



# The Campus

## This Week

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## UNRE takes steps to improve quality

PNG University of Natural Resources and Environment has taken huge steps to ensure students are trained as quality researchers and are able to manage and become entrepreneurs of their resources.

University Vice Chancellor Professor Aisak Pue while addressing students during the 2022 Orientation & Registration Welcome Program on Monday said despite funding being a major constraint, the University is doing its best to provide the best resources available to offer quality programs.

The VC said to add value and advance student profiles, the University has introduced a driving school for students and have in place a vibrant Industrial Training program with partners who are keen to take on students for field exposure experience.

He announced to the students that the University has also signed three international Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Altinbas University in Istanbul in Turkey, Fujian Business University in China and National Pingtung University of Science and Technology in Taiwan.

"The University is expecting to sign a number of other international partnerships in Europe and Asia," said Professor Pue.

On the National level the University has signed MOUs with New Guinea Binatang Research Centre in Madang; Kokola Plantation Beach Resort, Nimamar in



▲ Staff and students at the Orientation Welcome program at Kairak Centre for Sustainable Rural Development on Monday.

New Ireland Province; and Mauberema Ecotourism Nature Conservation Education Research & Training Centre in Simbu; with others in other parts of the country to be signed soon.

"These partnerships are to train young Papua New Guineans for the betterment of our country. Our role is to train both university and the grassroots population to become entrepreneurs of their resources," he said.

He added that these partnerships are important for training and work experience exposure of students, staff and research scholars; and urged the students to manage their time well and do their best in their studies.

The VC said over the last five years dormitories at the University have undergone major renovations and rehabilitations. Other infrastructure are being upgraded, repaired or built

to cater for the growth.

He mentioned that the Information & Communication Technology section of the University has worked tirelessly to provide faster, more reliable and efficient internet service on campus and given students the opportunity to access the internet, send emails and search the Worldwide Web for resource materials through Wi-Fi hotspots around campus.

All dormitories and offices are now connected to a standby generator which supplies electricity when there are power outages on the main PNG Power supply.

Professor Pue said an additional three classrooms to hold additional lectures and tutorials are under construction, while the problem of safe clean water has been addressed.

He said a new water bore drilled towards the end

## OUR VISION

Advancing Knowledge for Sustainable Development

## OUR MISSION

Commit to sustainable development of Papua New Guinea and the region by creating knowledge through quality teaching and learning, innovative research and outreach. The university also commits to developing innovative staff, students and alumni as agents for positive change.

**CAMPUS THIS WEEK** is the official news bulletin of Papua New Guinea University of Natural Resources and Environment.

Produced weekly by the University's Public Relations Office, it is the voice of the University to relevant stakeholders and the community on developments at the University.

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# UNRE produces quality graduates, former students say

**PNG UNRE graduates are competitive and produce quality work in industries and organizations in Papua New Guinea and abroad.**

Isaac Sope, an alumnus of Papua New Guinea University of Natural Resources and Environment (PNG UNRE), said this when speaking to first year students at the University's 2022 Student Orientation & Registration Welcome ceremony on Monday.

Mr Sope graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Tropical Agriculture in 2018 with Council and was the top graduating student in Industry Projects, told the students that they can go anywhere in the world with their degrees and diplomas.

"UNRE graduates are very competitive and are able to meet standards of organizations and institutions within PNG and abroad," he said.

"They can work and learn with different minds of professionals and students around the world."

He was speaking from his personal experiences as a cadet under the New Britain Palm Oil Limited Graduate Development Program and an international student under the ENBP Fisheries Scholarship at Fujian Business University in the People's Republic of China p.

He is now an intern at PNG UNRE's Farm Operations section.

"From personal experiences, I can proudly say UNRE has taught and trained me well," he said.

He reminded the students that they were privileged to be selected to tertiary institutions out of the thousands who sat for the national examinations (school leavers) and the thousand applications that the University received last year (non-school leavers).

"There are many more



▲ Mr. Isaac Sope.



▲ Mr. Goriga Gwaibo.

school leavers who are not fortunate to secure a place given by the government through TESAS as you are so you must prove your worth of the scholarship and keep it for the duration of your study," Mr Sope said.

