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Date: 15-02-26
Volume: 06
Issue: 01

UNIVOIS NEWSLETTER

SINU team successfully participates in the 2025 Pacific Island Fisheries Training Program in Guangdong Province



Solomon Island Participants from SINU and MECDM posed for a group photo in China

A team of academics and researchers from Solomon Islands National University (SINU) and the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM) have well participated in the 2025 Pacific Island Fisheries Training Program in Guangdong Province, China.

The team successfully attended the event which was held from 18th November to 6th December last year.

The team comprised of lecturers, academics, and researchers from the Faculty of Fisheries, Agriculture, Faculty of Science and Technology and the school of Public Health, Faculty of Nursing Medicine and Health Sciences, as well as an officer from the Ministry of Environment and Conservation.

The team joined 30 other participants from five Pacific Island countries, including Papua New Guinea, Nauru, Samoa, the Cook Islands,

The 2025 Pacific Island Fisheries Training Program is a three-week capacity-building initiative combining lectures, field studies, hands-on laboratory training, and group discussions.

The program is designed to strengthen participants' knowledge and practical skills in marine aquaculture, fisheries development, and sustainable resource management, with a focus on Guangdong Province's advanced practices.

The training began with an orientation and institutional visit at the Haizhu Campus, introducing participants to China's marine and fisheries education system and the broader development vision under the Belt and Road Initiative.

Core technical lectures covered marine aquaculture development, modern marine ranching, shellfish reproduction, shrimp breeding technologies, and innovative aquaculture models, including tailwater treatment and environmental sustainability.

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Participants from all five Pacific Island Countries who attended the Pacific Island Fisheries Training Program in Guangdong.

Participants engaged in multiple field studies at leading marine and aquaculture facilities in the Guangdong Province, including:

- Marine and aquatic high-tech parks
- Marine ranches and deep-sea cage aquaculture bases
- Fish, shrimp, and shellfish breeding and experimental/Research institutes.
- Conservation sites such as the Sea Turtle National Nature Reserve.

Hands-on learning was reinforced through laboratory-based water quality testing training and on-site demonstrations by senior engineers, researchers, professors, and industry leaders.

Regular evening study sessions and discussions provided opportunities for reflection, peer learning, and the application of concepts to Pacific Island fisheries contexts.

The program concluded with a phased summary and class meeting, allowing participants to consolidate learning outcomes and explore how the knowledge and skills acquired can support sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development for economic development, sustainability and food security in their respective countries.

At the end of the three-week intensive training, participants received certificates upon successful completion.

The Solomon Islands team also requested that plans be developed for Solomon Islands National University (SINU) to sign Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with host universities in Guangdong.

In the meantime, the hosts expressed a strong interest in future collaboration with SINU in the areas of research, further training, and capacity development and Technology.

These partnerships would support staff training, research collaboration, and capacity-building initiatives in fisheries at SINU.

SINU and MPNSCS Sign MoU to Strengthen Security Programmes



Representatives from SINU, MPNSCS, and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) posed for a group photo following the signing of an MoU to strengthen security education, training, and research in support of Solomon Islands' national security priorities.

Solomon Islands National University (SINU) and the Ministry of Police, National Security, and Correctional Services (MPNSCS) Monday 12 January signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen SINU's security programme. The recently signed MoU aims to promote collaboration between SINU and MPNSCS to:

- Strengthen the design and delivery of tertiary programmes relevant to law enforcement and security stakeholders;
- Support training, capacity building, and capability enhancement across the security sector; and
- Ensure that all security-related programmes developed by SINU are contextually appropriate, professionally relevant, and aligned with national security priorities.

Speaking during the MoU signing this morning, Acting Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic (PVCA), Associate Professor Eric Katovai, said the MoU reflects a shared commitment to strengthening Solomon Islands' national security architecture through education, training, research, and professional development.

Dr Katovai said, "For a small island nation such as ours, security, justice, and the rule of law are foundational to stability, sustainable development, and social cohesion." He said addressing these complex and evolving challenges requires strong and sustained collaboration between government institutions, academia, and development partners.

"For Solomon Islands National University, this partnership creates significant opportunities to expand our academic and research capacity in security-related fields.

"It provides a platform for the development of postgraduate programmes, professional short courses, and applied research that are both contextually grounded and closely aligned with national security priorities.

"Importantly, it also enables the University to draw on the operational expertise of practitioners from policing, corrections, and national security, ensuring that our programmes remain practical, relevant, and responsive to national needs.

"I wish to acknowledge the Faculty of Education and Humanities, which will be responsible for operationalising this MoU on behalf of SINU.

"The Faculty brings considerable experience in professional education, applied research, and programme delivery, and will play a central role in translating this agreement into high-quality training, research, and policy-relevant outputs for the security sector.

"This collaboration also positions SINU to play a stronger national role in evidence-based policy support, leadership development, and institutional strengthening across the security sector. "The shared aspiration to explore the establishment of the Solomon Islands Institute for Law Enforcement and Security Studies is particularly significant, reflecting a long-term vision to build a national centre of excellence in law enforcement and security studies.

"On behalf of Solomon Islands National University, I wish to thank the Ministry for its partnership and trust.

"I also acknowledge the support of our development partners, including the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, as well as colleagues in the Faculty of Education and Humanities and across the University for their commitment to this important initiative.

"We now look forward to translating this MoU into tangible outcomes that will strengthen professional capability, enhance institutional effectiveness, and contribute to a safer, more secure, and more resilient Solomon Islands."

