



VC Outlines key goals and strategic direction for SINU for 2025

The Vice Chancellor of the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) Professor Transform Aqorau has outlined the key goals and strategic direction for SINU for year 2025.

In a statement to all SINU staff, the SINU VC said SINU’s overarching vision remains unchanged stating, the vision is to establish SINU as a university where future thought leaders of Solomon Islands graduate with globally recognised skills, ensuring they are employable not only within our nation but across the region and the world. Our graduates should be at the forefront of economic and social development, contributing to both national progress and international expertise.

To realise this vision, our strategic priorities remain focused on three key areas: Governance, Accreditation, and Ranking. These pillars are essential in shaping SINU into a reputable national institution that can meaningfully contribute to our country’s development. Each of you plays an integral role in this endeavour, and I want you to take pride in being part of this transformative journey.

2025: A Year of Reforms

Having served in this position for two years, and with a strong and capable Management Team now in place, I firmly believe that 2025 must be a year of meaningful reforms—both corporate and academic. These reforms will be vital in stimulating the growth and development of SINU, ensuring that we operate efficiently, remain competitive, and meet the expectations of students, staff, and stakeholders.

1. Staff Welfare and Development

One of my key priorities is the welfare and professional development of our staff. I am placing my confidence in the Director of Human Resources and the Pro Vice Chancellor Corporate, alongside the Council Human Resources Committee, to lead much-needed reforms in HR policies and staff terms and conditions. A university can only succeed if its staff feel valued and supported.

Additionally, I want to see both Staff Associations strengthened to provide a more effective institutional framework through which employment conditions can be discussed and improved. I also reiterate my call for the establishment of a Staff Credit Union—a financial safety net that would promote savings, financial independence, and, more importantly, support staff in preparing for life beyond SINU.

Another area that requires greater attention is staff training and skills

development. While I have consistently spoken about offering short-term courses for staff to build alternative skillsets, this initiative has yet to take off. Providing upskilling and reskilling opportunities is a priority, as it ensures that staff not only excel in their roles at SINU but also develop skills that remain valuable in their post-university careers.

This is also why the development of our own Master’s and PhD programmes at SINU is crucial. Many of our staff and aspiring postgraduate students struggle to pursue further studies due to family commitments and the costs associated with overseas education. By offering local postgraduate pathways, we can ensure that Solomon Islanders have access to higher learning without the need to leave their families behind.

2. Corporate Reforms and Revenue Diversification

Financial sustainability remains a key challenge for SINU, and we must take decisive action to optimise our resources and leverage our land assets. I am confident in the Pro Vice Chancellor Corporate, the Director of Properties, the Manager BICs, and the Finance Department, alongside the Council Physical Resources Committee and the Finance and Investment Committee, to drive these corporate reforms.

Several initiatives are already in motion:

- Securing Fixed-Term Title for Aruligo Land: We are making good progress in discussions with the Lands Board, which will allow SINU to fully utilise the land for long-term development.

- Establishing the Aligegeo Campus in Malaita: We are in active discussions with the Malaita Provincial Government to formalise arrangements for our planned fourth campus.

- Expanding Poitete Campus: Enhancing infrastructure and academic offerings in this region to better serve students.

- Developing SINU Land in Gizo (Miles 6): A strategic expansion that will increase SINU’s presence in the Western Province.



All these initiatives are critical to strengthening SINU’s position as a national development driver, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of tertiary education in Solomon Islands.

Inside this issue:

VC outlined key goals	2
SINU starts Strategic Plan review	4
Staff Profile	5

3. Academic Reforms and Accreditation

A key focus this year is ensuring that our academic policies and programmes meet national and international standards. Under the leadership of the Pro Vice Chancellor Academic and his team, we are embarking on the review of academic policies and accreditation of select programmes in preparation for SINU's formal registration under SITESA.

This is a non-negotiable requirement—we must meet SITESA's standards to remain a credible institution. Our commitment to accreditation and continuous improvement is the only pathway toward securing recognition and legitimacy for our qualifications, enabling our graduates to compete globally.

