

## **“Collaboration amidst Crisis” shows that UniFiji continues to Strive!**

The University of Fiji’s School of Science and Technology has signed a research collaboration agreement with Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Linköping University (LiU), The University of Canberra (UC) and SEI’s office in Colombia.

The agreement was signed for the University of Fiji by the Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Shaista Shameem. The signing ceremony involved remote joint signing between the parties on zoom, a first for the University of Fiji.

Professor Anirudh Singh, Dean of the School of Science and Technology said that the collaboration had several benefits for the School and the University.

“This research on policy will be of great relevance to Fiji and the region. UniFiji has been progressively strengthening its teaching and research in renewable energy and the environment through developing its Masters in Renewable Energy Management (MREM) and Postgraduate Diploma in Energy and Environment (PGDEE) programmes. This collaboration will broaden our understanding of the policy needs and implications of these areas of sustainable development,” he said.

Professor Shameem, on behalf of the University, noted the importance of the collaboration between two Universities, and the significance of the topic of the research into bureaucratic and policy coherence with the UN Sustainable Development Goals to which Fiji as a nation was committed. She said she was pleased that the work currently undertaken by the University of Fiji in Renewable Energy was being recognised internationally through such partnerships.

The collaboration agreement will facilitate a joint project called “National implementation of global goals: Coherence between Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)”.

The project responds to calls from the scientific community to focus on national implementation plans and understand domestic factors influencing climate ambition. It also responds to calls from policy practitioners in the case countries and international organizations for best practices and tools for enhancing policy coherence.

The main objective is to improve the effectiveness of policy coherence efforts by countries in their NDC and SDG work. The results of the research will also provide input for the annual UN High Level Political Forum on the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The project involves four countries including Fiji, Sweden, Australia and Columbia. The University of Fiji intends to forge important partnerships through the collaboration.