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UNIVOIS NEWSLETTER

SINU, YECSI and MCT sign Tripartite MOU



The Solomon Islands National University (SINU), the Young Entrepreneurs Council Solomon Islands (YECSI) and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MCT) on Friday 29 August signed a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at SINU's Kukum Campus. This MOU builds on the earlier agreement signed on 21 November 2021 and is established to implement and advance Article 2, subsection 1.1.2 of that agreement.

The overall objective is to strengthen collaboration between MCT, YECSI and SINU to:

- Promote youth employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in the tourism sector through a dedicated grant scheme.
- Foster innovation, sustainable practices, and inclusive growth within the tourism industry.
- Provide capacity-building, mentorship and technical assistance to grant recipients.
- Collaborate with SINU's School of Tourism and Hospitality Management (STHM) in support of passionate young entrepreneurs.
- Establish a grant fund to support young tourism entrepreneurs in Solomon Islands.

Under the signed MOU, the roles and responsibilities of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism are as follows:

- Provide financial resources for the grants.
- Ensure the program aligns with national tourism policies and development goals.
- Work with YECSI and SINU to develop criteria for selecting grant recipients.
- Share relevant research, technical information and documents to support the program.

The roles and responsibilities of Young Entrepreneurs Council Solomon Islands (YECSI) are as follows:

- Support MCT and SINU in identifying and recommending potential beneficiaries.
- Facilitate capacity-building programs for young entrepreneurs.
- Monitor and report to MCT on the progress of grant recipients.

The roles and responsibilities of Solomon Islands National University (SINU) are as follows:

- Provide academic and technical support through training, workshops and research-based initiatives.
- Conduct research on tourism-related innovations and sustainable practices.
- Offer practical internship opportunities for students in collaboration with grant-supported businesses.
- Assist in developing curriculum for capacity-building and mentorship programs.

SINU's Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Associate Professor Dr. Eric Katovai, signed on behalf of the University. In his remarks, Dr. Katovai thanked YECSI and MCT for the initiative and said the MOU reflects trust between the parties, adding that SINU looks forward to its successful implementation.

YECSI Council Chairman, Mr. Limahl Totogi, signed on behalf of YECSI. He noted that the agreement marks another milestone for YECSI since its establishment in 2018, and is a step in the right direction for empowering young entrepreneurs in the Solomon Islands.

Permanent Secretary of MCT, Mr. Bunyan Sivor, signed on behalf of the Ministry. He highlighted the importance of the MOU in supporting youth entrepreneurship and job creation, and reaffirmed MCT's commitment to working with SINU and YECSI as key partners.

The MOU is effective immediately and will remain in force for the next five years.

SINU Hosts Delegation from China's Ministry of Natural Resources



Visiting China delegation posed for a group photo with the SINU staff.

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) on Friday 29 August hosted a six-member delegation from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) of the People's Republic of China as part of their official visit to the Solomon Islands.

The delegation was led by Dr. Tan Jun, Deputy Director of the Island Research Center, MNR, and comprised:

1. Dr. Yu Fan, Senior Engineer, Island Research Center, MNR
2. Mr. Xie Jian, Deputy Director, South China Sea Bureau, MNR
3. Ms. Zhou Shuihua, Deputy Director, South China Sea Marine Forecast and Hazard Mitigation Center, MNR
4. Mr. Su Bo, Deputy Director, National Marine Environmental Forecasting Center, MNR
5. Dr. Ye Xiaomin, Research Fellow, National Satellite Ocean Application Service, MNR

At SINU, the delegation was welcomed by Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council Dr. Morgan Wairiu, Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic, Associate Professor Erick Katovai, and senior staff from the Faculty of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (FAFF), including Dean Dr. Vaeno Vigulu, Dr. Kofi Apreku, Head of Fisheries Department, Dr. Lindon Havimana, and Mr. Andrew Awa, Executive International Relations Officer.

Discussions centered on areas of mutual interest and potential collaboration in the marine and environmental sciences field, particularly in:

- Marine disaster prevention and mitigation
- Marine ecological protection and restoration
- Blue economy initiatives

The visit highlighted the importance of international partnerships in marine sustainability and enhanced SINU's commitment to advancing research and knowledge that benefit both the Solomon Islands and the wider Pacific region.



