

# UNIVOIS NEWSLETTER

## Professor Transform Aqorau reappointed as Vice-Chancellor of Solomon Islands National University

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) is pleased to announce the reappointment of Professor Transform Aqorau as Vice-Chancellor for a second term.

Professor Aqorau's reappointment follows a rigorous, transparent, and comprehensive recruitment process conducted by a Council-sanctioned Selection Committee. The process included:

- Calling for expressions of interest through open advertisement;
- Conducting thorough due diligence and reference checks with previous employers and referees;
- Evaluating and shortlisting eligible candidates;
- Holding structured interviews and assessments to ensure alignment with SINU's strategic objectives;
- Presenting SINU's draft 2026 Strategic Plan and vision to the Selection Committee;
- Preparing the Selection Committee report, formally recommending Professor Aqorau for appointment;
- Receiving approval from the University Council. At its meeting on 10 February 2026, the Council approved the Selection Committee's recommendation and appointed Professor Transform Aqorau pursuant to section 28 of the SINU Act (No. 9 of 2012) for a second term.

Dr. Morgan Wairiu, Pro-Chancellor, congratulated Professor Aqorau on his reappointment and extended best wishes for continued leadership, emphasizing the importance of this term in advancing SINU's mission of academic excellence, innovation, and national development.

Professor Aqorau has officially signed his five-year contract and expressed gratitude for the confidence shown in him by the Council, Senate, Senior Management Committee, and University staff and community. He reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening SINU's governance, academic programs, and strategic development.

A qualified lawyer, Professor Aqorau holds a PhD in Law from the University of Wollongong and an Honorary Doctorate (LLD) from the Australian National University. His distinguished career includes:

Extensive publications in journals, magazines, and newspapers, along with numerous unpublished manuscripts and papers;

Presentations and participation in international seminars, conferences, and meetings;

Membership of multiple professional organizations and boards; Significant executive management experience, including serving as Deputy Director of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and pioneer CEO of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA);

Leading major governance reforms during his first term as Vice Chancellor, strengthening Council performance and donor collaborations, and establishing international partnerships to support academic programs and infrastructure development.

This announcement underscores SINU's commitment to transparent recruitment, good governance, and leadership excellence, reflecting the University's dedication to providing quality higher education for the Solomon Islands.



**SINU Vice-Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau**

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# SINU successfully hosts Orientation for New Students



## SINU first year students listening attentively during the Orientation.

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) has successfully hosted the week-long orientation programme for new students for the 2026 academic year in February.

Addressing students during the orientation week is the SINU Acting Vice Chancellor, Associate Professor Dr. Eric Katovai, who encouraged students to view their time at SINU not just as an opportunity to earn a qualification, but as a chance to prepare themselves to contribute meaningfully to the development of the Solomon Islands.

Dr. Katovai reminded students that university education requires independent learning and critical thinking, not memorisation. He highlighted expectations for students, including active class participation, meeting assessment deadlines, academic honesty—including responsible use of AI—professional conduct, adherence to Senate-approved regulations, and submission of authentic work.

On academic standards, Dr. Katovai outlined SINU's commitment to quality assurance, accreditation (including SIQF and PQF alignment), moderation, and benchmarking. He assured students that while SINU will provide strong support, it will also uphold high academic standards to ensure degrees carry regional and international credibility.

Regarding university culture, he emphasised the importance of modesty, respect, openness, contentment, and professionalism. "Encourage respect for staff, fellow students, diversity, campus property, and responsible online conduct. Build a safe and inclusive learning environment," he said.

Dr. Katovai also spoke on responsibility and maturity, noting that as SINU expands in infrastructure, partnerships, and academic programmes, students must rise to the challenge by engaging constructively through SINUSA, using communication channels appropriately, and representing SINU positively in public spaces.

He highlighted opportunities available to students, including research pathways, postgraduate study, scholarships, international partnerships, and student services such as the library, counselling, and academic support. He encouraged students to envision careers in STEM, education, governance, business, health, and environmental leadership. "Among you are future Deans, Ministers, researchers, and national leaders," he said.

The Acting Vice Chancellor also stressed the importance of time management and self-discipline. He advised students to carefully read course outlines, start assignments early, utilise consultation hours, build study groups, and maintain a balance between academic, social, and spiritual life.

Concluding his address, Dr. Katovai said students are joining SINU at an exciting time in its history and encouraged them to work hard, ask questions, respect one another, protect their integrity, and remember that their success contributes to the nation's success.



PVCA Associate Professor Dr. Eric Katovai

## SINU Agriculture Students Complete ADRA Work Attachment



### Bachelor of Agriculture Students during their work attachment

Three final-year Bachelor of Agriculture students from the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) have successfully completed a one-month work attachment with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Solomon Islands.

The attachment, conducted under ADRA's Sustainable Economic and Agricultural Solutions (SEAS) Project from 9 February to 6 March 2026, provided students with valuable exposure to field-based agricultural development work in rural communities.

