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From left to right; Dr Morgan, Dr Chris, Professor Transform and Hon. Patteson Oti happily cut the ribbon, marking the launch of the CIF.

SINU Launches Centre for Islands Futures to Champion Indigenous Knowledge and Sustainability

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) has marked a significant milestone in its journey to reshape higher education with the official launch of the Centre for Islands Futures (CIF). The inaugural event, held on 17 March 2025, was attended by staff, students, and distinguished guests, including members of the Islands Knowledge Institute (IKI).

The event was graced by Hon. Paterson Oti, Speaker of the National Parliament, who attended in his capacity as a Board Member of the Nende Cultural Group; Dr. Chris Filardi, representing Nia Tero; Dr. Morgan Wairiu, representing IKI; and Professor Transform Aqorau, Vice Chancellor of SINU. Each speaker underscored the transformative role CIF will play in fostering an education model rooted in indigenous knowledge, sustainability, and practical learning experiences.

In his keynote address, Professor Transform Aqorau highlighted the pioneering approach of the Centre for Islands Futures, which challenges traditional Western academic paradigms and places indigenous knowledge at the heart of research, governance, and sustainability.

"The Centre for Islands Futures is not just another academic unit—it is a movement. It is a space where indigenous epistemologies, traditional ecological wisdom, and modern scientific inquiry come together to create a truly decolonised and transformative learning experience," said Professor Aqorau. He further noted that the postgraduate diploma in Islands Knowledge and Futures (PGDipIKF) will provide students with immersive, real-world learning opportunities through Solutions Ontological Immersion Learning (SOIL)—a model that embeds students in rural communities to learn directly from elders, environmental custodians, and cultural leaders.

Speakers at the event reaffirmed CIF's commitment to ensuring that research serves the communities from which it originates. Through partnerships with organisations such as the Indigenous Knowledge Institute (IKI), Arizona State University, and Nia Tero, CIF will pioneer ethical research practices that prioritise indigenous data sovereignty and community-led innovation.

Dr. Chris Filardi of Nia Tero commended SINU for positioning itself as a regional leader in sustainability and indigenous knowledge systems, while Dr. Morgan Wairiu of IKI emphasised the need for customary law and governance training programmes to strengthen local leadership in resource management.

Hon. Paterson Oti, speaking on behalf of the Nende Cultural Group, praised CIF's approach in developing regional knowledge hubs to document oral histories, traditional governance, and ecological changes, ensuring that island communities remain at the centre of global sustainability discussions.

A key focus of CIF will be the empowerment of future Pacific leaders, with postgraduate and doctoral pathways aimed at equipping scholars with the tools to influence governance policies, climate resilience strategies, and sustainable development initiatives across the region.

Professor Aqorau stressed that CIF will actively support Women in Island Leadership (WIL) Fellowships and Youth Ambassadors Programmes, ensuring that all voices—especially those of women and youth—are central in shaping the future of Pacific societies.

"Through CIF, we want to create a generation of critical thinkers who embody ethical governance, cultural intelligence, and innovative problem-solving. The answers to our biggest challenges—climate change, cultural erosion, and sustainability—are not external; they are already within our own ways of knowing," he stated.

The event concluded with a call for continued collaboration between academics, policymakers, community leaders, and students to reshape education, research, and development in ways that honour the wisdom of island communities while addressing global challenges.

"This Centre is not just about studying island futures; it is about shaping them. Through Living Labs, participatory research, and community-led governance models, CIF will ensure that our islands are not marginal spaces but central to global sustainability solutions," Professor Aqorau affirmed.

With these inspiring words, the Centre for Islands Futures was officially declared open, marking the beginning of a new era for SINU and the broader Pacific region.

SINU Explores Educational Expansion in Gizo



Pro Vice-Chancellor Corporate Dr. William Parairato and the SINU team gather for a group photo with the Premier of the Western Province, Honorable Billy Veo, and his Provincial Executive on Friday 14 March 2025.

A delegation from the Solomon Islands National University (SINU), led by Pro Vice-Chancellor Corporate Dr. William Parairato, met with the Premier of the Western Province, Honourable Billy Veo, and his Provincial Executive to discuss plans for expanding SINU's presence in Gizo.

Dr. Parairato emphasized the importance of increasing access to higher education in the Western Province and expressed appreciation for the Provincial Government's support. "On behalf of SINU, I want to thank the Western Provincial Government for their ongoing support. This meeting is a key step in our efforts to provide greater educational opportunities for students in the region," he said.

He further highlighted that securing land for the initiative, with the support of the Provincial Government, would be essential for advancing the project. As part of the discussions, consultations on land acquisition for the university's expansion were also explored, with the intention of acquiring more land to support future growth.

