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USP Strategic Planning Workshop



USP Vice Chancellor, Prof. Rajesh Chandra

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A relaxed Vice Chancellor and President of USP and why not considering the excellent achievements of USP in the current (2010-2012) triennium. In welcoming several senior management staff of USP who met at the Warwick Resort coral coast from March 16-18 to review the draft Strategic Plan for (2013-2018) period, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Rajesh Chandra reminded everyone that "the main objective of the workshop is to review the draft Strategic Plan, share your ideas and come up with a plan that will move USP from good to excellent status." He highlighted several landmark achievements of USP under current triennium. He started by highlighting the achievements of last year that contributed to enhancement of quality learning, teaching and research resulting in broader international recognition and accreditation of more USP programs. Achievements of USP have encouraged development partners to further extend their financial support allowing USP to undertake activities in many priority areas. In addition, 2011 saw substantial improvements made to ICT, introduction of new courses and international accreditation achieved in key programs such as accounting, banking, tourism and hospitality; and finance.

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USP Strategic Planning Retreat

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The increase in enrolment for 2012 is over 10% compared to 2011. Students find USP an attractive 'Brand' where they would like to go and study. The USP finances are improving, the savings are reasonable and staffing has improved with 30 Professors in place today.

Prof. Chandra posed a number of questions that challenged the participants in developing the strategic plan such as: *"are we innovative enough?, are we prepared to give up something to focus on the more important things?, how are we to immerse ourselves in the countries and national institutions?, how are we going to deepen national links to improve research?, and how can we strengthen regional campuses to reflect USP characteristics."* To do all these he said, the staff need to be committed and passionate. He emphasised the need to increase postgraduate student numbers, enhance the USP 'Brand' and the quality of education.

USP is predicting 50% increase in costs in its next plan period compared to the current period. He encouraged senior management team, heads of schools and directors to help develop a better USP team. He said, "The value of USP will increase if beneficiaries will see us addressing their needs." He encouraged the delegates to come up with ideas as to how we can immerse ourselves in the region linking with countries national institutions and



developing our international linkages to improve research and other activities." He had good news for regional campuses: "Focus will be on regional campuses as they reflect USP's characteristics as a regional University -- they will be developed and strengthened," Prof. Chandra said.

The workshop agreed on seven priority areas within the plan period that include "learning and teaching, research, ICT and others. And within each of these priority areas there are a number of objectives, initiatives and activities that will help USP achieve its goal.

Prof. Chandra also mentioned that the University Grant Committee is pleased with USP's status and its place in the region. "There is confidence among the donor partner agencies and CROP members" he said.



First Female British High Commissioner visits USP

Tony Siamomua



Her Excellency, the British High Commissioner with the Acting Head of School, Acting Campus Director and students of USP Alafua

Staff and students at Alafua Campus were graced by Her Excellency Vicki Treadell's presence during a visit to the Campus on Wednesday, 21 March 2012 to address aspects of UK-Samoa international relations, Commonwealth links and why Samoa is important to the U.K.

It was also an opportunity for Her Excellency to be briefed on the operations of the University and Alafua Campus.

While at Alafua she also met with students and staff and looked into areas where the High Commission could be of assistance to the school with equipment and possible scholarships.

The Malaysian born to a Cantonese mother and a father of French Dutch ancestry; the High Commissioner spoke of modern Britain being open-minded,

of multicultural society and that opportunity for success was possible for anyone who worked for it.

Her Excellency also touched on the continuing support of Great Britain in the socio-economic development of the Pacific Island Countries through its contribution to the European Union funded projects in the Pacific.

Her Excellency left with reflective comments that patience, resilience, self belief and willingness to learn are some characteristics for those who wish to succeed with whatever they pursue in life.

Seiuli Allan Alo – Coordinator for the Polynesian Outreach Programme offered the vote of thanks on behalf of the Campus, Staff and students.



IRETA Director is the first President of the Pacific Branch of the International Society for Tropical Root Crops (ISTRC)

Keith Tomlins NRI, University of Greenwich, UK

Mohammed Umar, Director, IRETA, Samoa has become the first President of the Pacific Branch of the International Society for Tropical Root Crops. Root and Tuber crops are an important staple for over 200 million in ACP countries. The International Society for Tropical Root Crops is an international organisation that was formed in 1967 to support a community of practice of root and tuber scientists globally. However, a branch was needed to serve the interests of researchers in the Pacific Region and to develop a Community of Practice. The Pacific Branch of the ISTRC was formally launched on 2 March 2012, UNITECH, Lae, PNG at an international training programme funded by the EU ACP Science and Technology project to support early career scientists in root and tuber crops. The meeting was attended by over 40 scientists from PNG, Australia, UK and Solomon Islands. The Pacific Branch was formally launched by the President of the International Branch of the ISTRC, Professor Andrew Westby, Director, Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, UK and Professor Satish Chandra, Councillor of the Pacific for the International Branch of the ISTRC, Australia.



Promoting USP and EU GCCA Project

Tapulolou Tuailemafua



Assisting USP Campus in their marketing and enrolment is the In Country Climate Change Coordinator Samoa for USPEU GCCA Project, Tapulolou Siuli Tuailemafua.