He encouraged self-sponsored students to study hard to get good grades so they could also be eligible for the Tertiary Education Study Assistance Scheme (TESAS).

The two points he stressed to the students were getting their priorities right and having the correct attitude; and also urged them not to shy away from roles and responsibilities that build confidence and experience for leadership.

"Students should not shy away from responsibilities

that build confidence and experience for leadership roles in future. It is a great exposure. Be involved in programs, take up volunteer and leadership roles but remember these should not be above your main priority which is study. You must be able to balance your time well to achieve positive outcomes," he said.

Fisheries & Marine Resources lecturer Goriga Gwaibo who also spoke to the students, told them they were fortunate to be at PNG UNRE.

"I know the programs offered here will provide you a transformative experience that will hone your capacity for critical and innovative, responsibility and commitment to excellence and contribution to solve challenges at your surrounding environment, therefore, making an impact on the society," he said.

He said the Fisheries program particularly, is unique.

"Why I say it is unique is because I've experienced it," he said.

"In late 2020, I was among ten young scientists all over the world to undergo postgrad training in Germany. During my study, we came across a fisheries science course that involved using models to simulate fish population out in the sea. To my surprise, it was very challenging for most students because it was new to them but not to me because I had learned it here at UNRE."

Mr Gwaibo was the only Bachelor (Honours) student at the training and the first Papua New Guinean to attend the program.

He encouraged the students to be the best that they can be this year and not to have high expectations or take things for granted.



# New Student Information Management System enables online registration

**PNG UNRE has developed a very effective Student Information Management System.**

The system is fully automated and now enables students to register online. It has also made it easier for different University sections to upload or access student information.

Manager of Islands Software Francis Kikile said the University environment made it very conducive to develop the System and it challenged him to improve it a step further.

He explained that the UNRE Student Information Management System (SIMS) is stored in Cloud.

"So we make use of the Cloud. I completely redesigned all the processes I built for the past months. This is the first time that all the requirements of the University are encoded to the system. Once a student logs in the system to register they can be able to see their financial records and other information," he explained.

The grading module is also inbuilt into the system so students can be able to see their academic results.

As of yesterday evening 104 students have registered online while the system recorded 364 students eligible to register.

A total of 428 students have registered as of yesterday (Thursday) evening. Some students registered manually.

Mr Kikile believes that by next year students will register at home before traveling to UNRE.

This will solve some of the problems they encountered, especially with school fee payment.

Students interviewed were glad about being able to register online.

They said Online Registration is

a good concept because students do not have to stand in queues. They can login anywhere on campus to register. They also mentioned that the system is easy to understand.

Meanwhile, University Registrar Mrs Jennifer Popat emphasised at an Orientation Committee meeting that the University will not accept guarantee letters from sponsors.

They must understand that in any university, students pay compulsory fees to register and attend classes.

Students applying for the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) must also pay the compulsory fee and at least 50% of the boarding and lodging fee in order to be registered. They can apply for HELP to pay the balance of the fees.

Mrs Popat also added that students requesting the University to transfer funds from their account to another so that they can help their friends is forbidden, unless a verifiable



▲ Students register online on the new Student Information Management System.



▲ Accounts Officers Mrs Malom Tamti (left) and Mrs Barbie Simon.

authorisation letter is received from the sponsor, whether it is a Provincial Government or their parents.

Classes for the 2022 Academic Year begins on Monday.

## Vudal farm and mess also being rehabilitated - VC

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of last year now provides volumes of clean water to staff houses, students dormitories and offices.

The VC said the University Farm is also undergoing relocation and upgrading into a modern farm for learning, exposure and

experience. Beside the farm at the South Paddock, the University is also developing the nature reserve as a learning resource to conserve and preserve our flora and fauna.

The University mess will also undergo a major

improvement. Catering staff will receive training to upskill them. Security Services have been boosted with manpower and the engagement of security firm, Guard Dog Security. Plans are also in place to build staff accommodation

for both academic and non-academic staff.

