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## UNIVOIS NEWSLETTER

# SINU successfully hosts 2025 graduation ceremony with a historical 1,173 graduates



Top left, Mr. Kabini Fa'ari Afia who graduated with a Master of Science by Research receive his qualification from SINU Chancellor. Top right, graduates making their way to Maranata Hall.

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) on Thursday 11 September successfully hosted the 2025 graduation ceremony under the theme, "Charting New Horizons: Our Stories, Our Future." A total number of 1,173 graduated with certificates, diploma, degrees, and master qualification from the five SINU faculties.

Among the graduates are teachers, nurses, business leaders, engineers, scientists and agricultural specialists who are ready to serve the country.

Graduating with the highest qualification is Mr. Kabini Fa'ari Afia who graduated with a Master of Science by Research.

Speaking during the graduation ceremony SINU Vice Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau said each of the graduates has his or her own story of challenges overcome, and goals achieved. "Today we come together to celebrate your achievements under the theme "Charting New Horizons: Our Stories, Our Future." This theme speaks to the essence of what this ceremony signifies: each of you has your own story of challenges overcome and goals achieved, and now you stand ready to venture into new horizons - equipped with knowledge, values, and dreams - poised to shape our shared." "From across our five faculties, we celebrate 1,173 proud graduates - teachers, nurses, business leaders, engineers, scientists, and agricultural

specialists - each ready to serve our nation.

"This year we also celebrate a special milestone for SINU: the conferral of a Master of Science by Research, the highest degree awarded in this graduation ceremony."

"Our warmest congratulations go to Mr. Kabini Fa'ari Afia, whose accomplishment is both a personal triumph and a proud moment for the university."

"His success highlights SINU's growing academic capacity and sets an inspiring benchmark for future postgraduate scholars."

In his speech, SINU VC Prof. Transform also thanked those who supported the students during the course of their studies to achieve their dreams.

"Graduates, I encourage you today to show appreciation to all who supported you on this journey. Give your family a hug, thank your lecturers, and acknowledge the staff who lent a helping hand."





"Let the gratitude you feel today extend beyond words – let it be reflected in your actions and in how you give back to your communities in the years ahead, never forget those who lifted you up and helped make this moment possible."

"Your success has been a collective effort, and your appreciation should likewise be shared generously."

In his closing remarks, the SINU VC uttered the following statements to the class of 2025.

"Class of 2025, as I conclude, take a moment now to truly savor your accomplishment."

"You have worked hard to earn the caps and gowns you wear today."

"Your diploma is a testament to your knowledge and skill – but it is also a call to action. It proclaims that you are now among the educated citizens of our nation, and with that comes a responsibility: a duty to lead and to serve."

"The country that has invested in you, now looks to you to invest in it. In essence, do not ask what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country with the education you have received."

"Charting New Horizons: Our Stories, Our Future" – carry this theme with you in your hearts as you step into the world. It reminds us that the future is not a distant destiny handed to us; it is something we will shape through our choices and actions, guided by the stories and values that define us.

"Wherever life takes you, remember the lessons you have learned here at SINU. Remain confident in the education and values that have empowered you to take on any challenge."

"At the same time, remain humble and passionate in using your talents to serve others, true to our national ethos of leadership through service."



As you chart your course forward, keep dreaming big. As Eleanor Roosevelt famously said, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

"Dream of the life and the community you want to help create, and then work diligently to make those dreams come true. Do not be afraid to blaze new trails – if you can imagine it, you can do it."

"And when you achieve success, remember to help others along the way, just as others have helped you on your journey."

"Though you now leave the gates of SINU, always remember that you will forever remain a part of the SINU family. You will always be welcome here – whether it is to pursue further studies, to collaborate with us on research or community projects, or simply to visit and inspire the next generation of students with your story."

"Your journey is just beginning, and we have no doubt that the future is yours to shape."

"On behalf of the Solomon Islands National University, I congratulate the Graduating Class of 2025."

