work together for the purpose of promoting mutual understanding, leading to the strengthening of both institutions through identified development activities. The Parties agree to promote, strengthen and enhance cooperation in the area of research, education and faculty development.

### **IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:**

#### **ARTICLE 1 – OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this MOU is to bind together both signatories to establish a partnership, based on friendship and cooperation, for the purpose of promoting mutual understanding, leading to the strengthening of both institutions through identified development activities. It recognises the intention of FNU and SINU to co-operate in a broad range of areas and to work together for their mutual benefit.

## **ARTICLE 2 – SCOPE OF CO-OPERATION**

Under this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the SINU and the FNU hereby establish a framework for cooperation to enhance academic and educational outcomes through various initiatives, as outlined below:

a) Student and Scholar Exchange:

- To facilitate the exchange of students and visiting research scholars, including postgraduate students, thereby enhancing cross-cultural academic experiences and fostering collaborative research across both institutions.

b) Joint Academic Programs:

- To develop and offer joint degree programs in specified fields, with special provisions for postgraduate students, enabling access to shared resources and opportunities for interdisciplinary research.

c) Research Collaboration:

- To undertake joint research projects in mutually beneficial areas, actively involving postgraduate students, thus promoting a rich exchange of ideas and fostering a collaborative research culture.

d) Professional Development and Capacity Building:

- To provide support for the development of SINU through the delivery of FNU courses and programs, training of trainers, and the establishment of articulation pathways for SINU graduates into FNU programs.

e) Academic and Information Exchange:

- To exchange academic materials, resources, and information to mutually enrich the learning and teaching environments of both FNU and SINU.

f) Engagement in Global Academic Forums:

- To participate jointly in international conferences, seminars, symposia, workshops, and related activities, aligning with the objectives and interests of both parties.

g) Community-Based Program Development:

- To support SINU in the development of community-based Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs, leveraging FNU's expertise and experience in community outreach and program design.



h) Enhancement of Learning Infrastructure:

- To offer advisory support for the improvement of workshop facilities and the procurement of essential equipment, thereby optimizing SINU's learning environment.

i) Curriculum Development and Quality Assurance:

- To collaborate in the development and revision of TVET program curricula to meet industry standards and incorporate quality assurance measures for program evaluation.

j) Partnership Development:

- To facilitate the establishment of partnerships with industry stakeholders and educational institutions to enhance the impact and relevance of SINU's TVET programs.

J) Specific Collaboration in TVET Training:

In recognising the critical role of TVET in workforce development and economic growth, both SINU and FNU commit to a strategic collaboration that leverages each institution's strengths to improve the quality and reach of TVET programs. This partnership will focus on:

- Curriculum Development: Sharing best practices and resources for curriculum enhancement to ensure alignment with current industry standards and emerging market needs.
- Faculty Development: Offering professional development opportunities for SINU faculty to enhance pedagogical skills and technical knowledge through workshops, training programs, and faculty exchange initiatives.
- Quality Assurance: Assisting in establishing robust quality assurance processes for continuous improvement of TVET programs at SINU, including program assessment and accreditation.
- Student Exchange Programs: Organising student exchanges to the extent possible to provide exposure to diverse training environments and best practices in TVET.

k) Collaboration in FNU's National Training and Productivity Center:

This partnership will extend to collaborative activities within FNU's National Training and Productivity Center, focusing on:

- Joint Training Initiatives: Developing and delivering joint training programs that address specific skills gaps, combining the expertise and resources of both institutions.
- Research and Development: Engaging in research projects aimed at enhancing productivity and innovation across various sectors.

- Industry Engagement: Strengthening connections with industry partners to ensure TVET programs are responsive to labour market needs and students have opportunities for practical training.
- Technology Transfer: Sharing knowledge and technologies related to new and emerging fields to enhance the relevance and applicability of TVET training.
- Capacity Building Workshops: Organising workshops on productivity improvement, leadership, and management for the benefit of staff and students from both institutions.

l) Collaboration with FNU' Centre for Maritime Studies:

- Deep Sea Fisheries (Tuna) and Mining.

