

Newspaper in Samoa, Tuesday 14 Nov 2006



Talking rivers and seas at NUS tomorrow

Rivers and seas will be the focus of lunchtime presentations by two distinguished Professors from Japan tomorrow at the National University of Samoa.

Both topics will be of considerable interest to those with an interest in the environment.

Coordinated by the Faculty of Science, Professor Yasuyuki Shimizu from Hokkaido University will speak on "Recent advances in Computational Modelling of the flow and morphodynamics in alluvial rivers." Professor Eizo Nagaza, from the University of the Ryukyus will present a paper of "Waves and Currents in Coral Seas: How to design Maritime Structures".

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Professor Shimizu said that recently a state-of-the-art vertical, two-dimensional model was developed resulting in a dramatic step forward in the modelling of bedform evolution process.

"In addition, a three-dimensional model has been developed for a prediction of flow over bedforms," he said.

The Ryukyus islands (Okinawa) have provided Professor Nakaza with material for his research and presentation.

"Hazardous incoming waves from tropical storms have frequently caused severe damage to the marine and coastal environment and also provide characteristic wave phenomena," he said.

"The physical essences of waves and currents will be briefly discussed."

Dean of the Faculty of Science, Dr Ioana Chan Mow said that the public are welcome to join staff and students from NUS at this double seminar which begins at 12 noon.

Professor Shimizu and Professor Nagaza are among a group of six visiting from Japan.

The other four are Keisuke Iwata (Masters research student), Fumino Koguchi (Secretary of the Hydraulic Research Laboratory of the Hokkaido University), Kota Tanaka (Engineer at Hokkaido Office) and Yvette Kerslake (Masters Research Student) from the Coastal Engineering Laboratory of the University of the Ryukyus in Japan.

The visit is a joint trip between the University of the Ryukyus from Okinawa and the Hokkaido University from Hokkaido.

The trip includes meetings with the Assistant Chief Executive Officer of the Meteorology Division of MNREM, Mulipola Ausetalia Titimaea, and Assistant Chief Executive Officer of the Planning and Urban Management Agency, Tagaloa Jude Kohlhase.

They will also undertake field visits around Upolu and Savai'i.