



5-7<sup>th</sup> JULY  
2025



# Conference Program Book

## PACIFIC TEACHER EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Teacher Challenge in the Pacific: Enhancing Quality  
Education for Sustainable Development

### Partners

University of Goroka, PNG Education Ministry, PNG National Commission for UNESCO, UNESCO Regional Office for Pacific, UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (INRULED), Beijing Normal University, University of Goroka Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, Teacher Education Section at UNESCO Headquarters.



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BEIJING NORMAL UNIVERSITY



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## Pacific Teacher Education Conference

# Teacher Challenges in the Pacific: Enhancing Quality Education for Sustainable Development

University of Goroka  
Mark Solon Auditorium  
5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025

## Foreword by Vice Chancellor

Dear Participants,

It is my great pleasure and honor to warmly welcome you all to the Pacific Teachers Challenges Conference. This is the first time University of Goroka has organized such an high level event with the participation of diverse institutional stakeholders from the Pacific region to participate at this regional conference. The overall expected outcome of the conference is to provide a set of key recommendations for all key stakeholders to take action.

I want to firstly express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to all the delegates from PNG and the Pacific region for accepting our invitation to attend this important conference devoted to teachers. Your valuable contribution during the 3 days deliberation to shape the successful outcome of the conference, to lay a solid foundation to address some of the critical challenges our teachers face in their teaching profession.

The University of Goroka, I want to acknowledge the PNG Government for its solid support through the Honourable Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology and Sports. Governor of Eastern Highlands Honourable Simon Sia to support this first Pacific conference on teachers. I want to acknowledge Dr. Jane Awi (PhD) and her steering committing for the conference, they have worked very hard to ensure the success of this conference.

The vision, ambition and aspiration of the UOG is to become a Pacific Regional University. Recently, I signed MOUs with the University of South Pacific to reaffirm this commitment. The University of Goroka through this regional conference want to truly unite all key stakeholders through dialogue in a *true Pacific Way* that will contribute to the overall professional development of Teachers. As we all know teaching is noble profession and we are delighted to invite key stakeholders such as the Ministries of Education, Teachers Unions, teacher training institutions, policy makers, teachers, and student teachers to participate at this conference.

I want to acknowledge Teacher Education Section at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, UNESCO Category II Centre for Rural Education, Chinese Embassy in Port Moresby, for your financial and technical support in making this conference a great success. I wish to highlight and make a special mention of the Beijing Normal University and Director of INRULED and his Team

in providing the funding and technical support within the framework of the existing MOU in ensuring this Pacific Conference for teachers is a reality.

The conference has two tracks for key beneficiaries, firstly it will address the challenges of the quality of teacher education and secondly the challenges faced by the teachers at all levels of the education systems. Teaching is a noble profession and key to achieving the 2022 UN TES summit outcome that called for a new vision to reshape and create more open, inclusive, equitable and collaborative learning systems geared to meet the global challenges of our times. Digital transformation of education systems must put teachers as the cornerstone to achieve sustainable development.

We need to address many challenges such as the quality of teacher training, teacher policy gaps, teacher recruitment, teacher retention, shortage of teachers, salaries, conditions and benefits of teachers, incentives for teachers, digital skills for teachers, difficulties faced by teachers in rural areas in the Pacific region. UOG wants to use this forum as platform for dialogue and a platform to find solutions to major challenges facing the teaching profession and plan to build regional network of teacher training institutions to address the challenges faced by PNG and Pacific Teachers. As we know, the effects of globalization, economic and financial crisis, Climate Change, wars and conflicts, technological revolution of Artificial Intelligence, the knowledge and skills of the teachers and teachers' educators must be upgraded to address some of these global challenges. Education is key to addressing these global challenges and teachers play a crucial role in the teaching and learning process and ultimately the learning outcomes for the knowledge economy.

This Pacific Conference is indeed a unique opportunity to discuss the challenges, achievements and identify strategies to address critical issues confronting the professional development of teachers. As highlighted in the UNESCO Global Report on Teachers, are at the heart of any educational transformation and quality of education. I acknowledge UNESCO as global leader in sharing the global education agenda. The SDG4 and Education 2030 agenda has highlighted teachers as the key enabler for quality education and better learning outcomes for students. It is within this spirit and vision that University of Goroka is strongly committed to organize this first conference on Pacific Teacher Challenges to emphasize the key of teachers to unlocking the potential of all students to be productive in society.