Professor Pue revealed that the new University Master Plan and Strategic Plan: 2022 to 2026 is expected to develop the University due to the demand for new programs.

## Kerevat CS prisoners talk to Year 1 students

YEAR 1 students had the opportunity to hear from several prisoners of Kerevat Correctional Service last night (Feb 24).

The prisoners were invited by the University's Orientation Committee to talk to the students about their lives, the choices they made and what life in prison is like, in order to help them (students) make good choices for their lives.

All four prisoners who attended, told the students they were fortunate to be selected to a higher education institution and urged them not to engage in activities that would cause them to lose this opportunity.

They testified about God's mercy and love and how He had changed them; and encouraged the students to put God first in their lives.

Several students thanked the committee for inviting the prisoners as their talk had motivated them to think and make good choices.



▲ Kerevat CS Officers and inmates.

## PNG UNRE partners with Taiwan Uni

PNG University of Natural Resources and Environment and National Pingtung University of Science and Technology in Taiwan have agreed to work together to develop their education and academic research objectives.

PNG UNRE Vice Chancellor Professor Aisak Pue signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) last Friday (Feb 18) in the presence of Heads of the University's academic departments. The document will be sent to Taiwan where President of National Pingtung University of Science and Technology (NPUST), Dr Cheang-Hsien Tai, will also sign.

According to the MOU, academic exchange will include but is not limited to:

- Development of mutually beneficial academic and training programs;
- Exchange of students for the purpose of studying; and faculty and staff for the purposes of teaching, research and extension;
- Reciprocal assistance for visiting academic staff, staff and students;
- Coordination of such activities as joint research and transfer of technology;
- Exchange of documentation and research materials in



▲ VC Professor Aisak Pue signs the MOU while Heads of Academic Departments look on. Dr Caleb Breria is on the right.

fields of mutual interests; and

- Development of Dual Degree Programs.

Details of the implementation of any particular exchange resulting from this agreement shall be negotiated between the two institutions and is subject to the availability of funds.

NPUST was established as *Kaohsiung State Pingtung Extension School of Agriculture* during the Japanese Colonial Era in 1924. In 1954, the school was renamed as the Taiwan Provincial Institute of Agriculture. At that time, it was among the best of Taiwan's vocational schools, training countless elites and becoming a foundation for Taiwan's economic boom.

In 1991, the school reorganized to become

a vocational college and, together with the National Taiwan Institute of Technology, was among the top two technical institutions of higher learning in the country. In 1997, the vocational college was upgraded to a university of science and technology, and occupied a leading position among vocational education institutions in Taiwan.

NPUST provides an excellent place for students to cultivate their skills and personal qualities while strengthening their bodies and minds - it is also an ideal place for faculty members to carry out their research and educational activities.

UNRE's partnership with NPUST is the initiative of Dr Calab Breria, an academic at UNRE who is PNG's first Ph.D. graduate from NPUST.

## Court stays minister's decision, PC reports

THE Waigani National Court yesterday issued an injunction stopping the appointment of the new Vice Chancellor and Council members of the University of Natural Resources and Environment (UNRE) appointed by Higher Education Minister Wesley Raminai.

The urgent application was filed by the University's Vice Chancellor Professor Aisak Pue and current members of the University Council arguing that the Minister did not have powers to make permanent appointments.

Lawyer Edward Sasingian of

Sasingian Lawyers assisting the plaintiff Professor Pue made the urgent application yesterday before acting Judge Emma Wurr, after learning that those appointed by the minister would be sworn into office.

Mr Sasingian told the court that the appointments by the minister were unlawfully made because the minister relied on a repealed provision of the Higher Education Amendment Act 2020.

He submitted that the minister relied on s.152 of the Higher Education General Provisions Act which was repealed and replaced with s.44 of the

same Act.

In order to maintain the status quo, Mr Sasingian asked the court to grant a stay on the decision of the minister until the court fully determines the issue.

The court accepted the application and granted the stay orders retraining the minister and other defendants from implementing any decisions until the matter is determined by the court.

The matter was adjourned to this Friday (Feb 25) for the return of the orders.

■ Source: Post-Courier Newspaper, February 24, 2022.