



## AGENDA

### SINU 2026 Strategic Outlook and Stakeholder Forum *New Academic Year Opening*

**Theme: Unity, Excellence, and Service to the Nation**

**Venue:** Faculty of Education & Humanities Lecture Theatre, Panatina Campus

**Date:** Wednesday, 8 April 2026

**Arrival:** 8:30 AM

**Commencement:** 9:00 AM

#### Expected Attendees

- Government Representatives
- Development Partners / Donor Agencies / NGOs
- Private Sector Representatives
- Alumni
- Religious & Community Leaders / Youth Groups
- Media
- Students, Staff, and the General Public

#### Programme Outline

| Time           | Item   | Responsibility                              |
|----------------|--|---|
| 8:30 – 9:05 AM | Arrivals   | Events Team                                 |
| 9:05 – 9:10 AM | National Anthem / SINU Anthem  | MC, Mr Andrew Awa                           |
| 9:10 – 9:15 AM | Opening Prayer   | SINU Chaplain, Mr Cliff Honikulu            |
| 9:15 – 9:20 AM | Welcome Remarks  | MC  |
| 9:20 – 9:50 AM | <b>Keynote Address:</b> <i>SINU Strategic Priorities for the Next 5-10 Years</i> | Vice-Chancellor, Professor Transform Aqorau |

|                              |  |   |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>9:50 – 10:50AM</b>        | <p><b>Panel Discussion:</b> <i>“Shaping the Future of SINU: Partnerships for National Development”</i></p> <p>Panel Composition (Indicative)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Senior Academic / University Leadership</i></li> <li>• <i>Public Sector Leadership</i></li> <li>• <i>Media &amp; Advocacy Expert</i></li> <li>• <i>Private Sector / Entrepreneurship</i></li> <li>• <i>Professional &amp; Financial Leadership</i></li> </ul> | <p>Moderator &amp; Panelists</p> <p><i>Purpose:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Explore partnerships and collaborative opportunities across sectors.</i></li> <li>• <i>Discuss crosscutting national development issues, including education, workforce readiness, innovation, and governance.</i></li> <li>• <i>Enable structured dialogue among stakeholders to generate actionable insights for SINU’s future impact.</i></li> </ul> |
| <b>10:50 – 10:55 AM</b>      | Vote of Thanks   | MC  |
| <b>10:55 – 11:00 AM</b>      | Closing Prayer   | Chaplain  |
| <b>11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon</b> | Networking & Refreshments  | Events Team   |



## CONCEPT NOTE

### **SINU 2026 Strategic Outlook and Stakeholder Forum** *New Academic Year Opening*

**Theme: Unity, Excellence, and Service to the Nation**

- 1. Organiser :** Solomon Islands National University
- 2. Introduction & Strategic Context**

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) was officially established in 2013, bringing together the nation’s higher education institutions into a single, unified university. Over the past thirteen years, SINU has developed into a leading institution for education, research, and community engagement, serving over 7,000 students across multiple campuses. Its growth reflects a sustained national commitment to academic excellence, workforce readiness, and the advancement of socio-economic development in the Solomon Islands.

The year 2026 marks a pivotal moment for higher education in the Solomon Islands, as global, regional, and national trends converge to shape opportunities and challenges for students, staff, and communities. Globally, persistent conflict, supply chain disruptions, inflationary pressures, and educational exclusion continue to constrain development, with an estimated 273 million children and youth out of school worldwide, underscoring the critical need for inclusive, equitable, and high-quality education.

Within the Pacific region, nations face shared vulnerabilities, including climate risks, economic volatility, and demographic pressures. At the same time, the region boasts unique advantages: resilient and cohesive communities, rich cultural diversity, abundant marine and land resources, and traditions of cooperative problem solving. These attributes provide fertile ground for context-driven innovation, allowing universities like SINU to harness local strengths while preparing graduates to address both regional and global challenges.

At the national level, the Government of Solomon Islands continues to prioritise education, workforce development, economic diversification, and resilience, guided by the National Education Action Plan 2022–2026 and the National Development Strategy 2016–2030. These frameworks emphasise integrated planning, inclusive growth, and human capital development, providing a strategic platform for SINU to contribute directly to national priorities.

Solomon Islands' economy, while moderately growing, faces structural challenges such as high youth unemployment and limited private sector development. Yet, the nation is positioned to leverage comparative advantages in fisheries, agriculture, tourism, creative industries, and emerging technology sectors. SINU plays a central role in enabling these opportunities through applied research, skills development, entrepreneurship, and strategic partnerships, bridging education and national development imperatives.

The Forum coincides with the start of the academic year, offering a unique opportunity to launch the university's strategic outlook for the next five to ten years. It provides a platform to engage key stakeholders, articulate SINU's long-term vision, highlight its strengths and unique contributions, and foster collaboration toward sustainable development, national resilience, and inclusive growth. By connecting institutional priorities with societal needs, this Forum reinforces SINU's leadership role as a knowledge hub and partner for progress.

