



The University of Fiji

(An Entity of Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji)

The University of Fiji's Staff and Student Orientation Festival

The University of Fiji celebrated the first day of a week-long staff and student Orientation Festival on August 8, 2022.

In welcoming staff to Semester 2 and students back to campus after nearly two years of online learning and teaching, the Vice Chancellor Professor Shaista Shameem said that the University was implementing a new style of learning and teaching called the Hyflex Mode which was available via the TopHat Platform. The TopHat Platform had been used by staff and students during lockdown with effective results.

The Hyflex Mode allows students to attend lectures either in person or virtually simultaneously. Professor Shameem said the flexible learning platform available at the University allowed everyone to learn at the same time- whether in person or on-line. This made it easier for everyone to attend all their lectures and not miss out due to work commitments or lack of mobility.

During her welcome address Professor Shameem also outlined the University of Fiji's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 which emphasizes the University's move to a holistic education with both hard qualifications and human values taught together. She explained the eight themes of the Strategic Plan as being Learning and Teaching; Student Support Services and Student Affairs; Research; Community Engagement, Environmental and Social Responsibilities; Infrastructure and Systems; Governance and Financial Stability; Risk Management; and Accountability Framework.

Professor Shameem stated that the University was no longer focused on resilience but was instead moving into a period of renaissance. As such the University was being oxygenated and rejuvenated. Professor Shameem stated that the University was embarked on the Drua Voyage powered by Gurukul- seen as a journey into holistic education. The Gurukul ancient teaching and learning approach emphasized the full development of students.

The Vice Chancellor stated that as part of the University's social responsibility to Planet Earth, the University was greening its campuses through its Gaia Landscape Programme, and advocating for zero waste, with the University promoting reusing and recycling as well as alternative sources of fuel.

Professor Shameem also said that due to limited employment in many areas in Fiji the University was preparing its students for the international job market and providing them with support to find jobs wherever they could.

Ms Maca Ratabua, Acting President of the UniFiji Student Association (UFSA), also welcomed the students, informing them of UFSA's Constitution and encouraging them to join the University's clubs and societies. The University has established a number of clubs and societies for both staff and students to join, for example the Chess Club, the Thespian Society, Film Society, Sports Club, Mooting Club, Debating Club,

Toastmasters, Rucksack Club, Literary Society, Quiz Team, Gaia Garden Club, Age of Aquarius Band, University Choir, SPASE, Art and Craft Club and many others.

The Orientation Festival will continue with innovative and imaginative presentations from each School and Centre throughout the week.

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