During the program, the students observed how extension services are delivered and gained practical experience that will support their final academic reports ahead of graduation later this year.

**Source: lumi Stori, March 2026**

### Solomon Islands Universities Christian Fellowship at Kukum Campus



#### Solomon Islands Universities Christian Fellowship SINU Kukum Bible Study Now Underway

The SINU Kukum Bible Study group has officially commenced, offering a welcoming space for students to gather, grow spiritually, and explore the Word of God together.

All students at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) are encouraged to join the sessions, which provide an opportunity to study Scripture, ask questions, and learn more about Jesus in a supportive campus environment.

The group brings together students from diverse backgrounds, united by a shared faith and a desire to grow in community. Members expressed gratitude for the support from ministry students, staff, and all who continue to support this initiative.

Students who are interested in joining or would like more information can contact:  
+677 77 80336  
[solomonislands\\_ucf@gmail.com](mailto:solomonislands_ucf@gmail.com)

### Growing Interest in Japanese Language Learning at SINU

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) is seeing strong interest in its Japanese language programme, with 229 students enrolled this semester.

Originally offered only to SINU staff and students, the programme is now open to members of the public, giving everyone the opportunity to learn conversational Japanese, explore Japanese culture, and earn a certificate of completion.

Japanese instructor Miss Naomi Shinagawa said,

"I hope these classes will give students a chance to explore Japanese language and culture, support the tourism industry, and open opportunities for study, work, or training in Japan."

Classes are held at the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management (STHM), and a new "Japanese for Tourism" course will be introduced next semester to equip students with practical language skills for the hospitality sector.



Ms Naomi Shinagawa conducted the first session on 9 March 2026



The lecture theatre was filled with eager students wanting to learn Japanese

## SINU Welcomes Vanuatu Students with Special Orientation Program



**Vanuatu first year students**

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU), through the Campus Life, Welfare and Sports, proudly hosted a special Orientation Program for Vanuatu students on 3rd March 2026 at the New Common Hall.

The program was officiated by Samson Bisafa, Acting Manager Campus Life, Welfare and Sports, who encouraged the students to fully embrace university life and take advantage of the academic and support services available at SINU.

Warm welcome remarks were delivered by Ben Besa Jatobatu from the Campus Life, Welfare and Sports, while a Vanuatu student representative expressed appreciation on behalf of the students and shared their enthusiasm for commencing their studies at SINU.

The orientation featured a presentation of Orientation Week videos, providing important information about campus life and student services. SINUSA Executives also presented tote bags to the students as a gesture of welcome before guiding them on a campus tour to familiarise them with key facilities and services.

The program concluded with closing remarks from the SINUSA Administration Officer and a closing prayer led by the SINUSA President.

The initiative reflects SINU's continued commitment to fostering a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment for regional students, strengthening ties within the Pacific and ensuring a smooth transition into university life.



**Ni-Vanuatu Students listen attentively during the program**



**Tote bags were gifted to the students during Orientation as a special gesture to welcome them the SINU way.**

## SINU Recognizes Student Volunteers for Orientation, Registration and Green Campus Campaign



Volunteers and SINU staff posed for a group photo after the awarding ceremony



SINU, through its Campus Life, Welfare & Sports Department, recruited more than 80 student volunteers to support the Green Campus Initiative, which was launched in September last year, as well as to assist with Orientation and Registration Week activities.

The volunteers played a key role in assisting both new and returning students with important registration information and helping them become familiar with the university environment.

Speaking during the certificate presentation ceremony held at the Kukum Campus Common Hall this morning, SINU Business Investment and Commercial Services (BICS) Manager, Samson Bisafu, thanked and congratulated the students for their commitment and contribution.

Mr. Bisafu said that participating in voluntary work is a positive step for students, as it encourages them to learn new skills and gain valuable experience that will help prepare them for their future careers and endeavors.

**Name:** Kila Selina Kikolo

**Province:** Isabel

**Programme:** Diploma of Business and Management

**Year of Graduation:** 2018

**Current Role:** Payroll Support Officer at Pasifiki HR



### **How did SINU prepare you?**

SINU provided both academic knowledge and practical skills that have been essential in my career. Through my studies, I developed critical thinking, communication, and teamwork abilities. The hands-on learning approach also helped build my confidence and prepared me for the workplace.

### **Most memorable SINU experience**

Overcoming academic challenges, such as passing difficult courses and completing major assignments, stands out as a key highlight. Graduation day was especially memorable, as it marked a proud achievement.

### **Key achievement since graduating**

Since graduating, I have gained valuable qualifications, secured employment, and continued to develop skills in leadership, communication, and problem-solving. I am proud to contribute to my community and support national development using the knowledge and skills acquired at SINU.

