



The University of Fiji

UniFiji signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the iTaukei Trust Fund Board

The University of Fiji will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the iTaukei Trust Fund Board (TTFB) on Friday, December 17, 2021.

The MOU is designed to develop collaboration between the Board and the University for academic research and teaching to help preserve and revitalize iTaukei language, culture, heritage, and arts.

The basis of the collaboration is the reality of Covid-19's impact which has compelled indigenous communities to continue to maintain their interconnectedness and cultural identity. Living heritage has become an important source of resilience, assisting in the face of social and psychological challenges while also strengthening kinship and economic ties during the crisis.

Intangible cultural heritage, or the wealth of indigenous knowledge and skills, will be prominently featured in the collaboration and is based on sustainable development initiatives and preservation efforts by Government and civil society organizations.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shaista Shameem said that the MOU would enable the TTFB and Centre for iTaukei Studies (CIS) of the University of Fiji to explore avenues for a practical partnership to enhance culture and art programmes corresponding to the sustainable development goals.

“The TTFB's Culture & Arts Centre project and partnership with the CIS bode well for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 on Quality Education and SDG 16 on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. The enhancement of iTaukei study programmes contributes to the preservation of culture and identity while also mitigating the effects of globalization on the lives and development of the iTaukei community,” she said.

The MOU signing will take place at the Saweni Campus following the graduation ceremony, and the media is invited.