Key Goals for 2025

With the broader vision and reforms outlined above, I want to highlight specific action points that will guide our journey this year:

Key Priorities for 2025 and Their Importance to SINU and Staff

To successfully position SINU as a leading national and regional university, we must focus on key institutional, academic, and corporate reforms that will drive long-term sustainability and excellence. Each of the priorities outlined below plays a crucial role in strengthening SINU's reputation, governance, financial viability, and academic standing. More importantly, these initiatives will directly benefit our staff and students by creating a more stable, well-resourced, and forward-thinking university.

1. Engagement with Ministries

Why It Matters: SINU is a public institution serving the needs of Solomon Islands. Engaging with relevant government ministries ensures that our academic programmes align with national development priorities and that SINU receives the necessary support—both in policy alignment and funding.

What We Plan to Do:

- Organise formal meetings with key ministries, such as Education, Finance, Fisheries, Health, and Infrastructure, to advocate for stronger partnerships and discuss ways the government can support SINU's expansion and programme accreditation.
- Ensure government ministries recognise SINU as the primary provider of skilled professionals for the country, thus strengthening employment pathways for graduates.
- Work with ministries to develop scholarships and internship programmes that enhance employment prospects for students.

Benefit to Staff and Students:

- Greater collaboration with ministries will lead to increased funding and scholarship opportunities.
- Enhanced programme recognition and accreditation will create more job opportunities for graduates in government sectors.
- Strengthened government partnerships will provide research and consultancy opportunities for faculty members.

2. Engagement with Donors

Why It Matters: SINU must build stronger relationships with international donors to access funding, infrastructure support, and technical expertise that can drive the university's growth. Many universities worldwide rely on external partnerships to finance research, improve facilities, and enhance teaching quality.

What We Plan to Do:

- Establish formal engagement with donor agencies (ADB, World Bank, DFAT, EU, UN agencies, etc.) to secure financial and technical assistance.
- Present SINU's strategic needs to donors, focusing on infrastructure, scholarships, research funding, and ICT development.
- Develop Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with donors to facilitate capacity-building projects and academic exchanges.

Benefit to Staff and Students:

- Increased funding for research projects, scholarships, and facility upgrades.
- Improved access to technology and teaching resources.

- Potential for staff exchange and professional development through international partnerships.

3. Finalisation of the Academic Plan

Why It Matters: The Academic Plan is critical for ensuring that SINU's programmes meet national and international standards. A well-structured plan provides clear direction for curriculum development, faculty hiring, research priorities, and student learning outcomes.

What We Plan to Do:

- Align the Academic Plan with SITESA's accreditation framework to ensure full compliance.
- Focus on programme relevance—updating curricula to reflect modern industry trends.
- Expand postgraduate and research-driven programmes to increase SINU's academic impact.

Benefit to Staff and Students:

- A clear roadmap for academic growth ensures job security for staff and enhanced learning opportunities for students.
- Accreditation and recognition will increase graduate employability and boost the university's reputation.

4. Strategic Plan Review

Why It Matters: The Strategic Plan serves as SINU's long-term blueprint, guiding decision-making, resource allocation, and institutional priorities. Regular reviews ensure that we remain on track and adapt to emerging challenges and opportunities.

What We Plan to Do:

- Conduct a comprehensive review of SINU's strategic objectives, policies, and targets.
- Align the Strategic Plan with government development strategies and global educational standards.
- Ensure a transparent and inclusive review process, incorporating feedback from staff, students, and stakeholders.

Benefit to Staff and Students:

- A well-defined strategy provides clarity on SINU's direction, ensuring that staff and students can contribute effectively.
- Helps secure funding and partnerships by demonstrating SINU's commitment to structured growth.

5. Inviting Keynote Speakers

Why It Matters: Exposure to renowned scholars, policymakers, and industry leaders helps SINU stay informed on global trends and provides inspiration for students and staff.