China visiting delegation engaging in discussion with SINU staff at the FAFF conference room.

SINU Showcases Pathways at Bishop Epalle Career Day



Bishop Epalle student who attended the information session

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) was delighted to participate in Bishop Epalle Catholic School's Career Day on Wednesday, 27 August 2025. The SINU team delivered an engaging Career's Talk to students in Years 9, 11, 12, and 13.

Through an interactive presentation, students were introduced to the Student Academic Services (SAS), the main point of contact for those wishing to pursue studies at SINU. They also learned about the many study pathways available, beginning with the Centre for Distance and Flexible Learning (CDFL), which offers blended learning opportunities and programs for students seeking to upgrade their qualifications.

Students were further informed about SINU's TAFE programs, which equip learners with practical and technical skills in fields such as automotive, electrical, carpentry, and other certificate and diploma-level training.

The presentation also highlighted the academic opportunities across SINU's five faculties:

- Faculty of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Faculty of Business and Tourism Studies
- Faculty of Education and Humanities
- Faculty of Nursing, Medicine and Health Sciences
- Faculty of Science and Technology

Together, these faculties provide diploma, degree, and postgraduate programs designed to prepare Solomon Islanders for diverse and rewarding career pathways.

SINU is proud to support schools like Bishop Epalle Catholic School in guiding and inspiring young people to make informed decisions about their education and future careers. By raising awareness of the opportunities available locally, SINU continues to play a vital role in shaping the nation's future workforce.

SINU will continue its school outreach program with visits to other secondary schools in the coming weeks.

Rurui Kuma from the Centre for Distance & Flexible Learning sharing course information to the students



Mr John Rofeta, Representative from the School of Sciences shared important information on courses available at SINU for students interested in the field of Science



YECSI, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and SINU Host Information Session on “Launch Pad”



SINU School of Tourism & Hospitality Management students with FBTS staff and representatives from YECSI and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism

Young Entrepreneurs Council Solomon Islands, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) School of Tourism today held a successful information session at SINU. The session, hosted by YECSI with support from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, aims to encourage SINU final-year students to consider entrepreneurship after graduation.

Speaking at the session, YECSI Chairman Mr. Limahl Totogi introduced a new initiative called “Launch Pad”, a collaborative effort between YECSI, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and SINU School of Tourism and Hospitality Management to support students in starting their own businesses. Mr. Totogi noted that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the three stakeholders is scheduled to be signed this coming Friday to formally launch the initiative.

Following the MoU signing, SINU Tourism final-year students will participate in a five-week training program in September covering tourism entrepreneurship, basic financing, branding, and business structure. During the final week, students will pitch their business ideas to a judging panel. Four winners will receive grants of \$40,000 each to start their businesses.

Dr. Elliot Mugamu, Dean of the Faculty of Business and Tourism Studies, thanked YECSI, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and the Solomon Islands National Government for supporting the session. He encouraged SINU Tourism students to seize this excellent opportunity to develop their entrepreneurial skills.



Dean of FBTS Dr. Elliot Mugamu speaking at the information session.

WELCOME TO OUR TEAM

Andrew Taylor Awa ,Executive International Relations Officer



Andrew Taylor Awa has joined the Office of the Vice-Chancellor at Solomon Islands National University as Executive International Relations Officer.

He brings four years of experience as a Legal Officer and Investigator, serving the Solomon Islands National Youth Congress, Home of Peace and Empowerment (HOPE) Trust, and the Ministry of Finance and Treasury. He also has experience as a Researcher and Editorial Assistant at the East-West Center, as well as roles as the Pacific Region Supporting Officer for the Commonwealth Youth Council and Project Researcher Specialist at the National Democratic Institute (NDI).

Andrew Taylor Awa holds a Master of Laws (LLM) with a specialization in Human Rights, Social Justice, International Law, and Environmental Law from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa - William S. Richardson School of Law. He also earned a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and a Professional Diploma in Legal Practice (PDLP) from the University of the South Pacific.

