



OFFICE OF
THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Development, Marketing
and Communications

The University of the South Pacific
Private Mail Bag, Laucala Campus
Suva, Fiji

Ph: (679) 323 2831
Fax: (679) 323 1525
www.usp.ac.fj

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PRESS RELEASE

USP installs new Chancellor



The new USP Chancellor, His Excellency Womtelo Rev. Baldwin Lonsdale, President of the Republic of Vanuatu at the USP graduation ceremony.

A major highlight of The University of the South Pacific's graduation ceremony held today at the Vodafone Arena in Suva was the installation of the University's new Chancellor, His Excellency Womtelo Rev. Baldwin Lonsdale, President of the Republic of Vanuatu.

The Chancellor is the titular head of the University, who confers the qualifications of the University. H.E. Womtelo Rev. Baldwin Lonsdale is the 22nd Chancellor of the University.

The Vice-Chancellor and President of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra warmly welcomed the new Chancellor to the USP family.

"Your Excellency, it is with humble gratitude that we thank you for graciously agreeing to be our next USP Chancellor. USP is a unique institution, and to have our own leaders taking turns to share this responsibility goes to show the spirit of cooperation and good faith prevailing within our member countries towards their own University. This

shared responsibility has clearly created positive relationships and long lasting connections amongst all our stakeholders. Such shared understanding and cooperation has enhanced the confidence of USP and propelled USP to where it is today which is the premier provider of higher education in the region," he said.

In acknowledging Vanuatu's support to USP, Professor Chandra said that Vanuatu is a very valued member of USP and has contributed fully over the last 47 years of USP's existence.

He added that in the early years of USP, New Hebrides as it was known then, had relatively very few students but has now grown significantly to reach over 3000 *ni-Vanuatu* students this year - the third largest after Fiji and Solomon Islands.

Professor Chandra wished the new Chancellor every success for his term.

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For further queries please contact: Communications Manager Ashley Gopal at the Development, Marketing & Communications office on (679) 3232210 or email ashley.gopal@usp.ac.fj