What We Plan to Do:

- Invite experts from academia, government, and industry to address the SINU Council and academic community before each major session.
- Host public lectures and panel discussions on issues relevant to higher education, research, and development.

Benefit to Staff and Students:

- Staff gain exposure to global best practices in teaching and research.
- Students benefit from mentorship and networking opportunities with industry experts.

6. Engagement with Business and Trade Sectors

Why It Matters: Stronger ties with business and trade sectors ensure that SINU's programmes are relevant to industry needs, increasing graduate employability.

...continue from page 2....

What We Plan to Do:

- Establish partnerships with private sector firms, trade unions, and business chambers.
- Facilitate internships, apprenticeships, and industry-driven projects for students.

Benefit to Staff and Students:

- Greater job market alignment enhances employment prospects for students.
- Staff gain opportunities for consultancy work and industry collaboration.

7. Meetings with Staff and Students

Regular dialogue between management, staff, and students ensures transparency and alignment on university goals.

What We Plan to Do:

- Organise faculty- and department-level meetings to discuss progress, challenges, and feedback.

Benefit to Staff and Students:

- Encourages open communication and collaboration.

8. Implementation of Corporate Reforms

Corporate efficiency and financial sustainability are key to SINU's future growth.

What We Plan to Do:

- Streamline financial management, procurement, and administration processes.
- Strengthen revenue-generating initiatives through land development and commercial activities.

Benefit to Staff and Students:

- More financial resources for university development.
- Improved working conditions for staff.

9. Implementation of SITESA Scholarship Probationary

What We Plan to Do:

- Ensure that all SINU scholarship programmes comply with SITESA regulations.

Benefit to Staff and Students:

- Provides equitable access to education funding.

10. Securing and Developing SINU's Land Assets

What We Plan to Do:

- Finalise land tenure for Aruligo, Aligegeo, Poitete, and Gizo campuses.

Benefit to Staff and Students:

- Expanding campuses creates new opportunities for students and faculty.

11. Organisational Restructuring

What We Plan to Do:

- Develop a new organisational framework in consultation with Professor Derek.

Benefit to Staff and Students:

- Enhances efficiency and accountability in university operations.

12. HR Upskilling and Staff Promotion Pathways

What We Plan to Do:

- Establish training programmes for staff upskilling and formal promotions to Associate Professor positions.

Benefit to Staff and Students:

- Career advancement opportunities for academic staff.

Closing Thoughts

2025 will be a pivotal year for SINU—a year where we take bold steps towards transformation, ensuring that our university stands as a beacon of excellence in higher education in the Solomon Islands and beyond. The reforms and goals I have outlined are ambitious but necessary if we are to position SINU as a reputable and forward-looking institution. While change is often challenging, it is also filled with opportunity—the opportunity to grow, innovate, and create a university that we can all be proud of.

As we embark on this journey of reform, I invite all of you to be active participants in shaping the future of SINU. This is not the work of one person, nor a single department, but rather the collective effort of all staff, students, and stakeholders. Each of you plays a crucial role in making SINU stronger, more resilient, and more impactful.

I acknowledge that the road ahead will require dedication, patience, and collaboration, but I am also certain that we possess the talent, expertise, and determination to rise to the occasion. With your commitment, we will strengthen governance, achieve accreditation, secure SINU's rightful place in the region, and build a university that provides lasting value to future generations.

Let us embrace this challenge with confidence and work together with shared purpose and determination as we move SINU forward.

I leave you with the words of Nelson Mandela, which I believe resonate deeply with our journey ahead: "It always seems impossible until it is done."

What we seek to achieve for SINU may seem difficult, even daunting, but with the right mindset, unwavering commitment, and teamwork, we will succeed. Let us move forward together, inspired by the knowledge that our efforts today will create a stronger, more vibrant SINU for generations to come.

SINU starts Strategic Plan review with Balance Scorecard Training

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) has commenced the review of its 2021-2025 Strategic Plan through a Balanced Scorecard Training Workshop held on 20 January this year.