Premier Hon. Billy Veo and his Executive welcomed the SINU delegation and expressed their full support for the initiative, stressing that education is one of the province's two main priorities. "Without education, we would not be sitting here," he remarked, emphasizing its vital role in empowering communities, driving economic growth, and shaping the future of the Western Province.

The meeting, held on Friday, 14 March 2025, reaffirmed the shared vision between SINU and the Western Provincial Government to enhance education and human resource development in the region. Further discussions and planning will take place in the coming months to advance the initiative.

SINU remains dedicated to expanding its reach and offering quality educational opportunities that contribute to the long-term development of the Solomon Islands.



Pro Vice-Chancellor Corporate Dr. William Parairato

SINU Welcomes Distinguished Australian Academics for Strategic Higher Education Support



Professor Derrick Armstrong and Professor Angela Hill posed for a photo with SINU VC Professor Transform Aqorau

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) is pleased to welcome Professor Angela Hill and Professor Derrick Armstrong, who have joined the university through the Australian Academic Volunteers Association, with the support of Australian Volunteers International. Their presence marks a significant milestone in SINU's efforts to strengthen its academic governance, policy frameworks, and strategic direction.

Professor Angela Hill is a highly accomplished academic leader with extensive experience in higher education policy, governance, and curriculum development. A Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (PFHEA) and former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) at Edith Cowan University, she has led national and international education initiatives, including expert curriculum reviews in countries such as Pakistan, New Zealand, and Mauritius. Her focus at SINU will be on reviewing academic policies, supporting the comprehensive review of all SINU programmes, and assisting the university in achieving registration as a service provider with SITESA.

Professor Derrick Armstrong brings a distinguished academic career, having served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the University of the South Pacific (USP) and Deputy Principal at the Pacific Theological College. His vast leadership experience extends to the University of Sydney, where he held key academic and research positions.

At SINU, he will provide strategic high-level oversight, supporting Vice-Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau in the broader institutional review process and shaping the university's long-term development strategy.

Speaking on the partnership, Professor Transform Aqorau expressed his enthusiasm for the contributions of Professors Hill and Armstrong:

"We are incredibly fortunate to have Professors Angela Hill and Derrick Armstrong join us at this critical juncture in SINU's development. Their expertise and experience will be invaluable in guiding our academic reforms, strengthening our institutional policies, and positioning SINU as a leading higher education provider in the region. Through their support, we are not only enhancing our governance and quality assurance frameworks but also tapping into global best practices that will benefit our students, staff, and the wider Solomon Islands community."

The collaboration between SINU and the Australian Academic Volunteers Association underscores a shared commitment to advancing higher education in the Pacific, ensuring academic excellence, robust governance, and sustainable institutional growth.

Strengthening Educational Ties: UoG Vice Chancellor Meets with Professor Transform Aqorau



University of Goroka delegation meets with SINU VC Professor Transform Aqorau

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Goroka (UoG), Dr. Teng Waninga, met with Professor Transform Aqorau to discuss expanding collaboration between UoG and the Solomon Islands National University (SINU). This meeting comes at a significant time, as UoG celebrates ten years of its Center in Honiara and looks toward establishing a full-fledged campus in the Solomon Islands.

Dr. Waninga was accompanied by a high-level delegation, including Council Nelson Auwo, University Council Member; Desmond Kipa, UoG Lawyer; Kensol Rui, Executive Director, Institute of Distance and Flexible Learning; and Richard Pilapitu, UoG POC Director. Their presence underscored UoG's commitment to fostering deeper institutional ties with SINU and exploring avenues for collaboration.

A key focus of the discussions was fostering mutual support for SINU's academic programmes and courses, as well as professional development opportunities for staff. Dr. Waninga reaffirmed UoG's commitment to strengthening higher education in the region, particularly in partnership with SINU.

The University of Goroka has a long-standing connection with the Solomon Islands. Originally established as the Goroka Teachers College, the institution has trained generations of educators, including many Solomon Islanders. Among its distinguished alumni is Dr. Patricia Rodie, the current Dean of the Faculty of Education and Humanities at SINU, whose academic journey is a testament to the vital role UoG has played in shaping education across the Pacific.

One of the most exciting aspects of the discussions centered on STEM Education—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. The University of Goroka is the only university in Papua New Guinea that offers a specialized teacher training programme in STEM education. Recognizing the critical need for qualified STEM educators in the Solomon Islands, UoG and SINU are working towards a formal agreement that will include, among other areas, support for STEM teacher training.

Speaking on the partnership, Professor Transform Aqorau expressed his enthusiasm for the collaboration:

"I am truly excited about the support and partnership that we are developing with the University of Goroka. Through this partnership, we not only strengthen our ties but also gain access to the wealth of international expertise that UoG is connected with in the field of STEM education.

This will be a game-changer for teacher training in the Solomon Islands and will significantly contribute to building our capacity in science and technology education."