I appeal to all participants and experts presenting at the Pacific Conference for teachers to think critically, be creative and innovative and provide solutions and policy recommendations for action to demonstrate the strong commitment and dedication of all institutional stakeholders for the benefit of noble teaching profession.

I want leave with is message “To ensure no one is left behind, a human centered approach is key to building a truly competitive education eco-system that is not focused exclusively on technology but with a human focus within the framework of the Education 2030 Framework for Action, concrete actions must be taken at all levels in achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 4 in ensuring every child’s right to access, equitable, inclusive and quality education and lifelong learning for All.

We must also leave no teacher behind.

I wish you all a very productive conference and look forward to key Recommendations of the conference.



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Dr. Teng Waninga (PhD), Vice Chancellor.

University of Goroka

## 1. Background

Teachers play a pivotal role in shaping the future of societies. However, the Pacific region faces unique challenges in teacher education quality, recruitment, retention, and professional development of teachers. Geographic isolation, limited funding and human resources, cultural diversity, and emerging global issues such as climate change and emerging technology integration further complicate these challenges. Addressing these concerns is crucial for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4), which aims to ensure access, inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all by 2030. The first 2023 UNESCO Global Report on teachers has highlighted the need to strengthen and enhance the quality of teacher education.

In alignment with SDG 4, the Conference on Education Challenges and Digital Transformation in the Pacific region. The conference will be co-hosted by the University of Goroka (UOG), the UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (INRULED), and Beijing Normal University (BNU) and UNESCO Regional office for the Pacific States. This joint collaboration will foster dialogue, sharing best practices and identify solutions to improve quality of teacher education and enhance digital transformation of education systems across the Pacific. UOG and BNU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in October 2023 in Beijing, witnessed by the Honorable James Marape, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. This joint conference between UOG, BNU and UNESCO INRULED is within the framework of this MOU. It will be the first of its kind in PNG and the Pacific, providing a significant platform for education leaders to come together to address critical challenges facing the teaching profession and linked to quality education in the Pacific region.

## 2. Rational and Objectives

The Pacific region faces significant challenges in the quality of teacher education, recruitment, retention, and professional development, all of which impact the quality and outcome of education. Teachers at all levels of the education system in the Pacific often work in geographically isolated areas with limited resources, navigating socio-cultural diversity while addressing global issues such as climate change and the integration of technology in education. These challenges demand innovative solutions and strategic collaboration to ensure that teachers are well-equipped with the appropriate skills and knowledge to deliver high-quality teaching in educational institutions.

Recognizing the urgent need to address these critical issues, UOG, in partnership with BNU and the UNESCO INRULED, UNESCO Regional office for the Pacific Region will be hosting this joint conference on Teacher Challenges in the Pacific: Enhancing quality Education for Sustainable Development.

This conference will serve as a platform for Deans of Education, educational leaders, policymakers, and researchers to collaboratively dialogue and explore innovative solutions to enhance teacher quality, gender equality, teachers' conditions of service, capacity, digital skills for teachers and shall ultimately contribute to better educational outcomes in the Pacific.

The conference is also a key milestone in implementing the MOU signed between UOG and BNU in October 2023.



in Beijing, witnessed by the Honorable James Marape, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. This historic partnership reflects a commitment to fostering international collaboration in education and research underpinned by solid bi-lateral cooperation between the Governments of PNG and the Peoples' Republic of China since 1975. It is also fitting to organize this conference on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of PNG as an independent State. The conference, the first of its kind in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific, features the shared vision of UOG, BNU, UNESCO and INRULED in advancing teacher education and promoting sustainable, inclusive education systems.

The presentations at the conference by invited experts and policymakers focused on best practices, strategies, policies and regulations, and innovative approaches, this conference aims to develop actionable strategies and recommendations to improve the quality of teacher education in the Pacific region. By leveraging the collective expertise of the Pacific experts and participating institutions and stakeholders, it seeks to strengthen professional development of teachers aligned with global frameworks, promote digital transformation at all levels of the education system, and ultimately contribute to building resilient education systems to cope with the demands of the region's unique educational challenges.

