

## **UniFiji to Host International Symposium on Interdisciplinary Ocean Science and Sustainable Management**

The University of Fiji's School of Science and Technology (SoST) will hold an International Symposium on Interdisciplinary Ocean Science and Sustainable Management at the Sofitel Resort, Nadi on September 28, 2018.

The symposium focuses on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14- Life Below Water. "SDG 14 aims to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems from pollution as well as address the impacts of ocean acidification."

The core objective of the symposium is to spark interest and possibly collaborate with various stakeholders in the area of marine spatial planning.

Speaking about the symposium, Head of the Science Department, Dr. Ajay Singh, stated that all stakeholders were specialized in different fields and the symposium would become a platform to discuss and collaborate on a pivotal area in Fiji - marine spatial planning.

One of the key stakeholders at the symposium will be the delegates from Third Institute of Oceanography, SOA, China, who are specialized in the area of marine resource planning.

Dr. Singh stated that they would not only act as mentors and help build capacity in Fiji for marine resource planning; they were also exploring the idea of funding research in that area.

Other delegates attending the symposium include representatives from non-governmental organisations, representatives from Ministry of Fisheries and Forests, Pacific Islands Development Forum, researchers from abroad, two students from Germany as well as UniFiji staff and students.