

UniFiji Hosts International Symposium on Interdisciplinary Ocean Science and Sustainable Management

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

The symposium focused 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 was to spark interest and possibly collaborate with various stakeholders in the area of marine spatial planning.

Speaking at the symposium, the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Narendra Reddy highlighted the University's commitment towards building a climate resilient Fiji.

"I am pleased to announce that through the development of local human capacity; on satellite image analysis and GIS, as a result of this USAID funded project- Pacific American Climate Fund (PACAM), The University of Fiji is prepared to collaborate with regional partners to carry out mapping on a national and regional scale for blue carbon ecosystems. SoST has also increased its research output over the past few years and is actively engaged in national and international trainings and research collaborations to enhance their capacity and skills to undertake ocean-based research," he stated.

The keynote speaker at the symposium, Ms. Arpana Pratap, Team Leader Member Capacity, Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF), highlighted the need for all sectors to collaborate in order to protect the environment. She stressed that no one sector could deliver sustainability and urged the participants to collaborate with various stakeholders and sectors to achieve sustainability.

In addition to that point, Ms. Priyatma Singh of School of Science and Technology, impressed upon the need to focus on interdisciplinary Ocean Science and governance to effectively deliver SDG 14.

One of the key stakeholders at the symposium was the delegates from Third Institute of Oceanography, SOA, China. Other delegates who attended the symposium include representatives from government and non-governmental organizations, Pacific Islands Development Forum, researchers from abroad, two research students from Germany as well as UniFiji staff and students.