"We are immensely proud of each and every one of you. Go out into the world and shine brightly. Lead with purpose and integrity, and serve with humility and compassion."

"Use your education and your values to better yourselves and to uplift those around you."

"As you do, you will uplift not only yourselves but also your families, your communities, and our beloved Solomon Islands."

"We are confident that each of you will be a force for good and a beacon of hope as you navigate the horizons ahead."



## SINU Engages Students Through School Visits in Honiara



In late August and early September 2025, the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) conducted a series of school visits across Honiara to inform students about the wide range of programs and pathways available at the national university. Schools visited included Vura, Naha, White River, and Panatina Community High Schools, St. Nicholas College, and Honiara Senior High School.

During these visits, students engaged with SINU representatives to explore pathways for further education. Students were introduced to programs from SINU TAFE, the Centre for Distance & Flexible Learning, the Centre for Excellence in Information Technology, the Solomon Islands Maritime College, and the university's five faculties:

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

Interactive Q&A sessions provided opportunities for students to clarify questions, and SINU merchandise was distributed to participants. Feedback from students and staff was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the value of the information shared and the encouragement to plan educational and career pathways confidently.

SINU remains committed to supporting learners in achieving their educational goals..

ENDS//

Few photos from various school visits within Honiara.





## SINU Celebrates 2025 Academic High Achievers



L-R: Dr. Humpress Harrington, Dean of Faculty of Nursing Medicine and Health Science with the high achievers recipient, Junior Berry Diploma of Pharmacy Technology, Becky Charles, Diploma of Nutrition and Dietetics and Oliver Herman Wemea, Diploma of Public Health

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) on Thursday proudly hosted the 2025 Academic High Achievers Awards Ceremony, celebrating the exceptional performance of 14 top students drawn from each of the university's five faculties.

This annual event recognises students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and dedication to their studies.

The highlight of the ceremony was Mr. Junior Berry, a Diploma of Pharmacy Technology student from the Faculty of Nursing, Medical and Health Science (FNMHS), who secured the highest overall GPA of 4.69. Mr. Berry was awarded both the faculty prize and the prestigious Vice Chancellor's overall award.

Other award recipients included:

Faculty of Nursing, Medical and Health Science (FNMHS):

Oliver Herman Wemea – Diploma in Public Health (GPA 4.49)

Beck Charles – Diploma in Nutrition and Dietetics (GPA 4.42)

Faculty of Education and Humanities (FEH):

Lilac Apusae – Diploma of Teaching (Primary) (GPA 4.38)

Raymond Oritarea – Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Secondary) – Social Studies (GPA 4.37)

Faculty of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (FAFF):

Mark Pitaboe – Bachelor of Science in Tropical Agriculture (GPA 4.59)

Vigopala Fetky Zale – Certificate in Tropical Forestry (GPA 4.34)

Faculty of Business and Tourism Studies (FBTS):

Tinnonile Barney Devesi – Bachelor of Business in Entrepreneurship (GPA 4.50)

Elton Bosamete – Bachelor of Hospitality, Business & Event Management (GPA 4.38)

Faculty of Science and Technology (FST):

Uakeia Takui – Diploma of Construction Management (GPA 4.38)

Lesly Unamani – Diploma of Civil Engineering (Road Construction) (GPA 4.36)

Desmond Mamata – Certificate IV in Refrigeration & Air Conditioning (High Distinction)

Anita Airahui – Certificate IV in Electrical Technology (High Distinction)

Ileen Kutikolo – Certificate IV in Plumbing Services (High Distinction)

The awards ceremony was attended by the Acting Vice Chancellor, Dr. William Parairato, together with the Deans of each faculty, who joined in congratulating the students for their hard work and excellence.

Dr. Parairato commended the awardees for their remarkable achievements and encouraged all students to continue striving for academic excellence.



## Solomon Islands National University and Pacific Regional Non-Governmental Organization Sign Memorandum of Understanding



SINU Pro Vice Chancellor Corporate (PVCC) Dr. William Parairato and PRNGO rep Joey Tau showed copies of the signed MOU.

