



Signing of Exchange of Notes for the Construction of Fisheries Research Center at Solomon Islands National University

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) is pleased to announce the signing of an Exchange of Notes between the Honourable Peter Shanel Agovaka, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade, and His Excellency Miwa Yoshiaki, Ambassador of Japan to Solomon Islands.

This confirms Japan's commitment to providing Grant Aid for the construction of a state-of-the-art Fisheries Research Center at SINU. The center will lead in fisheries management and applied research, contributing to sustainable development in the region.

The project reflects a collaborative partnership between the Governments of Japan and Solomon Islands, recognising the critical role of fisheries in the national economy and the sustainable livelihoods of communities throughout the islands.

The Fisheries Research Center will serve as a hub for innovative research and knowledge sharing, uniting academia, industry, government, and communities to address challenges in fisheries management and the broader blue economy.

"In 2022, as Director of the Institute of Oceans, Islands, and Sustainable Development (IOISD), I discussed with the British High Commissioner, Thomas Coward, the idea of establishing a Fisheries Center of Excellence to foster applied research and programs.

Through partnerships with institutions like the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, WorldFish, and local industry players, we can develop the best fisheries program in the region. His Excellency Miwa Yoshiaki, who became Ambassador in 2022,

was equally interested in an integrated support program involving communities, academia, government, and industry.

This would contribute to economic and social well-being by investing in smart fisheries, agriculture, and agroforestry."

Professor Aqorau expressed his pleasure at seeing these discussions and ideas come to fruition through the signing of the Exchange of Notes, and extended his gratitude to both the Solomon Islands Government and the Government of Japan for their support.

The Fisheries Research Center will significantly enhance research capabilities at SINU, focusing on applied research in fisheries management, aquaculture, marine conservation, and sustainable resource utilization. It will strengthen partnerships with regional and international organizations, positioning SINU as a thought leader in the fisheries sector.

For local communities, the center offers opportunities to add value to traditional fisheries practices.

By integrating modern technology with indigenous knowledge, the center will support more sustainable and profitable fishing methods, improve food security, and create income-generating opportunities. The research conducted will explore innovative ways to improve yields and ensure that rural economies benefit directly from the collaboration.

The collaboration between SINU, the Solomon Islands Government, and Japan highlights the importance of strategic partnerships for national development.

The Centre will play a critical role in informing policy decisions on fisheries management and sustainable development, aligning with national priorities to protect marine ecosystems while ensuring economic growth.

By partnering with industry leaders like Soltuna and the National Fisheries Development, the Fisheries Research Center will create a bridge between research and practical applications, ensuring that scientific advancements contribute directly to improved practices within the fisheries sector.

The Fisheries Research Center will provide SINU faculty and students with unparalleled learning opportunities, providing hands-on experience in cutting-edge fisheries research.

It will facilitate the development of new courses and programmes that equip students with the skills necessary to address real-world challenges in marine science, fisheries management, and conservation.

Faculty members will benefit from collaborative research opportunities with international experts, advancing SINU's capacity to generate knowledge and solutions that can be applied locally and globally.

A key goal of the Fisheries Research Center is to add value to fisheries through new processing and marketing methods, such as fish smoking and canning, which will increase profitability for local communities.

The center will also focus on sustainable aquaculture practices, providing alternative income sources and ensuring long-term

benefits. Training and capacity-building programs will empower communities to engage with and benefit from the latest advancements in fisheries science and technology.

The signing of the Exchange of Notes between Honourable Peter Shanel Agovaka and His Excellency Miwa Yoshiaki marks a new chapter in the Solomon Islands' journey toward sustainable fisheries management. SINU is honoured to be at the forefront of this development and looks forward to working with partners to ensure the successful implementation of this transformative project.



The Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Hon. Peter Shanel Agovaka, Japanese Ambassador His Excellency MIWA Yoshiaki and SINU team posed for a group photo following the successful signing ceremony.

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Solomon Islands National University Welcomes High Court Judgement in SINU v Habu Case

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) on Wednesday, 25th September 2024, welcomed the recent High Court ruling in favour of the University in the matter of SINU v Dennis Habu and Solomon Energy & Logistics Limited (SE&LL), CC 201/22. The judgement sends a powerful message about the importance of safeguarding public assets and ensuring they are not misused.

Mr. Dennis Habu, a former employee of SINU, was found to have unlawfully sold 30 bunk beds and 66 mattresses belonging to the University to a third party without SINU's consent. The High Court ruled in favour of SINU, ordering Mr. Habu to pay the University the sum of SBD \$61,450.00, with interest and costs.

