



# The University of Fiji

(An Entity of Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji)

## **The University of Fiji Wins Debate Competition on Climate Change**

The University of Fiji's Debate Team 4 won the Dialogue Fiji's Inter-University Debates on Climate Change on August 31<sup>st</sup> at the USP Laucala Campus's OCAPS Pavilion.

The team took the coveted trophy away after a nail-biting difficult final round which started in April.

The team members were all medical students at the Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences - Aadarsh Kumar, Neha Puran, Adilah Riaz and Ezra Pickering.

The Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Shaista Shameem congratulated the students on the win and urged other students to be part of the University's Debate Team.

The competition was part of Dialogue Fiji's European Union-funded project "Building Community Resilience to Climate Change through Civil Society Action (CRCC)" in the Pacific.

The Debate topics covered various aspects of Climate Change, Mitigation and Approaches.

The question for the first round was "Fiji's target to achieve net-zero emission by 2050 is not feasible". Team UniFiji, on the affirmative side, competed with Team USP, on the negative side. Team UniFiji won Round 1.

Round 2 saw a debate on the topic "Organic agriculture is impractical in Fiji". Team FNU competed with Team USP. USP won Round 2.

The final Debate Topic was "Climate action by countries like Fiji does not matter". Team UniFiji was on the Affirmative side and Team USP on the Negative side. UniFiji Team won.

The UniFiji Debate team received \$600 in cash prize money, a winner's trophy, and gold medals.

The debate team also won the first round of the Dialogue Fiji-hosted "Inter University Debate on Elections" in April. They finished second in the final contest on April 9th, on the topic "Social Media is Good for Elections and Democracy."

Participating in extracurricular activities is part of the University's Strategic Plan 2022-2026's strategic cultural transformations. These activities are part of the University's 'Journey in Holistic Education,' which emphasizes the Gurukul and Drua Voyage.

The University has established a number of clubs and societies for both staff and students to join, including 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.



*From left: Ezra Pickering, Neha Puran, Adilah Riaz and Aadarsh Kumar.*

**Future Ready**