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) and the Pacific Regional Non-Governmental Organization (PRNGO) today formalized a partnership through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen collaboration during the 54th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting (PIFLM54) in Honiara. The MoU was signed by Dr William Parairato, SINU Acting Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellor Corporate, and Mr. Joey Tau PRNGO representative, marking a significant step in promoting regional dialogue and advocacy on pressing issues affecting Pacific peoples.

Under the agreement, both institutions commit to working together to support civil society engagement, strengthen local leadership, and encourage inclusive participation in discussions around governance, climate change, oceans, and sustainable development.

Speaking at the signing, Dr William highlighted the importance of the partnership, stating that "this MoU reflects SINU's role as a national institution that not only educates but also provides a platform for meaningful dialogue and inclusive participation in regional affairs."

Mr. Joey Tau of PRNGO emphasized that the partnership seeks to create public dialogue on issues facing not only the Pacific region but also the Solomon Islands. "This is about engaging students, academia, and the general public to ensure these spaces are more accessible. We extend our deep appreciation to the Vice-Chancellor and SINU for this support. We hope this is not a one-off, but the beginning of more partnerships," he said.

Acting Vice-Chancellor of SINU, Dr William, welcomed the collaboration, noting its value at both national and regional levels.

"This partnership is very important, especially with the upcoming Pacific Islands Forum. The engagement will further encourage local leadership, strengthen long-term relationships, and support governance at the regional level. The University is very pleased to assist," he stated.

This MoU outlines the responsibilities from both parties:

- SINU will provide facilities, promotional support, and academic expertise through lectures, panel participation, and public forums.
- PRNGO will contribute by covering venue and catering costs for selected events, convening diverse CSO perspectives, and ensuring community voices are represented.

### Planned Activities during PIFLM54

- Saturday, 6 September – CSO Roundtable (closed to CSOs).
- Monday, 8 & Tuesday, 9 September – Pacific Peoples Tok panel discussions (open to the public).
- Wednesday, 10 September – Public forum sessions.
- Thursday, 11 September – CSO Debriefing session (closed session).

The MoU is non-binding and will remain in effect until the conclusion of PIFLM54. Both parties reaffirmed their shared commitment to inclusivity, transparency, and regional cooperation, recognizing the importance of civil society in shaping Pacific futures.



September 15, 2025

# WELCOME TO OUR TEAM

**Mr. Pappu Dindayal Kapgate, Director of the Centre for Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT)**



Solomon Islands National University (SINU) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Pappu Dindayal Kapgate as the Director of the Centre for Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT). He previously served at CEIT on deputation from the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), India, under the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India. He has now joined SINU and signed his employment contract to continue leading CEIT's growth and impact.

Originally from Maharashtra, India, Mr. Kapgate holds a Diploma in Information Technology, a Bachelor of Engineering in Information Technology, a PG Diploma in Data Science (IIIT Bangalore), and an MS in Data Science (Liverpool John Moores University, UK).

At CEIT, he will lead initiatives to strengthen academic and research programs, mentor staff and students, and advance the Centre's growth and innovation in information technology.

Mr. Kapgate's technical expertise spans high-performance computing (Param Siddhi AI, Param Shivay); programming in Python and Java; databases (MySQL, PostgreSQL); Power BI; machine learning and deep learning; data engineering (Hadoop, Hive, HBase, Sqoop/Flume, Kafka, PySpark; pipelines with Oozie/Airflow); and modern operations practices including MLOps, DevOps, DataOps, DVC, and prompt engineering for generative AI (ChatGPT-4).

Outside of work, he enjoys cooking.

Please join us in warmly welcoming Mr. Pappu Dindayal Kapgate to CEIT!



September 15, 2025

# WELCOME TO OUR TEAM

**Ms Cinderella Letona, Executive Legal and Compliance Officer**



We are pleased to welcome Ms Cinderella Letona to the Vice Chancellor's Office at Solomon Islands National University as the Executive Legal and Compliance Officer.