Speaking during the MoU signing, the MPNSCS Permanent Secretary, Ms Karen Galokale, said her ministry is fully committed and happy to be part of the milestone MoU between SINU and MPNSCS.

Minister-Counsellor (Political), Ms Stephanie Aeuckens, from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, who was present at the event, congratulated SINU and MPNSCS on the successful signing of the MoU and stated that Australia will continue to support the programme.

Under the MoU, SINU's responsibilities are as follows:

- Lead the development, accreditation, and delivery of security- and law enforcement-related programmes;
- Ensure that all programmes are pedagogically sound, academically rigorous, and regionally recognised;
- Provide teaching staff, facilities, and administrative support for training and courses;
- Integrate practitioner input into programme content to ensure practical relevance; and
- Seek external partnerships and funding support to ensure programme sustainability.

Under the MoU, MPNSCS responsibilities are as follows:

- Support SINU in ensuring the contextual and operational relevance of all law enforcement and security programmes;
- Facilitate the secondment of officers from the RSIPF, CSSI, and other divisions to assist in programme design and delivery;
- Encourage staff participation in SINU programmes for professional development;
- Provide access to relevant policy documents, data, and facilities for educational and research purposes; and
- Assist in aligning academic training outcomes with the Solomon Islands National Security Strategy and other national frameworks.

The MoU is effective as of January 12, 2026, and will be valid for the next three years.

The MoU signing was witnessed by officers from SINU, MPNSCS, and representatives from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs.

SINU Honours Vanuatu Year Three Nursing Students



Group photo; students, staff, and guests.

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) on Monday 22 December 2025 honoured 41 Year Three nursing students from Vanuatu during a completion and recognition ceremony held at the SINU Kukum Campus Hall.

The brief but colourful ceremony celebrated the 2023–2025 cohort of Vanuatu nursing students who have successfully completed their studies at SINU. Dressed in traditional Vanuatu colours, the students marked the occasion as they farewelled the University and prepared to return home to serve their country.

Speaking at the ceremony, Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic (PVCA) and Acting Vice-Chancellor, Associate Professor Eric Katovai, congratulated the students on their commitment and perseverance throughout their three-year academic journey.

“To our 41 Year Three nursing students from Vanuatu, today we honour you. You came to SINU not only to study nursing, but to commit yourselves to a calling—one that demands discipline, compassion, sacrifice, and resilience,” Associate Professor Katovai said.

He reminded the students that nursing is more than a profession, describing it as service in its most human form.

“Over the last three years, you have navigated academic rigour, clinical placements, cultural adjustment, and time away from home. You have grown not only in knowledge, but also in character,” he added.

As the students prepare to leave SINU, the Acting Vice-Chancellor encouraged them to remember their purpose, lead with humanity and integrity, and carry the Pacific spirit with them wherever they go.

Associate Professor Katovai also acknowledged the collective support behind the students’ success, including their families, churches, communities, and the Government and people of Vanuatu.

“On behalf of SINU, I congratulate each of you on reaching this important milestone. We are proud of you and look forward to the positive impact you will make in the lives of many,” he said.

He further highlighted the strong partnership between SINU and Vanuatu, noting that the students’ presence at the University reflects the regional and collaborative nature of education in the Pacific. “We do not grow alone; we grow together,” he said.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor also acknowledged the Faculty of Nursing, Medicine, and Health Sciences (FNMHS), including its clinical supervisors, under the leadership of Dean Dr Humpress Harrington, for their professionalism and commitment to quality nursing education.

“You have shaped not only competent practitioners, but ethical professionals grounded in dignity, respect, and empathy,” he said. Also present at the ceremony was Ms Fabiola Remy, a representative from the Vanuatu National Provident Fund (VNPF), the major sponsor supporting most of the Vanuatu nursing students.

Ms Remy said it was an honour to join the Vanuatu Students Association in celebrating the students’ achievement.

“Today is a proud day not only for the graduates, but for the entire Vanuatu. Completing your nursing studies required dedication, sacrifice, and perseverance,” she said.

She encouraged the graduates as they enter one of the most respected professions, highlighting their important role in strengthening Vanuatu’s health system.

Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, Medicine, and Health Sciences, Dr Humpress Harrington, also addressed the students, reminding them of the values that will guide them in their professional lives. He encouraged the graduates to master their work, respect leadership, remain faithful in their duties, and uphold honesty and integrity.

Representing the Vanuatu students, former class captain Mr Ini Budley Tari expressed appreciation to SINU for supporting their learning over the past three years. He said the University provided not only academic knowledge, but also guidance, discipline, and opportunities that contributed to their personal and professional growth.

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of certificates and leadership award recognitions.

Staff Profile

Name: Kevin Wanesiofa

Province: Malaita and Guadalcanal

Age: 53

Workstation: Kukum Campus

Department: Security

Job title: Assistant Chief Security Officer/ Operations

Qualification: Former Police Officer/Church Minister

How long have you been working here? Two years

Tell us about your job: My role as the Assistant Chief Security officer is to support the Chief Security Officer (CSO) to ensure the three SINU campuses; Kukum, Ranadi, and Panatina are safe and secure for students to do their studies, for SINU staff to carry out their work, and to ensure SINU properties are properly secured from intruders.

What do you like about SINU and your job? I like SINU because working here at SINU gives me the opportunity to do further studies which really helpful. I like my job because it allows me to work with academic staff, corporate staff, and students alike which is a bonus when it comes to networking



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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