The legal proceedings were initiated after SINU discovered that Mr. Habu had sold the University's bunk beds and mattresses to SE&LL, the contractors for the Field Hospital at Chinatown. These actions were taken without SINU's authorisation or knowledge, and the University sought legal recourse to recover damages for the loss of its property.

In the judgement handed down by the High Court, it was established that SE&LL was not an innocent party to the transaction and was aware that the goods sold by Mr. Habu were University property. Despite SE&LL's claims to be a bona fide purchaser, the Court upheld SINU's position that they were also liable.

The High Court rejected Mr. Habu's application for leave to extend time

to file his defence to SINU's claim, and a judgement in favour of SINU was entered.

The ruling is not only a vindication of SINU's efforts to protect its assets but also reinforces the necessity for strong governance structures within public institutions. The judgement highlights the imperative to ensure accountability, transparency, and the proper management of public property. It serves as a reminder that state assets, which belong to the people of the Solomon Islands, must be managed with integrity and safeguarded from misuse.

Professor Transform Aqorau, Vice Chancellor of SINU, said "While this outcome is both sad and disappointing, it reinforces our duty to protect public assets from abuse. The High Court's decision is a reminder that state-owned institutions like SINU have a responsibility to the people of this country to manage resources with the utmost care and integrity. This judgement vindicates our actions and sends a clear message that the mismanagement or unauthorised use of public assets will not be tolerated."

The University looks forward to closing this chapter and will continue its efforts to ensure all resources are used in the best interests of the public and in the pursuit of its mission to provide quality education to the people of the Solomon Islands.

SINU Provides Technical Support to Pacific and Caribbean Nations in International Maritime Organisation Green House Gas Emissions Reduction Negotiations

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU), through the engagement of its Chair, Dr. Morgan Wairiu, is playing a critical role in supporting Pacific and Caribbean (PAC+) nations during the International Maritime Organization (IMO) negotiations to adopt a basket of mid-term measures aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from international shipping.

This technical support aligns with SINU's growing commitment to sustainability and the advancement of global climate action.

Over the next two weeks, Dr. Wairiu will be providing expert guidance to these nations, which are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, as they engage in these pivotal negotiations.

The adoption of mid-term measures is vital for mitigating the environmental effects of international shipping, a sector that accounts for nearly 3% of global GHG emissions.

Reducing emissions from this sector is essential for ensuring the long-term survival of small island developing states (SIDS), which are already experiencing the consequences of rising sea levels and increasing storm severity.

The Pacific and Caribbean regions, with their unique geographical and ecological challenges, are united in their advocacy for stronger environmental protections within the international maritime sector.

The collaboration between these regions at the IMO negotiations reflects a broader, cross-regional effort to ensure that the voices of smaller nations are heard and that robust measures are adopted to secure their futures.

As climate change continues to threaten the livelihoods and ecosystems of Pacific Island nations, the stakes at these negotiations are particularly high.

The mid-term measures being debated at the IMO could set a precedent for how international shipping will contribute to achieving global climate goals, such as the Paris Agreement's target of limiting global temperature increases to 1.5°C.

Professor Transform Aqorau, Vice Chancellor of SINU, remarked on the significance of this initiative:

"SINU is honoured to contribute to this critical international effort through the expertise of Dr. Wairiu.

The Pacific Islands, along with their Caribbean counterparts, are on the frontlines of climate change.

It is imperative that the international community recognises the urgency of reducing emissions from global shipping, one of the few sectors yet to take full responsibility for its environmental impact.

SINU's involvement underscores our commitment to providing leadership and technical capacity to address climate challenges that directly affect the future of our region."

The outcome of the IMO negotiations will have far-reaching implications, not only for the Pacific and Caribbean regions but for global shipping and climate governance.

By offering technical support to PAC+ countries, SINU is helping to ensure that these nations can actively participate in shaping the future of international maritime regulations, safeguarding their interests while contributing to a more sustainable global environment.



SINU Council Chair Dr. Morgan Wairiu

SINU Center for Distance and Flexible Learning launches Health and Wellness program

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) Center for Distance and Flexible Learning (CDFL), in collaboration with the 10,000 Toes campaign team from the South Pacific, launched a new Health and Wellness program on Wednesday, 18 September.

The launch of the CDFL Health and Wellness program was prompted by alarming results from a recent medical test conducted on CDFL staff. This outcome urged the center into action to ensure its staff and students embrace healthier lifestyles.

The program was launched under the vision of attracting all SINU

of physical exercise is also a contributing factor that triggers lifestyle diseases.

He then reminded students and staff that most food sold in stores have hidden sugar, salt, and grease in them, where he encouraged them to eat more organic food for a healthy lifestyle.

Following the successful launching on Monday, SINU CDFL will now involve its staff and students in weekly sporting activities to ensure they live a fit and healthy life.

