

UNIVOIS NEWSLETTER

Ministry of Forestry Supports SINU Forestry Department with Vital Training Resources



MoFR Acting PS Wilfred Atomea shake hands with SINU Staff Gideon Bauro to formally hand over the Forestry Training Resources to SINU Forestry Department witnessed by staff and students

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) Forestry Department has received a timely boost to its training resources, thanks to the Ministry of Forestry and Research (MoFR).

In a brief but meaningful handover ceremony held on Wednesday afternoon at the Solomon Islands National Herbarium, MoFR Supervising Permanent Secretary Mr. Wilfred Atomea officially handed over critical training items to the department.

The donated items include archival mounting papers and archival glue—essential tools used in the preservation and study of plant species.

Mr. Atomea described the support as a natural extension of MoFR's longstanding relationship with SINU's Forestry Department.

"The Department is like a child to the Ministry," he said. "It is only right that we continue to support and nurture it so that it continues to produce qualified forestry professionals for the country."

Receiving the donation on behalf of SINU, Mr. Gideon Bouro expressed gratitude and acknowledged the Ministry as both a key education partner and a primary employer of SINU's forestry graduates.

"This partnership demonstrates how academic, and industry goals can align to strengthen the forestry sector," he said.

"The support also enhances practical learning within the Forest Dendrology Unit, where students carry out field assignments including plant specimen collection, drying, and archival mounting."

Mr. Bouro also noted that this collaboration is anchored by a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between SINU and MoFR, which underscores mutual commitment to advancing forestry education and the sustainable development of the sector. Forestry staff who witnessed the ceremony included Mr. Peter Mahoa, Mr. Larren Gomese, part-time lecturer Mr. John Inu, and 26 forestry students.

The handover ceremony concluded with a guided educational tour of the Solomon Islands National Herbarium, where students gained firsthand insights into plant conservation and botanical archiving.



SINU and SINIS Confirm Members and Discuss Reviving SITAS

The Solomon Islands Tertiary Association of Sport (SITAS) has taken a significant step forward, with representatives from the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) and the Solomon Islands National Institute of Sport - SINIS confirming their membership and commitment to reviving the association.

During their meeting last week, key discussions focused on reactivating SITAS through the establishment of a SITAS Committee, the development of a guiding constitution, and strategies for fundraising to support future activities.

The meeting also explored the creation of an events calendar for 2025, aiming to promote regular inter-tertiary sporting competitions and student engagement.

Established in 2019, SITAS was created to enhance collaboration among tertiary institutions in the Solomon Islands by promoting student participation in sports, enhancing well-being, and building strong institutional networks through organised sporting events. With SINU and SINIS taking the lead, SITAS is now laying the groundwork for coordinated sports development at the tertiary level.



Centre for Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) Celebrates Graduation of First 2024 Cohort

The Centre for Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) proudly celebrated the graduation of its first cohort for 2024, which included 38 graduates, today in a vibrant and historic ceremony held at the Pavilion, Panatina Campus, Solomon Islands National University (SINU).

Graduates were awarded certificates in the following programmes:

- Certificate in Information Technology
- Certificate in Data Analysis
- Certificate in Data Communication and Networking

The event commenced with a warm welcome address from CEIT Director Mr. Pappu Kapgate, followed by an inspiring speech by Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic, Associate Professor Dr. Eric Katovai, who described the ceremony as a truly historic moment for the university.

“On behalf of the university, it is a great honour and privilege to stand before you today on this truly historic occasion — the inaugural graduation ceremony of the Centre of Excellence in Information Technology at SINU,” he stated.

Dr. Katovai expressed sincere gratitude to the Government of India for its generous support through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) initiative and the High Commission of India. “The CEIT is more than just a building filled with computers and smart boards — it is a powerful symbol of opportunity,” he said. “It represents a gateway for our youth and professionals to enter the global digital economy.”

He also acknowledged the efforts of Mr. Kapgate and his team for transforming the centre into a vibrant hub of innovation and learning. Dr. Katovai shared plans to integrate CEIT into SINU’s Faculty of Science and Technology, paving the way for future diploma, bachelor’s, and even master’s programmes in IT.

Addressing the graduates directly, he said, today, you stand at the beginning of a new chapter. The qualification you receive today is both a reward and a responsibility. Use your knowledge to drive innovation, inspire others, and contribute meaningfully to your communities.”

He emphasized that IT is no longer a luxury, but a necessity in every aspect of modern life — from agriculture and healthcare to education and governance. “We must adapt, innovate, and harness technology — or risk becoming irrelevant,” he said.

A special address was delivered by Mr. Ravinder Nath, Acting High Commissioner of India, who congratulated the graduates and praised the strong and growing partnership between India and the Solomon Islands.

“It is a great honour and joy to be here as we celebrate not only the academic achievements of these bright graduates but also the enduring friendship and shared aspirations between India and the Solomon Islands,” Mr. Nath said.

He described CEIT as “a beacon of knowledge and skill development, helping to empower local talent and build a digitally resilient future,” and reaffirmed India’s commitment to supporting development through knowledge, innovation, and cultural exchange.

To the graduates, Mr. Nath said, “the knowledge and skills you have gained are powerful tools. Use them wisely — with courage, creativity, and compassion — to make a difference in your communities and in the world.”

Among the graduates was Ms. Hilda Kalte Tate from Temotu Province, an employee of the Solomon Islands Government ICT Services, who received a Certificate in Information Technology. She shared her reflections stating, “this course has deepened my understanding of ICT. “I encourage young people to explore it, digital skills are essential today, and CEIT’s programmes offer practical, relevant training for the workforce.”