The conference objectives are to:

1. Discuss the key policy and strategic challenges affecting the quality of teacher education in the Pacific region;
2. Identify key challenges and critical issues affecting the teachers and teacher educators in the Pacific region, including workforce shortages, in-service and pre-service training, conditions of service for teachers, gender parity in the teaching profession, teacher quality and standards, governance and management of the teachers, role of teacher unions, role of teacher bodies, professional development gaps, and cultural relevance in education;
3. Share best practices by highlighting successful models of teacher training, curriculum development, and policy interventions from the Pacific and beyond, emphasizing culturally responsive pedagogy, digital transformation, and resilience-building in education;
4. Explore potential to establish a regional network to further strengthen collaboration by fostering partnerships among universities, teachers' colleges, research institutions, and international organizations and private sector to enhance teacher education, promote academic exchange, and encourage collaborative research; and,
5. Agree on key concrete recommendations strategies and policy recommendations to improve teacher capacity, integrate technology in education, and address rural and remote education challenges, ensuring long-term impact in Pacific Island countries.

## Partners

University of Goroka, UNESCO Regional Office for Pacific, UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (INRULED), Beijing Normal University, Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, Teacher Education Section at UNESCO Headquarters.

## Participants

- Representatives from Ministries of Education and Higher Education in the Pacific countries
- Deans of Education from universities and teacher training institutions in the Pacific and PNG

- 
- Policymakers and education administrators
  - Teaching Service Commission and Teaching bodies
  - Teachers Unions and Associations
  - Researchers and academics in education
  - Representatives from UNESCO and other international organizations

## Themes

Key themes for discussion and presentation:

### 1. Identifying and Addressing Key Teacher Challenges in the Pacific

- Quality of Teacher Education in the Pacific
- Status of Digital Skills Training for Teachers
- Teacher Shortages and Retention Strategies – Understanding why teachers leave and what can be done to retain them.
- Recruitment Challenges in Rural and Remote Areas – Innovative approaches to attracting and retaining teachers in underserved regions.
- Professional Development and Career Progression – Enhancing continuous learning and upskilling opportunities for teachers.
- Teacher Well-being and Mental Health – Addressing burnout, workload, and support systems for educators.

### 2. Showcasing Innovative Strategies and Best Practices

- Culturally Responsive Teaching in the Pacific Context – Incorporating Indigenous knowledge and languages into teacher training and curriculum.
- Digital Transformation in Teacher Education – Leveraging AI, EdTech, and online learning to enhance teacher training and student engagement.
- Resilience-Building in Pacific Education Systems – Preparing teachers and students for climate change, natural disasters, and socio-economic challenges.
- Case Studies of Successful Teacher Training Models – Lessons from Pacific nations and beyond in improving teacher preparedness.
- Gender Equality

### 3. Strengthening Regional and International Collaboration

- Building Research Network in Pacific Education – Encouraging collaborative research on teacher challenges and best practices.
- University Partnerships and Academic Exchange – Expanding cross-border programs to enhance teacher education.
- Bridging Policy and Practice Through Collaboration – Connecting policymakers, researchers, and educators for impactful reforms.
- Ministries of education, teachers' bodies and teacher Unions
- Global and Regional Funding Opportunities for Education – Exploring sustainable financing models for teacher education initiatives.



#### 4. Policy Recommendations

- Teacher Policies, teachers' legislation, regulations, strategies, for Enhancing Teacher Capacity in the Pacific – Identifying gaps and proposing solutions for better training and support.
- Integrating Technology in Education and Teachers Policy – Creating frameworks for AI, digital tools, and online education access.
- Addressing Rural and Remote Education Barriers – Innovative policies to improve teacher availability, infrastructure, and resources, recruitment & retention, deployment, career structure/path, working condition, reward & remuneration , teacher standard & accountability, and school governance.
- Long-Term Strategies for Sustainable Education Development – Ensuring policy implementation beyond short-term interventions.

#### Expected Outputs and Outcomes

1. A comprehensive report outlining the key challenges and recommendations for addressing teacher issues in the Pacific.
2. Establishment of a Pacific Network of Teacher Education Leaders for ongoing collaboration.
3. Policy briefs and action plans for improving teacher education and professional development in the region.
4. Strengthened ties between UOG, BNU, UNESCO INRULED, and Pacific Education Institutions.
5. Institutional mechanism to host the meeting every two years.

