



29th November 2020

The University of Fiji and Fiji Chess Federation Chess Tournament

The biggest ever national chess tournament in the western division began yesterday with representatives of the University of Fiji and the Fiji Chess Federation making their opening gambits on the lawn chess set at the Saweni Campus. The University was represented by Council member Dr Raj Sant while the Federation was represented by Candidate Master, Noel Adricula.

The tournament established the partnership between the University of Fiji and the Fiji Chess Federation for future tournaments to be held at the University.

Mr. Avinesh Nadan, Executive Member and Rating Officer at Fiji Chess Federation was grateful that the University of Fiji partnered with FCF to host the first ever chess tournament in the West and for providing a place for future tournaments.

“The University showed keen interest in chess, a deviation from academia to sports trying to develop well rounded students,” he said.

The Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Shaista Shameem said that the University was offered as a venue for the tournament because chess was an intellectual game as well as a game of strategy and the university students were being encouraged to take it up to provide them with an edge in employment opportunities. ‘Covid 19 has brought us a whole lot of challenges and our graduates need to be equipped with social skills as well as formal qualifications’, she said. The partnership with the Fiji Chess Federation gave students the opportunity to interact with chess masters and those who were at the top of their game in chess.

Players from all over Fiji registered for the tournament with the youngest player, Arohan Hazarika Gogoi, being only 5 years old. Young people were particularly enthusiastic about the tournament being available to them in the west. Many of them were accompanied by their parents and family members.

The winners were presented with cash prizes in the different categories, as follows:

Open Category winner- Candidate Master Manoj Kumar

Women's Category- Tanvi Prasad

Secondary Category- Mukesh Paranthaman

Primary Category- Arnav Lal

Best beginner- Arohan Gogoi