She brings professional experience from private legal practice as a Legal Counsel with Mauri Lawyers, where she worked across a wide range of legal matters. Her background includes providing legal advice, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements, managing litigation, and supporting clients with contracts and other institutional legal needs. This experience equips her to contribute effectively to the University's governance and compliance framework.

In her new role at SINU, Cinderella will provide legal and compliance support to the Vice Chancellor's Office and across the University. She will advise on institutional policies and governance matters, assist with contracts and agreements, support HR-related legal issues, and contribute to the development and review of University policies. She will also provide guidance on risk, compliance, and legal matters, including liaising with external legal counsel on litigation when required.

Cinderella will work collaboratively across the University and with external partners, serving as a trusted custodian of sensitive information while providing practical, impartial legal advice to support informed decision-making.

Cinderella Letona holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Professional Diploma in Legal Practice from the University of the South Pacific. Outside of work, she enjoys reading and travelling.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Cinderella Letona as she begins her journey with SINU.



September 15, 2025

# WELCOME TO OUR TEAM

## Dr George Wilson Malefoasi, Appointed Member to SINU Council



Dr. George Wilson Malefoasi has joined the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) Council as the appointed member representing the field of Health and Medicine.

He is currently the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Referral Hospital, a position he has held since November 2020. Dr. Malefoasi brings over 32 years of experience in the health sector, including 21 years with the Solomon Islands Government public health service and extensive work in private and regional health. His leadership roles have spanned executive management, institutional and policy development at both national and regional levels.

Dr. Malefoasi holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) from the University of Papua New Guinea and a Master's degree in Health Administration from the University of New South Wales, Australia, with a focus on health policy management, public health, and hospital case mix management.

Originally from Sulufou artificial island in the Lau Lagoon, Malaita Province, Dr. Malefoasi is a health leader, strategist, and manager, committed to advancing health education and services for the Solomon Islands and the Pacific region.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. George Malefoasi to the SINU Council!



# W E L C O M E TO OUR TEAM



## Meet Larissa Bambu Menapi, Assistant Lecturer in Language and Literature

Larissa Bambu Menapi holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (2015) from USP and a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education, majoring in Language and Literature with a minor in Geography, from Pacific Adventist University (2001).

Larissa has extensive experience in tertiary and secondary education. She has taught English and related courses at the University of the South Pacific (SI Campus) and Solomon Islands National University, where she also served as Head of the Language and Communications Department. Her professional work includes curriculum development, academic mentoring, exam moderation, and facilitating teacher leadership programs.

Larissa has contributed to national education initiatives, including literacy and numeracy assessments, syllabus reviews, and teacher professional development workshops.

Beyond her professional commitments, Larissa is actively involved in conference presentations, research collaborations, and cultural events that promote education and leadership in the Solomon Islands.



## Meet Naomi Shinagawa, Japanese Language Instructor

Ms. Naomi Shinagawa, a seasoned language educator, has joined the School of Tourism and Hospitality Studies under the Faculty of Business and Tourism at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) as a JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) Volunteer Language Instructor.

Naomi brings over 25 years of experience in Japanese language education. Her extensive background includes serving as a full-time lecturer at Kwangju Women's University in South Korea, where she designed curricula, taught classes, developed materials, and conducted assessments for lifelong learning students. She also led the Reading Section at the Japan Foundation Center for Japanese-Language Testing and created a 30-lesson textbook with accompanying video materials for foreign hotel staff at APT21 October Hotel Miramar.

She holds a Master of Humanities and Sciences in Language, Literature, and Culture, and a Bachelor of Arts in Japanese and Sciences, both from Ochanomizu University. Naomi also holds multiple professional certifications, including TOEIC (860), STEP Test in Practical English Proficiency (Pre-1st Grade), and 1st Class Junior and Senior High School Teacher's Certificates in English.

At SINU, Naomi will focus on teaching Japanese to students of the School of Tourism and Hospitality Studies, developing teaching materials, and designing assessments to enhance language proficiency. Outside of her professional work, Naomi enjoys international volunteering and cultural exchange programs.