In this role, he will be responsible for supporting the development, coordination, and monitoring of institutional agreements (MOUs/MOAs), facilitating high-level visits and diplomatic protocols, and strengthening partnerships that enhance the university's academic, research, and community outreach goals.

Outside of work, Andrew Taylor Awa enjoys playing football and engaging in church and community activities.

Please join us in welcoming Andrew Taylor Awa to the Solomon Islands National University community!

W E L C O M E TO OUR TEAM

**Meet Ms Emmy Musuota, Lecturer in Aquaculture,
Department of Fisheries Studies**



Emmy Musuota, 35, is originally from Malaita Province, Solomon Islands. She holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Science (Marine Science) from the University of the South Pacific, Fiji, and is currently finalizing her Master’s degree in Marine Science with a specialization in aquaculture nutrition. Her thesis focuses on evaluating locally available ingredients for Nile Tilapia feed in Fiji, aiming to promote cost-effective and environmentally sustainable aquaculture practices.

She previously served as a part-time lecturer with the Department of Fisheries Studies at Solomon Islands National University (SINU) and has three years of experience as a Form Six Biology tutor. During her studies, she also worked as a Marker and Laboratory Demonstrator at the School of Marine Science, University of the South Pacific (USP). These roles have provided her with a strong foundation in teaching, research, and practical laboratory work.

Outside of academia, she enjoys reading, listening to music, and singing, which keep her balanced and inspired.

Meet Gloria Votua, Assistant Lecturer in Early childhood



Gloria Keni Votua (42) is from Liwe Village, Malaita Province, Solomon Islands. She holds a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership (2023), a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (2016), and a Bachelor in Education (2015), all from the University of the South Pacific.

Gloria has extensive experience in education, having served as Early Childhood Development Manager, part-time tutor at Solomon Islands National University, and part-time lecturer at JCPU. She has also contributed to curriculum development and book editing with the Ministry of Education, and worked as a class teacher and supervisor in school programs.

Outside of her professional work, Gloria is committed to supporting the growth and development of students and early childhood education in the Solomon Islands.

Staff Profile



Name: Karlmax Saramo
Province: South Guadalcanal
Age: 38 years

Workstation: Faculty of Education and Humanities

Department: Social Science

Job title: Assistant Lecturer

Qualification: Bachelor's degree in arts Major in Political Science and master's degree in social sciences.

How long have you been working here? I joined Solomon Islands National University (SINU) in 2021, and I have now been with SINU for five years. I was recruited to the Social Science Department to coordinate the social science units and provide support to other teaching staff within the department.

Tell us about your job: My primary duty is to design and deliver undergraduate and diploma courses in social science, which serve as core content units supporting teacher trainees in their professional development and future careers. As an Assistant Lecturer coordinating several social science units, my key responsibilities include teaching, curriculum development, mentoring and supervising students, and contributing to the academic and administrative functions of the department and university. Additionally, I actively participate in academic board meetings at the department, school, and faculty levels, helping to shape policies and academic standards within the Faculty of Education and Humanities and SINU wide.

What do you like about SINU and your job? Career-wise, I have dreamed of becoming an academician since my own university days. Watching my professors share their knowledge passionately, conduct meaningful research, publish papers, and mentor students was truly inspiring. Their dedication motivated me deeply. So, when I joined SINU in 2021, I felt blessed because what I had long dreamed of finally became a reality.

SINU is a relatively new university that is striving to reach high academic standards comparable to prestigious universities worldwide. This vision is both encouraging and motivating for me as a lecturer because I am part of SINU's journey to elevate its status to a world-class institution. I take pride in knowing that through my teaching and mentorship, I am helping to develop some of the best teachers of the future. Moreover, as an employer, SINU offers a supportive working environment with good packages and benefits that encourage staff to work hard towards achieving the university's academic goals. Another aspect I appreciate is the opportunity to interact with people from diverse cultural backgrounds. This diversity makes working at SINU enjoyable and enriching, as it allows us to learn from one another, share our cultures, and foster a peaceful, inclusive community.

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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