With that, the SINU CDFL Director Obed Zutu thanked Dr. Kuma and his 10,000 toes campaign team for supporting the SINU CDFL Wellness program, where he said SINU CDFL is taking the Wellness program seriously.



CDFL staff and students posed for a group photo following the successful launching.

staff to live more abundantly and with the mission to bring health, healing and hope across the university.

According to CDFL staff member Jonny Tasa, who played a key role in establishing the CDFL Wellness team, they are committed to collaborating with others to further expand and execute the vision while actively engaging in the mission.

Mr. Tasa said the vision to dig wider and deeper into SINU is paramount and urgent given that the university has experienced seven deaths in a short period of time.

Guest of Honour and founder of the 10,000 toes campaign, Dr. Chester Kuma congratulated SINU CDFL for taking a step in the right direction in the fight against Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), which is the number one killer in the country and the Pacific region.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Kuma highlighted that eight people die every day in the Solomon Islands due to lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke, heart attack, and cancer. He emphasized that these conditions have become the leading causes of death in the country today.

He said one toe is amputated every 20 minutes in the South Pacific due to diabetes. He also mentioned that Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) amounted to 75%-85% of the total number of diseases in the country, stating NCDs are the biggest killer in the country.

Risk factors include consuming food high in salt, sugar, and grease. He reminded students and staff to be more careful and pay attention to what they eat. Dr. Kuma also reminds students and staff that lack



Guest of Honour and founder of the 10,000 toes campaign, Dr. Chester Kuma speaking during the launching.



CDFL Manager Obed Zutu.

Carpentry and Joinery students on the right track

Twenty students who took a six months Carpentry and Joinery course at the Solomon Islands National University are picking up well and are looking forward to a six months' practical when their theory is over.

Of 102 students sponsored under the National Apprenticeship Training this semester, 20 of them undergo Carpentry and Joinery course offered under SINU TAFE.

According to Lecturer Mathias Nokali, in the six months' theory, students are covering basic construction, carpentry and joinery procedures.

He said the six months training is aiming at preparing students under the Apprentice entity program towards their practical.

Amanda Negelea from Guadalcanal is one of the two females who undertakes the male dominant Carpentry and Joinery course and said she dreams of becoming a carpenter one day.

Miss Negelea said she enjoyed learning new theories each day where she said her reason for her taking carpentry and joinery is to build her own house and not depending much on males as usually the practice.

"I am looking forward to completing my theory and practical skills and becoming a carpenter one day."

"I wish to thank my lecturer Mr. Nokali who is very helpful and instrumental in teaching us both in theory and practical."

Another female Lucian Panda held from Western Province said the reason for her taking carpentry and joinery is because they don't have a male brother in their family to fulfil their carpentry needs.

Miss Panda said her dream is to become an architect one day so taking carpentry and joinery is a step in the right direction to achieve her long term dream.

In the meantime, Mr. Nokali has called on more females to join the program where he said the program is not only limited to males only where he said females can also take up the course and become qualified carpenters one day.

He said females who undertake the course can go on further and become construction managers and teachers in the future.



Two female carpentry and joinery student Lucian Panda and Amanda Negelea trying out power tools during one of their classes.

Mr. Nokali said so far students are picking up very well in the theory part learning about occupational health and safety procedures, how to read and interpret plans, how to read measurements, how to use carpentry tools and equipment which covers hand tools, electrical tools, pneumatic tools, and how to use machines and equipment in the construction industry.



Carpentry and Joinery Lecturer Mathias Nokali.



Carpentry and Joinery students posed for a group photo with their lecturer Mathias Nokali

Staff Profile

Name: Humphrey Giles Marau

Province: Makira/Malaita

Age:45

Work station: Kukum Campus

Department: Student Academic Service (SAS)

Job title: University Registrar

Qualification: Master of Laws

How long have you been working here? I joined SINU in 2022 on a part-time basis before assuming a full-time role with Standards and Quality Office (SQO) in 2023, and I recently joined SAS in September 2024

Tell us about your job:As the University Registrar, my primary responsibility is to ensure that all student and academic services are well-planned, coordinated, and executed in accordance with University policies. This role involves overseeing various academic functions, maintaining student records, and supporting both students and faculty to enhance the educational experience.

What do you like about SINU and your job?

I truly value the vibrant and inclusive community at SINU. The commitment to providing quality education and support is inspiring. In my role, I appreciate the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on students' academic journeys by ensuring that our services run smoothly. I find it rewarding to help students navigate their educational paths and succeed in their goals. Additionally, the collaborative environment among my colleagues, along with the beautiful surroundings of Kukum Campus, adds to my overall job satisfaction and makes each day fulfilling.



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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.