## Meet Tsutomu Kosaka, Physical Education Teacher

Mr. Tsutomu Kosaka has joined the JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) Overseas Cooperation Volunteers program as a Physical Education Teacher at the Solomon Islands National University- Faculty of Education and Humanities.

He brings over 30 years of experience in education and school administration. His career includes serving as principal at Chofu Municipal Daigo and Danana Junior High Schools, where he oversaw school operations and enhanced cross-subject club activities. He also led a soccer team to a top-eight finish in the Tokyo Metropolitan Tournament as head coach.

Tsutomu holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education with a major in Physical Education from Tamagawa University. He also holds Junior and Senior High School Teacher's Certificates in Health and Physical Education, a JFA C License for football refereeing, and a Ski Certificate from the Ski Association of Japan.

In this role, he will focus on improving physical education instruction, supervising curriculum, and providing sports guidance at FEH.

Outside of work, Tsutomu enjoys coaching youth sports and participating in cross-cultural exchanges.



## Staff Profile

**Name:** Brenda Ratu Titiulu

**Province:** Malaita Province

**Age:** 52

**Workstation:** School of Transportation, Kukum campus

**Department:** Department of Automotive (Heavy Vehicle)

**Job title:** Tutor Automotive

**Qualification:** Certificate in Trade Heavy Vehicle & Plant, Certificate in Adult Learning Training Program (ALTP), Certificate 4 in training and Assessment

**How long have you been working here?** 16 Years

**Tell us about your job:** My job is to assist the lecturers in delivering the training programs that our department is currently offering to students who are enrolled on our programs. One of the programs is Certificate 4 in Automotive Engineering Heavy Vehicle.

**What do you like about SINU and your job?** What I like about SINU is that SINU is our nation's own University, and the environment here is conducive for working and learning. My interest in fixing vehicles drives me to become a mechanic. I enjoyed my job, although I work in a male-dominated environment, we work as a team.



## Brenda Ratu Titiulu's Story as an Automotive Engineer and Instructor: What It's Like

When you picture an automotive mechanic or heavy vehicle engineer, you might not immediately imagine a woman—let alone Brenda, who was often the only female in her classes. Female mechanics remain rare in the Solomon Islands: since the 1980s, only eight women have completed automotive engineering training at SICHE, and currently, four are training at SINU. Despite these numbers, female mechanics contribute significantly to the industry, often performing as competently as—and sometimes even outperforming—their male classmates.

Choosing a career in automotive engineering is not a traditional path for women, but Brenda persevered. She became the first female automotive trainer in the country, paving the way for future generations.



As a young girl, Brenda Ratu Titiulu aspired to become an automotive engineer. She was fascinated by machines and vehicles, driven by a curiosity to understand how things work. This early interest led her to pursue a career in automotive engineering.

Brenda is one of the few female qualified heavy vehicle and plant mechanics in the Solomon Islands. She graduated with a Certificate IV in Heavy Vehicle and Plant Mechanics from the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education (SICHE) in 1999. During her training, she gained valuable knowledge, skills, and industrial experience through the program's work attachments. After completing her studies, Brenda worked for Shell SI, which later became South Pacific Oil.

In 2009, Brenda joined the automotive engineering department at SICHE, where she currently serves as an automotive engineering instructor. In her role, she continues to update her knowledge and skills to reflect current industry practices. She recently completed industry attachments with Ela Motor, Motor Corporation, and Hatanga, ensuring her students receive training aligned with the latest professional standards.





Brenda encourages girls in the Solomon Islands to consider careers in automotive engineering or other trades. She advises them to believe in their goals and pursue them with commitment and purpose. For girls choosing automotive engineering, she emphasizes determination, hard work, and persistence to achieve the goal of becoming a qualified automotive engineer.

Brenda's journey is a testament to passion, perseverance, and breaking barriers, inspiring a new generation of female engineers in the Solomon Islands.



## 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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