## Format

The three-day conference will feature:

- **Keynote Addresses:** Insights from leading experts on global and regional teacher challenges.
- **Panel Discussions:** Interactive sessions on the thematic areas.
- **Workshops:** Hands-on training and collaborative problem-solving activities.
- **Case Studies:** Presentations on successful practices and innovations.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Platforms to build partnerships and collaborations.

## Contact:

**Dr Jane Awi (PhD), Conference Chair**

University of Goroka

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**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2025:  
Morning**

<b>09:00 - 09:30</b>	<b>Registration/Coffee</b>
<b>09:30 – 9:40</b>	<b>Welcome Ceremony</b> <b>Chairperson: Dr Jane Awi (PhD)</b> , Chair of Pacific Teacher Education Conference, University of Goroka <b>Welcome Remarks:</b> <b>Dr Teng Waninga (PhD)</b> , Vice Chancellor, University of Goroka <b>Mr Joe Wemin</b> , Chancellor, University of Goroka
<b>9:40 – 10:30</b>	<b>Ministerial Speech on Strengthening Teacher Education</b> The support from the government and leadership are vital in articulating the government’s policies, strategies, and commitment to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4), which aims to ensure inclusive, equitable, and quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all by 2030. In this session, Ministers share their vision for education in Papua New Guinea, share current national strategies and reforms, and highlight how collaborative partnerships both local and international can help us enhance the quality of teacher education and training. The government will also assure the government participants and partners of the government’s unwavering commitment to transforming education in alignment with global development goals. <b>Master of Ceremony: Mr John Hagoiya</b> , Acting Executive Dean, School of Education, University of Goroka <b>Speakers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Honourable Simon Sia MP</b>, Governor of Eastern Highlands Province, Member of Parliament (10 mins)</li> <li>♦ <b>Honourable Lucas Dawa Dekena MP</b>, Minister of Education, Papua New Guinea (10 mins)</li> <li>♦ <b>Counsellor Chen Jilang</b>, Head of Mission and Counsellor of Chinese Embassy in Papua New Guinea (10 mins)</li> <li>♦ Remark by <b>Professor Zuoyu Zhou</b>, Representative of Beijing Normal University &amp; UNESCO International Research Centre for Rural Education (UNESCO INRULED), China (10 mins)</li> <li>♦ Remarks by <b>Mr Sunil Pokharel</b>, Chief Executive Officer, Tisa Bank Limited, PNG (10 mins).</li> </ul>
<b>10:30 – 10:40</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>

**10:40 – 11:40****Forum on Global Perspective on Teacher Education**

The keynote speaker at the Pacific Teacher Challenge Conference will address the urgent challenges confronting teachers across the Pacific region, including issues of recruitment, retention, professional development, and overall working conditions. The speaker will also draw on global perspectives to contextualize these challenges, particularly by presenting key findings from the **UNESCO Global Report on Teachers**. These insights will offer vital evidence and policy recommendations to support governments, institutions, and education leaders in designing effective teacher policies and development strategies tailored to the Pacific context. The session aims to inform and inspire collaborative regional action toward strengthening the teaching profession for quality education in the region.

**Master of Ceremony: Dr Charly Muke (PhD)**, Senior Lecturer, School of Science & Technology, UOG

**Keynote Address**

- ♦ **‘Global Perspective on Teacher Education’: Professor Zhou Zuoyu**, Vice Chairman of University Council, Beijing Normal University & Director of Beijing Normal University, and Director of UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (10 mins)
- ♦ **Video on ‘UNESCO Global Report on Education’: Mr Carlos Vargas**, Chief of Section of Secretariat for International Taskforce on Teachers for Education 2030, UNESCO Head Office, Paris (10 mins)

**Plenary Session (45 mins)**

- ♦ **‘Education Equity’: Dr Zhao Yuchi (PhD)**, Executive Director of UNESCO International Training and Research Centre for Rural Education (15 mins)
- ♦ **‘Strengthening Regional & International Collaboration’: Professor Catherine RIS (PhD)**, President of New Caledonia University (15mins)
- ♦ **‘Online Teaching and Learning’: Professor Janet Rangou (PhD)**, President of Western Pacific University (15 mins)

**11:40 – 12:00****Sub-Forum 1: Sharing Experiences of Vice Chancellor of Pacific Island Universities Implementation on Higher Education Policies**

Vice Chancellors or Presidents of Pacific Island Universities share insights on the University’s role in advancing education, research, and policy advisory; covering all education levels including teacher training; fostering innovation and international collaboration in teacher education; and outlining strategic approaches for aligning educational practices with global standards and priorities.