### **Advice for current students**

- Focus on your studies and study smart
- Build skills, not just grades
- Manage your time wisely
- Stay focused on your goals

**Are you a SINU graduate with a story to share? We want to hear from you!  
Contact the Marketing & Promotions Office at [pro@sinu.edu.sb](mailto:pro@sinu.edu.sb) to be featured in  
our next Alumni Feature!**

**W E L C O M E**

**TO OUR TEAM**



**Meet John Roxby – Employment Assistant Officer**

John Roxby is a 28-year-old graduate holding a Bachelor's degree in Business (Entrepreneurship). He has built valuable experience in human resources through his work with the Solomon Islands National University (SINU), within the Human Resources Division (HRD) under the Employment and Recruitment Unit.

John began his journey at SINU as a Student Intern from 20th January to 30th April 2025. Through dedication and strong performance, he progressed to a Part-time Employment Assistant role from 1st May 2025 to 17th February 2026. He currently serves as an Employment Assistant Officer, supporting recruitment and employment processes at the University.

Originally from Isabel Province, John is passionate about continuous growth and community engagement. In his free time, he enjoys meeting new people, reading articles and news, participating in community activities, and traveling.



**Meet Jason Collinson – Employment Assistant (Relations)**

Jason Collinson is from Western Province, with his home village, Ilangana, located on the eastern side of Munda. He holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and has completed PDLP, building a strong foundation in legal practice.

He has gained experience working with organisations such as Voice Lawyers, Pacific Chamber, Burlington Berries, and Rano & Company Barrister & Solicitor. He currently serves as an Employment Assistant (Relations), supporting workplace relations and human resource functions.

In his free time, Jason enjoys fishing, travelling, meeting new people, cooking, gardening, playing sports, and reading.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

[www.sinu.edu.sb](http://www.sinu.edu.sb)

**3 - 8**  
April

## EASTER BREAK

- April 3 & 6 Easter Public Holidays
- April 6- Inter Faculty Easter Games Knockout
- April 8- Vice-Chancellor's New Academic Year Opening Address

**13-19**  
April

## LECTURE WEEK 7

- Term 2 Ends
- Sir Dr Nathan Kumamusa Kere's Book Launch

**20-26**  
April

## MID SEMESTER BREAK

**27-30**  
April

## LECTURE WEEK 8

- April 27- Term 3 Begins
- April 30- SINU Graduation Ceremony

For more information [www.sinu.edu.sb](http://www.sinu.edu.sb)

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# SPORTS UPDATES

## First of Its Kind: SINU Futsal Teams in Action

For the first time at the Solomon Islands National University, SINU Futsal teams received full support from campus management. Campus Life, Welfare, and Sport, together with SINUSA and led by Campus Life Manager Samson Bisafo coordinated support for students from all campuses to participate in the Futsal League.

This milestone highlights SINU's commitment to promoting sports and active participation, raising the university flag in sporting activities.



## On 5 March: SINU Team 1 (Kukum Team) Secures First Victory!

SINU Team 1 (Kukum Team) claimed their first victory in their opening match of the tournament, defeating our neighboring community, Prince Valley Team, with an impressive 5-2 scoreline in the group stage.

The Kukum team brings together students from across the university, reflecting our commitment to shaping students' character not only through education but also through sport.

A massive shout-out and heartfelt thanks to Campus Life, Welfare, and Sport for facilitating these opportunities and helping students build networks both inside and outside the classroom.



## Last Month: SINU Staff in Action

Last month, SINU staff teams prepared for the Futsal Masters League. The teams included staff from across all SINU campuses, showing their active participation in sports and wellness activities.

Campus Life, Welfare, and Sport continues to support staff engagement in extracurricular activities, promoting fitness, health, and team spirit.

This year, two teams represented SINU in the Masters League, allowing staff to compete, stay active, and enjoy friendly competition.

All staff are welcome to join future sessions, keep an eye out for updates from the Marketing & Public Relations Office.





## Clean & Green Campuses Campaign


Join us in keeping our campuses clean and healthy! Take a few minutes to pick up rubbish in:

- Classrooms
- Offices
- Walkways
- Roads

Your small effort makes a big difference! Let's work together to create a cleaner, greener campus.


- ✓ Spread the word
- ✓ Encourage your colleagues/peers
- ✓ Participate every Wednesday


 Every Wednesdays

 9 AM to 10 AM

 All SINU Campuses

For more information:

 [pro@sinu.edu.sb](mailto:pro@sinu.edu.sb)

 (677) 42631



Meet one of the inspiring students who are making their mark at SINU in 2026.

#### Name & Programme:

Janice Iyabora – Diploma in Business Finance Studies

#### Where are you from?

I proudly come from Malaita and Guadalcanal.

#### Why choose Solomon Islands National University?

I chose SINU because it gives me the chance to chase my dreams while staying connected to my roots. It's a place where I can grow, learn, and prepare myself for the future.

#### Best part of your studies:

Honestly, the best part is discovering new ideas and understanding how money and business really work. I also enjoy meeting different people and sharing experiences with classmates.

#### Future goals:

In the future, I want to become successful in the finance field, maybe even run my own business one day and make a positive impact in my community.



#### Advice for new students:


*Enjoy the journey! Stay focused but don't forget to have balance. Be confident, believe in yourself, and take every opportunity to learn and grow.*

## 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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