

ADDRESSES

ADDRESS BY MR. M. TIGILAI

ACTING VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, LAE

Firstly on behalf of the University, I would like to welcome you all into the Campus. I hope that you will have time to look around the Campus and also in the Departments to see what facilities we have here.

This University started off as an Institute of Higher Technical Education in 1967 and then in 1973 its status changed into a University of Technology. At that time it had an intake of about 400 students. Since then the total intake has increased to 1150 at which level we have held the number for the last year and this year and perhaps in the next few years yet. It is a pity really considering there is so much demand for our graduates.

Ten per cent (10%) of that total intake comprises of students from countries in the South Pacific region plus others. This year we have eighty four (84) students from Fiji, Tonga, Western Samoa, New Hebrides, Gilbert Ellis Islands and the Solomons.

We have made our equipment available because of the importance we place on this Workshop; we realize how important it is to know how to maintain science equipment and we are looking forward to gain something from this Workshop. Like the countries represented here, Papua New Guinea is a developing country and as such all our science equipment is imported. As we are all aware when we import equipment we only import the technology but not the skills in maintaining them. The Workshop is therefore of importance to us all to learn something by which we all hope to provide for this need in our various countries.

Before I finish I wish to thank the Commonwealth Secretariat for making this Workshop possible but also ask participants that we should make good use of this occasion to gain for ourselves and our countries the knowledge of how to maintain our usually expensive science equipment. I would like to wish you well in your deliberations.

Please do not forget that if you have an opportunity, feel free to visit the University Departments and see our facilities. Once again I welcome you all to our Campus and hope you enjoy your stay here for the next two weeks.