

UniFiji Hosts Youth Climate Ambassador Conference



The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sushila Chang (first row middle) and participants of the conference holding up a letter C sign which stands for Climate.

The University of Fiji in collaboration with Project Survival Pacific (PSP) and Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) hosted the Youth Climate Ambassador Conference at its Saweni Campus on Wednesday, November 20, 2019.

The conference was part of Youth Climate Ambassador Program of PSP and the theme for the Conference was “Truth in Climate Action”.

Speaking at the Conference, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sushila Chang welcomed the youth who had gathered from various organizations such as The University of the South Pacific, Fiji National University, PIDF, Water Authority of Fiji and Secondary Schools to The University of Fiji.

She mentioned that Fiji’s carbon footprint was low and Fiji was not the perpetrator for climate change however, the Pacific Islands were the most vulnerable to climate change issues such as sea level rise, frequent severe natural disasters, etc.

She also commented that recently it had come light that water level in numerous cities around the world had increased up to 1 metre.

Mr. Krishneil Narayan, Project Coordinator of PSP, explained that the conference focused on sharing the truth of what the climate crisis meant for the Pacific community; how the crisis could be solved; and how people could make a real difference in communities by standing together.

“At the moment, how many young people do you see get involved in the conversation in the decision making of the country. The Government’s doing so much on climate change but how many young

people are represented on the table where decision making happens; not much, there's only a few," he said.

He noted that through the Youth Climate Ambassador Program, PSP tried to bridge the gap and bring young people to the table to contribute to the decision making process.

This was the third event held in collaboration with UniFijj; PSP held two events prior to this a few years ago.