**Discussions Points:**

- Role of University in education, research, and government advisory
- Education levels (tertiary, early childhood, teacher training)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher training, innovation, and international collaboration</li> <li>• Strategies for global alignment in education</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator: Dr Matthew Landu (PhD), Pro-Vice Chancellor, Academic, Research &amp; Innovation, UOG</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Dr Teng Waninga (PhD)</b>, Vice Chancellor, UOG</li> <li>♦ <b>Professor Janet Rangou (PhD)</b>, President of Western Pacific University</li> <li>♦ <b>Professor Catherine RIS</b>, President of New Caledonia University</li> <li>♦ <b>Professor Boe Lahui Ako</b>, representing Vice Chancellor of University of Papua New Guinea</li> <li>♦ <b>Dr Uma More</b>, representing the Education Department and Vice Chancellor of University of Fiji</li> </ul>
<b>12:00 – 1:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2025: Afternoon</b>	
<b>2.30 – 3:30</b>	<p><b>Parallel Session One</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Dr Bomai Witne (PhD)</b>, Senior Lecturer, Social Science Division, UOG</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Mark Solon Auditorium (MSA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ ‘Quality Education for Sustainable Development’: <b>Dr John Wanis (PhD)</b>, Senior Lecturer-School of Education, UOG</li> <li>♦ ‘Solomon Island Untrained Teachers’: <b>Associate Professor Jeremy Dorovolomo &amp; Ms Loriza Zinnie Rafiq</b>, University of South Pacific</li> <li>♦ The Inservice Support of New Teacher in the Pacific: <b>Dr Stephen Potek (PhD)</b>, Pro-Vice Chancellor Policy &amp; Planning, UOG</li> <li>♦ ‘Evaluation of Higher Education Loan Program: Approaching to Improving Financing Education for Tertiary Students in Papua New Guinea’: <b>Mr Sakaya Botu</b>, Executive Dean, School of Humanities, UOG</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Parallel Session Two</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr John Hagoiya</b>, acting Executive Dean, School of Education, UOG</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Tess Flaherty Conference Room</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ ‘Key Challenges for Trainee Teachers, Lessons from Teaching Practice sessions from University of Goroka’: <b>Eric Messimato, Hefung Hati &amp; Dr Alois Ndrewou (PhD)</b>, Agriculture Division, UOG</li> <li>♦ ‘The Challenges of Enhancing Teachers' Professional Development through Reflective Teaching Approaches and Practices in Papua New Guinea’: <b>Mr Ben Kilage Onguglo</b>, Lecturer, School of</li> </ul>

	<p>Education, UOG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ ‘LearnBox-AI-Powered Learning Pods for Rural Schools’: <b>Mr Visva Prathirajage</b>, Chief Executive Officer – LeanX &amp; PowerXSolutions</li> <li>♦ ‘Using Solar Technology in Remote Schools in Kumwamua Primary School’: <b>Mr Rintinu Nason</b>, Principal, Kumwamua Primary School, Eastern Highlands Province</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Parallel Session Three</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr Philip Tama</b>, Lecturer, School of Humanities, UOG</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Tutorial Room 1, Mark Solon Auditorium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ ‘Evaluating Teachers' Perception on the Use of Formative Assessment in Geography in Six Secondary Schools in Eastern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea’: <b>Mr Kuriya Kiap</b>, Lecturer, Institute of Distance Flexible &amp; Learning (IDFL), University of Goroka</li> <li>♦ ‘Teachers and Parents' Views on the Importance of Early Childhood Life Skills Curriculum’: <b>Mrs Jenny Luther</b>, Lecturer, School of Education, University of Goroka</li> <li>♦ ‘Advancing Teacher Education in Remote and Rural Context: A Holistic, Contextualized Approach to Equity and Excellency’: <b>Ms Josephine Lucas</b>, Christian Education Ministries, Mt Hagen, Papua New Guinea</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Parallel Session Four</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Dr Lilly Sar</b>, Director, Centre for Creative Social Media, University of Goroka</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Tutorial Room 2, Mark Solon Auditorium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ ‘PNG Schools must embrace the Feminine and Masculine Traits, Values and Practices through the Recruitment of School Leaders for Sustainable and Impartial National Development’: <b>Associate Professor Kelep Kapa Malpo</b>, Director, IDFL, New Ireland-UOG Campus</li> <li>♦ ‘Effects of Mastering English Language Proficiency, Gender Disparity &amp; Nurturing Confidence and Self-Esteem at the University of Goroka’: <b>Mr John Umba Sari</b>, Council Member, University of Goroka</li> <li>♦ ‘Gender Disparity in Teaching Workforce specially in Female Leadership Roles within Schools in Papua New Guinea’: <b>Ms Rosa Sukurini &amp; Ms Joy Asiure</b>, Lecturers, University of Goroka.</li> </ul>
<b>3:30 – 4:00</b>	<p><b>Sub-Forum 2: Deans of Education</b></p> <p>This forum brings together Deans of Education from across the Pacific to reflect on how teachers are being trained in the region. Discussions will examine teacher education programmes, curriculum relevance, and practical</p>



