

I believe in the University's Slogan- Dr. Savou

The University of Fiji's, School of Science and Technology is pleased to announce the valued addition of Dr. Viliame Savou to its teaching staff.

Dr. Savou, originally from Natokalau, Matuku, Lau is an expert in the area of Chemical Sciences. With his knowledge in Biology from his earlier teaching career he is able to bridge the two fields into the Biochemistry course he currently teaches.

"I truly believe in the slogan of the University, "Work Ready. Global Ready. Future Ready", and since I have quite a few experiences ahead of my students, I intend to use that to not only prepare them to pass their examinations, but also prepare them for the work market. I have played numerous supervisory roles during my career, and I know exactly what I expect from Chemistry graduates. So, this is what I try to instill to the students who attend my lectures," he stated.

Dr. Savou is looking forward to teaching tertiary students. He notes that tertiary students need a facilitation of the learning process as most learning is done by them.

Dr. Savou is passionate about waste management.

"I would like to increase our capacity to be able to chemically recycle wastes in Fiji. There are a lot of useful chemicals we can harvest from the plastic, electronic, paper, biomass, etc. wastes that we dump in our dumpsites. I hope that one day, we can invest into these kinds of chemical recycling technologies to not only contribute to waste management and clean environment, but also produce clean energy as possible contribution to the current energy grid in Fiji," he said.

He is also wishes to advocate the importance of education to the communities.

"The government of the day has made a lot of initiative to make education available to anyone who is willing to study, so we should grab that opportunity and make full use of it," he explained.

After teaching in Secondary Schools for 3 years, Dr. Savou worked as a Chemist at Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC). While at FSC, he received an opportunity to complete his Masters and PhD studies in Japan.

"In Japan, I researched ways in which we can recycle sugarcane bagasse. Bagasse is the dry material that is left behind after the squeezing of the juices from sugarcane. Currently in Fiji, it is used for energy generation by direct combustion in the mill furnaces. However, at times, still some bagasse remains after each crushing season. My research suggested other possibilities of making use of the surplus bagasse, by a technology known as pyrolysis," he stated.

Pyrolysis can convert the sugarcane bagasse into liquid bio-fuels, bio-char and bio-gases. He furthered his research by mixing bagasse with waste plastics as feedstocks for the pyrolysis technology. The properties of the waste plastics influenced the products positively, especially the enhancement of hydrogen in the bio-gas mixture.

The University of Fiji welcomes Dr. Savou to the UniFiji family and wishes him the best for his teaching career at the University.