Certificates were officially handed over by key guests marking a proud moment for all graduates. A student representative delivered a heartfelt valedictory speech, reflecting on the group’s learning journey and shared experiences.

The ceremony concluded with a group photo session with dignitaries and graduates, followed by closing remarks and a vote of thanks from the Master of Ceremony Peter Maclean Qora.

CEIT remains committed to equipping Solomon Islanders with essential ICT skills to meet the demands of an increasingly digital world.



Mr. Ravinder Nath, Acting High Commissioner of India awards a graduate with her certificate



Mr Roger Stinjer receives his certificate from the PVCA Dr Eric Katovai



SINU GEO701 students visit National Herbarium and Botanical garden

Thirty-six Geography students from the Faculty of Education and Human Resources who enrolled in Geography GEO701-Biogeography have successfully conducted a field trip at the National Herbarium and the Botanical Garden on Monday this week.

During the trip, the students immersed themselves in plant biodiversity and the importance of species conservation in Solomon Islands.

The field trip which was led by the Head of Geography Whalter Lilo and Tutor Sharon Maedola, is aiming at giving students practical observation at the country's plant specimens catalogued and conserved at the national herbarium.

The field trip is significant in a way that it complements classroom theories by allowing students to observe dry plant species at the herbarium and live plant species at the Botanical garden.

Director of National Herbarium Myknee Sirikolo and fellow staff Keith Moveni and Ruvi Pitavoga happily helped the students where they welcomed the students and offered a guided tour of the Herbarium.

At the Herbarium, students observed an array of dry plant specimens carefully preserved and catalogued, learning about how species are collected, dried, documented, and stored for future reference.

“Our work is not only about scientific preservation,” said Keith Moveni, “but also about educating Solomon Islanders on the value of our unique species and encouraging pride in our natural heritage.” And to conserve our natural habitat in the country for our future generation.

Following their tour of the herbarium, the students visited the nearby Botanical Garden where they explored a variety of native and invasive plant species, and the plant distribution patterns in the area.

The hands-on experience helped to reinforce theoretical lessons and encouraged observation-based learning opportunities.

Geography student Joy Buka found the trip enriching. “It was interesting and exciting to connect what we’ve learned in class with real-life examples. It makes the concepts much clearer and more meaningful,” she said.

Mr. Lilo also praised the efforts of the Herbarium team, expressing gratitude for their valued insight, knowledge, and experiences shared during the field observation.

“This fieldtrip gave our students valuable exposure and practical understanding. The experience not only strengthened the students' academic foundation but also inspired greater awareness of conservation work happening locally—and the vital role that education plays in sustaining it

W E L C O M E TO OUR TEAM



Meet Philix Nina – Executive Officer, University Preparatory College (UPC)

Philix Nina is the Executive Officer at SINU’s University Preparatory College, where he supports college leadership, coordinates key academic and administrative functions, and helps deliver quality services to staff and students.

Philix brings valuable experience from his previous roles with Oxfam and World Vision, where he managed development projects, as well as over six years teaching Social Science and English in Temotu Province. He holds a BA in Environmental Management (USP), a Diploma in Social Science Teacher Education (SICHE) and has partially completed a Postgraduate Certificate in Project Management at Charles Sturt University. Passionate about education and national development, Philix is committed to supporting the success of UPC and the wider SINU community.



Meet Jessey Kolivangana – Experienced Mathematics Educator

Position: Tutor in Mathematics at University Preparatory College
Jessey Kolivangana is a dedicated mathematics educator with over two decades of teaching experience across secondary and tertiary institutions in the Solomon Islands and the Pacific. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Physics from the University of the South Pacific and has served in key roles such as Head of Mathematics Department and Lecturer at the former SICHE (now SINU).

Jessey has a strong interest in student assessment and data-driven teaching. His work has involved coordinating internal assessments, tracking student progress, and supporting national exams through collaboration with the National Examination and Assessment Division (NEAD). He is passionate about helping students succeed and continues to promote effective teaching through the integration of technology and inclusive learning practices.

Staff Profile

Name: Larry Holmes Tara

Province: Makira/Ulawa

Age: 40

Workstation: Kukum Campus

Department: Economics, Banking & Finance

Job title: Lecturer in Economics & Finance / HOS SBM / HOD EBF

Qualification: Master of Commerce in Economics

How long have you been working here? 10 Years

Tell us about your job: The Lecturer position predominantly involve coordination of allocated units that includes delivery of lecturers, tutorials, consultations, assessments, etc, in each semester. I have taught across departments over the years in the areas of economics, finance, business, entrepreneurship, accounting, risk management, mathematics, construction management, etc. Recently, I have focus more on finance and economics.

Since 2020, I have held the head of department of economics, banking & finance, and in a short span in 2021 also the head of department of management, public administration and entrepreneurship. In 2024, I was appointed to be the Head of School of SBM and continue to serve in this administrative role to date.

What do you like about SINU and your job?

I have no regret on the 10 years I have invested with SINU. I have received multiple lucrative offers from international reputable organizations over the years, but I always choose to stay with SINU for the simple reason of it is our national premier academic institution and SINU is mandated to play the important role of developing and shaping the development of the country's human resources. Human Capital & Resources are fundamental to the long-term growth and sustainable development of Solomon Islands. Intellectual collaborations and commotions within the academic environment always push us to be at our finest, and the enthusiasm, hunger and desires of students for knowledge and success are the best experiences at SINU.



The freshness of the new and younger generations and their stamina for personal growth and success have always keep us active and motivated. Seeing my students find and follow their path in life, either in formal employment or self-employment, is the best and beauty of my work at SINU: "Their success is my success". I am also thrilled to be selected among our many staff to pursue PhD studies as of this year, and I pledge my full support and commitment to return to serve our national university upon completion.

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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