	<p>teaching experiences. Key challenges include limited resources, inconsistent accreditation standards, and a shortage of qualified teacher educators. Despite these hurdles, good practices are emerging, such as culturally responsive pedagogy, regional collaboration, and school-based practicum models that strengthen teacher readiness. The forum aims to foster dialogue on improving teacher training systems and building a more resilient, high-quality teaching workforce across the Pacific.</p> <p><b>Moderator: Dr Kelly Yako (PhD)</b>, School of Education, UOG</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Mark Solon Auditorium</p> <p><b>Discussion Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher Training Program</li> <li>• Challenges of Teacher Training Programmes</li> <li>• Highlight some successful Teacher Training Programmes</li> </ul> <p><b>Deans of Education Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Mr. John Hagoiya</b>, acting Executive Dean, School of Education, UOG</li> <li>♦ <b>Dr Sunil Singh (PhD)</b>, Head of Division of Education, University of South Pacific, Fiji</li> <li>♦ <b>Tavu'i Dr Niusila Faamanatu Eteuati (PhD)</b>, Dean of Faculty of Education, National University of Samoa</li> <li>♦ <b>Dr John Lenga Sisiolo (PhD)</b>, Representing Dean of Education, Solomon Island National University</li> <li>♦ <b>Dr Uma More (PhD)</b>, Representing Department of Education &amp; University of Fiji</li> </ul>
<b>4:00 – 4:30</b>	<p><b>Plenary Session</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Dr Charly Muke (PhD)</b>, Senior Lecturer, School of Science &amp; Technology, University of Goroka</p> <p><b>Panel Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Mrs Kutna Bepwick/Mr Albert Wesley</b>, Provincial Education Advisors, Highlands Region</li> <li>♦ <b>Mr Roma Tuidam</b>, Provincial Education Advisor, Southern Region</li> <li>♦ <b>Mr Vincent Kalatia</b>, Provincial Education Manager, New Guinea Islands Region</li> </ul>
<b>4:30 – 5:00</b>	<p><b>Sub-Forum 3: Sharing Rural Teacher Experiences in Junior High Schools and Secondary Schools</b></p> <p><b>Panel Discussion</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr Sakaya Botu</b>, Executive Dean, School of Humanities, University of Goroka</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Mr Freddy Pennington</b>, Principal Paglum Adventist Secondary School, Highlands Region</li> <li>♦ <b>Mr Sern Erbi</b>, Principal/Inservice student, Momase Region</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Mr Robert Paleu</b>, Deputy Principal, Malalaua Secondary School, Southern Region</li> <li>♦ <b>Mr Oliver Kuyei</b>, Principal, Hoskins Secondary, New Guinea Islands Region</li> </ul>
<b>7:00 – 9:00</b>	<b>Welcome Dinner hosted by Minister for Education at New Chanel Inn Hotel.</b>

## Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2025 Morning

**8:30 – 9:00**

### Coffee and Networking

#### Quality Teacher Education Policies, Visions, and Strategies

This session will focus on strengthening national teacher education programs through clear policies, visionary leadership, and strategic planning. Emphasis will be placed on aligning teacher education with national development goals and global standards, particularly SDG 4. Key strategies include establishing robust accreditation frameworks, enhancing teacher educator capacity, integrating inclusive and digital pedagogies, and promoting continuous professional development. Visionary policies must prioritize teacher quality, equity, and accountability to ensure graduates are classroom ready. The discussion aims to chart a collaborative path forward for building a strong, responsive, and future-focused teacher education system in the country.