Nine members of the SINU Senior Management who attended the training passed the course and were awarded with certificate of recognition as SINU is looking forward to reviewing its 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.

Speaking at the official opening of the Balanced Scorecard Training, the Acting Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor Corporate (PVCC), Dr. William Parairato, emphasized the significance of this initial process, as it provides the planning framework for formulating the new SINU Strategic Plan for 2026-2030.

Dr. Parairato acknowledged and thanked DFAT and the Australian Government for funding what he described as a highly important training workshop. He also expressed his gratitude to the workshop facilitator, Dr. Bob McDonald of Informa Australia, for committing his time to lead the five-day training.

“Without such great support, the University, with its limited financial resources, would not have been able to undertake this important training workshop.”

Please ask as many questions as possible from the training expert and make use of this critical training workshop.”

Dr. Parairato highlighted the importance of strategic planning stating, “the purpose of strategic planning is to set overall goals for SINU and to develop a plan to achieve them. It involves stepping back from our day-to-day operations and asking where our University is heading and what our priorities should be.”

“It sets its sights on the future, focusing on where SINU wants to be in the next five years.”

“You might also go through the main components of a strategic, including our Vision, Mission, Values, Goals, undertake SWOT Analysis, Risks & Mitigation Strategies, costing of the plan and our reporting systems and development of our own faculties, departments and division annual work plans and action plans.”

He further stated that, “The importance of monitoring, evaluation reporting of our strategic plan cannot be underestimated as they form the critical part of the plan.”

“Participants, as you began the Balanced Scorecard Training workshop this morning, I wish you all the best. I hope you not only enjoy the training but also gain as much as possible from it.”

“To the training facilitator, Dr. Bob McDonald, I hope you enjoy your five days with us and are ready to address the many questions that will come your way.”

Meanwhile, Dr. Bob McDonald expressed his enthusiasm for facilitating the workshop, stating that he is looking forward to sharing key insights on the Balanced Scorecard with SINU staff throughout the training.

The training ended successfully on Friday 24 January with certificate presentation.



“The University recognizes the importance of partnerships and regards the Australian Government as an important stakeholder, especially in light of your continuous support for the University.”

“The University Community hopes these levels of immense support will continue into the future as we all collaborate in partnership to progress the University’s manpower development and grow the University’s capacity.”

“To our colleagues and participants, your selection to be part of this training workshop highlights the critical roles you will play in this process, as you will be the focal point within your respective faculties, departments and divisions as we started to prepare for the review of the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan and formulation of the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan.”

“The knowledge and skills you will learn in this training will equip and enable you to understand the strategic planning process, the important components of a strategic plan, and the significant role of having a strategic plan for the University.”

“During this strategic planning process, you will play a significant role not only in the development of your respective strategic goals, key objectives and activities or initiatives, but you will also be instrumental in the monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the progress of these important milestones of your plan.”

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Dean of the School of Business and Tourism Dr. Elliot Mugamu congratulated members of the SINU Senior Management who successfully completed the week-long course.

“I would like to congratulate and thank you for your dedication and active engagement in the learning experience.”

“At your respective levels, you should be fully aware that it is through training that employees at different levels of the organization acquire competences such as curiosity, innovation, creative and emotional intelligence.”

“Research-based studies affirm that those organizations providing training opportunities create a positive work environment in ways that allow their employees not only to learn and grow but also to cultivate a sense of pride and purpose in their employer.”

With that, Dr. Mugamu said now that SINU staff are equipped with the skill and knowledge of the Balance Scorecard, the real work only starts now.

Staff Profile

Name: Jessy Dingaliko

Province: Malaita

Age: 47

Work station: Kukum Capus

Department: HR department

Job title: Janitor

Qualification: Primary School

How long have you been working here? Nine years

Tell us about your job: Cleaning HR office ensuring the office is clean and tidy at all times.

What do you like about SINU and your job?

I have a passion for cleaning and truly enjoy my job. I appreciate SINU because it provides me with a salary that allows me to support my family and put food on the table.



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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.