The Forum will address crosscutting challenges including workforce readiness, education quality, governance, innovation, and regional collaboration, ensuring that stakeholder insights are actionable and directly inform SINU's strategic planning for the coming years.

### **3. Purpose & Rationale**

This event is convened to:

- Demonstrate the university's leadership role in responding to contemporary global and national challenges through education, research, and strategic partnerships that foster innovation, resilience, and inclusive development.
- Mobilise stakeholders across sectors to support education quality, workforce readiness, and innovation that underpin national socio-economic resilience, ensuring that communities and industries are prepared for emerging opportunities and challenges.
- Align institutional priorities with national development strategies while acknowledging prevailing global uncertainties that affect development planning, including geopolitical instability, inflationary pressures, labour market shifts, and environmental risks.
- Foster inclusive dialogue on ways higher education can contribute to solutions addressing unemployment, service delivery gaps, climate risks, and socio-economic disparities affecting communities across the Solomon Islands and the wider Pacific region.

### **4. Objectives**

The specific objectives of the event are to:

- Present SINU's strategic direction and priorities, demonstrating alignment with global, regional, and national development imperatives, while emphasizing the university's role in shaping the Solomon Islands' educational and socio-economic future.
- Strengthen cross-sector partnerships across government, development agencies, private sector, academia, and civil society, focusing on education quality, research collaboration, workforce development, and inclusive innovation that leverages local strengths and community networks.
- Advocate for targeted investment in human capital and institutional capacity to support economic diversification, resilience, and sustainable development, offering solutions that respond to local challenges and regional opportunities.

- Encourage policy dialogue and alignment among stakeholders on education’s role in addressing unemployment, climate risks, skills gaps, and service delivery, ensuring higher education contributes directly to national and regional progress.
- Address crosscutting challenges including workforce readiness, education quality, governance, innovation, and regional collaboration, ensuring stakeholder insights are actionable and relevant to SINU’s strategic planning.

## 5. Target Participants & Stakeholders

- Government Ministries and Agencies (Education, Finance, Infrastructure, etc.)
- Development Partners / Donor Agencies / NGOs
- Private Sector Representatives
- Alumni and Philanthropic Leaders
- Religious, Community, and Youth Groups
- Media Representatives
- SINU Academic and Administrative Leadership
- Students and Staff

## 6. Core Activities

- **Opening:** Official welcome and protocol acknowledgements.
- **Keynote Address:** Presentation of SINU’s vision, mission, and strategic priorities for the next 5 to 10 years.
- **Panel Discussion:** *Shaping the Future of SINU: Partnerships for National Development*” featuring selected experts to discuss crosscutting issues and actionable strategies for national development.
- **Networking Session:** Facilitated engagement between stakeholders for partnership building and shared action planning.

## 7. Expected Outcomes

- **Enhanced understanding** among stakeholders of how higher education intersects with national development priorities, resilience building, and socio-economic inclusion.
- **Strengthened partnerships and commitments** toward collaborative initiatives in education, research, and skills development.
- **Greater alignment of institutional goals** with national policy frameworks and stakeholder expectations for education and development impact.
- **Concrete follow-up actions** or collaboration agreements between SINU and strategic partners emerging from discussions at the event.

## 8. Contact Information

For further information and coordination:

- **Ms. Jelrinah Eli** – Vice Chancellor’s Secretary | [jelrinah.eli@sinu.edu.sb](mailto:jelrinah.eli@sinu.edu.sb) | Phone : 42600
- **Ms. Siona Koti** – Executive Officer to the Vice Chancellor | [siona.koti@sinu.edu.sb](mailto:siona.koti@sinu.edu.sb)
- **Ms Renee Bisili** – Marking and Promotions : [renee.bisili@sinu.edu.sb](mailto:renee.bisili@sinu.edu.sb)

## 9. Contextual Anchors & Why This Matters

- **Global educational challenges** - millions of young people globally remain out of school, exacerbated by geopolitical and economic disruptions, highlighting the need for institutional leadership in education.
- **Regional Pacific priorities** - addressing teacher shortages and improving education quality, as recognised by regional education frameworks.
- **National economic goals** - Solomon Islands is pursuing economic diversification and resilience, but education and skills development remain critical bottlenecks for long-term progress.
- **Political and social dynamics** - ongoing development planning and transitions demonstrate the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration in achieving inclusive growth and resilience.
- **Institutional Contribution** - SINU serves 7,056 students across multiple campuses and offers programs in technical trades, maritime studies, education, business, health sciences, and natural resources, enabling direct contribution to national workforce readiness and development priorities.

End.