#### Keynote Address

**Moderator: Dr Kele Yako (PhD)**, Senior Lecturer, School of Education

#### ‘Quality Teacher Education in Papua New Guinea’

- ♦ **Dr Uke Kombra (PhD)**, Education Secretary, National Department of Education

#### Keynote Address

#### ‘Teacher Policies from the Global Perspectives’

- ♦ **Professor Yusuf Sayed (PhD)**, UNESCO INRULED Consultant, Professor at the University of Cambridge

#### Keynote Address

#### ‘The Introduction of STEM in PNG: A Disruptive Intervention’

- ♦ **Dr Clement Waine (PhD)**, Advisor with National Department of Education, Papua New Guinea

#### Keynote Address

#### ‘Artificial Intelligence in Education’

- ♦ **Dr Ting Da (PhD)**, UNESCO Chair, Artificial Intelligence in

	Education
	<p><b>Plenary Session</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Dr Savitha DeBritto (PhD)</b>, Executive Dean, School of Science &amp; Technology, UOG</p> <p>Screening of Video by Chinese Experts, facilitated by <b>Ms Siyao Wang</b>, Programme Coordinator, UNESCO INRULED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Video One: ‘STEM Education’</li> <li>♦ Video Two: ‘STEM Education in China &amp; e-library for Teachers’ Online Education Resources’</li> </ul>
<b>10:20 – 10:40</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
	<p><b>Plenary Session</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Dr Alois Ndrewou (PhD)</b>, Director, Centre for Natural Resources, Research &amp; Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Teacher Welfare: <b>Mr Samson Wangihomie</b>, Chairman PNG Teaching Service Commission</li> <li>♦ ‘Addressing Teacher Shortage in China’s Underserved Regions: The Beijing Normal University Qianshi Program’: <b>Ms Siyao Wang</b>, Programme Coordinator, UNSECO INRULED</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Sub-Forum 4: Sharing Experiences of Inspectors</b></p> <p><b>Panel Discussion</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr Michael Homingu</b>, School of Education, UOG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Mr Lawrence Suto/Mr Joshua Tupa</b>, Inspector, Highlands Region</li> <li>♦ <b>Mr Ale Asipali</b>, Inspector, Southern Region</li> <li>♦ Inspector representing New Guinea Island Region</li> <li>♦ Inspector representing Momase Region</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Sub-Forum 5: Sharing Experiences of Rural Teacher</b></p> <p><b>Panel Discussion</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Theresia Lomoi</b>, Executive Dean, School of Humanities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Mr Jack Walu</b>, head teacher, Highlands Province</li> <li>♦ <b>Ms Salome Peter</b>, technical high school, Momase Region</li> <li>♦ <b>Ms Dulcy Samaniki</b>, headteacher/UOG student, Southern Region</li> <li>♦ <b>Mr John Ai</b>, senior teacher/UOG student, New Guinea Island Region</li> <li>♦ <b>Mr Anne Joe Kuria</b>, Headteacher, Digini Junior Highschool</li> </ul>
<b>12:00 – 1:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>

## Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2025

### Afternoon

1:00 – 2:00

#### Parallel Session One

**Venue:** MSA

**Moderator:** Dr Adhoni Shakeel (PhD), School of Science & Technology, UOG

- ◆ ‘Challenges in Disseminating field Practical Lessons: Lessons from Undergraduate Trainee Teachers on Plant Health Clinic Education’: **Audrey Iyeho\***, **Monty Bagle**, **Binel Vovorite**, **Amelia Jelsiwi**, **Rodney Biri**, **Joe Egenae & Dr Alois Ndrewou (PhD)**, UOG
- ◆ ‘Investigating Trainee Teachers' Integration of Content Knowledge and Pedagogical Knowledge’: **Mr Michael Wilson Homingu & Ms Jacqueline Gemmel**, School of Science & Technology, UOG
- ◆ ‘Challenges of Implementing Inclusive Education’: **Kilage Ben Onguglo**, School of Education, UOG

