



The University of Fiji

(An Entity of Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji)

The University of Fiji Academics Advocate on Climate Change at the UK-Pacific Climate Change Exhibition Event

The University of Fiji was invited by the British High Commission to attend the UK-Pacific Climate Photography Exhibition on 27th April, 2022.

The event was attended by academics from the School of Science and Technology (SoST) and other ambassadors of the University. The Climate Change photo exhibition was a reminder about individual and collective responsibility of all human beings to save their only home – the earth.

The SoST academics were also asked to share their ideas about reducing climate change impacts during an information session on the Role of Civil Society in Building Climate Resilience.

Ms Priyatma Singh, Senior Lecturer at SoST presented key highlights from the latest IPCC report on Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability.

“The reports find that Pacific nations are amongst the most vulnerable and exposed to climate change impacts. At the same time, adaptation measures are shown to reduce climate change’s impacts on people and ecosystems,” said Ms. Singh.

Ms Singh said that the IPCC report stated that adaptational policy, finance and practice need to be stepped up to support adaptation efforts in the Pacific.

“I would encourage organisations to host more climate change events in the Western Division to increase awareness and boost strategic partnerships. The event also provided a networking opportunity, which is rare in the Western Division as climate change events are normally hosted in Suva,” said Ms. Singh

Mr Danian Singh, also an academic at The University of Fiji and currently the acting regional representative (Pacific) at Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA), presentation in the information session focused on the Role of Science in Climate Change and the focal point was Climate-Ocean Nexus.

“The main aim of SOA is to bring next-generation leaders, entrepreneurs, advocates, mentors, and partners together to create solutions for the largest challenges facing our ocean on a global and regional level. Currently, SOA is present in approximately 165 countries, developed 45 ocean start-ups and with about 175 projects happening all over world,” said Mr. Singh.

Mr Singh highlighted on the role of SOA in building the technical capacity/awareness in Fiji on oceans. The Pacific hub has embarked on an outer island project (Mokosoi Project) in Ovalau, Fiji to rehabilitate the coastal areas on the adverse impacts of climate change. The main focus of the Pacific hub in 2022 will be enhancing ocean literacy across Fiji Islands, raising awareness and promoting solutions on ocean related issues.

“Through climate change awareness events such as this one, the UK Government is determined to provide a platform for the Pacific to amplify its moral authority on climate change and promote a whole-of-society approach to tackling the climate crisis, said Mr. Singh.

The University of Fiji' Strategic Plan 2022-2026 supports such initiatives under the strategic goal 5.3 – Research to deepen interdisciplinary research collaborations with other universities and national, regional and international institutes.



L-R Ms. Christal Kapoor, Ms. Aliyah Khan, British High Commissioner to Fiji, Dr Brian Jones, Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Climate Change, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Dr. Ramendra Prasad, Ms. Priyatma Singh, Mr. Kushaal Raj (former staff of UniFiji) Mr. Danian Singh, Ratu Sailosi Dawai.

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