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UNIVOIS NEWSLETTER

India Releases Second Phase Funding Towards Poitete Relocation Project



Indian Acting High Commissioner (left) Mr. Ravinder Nath with SINU Staff at Poitete

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) is pleased to announce that it has received SBD 1,257,013.95 from the Government of India, representing the second tranche of funding support towards the University's Poitete Campus Relocation Project in Western Province.

This latest contribution builds on an earlier SBD 1.2 million grant provided in 2024, which enabled critical renovations to deteriorated classrooms and dormitories at the Poitete campus. The first phase of works was successfully completed and acknowledged during a site visit in April 2025 by the then Acting High Commissioner of India to Solomon Islands, Mr. Ravinder Nath, who commended the project outcomes and the prudent use of funds.

SINU Vice Chancellor, Professor Transform Aqorau, welcomed the continued support from the Government of India and described the funding as “a timely and transformative contribution.”

“We are deeply honoured by the Government of India’s generosity and enduring commitment to the Solomon Islands,” Professor Aqorau said. “This second phase of funding will further accelerate our progress in revitalising the Poitete campus, which remains vital to SINU’s broader

vision of inclusive and accessible education, especially for students in rural and remote parts of our country.”

“The Poitete Relocation Project is more than a capital works programme, it is an investment in the future of our young people, in strengthening provincial education delivery, and in reinforcing the value of international cooperation for national development. We are especially grateful to the Office of the Solomon Islands High Commissioner in New Delhi for their steadfast facilitation of this initiative.”

Professor Aqorau reaffirmed SINU’s commitment to ensuring the timely completion of the Poitete Relocation Project and emphasised that the University will continue to work with key stakeholders to deliver long-term benefits to the Western Province and beyond.

The Solomon Islands National University acknowledges with sincere appreciation the Government of India’s development support and looks forward to deepening this partnership through future collaborations that benefit the education and prosperity of all Solomon Islanders.

SINU announces 3.0% COLA increase

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) has approved a 3.0% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for its staff for the year 2025. SINU Human Resources Deputy Director Manasseh Taloafiri confirmed this to Univois stating that the adjustment reinforces SINU's commitment to supporting the financial well-being of its staff in ensuring staff better manage their rising cost of living.

According to Mr. Taloafiri the COLA will be activated as of August 1st with a payback expected on Monday 28th July 2025.

He said the 3.0% increase will re-level all staff salaries with a new annual basic.

He said the adjustment will help alleviate some of the pressure caused by the inflation and other economic factors affecting SINU staff.

This is the second year in a row that SINU has approved COLA for its staff with a 3.0% increase from 2024.



Picture top right: SINU Deputy Human Resources Di Manasseh Taloafiri.

Picture below: SINU Staff posed for a group photo following a successful campus clean-up campaign back in 2023.



SINU Hosts Regional Workshop on Pacific Maritime Security

"Charting a Shared Course: Enhancing Maritime Security Coordination in the Pacific"



Solomon Islands National University (SINU) proudly opened the Pacific Maritime Security Coordination Workshop this morning at the Department of Fisheries Studies, SINU Ranadi Campus, which will run from 23 to 24 July 2025. Vice Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau delivered a powerful keynote address, setting the tone for two days of high-level dialogue on maritime cooperation in the Pacific.

Co-convened by SINU and The University of Adelaide, the Workshop brings together security experts, policymakers, and academics from across the region to tackle key challenges, including illegal fishing, climate change, transnational crime, and geostrategic pressures.

Professor Aqorau's keynote captured the urgency and opportunity facing the Pacific: "We Pacific Islanders may be custodians of small land masses, but we are also guardians of immense ocean spaces. The ocean is not a barrier that isolates us—it is a bridge that unites us and a resource that empowers us." Speaking from the perspective of the Solomon Islands, Professor Aqorau spotlighted the country's new National Maritime Security Strategy 2024–2027 and its flagship innovation—the establishment of a National Maritime Surveillance Centre to centralise monitoring, intelligence, and enforcement. He emphasised, "We are determined to stand our ground as guardians of our own waters, harnessing innovation and cooperation to overcome our constraints. A threat to one island's waters can imperil all of us." In a rousing call to regional unity, he advocated for the Oceans of Peace vision, "just as our forebears declared the Pacific off-limits to nuclear weapons, so now should we declare to the world that our ocean will not be a venue for rivalry or war. We must paddle forward together, with courage and clarity of purpose."

The keynote also marked the public launch of SINU's Postgraduate Diploma in Security Studies (PGDipSS)—a landmark program to train the next generation of Pacific security leaders.

"It is the universities and think-tanks that develop home-grown strategies. With the PGDipSS, we are investing in Pacific minds to solve Pacific problems."

Professor Aqorau closed with a Pacific proverb that resonated with all present:

"We are not passengers on this canoe—we are the crew. Each of us has a paddle in hand. The direction is set—a secure, sovereign, and peaceful Pacific."