The USP marketing team reached out to the public by promoting USP and EU GCCA Project and enrol students to USP programs in both Upolu and Savaii.

The Coordinator of In Country Climate Change (ICC) Samoa was part of the USP Alafua team to attract more students for this year. He also promoted the ICC project by highlighting the opportunities the project provides for postgraduate studies. Registration results show that enrolment this year recorded the most number of students compared to the past two years. This is good news for the University.



USP marketing team: Allan Va'ai, Sia Matalavea, Seulgee Samu'elu, Ruby Va'a and Faletoesa Asaua



Welcoming Ava ceremony during Orientation



Tapulolou Tuailemafua presenting during Orientation

USP EU Global Climate Change Alliance Project in Samoa

Tapulolou Tuaillemafua



Representatives from different Climate Change Stakeholders in Samoa were invited to be part of the launch to showcase the USP-EU Global Climate Change Alliance Project in Samoa.

The EU Global Climate Change Alliance Project is a regional undertaking involving more than 16 Pacific Island Countries. Different government ministries including the main stakeholder, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, regional organisations like SPREP, UNDP and FAO, the Civil Societies Organisations and others were involved.

The objectives of the workshop were to map out who the stakeholders are and in which projects they are working on and to share lessons learned and

best practices to date. The workshop also gave opportunity to delegates to identify gaps in the project that could assist stakeholders in the three pillars — community outreach, capacity building and applied research.

One of the most interesting issues that emanated from the workshop was the way climate change is being coordinated in-country which needs to be facilitated under one body.

The workshop also provided opportunities for delegates to share ideas/views and have a clear understanding of the project in various countries.



Memorial Service for King George Tupou V

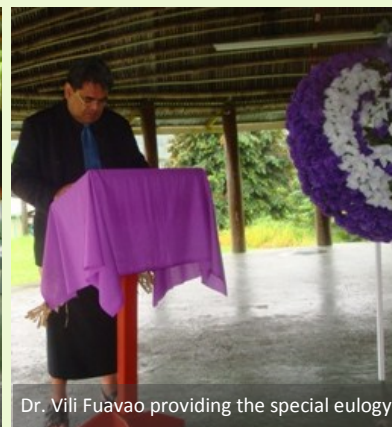
Tony Siamomua



King George Tupou V



Tongan students displaying the floral tribute from USP Samoa



Dr. Vili Fuavao providing the special eulogy

The USP Samoa campus was at a standstill at 12pm on March 27, 2012, as the Tongan community in Samoa, management, staff and students of Alafua campus held a memorial service to pay their respects to the late King George Tupou V, who was laid to rest in Tonga on the same day at 12pm.

A special eulogy was given by Dr. Vili Fuavao, the FAO Sub-Regional Representative for the Pacific. Dr Fuavao highlighted what will henceforth be known as the legacy the late King George Tupou in paving the way to modernize the kingdom by proclaiming freedom for the people of Tonga. Dr Fuavao reflected on key role of the late King in

moving Tonga towards democratic freedom and consequently, towards greater social economic development. Dr Fuavao concluded by expressing the deep sympathy and sadness of the people of Tonga with the passing away of his Majesty. He asked that we also remember the new king in our prayers and thanked all those who had attended the service.

The service included Tongan hymns and prayers that remembered the late King as well as Tonga's new king, the Royal family and the people of Tonga all over the world, and was conducted by Samiuela Tuitupou.



Members of the Tongan community at the Memorial Service

Recognising outstanding IRETA staff

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Two staff members of IRETA Senira Sua (Secretary) and Uga Luaiupu (Livestock Farm Supervisor) were presented with the Director IRETA 2011 Achiever of the Year Award. The award included a certificate and monetary gift. When asked about the award the Director, IRETA said “the main purpose for the award is to recognize outstanding IRETA staff who show commitment to their work and achieve outstanding results in what is expected of them. This approach, he said, also gives an opportunity to all IRETA staff to compete for the Recognition and Award as committed and dedicated individuals. From the Institutes point of view it motivates all staff members to work hard and that their work is recognized and the management takes interest in what they do and rewards them appropriately in addition to their normal benefits by working with the USP-IRETA.



Senira Sua



Uga Luaiupu

16th International Symposium of the International Society for Tropical Root Crops, Nigeria 23 to 28 Sept 2012

Source: ISTRC

The 16th Triennial Symposium of the International Society for Tropical Root Crops (ISTRC) will be held at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), Ogun State, Nigeria from Sunday 23rd to Friday 28th September 2012.

Tropical roots crops are essential to meeting global food security and sustain the livelihoods of many millions of people. Climate change provides opportunities for the potential contribution of tropical roots for sustainable human development. Strategies need to be developed to address key issues in productivity, crop plant-soil/water/energy resources management, and postharvest utilization as food and feed, nutritional and health value addition, and trade and commercialization, so that the role of tropical roots in ensuring sustainable development can be enhanced. The symposium provides an opportunity for experts from around the world to meet and address this agenda.

Publications and symposium activities will be mainly conducted in English. Oral presentations can however be done in English or French, with simultaneous translation.

