

Staff and Students Welcome Professor Chang

Staff and students welcomed the new Vice-Chancellor of The University of Fiji, Professor Sushila Chang on Wednesday, September 4, 2019.

The memorable ceremony, spearheaded by the UniFiji Students Association (UFSA) and initiated by the current President, Ratu Sailosi Dawai, commenced with students leading Professor Chang to the stage while holding onto the UniFiji flag, Fiji flag and flags of other Pacific Island countries. This gesture signified that Professor Chang was graciously and whole heartedly welcome to the University.

The Pro-Chancellor, Mr. Anil Tikaram, formally welcomed Professor Chang stating that UniFiji had created history by having the first female Vice-Chancellor of not only the University, but the country. He also mentioned that during the selection process, Professor Chang stood out from the other applicants and wished her a productive, happy and long stay at the University.

A significant exchange of the UniFiji flag followed whereby the flag was transferred from the former Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Subramani, to Pro-Chancellor Mr. Tikaram and it was finally handed to Professor Chang. This exchange signified the smooth and transparent change in leadership.

Professor Sushila Chang addressed the very elated staff and students. She stated that she had found Fiji to be a beautiful country with even more beautiful and caring people. She said that she had many ideas to move the University forward to be 'work ready, global ready, future ready'. She explained with a great line-up of staff and students, she was happy to start her new role and progress the University further.

"I think you should be very proud of what the University stands for. Its sits on very strong foundation on strong values and not many Universities have that. The challenge will be that with this fast changing world, how do we keep our values and at the same time be progressive and flexible and change the norm with what we have to do to ensure that our students are 'work ready, global ready, future ready'," she explained.

Professor Chang's speech was heartfelt by the audience and she received a standing ovation post her address.

The ceremony ended on a high note with UFSA team recognising and awarding staff who toiled hard to keep the University running on a daily basis and students who had represented the University of different occasions and brought glory to UniFiji. This was the first time that a ceremony as such was held at the University.

Prior to the welcoming ceremony, the UFSA Executive body held a special general meeting discussing their accomplishments over the past year.