

JOINT PRESS RELEASE FROM
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC
AND
THE UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN (NORWAY)

New ocean and climate PhD programme launched

On 28 April 2020, the Norway-Pacific Ocean-Climate Scholarship Programme (N_POC) was launched in a virtual event hosted by Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. N_POC is a ground-breaking new and interdisciplinary PhD programme in ocean and climate science, in a collaboration between Norway and the Pacific Islands.

During the official launch representatives from Norway and the Pacific Islands made statements, including Fiji's Prime Minister Mr. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama and Norway's Minister for International Development Mr. Dag-Inge Ulstein.

Remarks during the launch were made by Vice-Chancellor and President Pal Ahluwalia from the University of the South Pacific and Rector Dag Rune Olsen from the University of Bergen, who both underlined the long-term partnership between these two ocean and climate science oriented universities.

There was also a strong focus on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the virtual launch event, in particular SDG13 on Climate Action and SDG14 on Life Below Water as well as SDG17, Partnerships for the Goals, underlining the commitment made by the two universities. N_POC builds on the long-term collaboration between USP and UiB, including the Norway-Pacific Joint Chair of Oceans and Climate Change – a voluntary commitment made at the 2017 United Nations Ocean Conference.

N_POC is funded by Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.

Official hashtag for the launch: **#N_POC**

More information in this news article from the University of Bergen:

<https://www.uib.no/en/sdgbergen/135464/new-pacific-phd-programme-launched>

FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS AND ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

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