#### Parallel Session Two

**Moderator:** Dr Helen Osora (PhD), Senior Lecturer, School of Science & Technology, UOG

**Venue:** MSA Tutorial Room

- ◆ ‘The Challenges of Media and Digital Literacy within Initial Teacher Education (ITE) in Papua New Guinea during the 21st Century’: **Dr Kele Yako (PhD)**, Senior Lecturer, School of Education
- ◆ The Politics of Teacher Appointment in Papua New Guinea: **Ms Theresa Lomoi**, Lecturer, School of Education, University of Goroka
- ◆ ‘A case study of factors influencing female students drop-out in the rural primary schools of Southern Highlands Province in Papua New Guinea’: **Ms Janet Niningi**, Lecturer, School of Education, UOG

#### Parallel Session Three

**Moderator:** Dr Thamarai Selvi (PhD), Senior Lecturer, School of Humanities, UOG

**Venue:** Tess Flaherty

- ◆ ‘Economy of Edupreneurship: A Perspective from Opportunity Pursuit Theory’: **Mr Jobo Kogapo**, Lecturer, University of South Pacific
- ◆ ‘Challenges of Implementing Making a Living (MAL) Curriculum in Upper Primary School: A Case Study of Two Rural Primary Schools in Jiwaka Province of Papua New Guinea’: **Mrs Jenny Luther**, School of Education, UOG

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ ‘Understanding Factors inhibiting Women as Leaders in Secondary Schools in Developing Countries - the Pacific: A Case Study of Papua New Guinea’: <b>Mrs Elizabeth Kaulei</b>, Lecturer, School of Education, UOG</li> </ul>
<b>2:00 – 4:00</b>	<p><b>Parallel Workshop 1: School-Based Teacher Professional Development</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator: Dr Zhao Yuchi (PhD)</b>, Executive Director of UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Mark Solon Auditorium</p>
	<p><b>Parallel Workshop 2: Artificial Intelligence in Education</b></p> <p><b>Venue:</b> UNIGOR Conference Room</p> <p><b>Facilitator: Dr Ting Da (PhD)</b>, UNESCO Chair, AI in Education</p> <p><i>*Participants are requested to bring their laptops.</i></p>
<b>4:00 – 4:30</b>	<p><b>Closing Ceremony</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Conference Report, <b>Dr Jane Awi (PhD)</b>, Chair of Pacific Teacher Challenge</li> <li>◆ Conference Declaration, <b>Dr Teng Waninga (PhD)</b>, Vice Chancellor, UOG</li> </ul> <p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Dr Teng Waninga (PhD)</b>, Vice Chancellor, University of Goroka</li> <li>◆ <b>Professor Zhou Zuoyu</b>, Vice Chairman of the University Council, Beijing Normal University &amp; Director of Beijing Normal University, and Director of the UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education</li> <li>◆ <b>Honourable Feo Hotune Kinoka MP</b>, Minister for the Department of Higher Education, Research, Science, Technology (DHERST) &amp; Sports</li> </ul>
<b>7:00 – 9:00</b>	<b>Closing Dinner hosted by University of Goroka at New Chanel Inn Hotel</b>
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025 Morning</b>	<b>Networking with various key stakeholders and institutions to discuss Teacher Education Training and Challenges.</b>
<b>9:00 – 12:00</b>	<b>Venue: Mark Solon Auditorium</b>

**SIDE EVENT:**

**Date: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**Coordinator: Ms Emmy Keko, Ms Lynn Kuraiba and Ms Joy Ketepa**

Field trips for invited guest only:

- ♦ 1:00 pm – 2.30 pm      Field trip to Asaroka Secondary School  
*(A separate program is prepared for this session)*
- ♦ 3:00 – 4.30 pm      Visit China AIDS Project Juncao Technology  
*(A separate program is prepared for this session)*

**Coordinators: Mr Philip Tama, Ms Anne-Marie Wanamp & Mrs Dawn Solevad Hai**

**Partnerships Meeting**

- ♦ 4:00 pm – 5.00 pm      Institutional Meeting between the President of New Caledonia University and UOG Top Management Team, School of Humanities, Language & Literature Division  
*(A separate program is prepared for this session)*