As both institutions work towards finalizing a formal agreement, the collaboration between UoG and SINU promises to open new doors for educational excellence, innovation, and capacity building in the Solomon Islands.

W E L C O M E

TO OUR TEAM

WELCOME TO SINU – Dr. James Memua, Senior Lecturer in Educational Leadership

We are delighted to welcome Dr. James Memua to the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) as a Senior Lecturer in Educational Leadership at the Faculty of Education and Humanities (FEH).

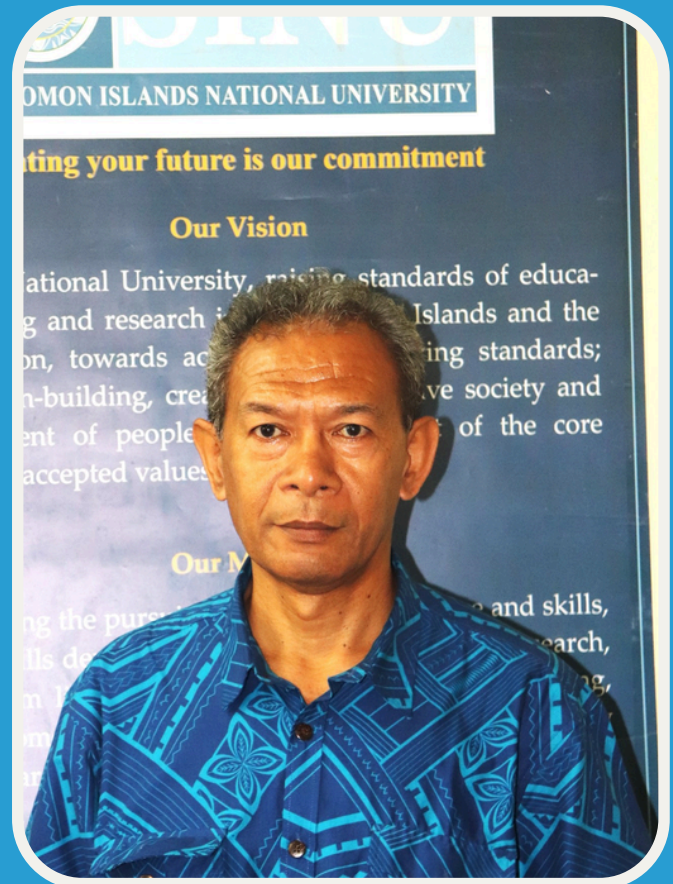
Originally from Tikopia in Temotu Province, Dr. James Memua is a seasoned educator and a passionate advocate for transformative leadership in education. A proud Solomon Islander, he brings over three decades of experience in the teaching profession. He holds a PhD in Education (2020), a Master of Educational Leadership with First Class Honours (2021), and a Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership (2010) from the University of Waikato, New Zealand.

He also holds a Bachelor of Education (Secondary) from USP Fiji and a Diploma in Teaching (Secondary) with Credit from the University of Papua New Guinea.

Dr. Memua has served in various influential roles, including Education Secretary for the Anglican Church of Melanesia, and has taught in several renowned schools such as St. Nicholas College, Selwyn College, Pamua National Secondary School, and Ruavatu Provincial Secondary School.

In 2024, he lectured at Solomon Islands National University (SINU), delivering postgraduate and master's courses in Educational Leadership.

A Pacific Research Fellow at Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge, Dr. Memua also contributed significantly to national education governance as a long-serving member of the Solomon Islands National Examination Board and the National Education Board for Makira/Ulawa Province (2012–2023).



Dr. Memua's leadership philosophy is rooted in the belief that education should nurture the holistic development of young people—spiritually, mentally, socially, and culturally. He is deeply committed to promoting inclusive, values-based leadership and quality education for all, with a particular focus on social justice in education.

Staff Profile

Name: Allen Oge

Province: Malaita

Age: 41

Workstation: Kukum Campus

Department: Human Resources Department (HRD)

Job title: Housing Officer

Qualification: Bachelor of Law & Commerce (major in Land Management and Real Estate)

How long have you been working here? 4 and a half years

Tell us about your job:

My primary role is to manage housing administration for staff at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU). This includes processing changes in rental payments, submitting staff housing requests for Housing Committee deliberation, drafting and signing tenancy agreements, conducting housing inspections, and determining staff rental entitlements. My responsibilities cover three housing schemes: the on-campus housing scheme, the open market scheme, and the 85% rental scheme.



What do you like about SINU and your job?

I like SINU because it is a government-owned institution and the only one of its kind in the Solomon Islands. As an educational institution, it offers valuable opportunities for study, which I see as the first step toward achieving my educational dreams.


What I enjoy most about my job is seeing staff smile and feel happy when their housing needs are successfully addressed. This brings me great satisfaction, as staff welfare—especially housing—is the core focus of my role.

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."



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