

The University of the South Pacific (USP) has agreed to assist Vanuatu Institute of Teachers Education (VITE) by providing teachers' training for the untrained teachers around Vanuatu.

This was revealed during a signing of MOU between the University of the South Pacific (USP) and the Ministry of Education, which was signed by USP Vice Chancellor and President, Professor Rajesh Chandra and the Minister of Education, Marcelino Pipite.

Vice Chancellor Chandra said there are around 1000 untrained teachers around Vanuatu, who have been and are currently teaching in both the primary and secondary schools, but had no opportunity to further their teaching studies. He explained that one reason why they never trained to become qualified teachers is because of the high demand for teaching in the country.

He continued to say that within the next five years, all the untrained teachers are expected to become qualified teachers.

Minister Pipite said that while VITE continues with its normal teachers training, they are not able to provide training for a large number of the untrained teachers at the same time, therefore, with the joint agreement with the Ministry of Education, and funding to come from AusAid, USP is willing to assist them on that.

The USP Vice Chancellor admitted that the outcome of a quality education depends largely on well trained teachers. Therefore, the training of the untrained teachers would contribute largely to sustainable quality training in the Pacific region in 2012 and beyond.

The issue of the untrained teachers is a big and long time issue. This was confirmed by the Director General of Education, Jessie Dick Joe.

The signing of the MOU was witnessed by the delegations to the 9th FEMM at Le lagon. In fact, the agreement was one of the agendas that were endorsed by the Forum leaders, during the 8th FEMM which was held in Madang in Papua New Guinea in 2010.

Three countries were chosen to fast-track the training of the untrained teachers, and they are the Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Vanuatu.

