

## **Fiji's only Masters level programme in Renewable Energy makes steady progress**

UniFiji's Masters in Renewable Energy Management (MREM) programme will be producing its first batch of graduates by the end of this year, and there are already signs that demand for these new management-level personnel will be high.

The twelve students who started in early 2017 in this two-year programme are now in the second and final year of their studies. Interest in this Renewable Energy training programme has been coming from diverse areas of the economy, including the teaching, research and the industrial sectors. Those registered for the programme include practicing scientists, engineers and power generation project managers in addition to teachers and young University staff.

The last Semester will be dedicated to the research component of the programme, which is offered by coursework and thesis. At least eight of these students will be completing the experimental components of the minor thesis by the end of semester 2 this year.

One of the primary purposes of the programme is to up-skill and train middle-management level recruits in the area of Renewable energy management. Coordinator for the programme, Professor Anirudh Singh, stated that the MREM programme incorporates multi-disciplinarily aspects of energy including energy management, energy economics and sustainable development to help create holistically developed energy graduates in the Pacific.

"Global warming and the consequent climate change are high on the agenda of international organizations as well as the governments of the Pacific Island Countries including Fiji. Renewable energy offers one of the two main solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Most countries are now working on their Nationally-Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris agreement for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The market for renewable energy graduates in the near future is thus tremendous. However there are very few institutions offering renewable energy management programmes. With the MREM programme, UniFiji's intention is to fill the void of energy graduates not only in Fiji but throughout the South Pacific," stated Professor Singh.

Students as well as people in employment having a science background are encouraged to register for programme as it allows for flexible study times suitable for both part-time and full-time studies. An added advantage that this programme offers is the ability to join at any time during its first year of studies.