The SINU and FNU express their mutual commitment to fostering an environment of academic excellence, innovation, and collaboration, aimed at supporting sustainable community and economic development in the region. This comprehensive framework outlines the areas of cooperation that will guide the partnership between SINU and FNU, reflecting a shared vision for the future of education and workforce development.

### ARTICLE 3 – DURATION

This MOU is valid for a period of **Five (5) years** and will enter into effect on the date of signing by the Parties. Both parties shall review the status of the agreement at the end of each five-year period to determine any modifications that might be necessary. The operation of this MOU may be extended by mutual consent for such period(s) may be considered desirable by the parties, which period shall be set out in writing in letters of exchange signed by both Parties.

### ARTICLE 4 – FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The parties agree that any specific project that arises from this MOU will need to be incorporated into a specific Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and financial arrangements will have to be negotiated and agreed upon. Specific details for the implementation of activities will be developed mutually for each activity or project.

### ARTICLE 5 – LEGAL EFFECT

The parties acknowledge that this MOU is not legally enforceable, but that it does not diminish the intention of the parties to comply with the terms, conditions, responsibilities and undertakings stipulated in this MOU.

### ARTICLE 6 – TERMINATION

Either Party may terminate this MOU upon giving to the other party 6 (six) months' notice in writing of its intention to do so. In the event of termination, both Parties agree to protect the interests of staff and students currently participating in collaborative programmes or initiatives and to provide all the support necessary to enable them to conclude those initiatives successfully.



## **ARTICLE 7 - SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES**

Any dispute arising out of the interpretation and/or implementation of this MOU shall be settled amicably in good faith through consultation or negotiation between the parties without reference to any third party or any international tribunal.

## **ARTICLE 8 - CONFIDENTIALITY & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

The parties shall not disclose or distribute any confidential information, documents, data received or supplied to the other in the course of the implementation of this MOU to any third party except as authorized in writing to do so by the requesting party. The parties further agree to recognize each other's intellectual property rights in relation to the performance of the responsibilities of each party under this MOU.

## **ARTICLE 9 - FORCE MAJEURE**

Neither Party shall be held responsible for non-fulfilment of their respective obligations under this MOU due to exigency of one or more of the force majeure events such as, but not limited to, act of God, war, flood, earthquake, strikes, lockouts, epidemics, riots, civil commotion, etc., provided on the occurrence and cessation of any such events, the Party affected thereby shall give a notice in writing to the other Party within 1(one) month of such occurrence or cessation.

## **ARTICLE 10 - MODIFICATIONS AND AMENDMENTS**

This MOU may be varied and/or amended by the mutual agreement of the Parties and any such variation shall be set out in writing and signed by the Parties.

## **ARTICLE 11 - PRINCIPLES OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION**

It is understood that both FNU and SINU subscribe to the principle of equal opportunity and do not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, ethnicity, religion, or national origin. Both FNU and SINU shall abide by these principles in the administration of this agreement and neither party shall impose criteria for exchange of scholars or students, which violate principles of nondiscrimination.

## **ARTICLE 12 - DESIGNATION OF OFFICE**

Each party shall designate an office to serve as liaison for implementing this Memorandum. For FNU this office will be the Office of the Vice-Chancellor. For SINU this office will be the Office of the Vice-Chancellor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have affixed their signatures:

SIGNED on behalf of  
The Fiji National University by



Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba  
Vice-Chancellor  
Fiji National University

Date: 22/04/2024



Witness

Name Jinaima V Lako

Designation AP/Pro - Vice Chancellor  
Learning & Teaching

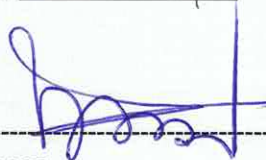
Date: 22/04/24

SIGNED on behalf of  
SOLOMON ISLAND NATIONAL UNIVERSITY by



Professor Transform Aqorau  
Vice-Chancellor  
Fiji National University

Date: 22 April, 2024



Witness

Name Constance Nasir

Designation Chief Executive

Date: 22 April