The theme of the event will be The Roots (and

Tubers) of Development and Climate Change. The subthemes will be:

Policies favourable to enhancing the contribution of RTCs to development - (1) poverty reduction and food security (2) enterprise development and income generation and export development, (3) impacts of climate change and variability, (4) impacts of the global food crisis, global economic downturn and urbanization, (5) opportunities provided by biofuels. (6) Intellectual Property Rights;

Global Scenario on Production, Utilization and Marketing of Root and Tuber Crops - Trade and Technology Commercialization;

Progress in the science and technology for enhancing the contribution of Tropical Root Crops to development - Crop Improvement and Genomics; Biodiversity, Conservation and Evaluation; Biotechnology and Biofortification; Characterization of resistance to biotic and abiotic stressors; Plant, Water and Nutrient Management;

Applying new scientific and technical knowledge on RTCs to contribute to development.- Technology Development and Transfer processes and systems; Value Addition for Food, Nutrition and Health; Regional Exchanges and Technology Transfer; Roots and Tubers for Feed and Industry.

AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE TO SAMOA STUDENTS

The Government of Samoa is awarding **20 new scholarship** on an annual basis for eligible students wishing to pursue studies in an ***agricultural related field***.

For the under graduate program, the main eligibility requirement is that the applicant must have completed (privately funded and passed) a minimum of 4 courses towards his/her agricultural related course.

For Post Graduate level studies applicants need only to privately fund & pass 2 courses and in the case of Masters level they need to privately fund and pass 3 courses.

Foundation level courses do not qualify for Government assistance.

The entitlements includes full tuition, general service administration fees and books and course materials.

Applicants will need to fill SSS Application form which is available from the Scholarship Office, MFAT, Government Building and submit the completed application together with supporting documents to the Scholarship Office for consideration by the Scholarship Committee .

For further information about these awards contact;

Student Academic Services
20874/ 21671 Extension 231
University of the South Pacific
Alafua Campus

Growing and supplying taro

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John Mapusua who owns 26 ha land grows mainly taro and assorted vegetables. He supplied two varieties of taro suckers to the USP-IRETA farm. These varieties are named as the number Two and number Three in Samoa. IRETA will use the 1000 suckers for further research and bulk planting materials.

Johns taro plantation has been in the family for many years. He was raised and educated from the income that was earned from supplying taro to the local markets and export to American Samoa, New Zealand and Australia.



Farewell to Dr Shegira Nishida

Dr Shegira Nishida, a JICA volunteer who assisted the USP-IRETA Alafua farm in its livestock development for two years bids the staff farewell as his term comes to an end.

Dr Nishida has contributed greatly to the success and improvement in production of livestock in the farm. Mohammed Umar, the IRETA Director presented an award and a gift for his great service. He also thanked Dr Nishida for his tremendous service to USP and Samoa. We wish him all the best.



Snira Su'a, Mohammed Umar and Dr Nishida Shegira

Samoa Farmers Associations new Constitution and Strategic Plan

The Samoa farmers association (SFA) met at the USP fale as part of their on going processes of meetings where farmers come together to share perspectives, feedback and address issues faced by farmers.

The two main items discussed in the meeting was the newly revised constitution and its new Strategic Plan. Afamasaga Toleafoa who is the President of the SFA said, "The old constitution did not meet the new challenges and opportunities that farmers were facing so there were amendments that had to be carried out which resulted to a new constitution for the SFA. Through the meeting the members are informed and will contribute their views on the new constitution.

The first section of the Strategic Plan was discussed as the document was too large to be completely discussed in one meeting with the priority areas

highlighted. Their Strategic Plan is for four years.

The association consist of various farmers from Subsistence to commercial farmers. These farmers grow a variety of crops and also raise livestock.



Samoa Farmers Association President Toleafoa Afamasaga

There are many groups within the association such as church groups and village groups as the Association work very closely with many village groups when carrying out various projects for farmers.



USP Alafua Rugby Team Wins Senior Reserve Shield

Tony Siamomua



The team celebrating the win

USP Alafua's Rugby Team started their season on a high note when they beat the Vaimoso Club and won the Shield for the Apia West Senior Reserve rugby competition on March 24, 2012. Prior to their game with the Vaimoso Club, the Islander boys from USP Alafua won their pre-season game against the neighboring village, Alafua on March 17, 2012. The team, which comprises students from Fiji, Nauru, Samoa and Tonga, is coached by USP Alafua's Senior Technician, Dean Seuoti and is managed by the Campus Life Officer, Tony Siamomua and the Chief Security Officer, Vae Falaniko.



The supporters celebrating the win



USP Alafua Team carrying the shield after the game

March photos



Flood in Fiji: Incoming traffic from Nadi Airport
31.03.2012 10:36



British Diplomat Mrs Vicki Treadell visits USP Alafua



Flood in Fiji: Main Road leading into NadiTown
From Airport 95% of Road carved Out
31.03.2012 10:38



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USP-IRETA staff farewell JICA volunteer Dr Nishida



Senira presents Dr Nishida with his gift



USP Strategic Planning Workshop



Senira thanks Dr Nishida for his service in the USP