Also speaking at the workshop, Professor Joanne Wallis from the University of Adelaide shared that "we hope that the workshop discussions can find ways that the Pacific's partner countries can provide some wind at the back of our Pacific friends to speed along their canoe. At the very least, we hope to find ways to ensure that the many partners now setting sail in the crowded and complex geopolitics of the Pacific don't make the ocean choppy and the waves higher than they already are".

Professor Wallis continued, "this workshop, and the broader Pacific Maritime Security Coordination: Partnerships, Priorities, and Possibilities project, respond to calls by Professor Aqorau for SINU to seek partnerships with regional and international institutions, in this case, the University of Adelaide, to advance our research agendas and find ways to work together to develop teaching programs".

The workshop continues through 24 July, featuring expert panels on legal frameworks, humanitarian disaster and relief assistance coordination, transnational crime, and regional training. Participants include representatives and experts from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, New Caledonia, and Guam, as well as regional organisations such as the Pacific Community (SPC) and the University of the South Pacific.

Dr Vaeno part of a delegation of senior Pacific university and industry leaders who visited Monash University



The Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries from the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) Dr Vaeno Wayne Vigulu was part of a delegation of senior Pacific university and industry leaders who successfully visited Monash University in Australia recently.

During the visit, the delegation of senior Pacific university and industry leaders together with Monash University discussed several crucial topics including opportunities for collaboration, and Monash Business School's PhD program, which is now welcoming a new cohort of senior Pacific and south Asian climate leaders.

They also discussed how to further the partnership between Fiji National University (FNU) and Monash through the Pacific Action for Climate Transitions (PACT) centre, which is becoming a vital regional platform for climate resilience research and policy engagement.

During their visit to Clayton campus on Wednesday, the delegation met Monash leaders Prof Craig Jeffrey, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) and Senior Vice-President of Monash University; Prof Sarah McDonald, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience) and Senior Vice-President; and Prof Tristan Kennedy, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) and Senior Vice-President.

On Thursday, the visiting delegation met Monash Business School leaders including Prof Simon Wilkie, Dean of Faculty of Business and Economics, Head, Monash Business School), Prof Russell Smyth (Deputy Dean, Research), and Prof Paul Dargusch (Director, PACT).

The visiting delegation include;

- Prof Unaisi Nabobo-Baba (Vice Chancellor, FNU)
- Luke Rokovada (Chairman, Fiji Public Service Commission)
- Prof Jima Lako (Pro-Vice Chancellor Learning and Teaching, FNU; Monash Graduate)
- Dr Vaeno Wayne Vigulu (Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Solomon Islands National University)
- Navi Raj (Incoming Permanent Secretary, Fiji Ministry of Education; current Monash PhD student)
- Ruel Yamuna (Special Envoy for Climate Environment, Papua New Guinea Government; current Monash PACT PhD student)
- Corey Huber (Climate Finance Advisor, Vanuatu Government; current Monash PACT PhD student)
- Shahana Didar (Director Training, Fiji Public Service Commission)
- Bui Hoa Binh (Senior Economist, Asian Development Bank)



W E L C O M E

TO OUR TEAM



Trevor Chacha is from Marovo and Munda in Western Province, Solomon Islands, and specializes in environmental and forest management using GIS and remote sensing. He is a lecturer in Forest Road and Harvesting at the Forestry Department of the Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (FAFF) at SINU, teaching units on Research Project 1 and Environment and Forests.

Trevor holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Management from USP, a Master of Science in Bioresources Science from Mie University, Japan, and is a PhD candidate at Mie University, researching forest management in Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands.

His work covers climate change, migration, land use, forest cover change, watershed management, and adaptation strategies, with several journal publications. He has international teaching and research experience, having served as a Teaching and Research Assistant at Mie University, and has presented his research at conferences and workshops in Japan, Taiwan, and Pakistan.

Trevor enjoys music, football, and storytelling, and aims to contribute to advancing research development at SINU and across the Solomon Islands.

Welcome to the SINU Community Trevor!

Staff Profile

Name: Elizabeth Bokosina Tuita

Province: Malaita Province

Age: 36

Workstation: Kukum Campus

Department: Department of Civil Engineering, Surveying and Drafting

Job title: Assistant Lecturer in Civil Engineering

Qualification: I hold a Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering from Fiji National University (FNU)

How long have you been working here? Three years.

Tell us about your job: My job at SINU as a Civil Engineering lecturer has been both rewarding and fulfilling. I've enjoyed teaching and mentoring students, contributing to curriculum development, and supporting practical learning through fieldwork and project supervision. It's a role that allows me to share my knowledge and also continuously learn through engagement with students and colleagues.

What do you like about SINU and your job?

1. What I like most about my job and working at SINU is the opportunity to shape the future of young civil engineers in the Solomon Islands. I enjoy the dynamic learning environment, the supportive team of colleagues, and the chance to be part of a growing institution that's committed to national development. SINU provides a platform where I can contribute meaningfully through teaching, and community engagement.



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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