

**PACE-Net Key Stakeholder Conference**

**Suva March 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> 2013**

**Opening remarks**

***V.C. & President Prof. R. Chandra (USP)***

**The Chief Guest, Col Samuela Saumatu,  
Head of Delegation of European Union for Pacific Mr Andrew Jacobs,  
Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science & Technology PNG -Hon. David Arore,  
PACE NET Project Coordinator Professor Claude Payri,  
Dean Faculty of Science Technology and Environment Dr Anjeela Jokhan,  
Distinguish Conference Participants,**

Key talking points for the Opening of the PACE-Net Key Stakeholder conference:

- 1 Acknowledge the EU's support for PACE Net and other projects. Pacenet is the first of its kind project where it aimed to strengthen regional and international co-operation in Science & Technology research for development in the Pacific Region. The effects of this will be long terms in the sense that the cooperation formed will only be strengthened in the future and hope to bring in more research funds from the EU into the Pacific
- 2 USP has the largest scientific capacity and expertise in the Pacific Region. Hence is the largest contributor to research activities. This is evident from the results of the Work Package 1 of the PACE Net project where research activities were surveyed in the region. This will be presented alter this morning.
- 3 In addition, the project has given research in the region as a whole the opportunity to not only share their work but build good collaborations with the researchers and experts, in areas of great importance to the Pacific such as climate change in relation to water, health natural hazards, Agriculture/ Forestry and Fisheries.
- 4 Throughout the project the various platforms that were held involved researchers from the Pacific, the French Territory, Europe, Australia and NZ – giving the Pacific researchers an opportunity to develop good partnerships for future collaborations
- 5 The outcomes presented in this meeting will (hopefully) be useful to in the decision making for the Pacific Islands as well as for the European Commission.
- 6 Current project which resulted out of PACE NET is PIURN - Pacific Islands Regional Universities Network
- 7 Joint proposals submitted or in progress to EU that have been assisted or collaborated resulted out of PACE NET is
  - Energy Awareness of Small Island States – ENAWSIS
  - Renewable Energy Research in East Timor and the South Pacific (RERETaSP)