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URA to host law student interns

The Utilities Regulatory Authority (URA) has this week signed an agreement with the Law Students Internship Program at USP to host student interns starting in the next semester. URA CEO Hasso Bhatia said “this is a great opportunity for students to come and learn about utility regulation, and how the law can be applied to the benefit of customers in Vanuatu”.

The internship is one part of an overall plan to build up capacity within the URA team. Dr Bhatia added, “A lot of our work requires legal interpretation and analysis, and so we want to build up an internal legal team to work on regulatory issues. This will complement our other areas of expertise such as economics, finance, engineering and consumer protection. Our aim is that the URA becomes a centre of excellence for regulatory disciplines for the whole region. A crucial part of that vision is to build a highly skilled local team.”

Interested students should enquire with the Law Students Internship Program at USP. Arthur Faerua, the program administrator, added “it is great to have the URA involved in our growing program of internships for law students, and we look forward to building a long-term relationship with them.”



Left-right: URA CEO Hasso Bhatia, Law Student Internship Program Administrator Arthur Faerua, URA Chief Economist, James Ryan

About the Utilities Regulatory Authority

The URA was set up under the Utilities Regulatory Authority Act No. 11 of 2007. The URA is an independent body and its primary purpose is to increase access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity and water services to homes and businesses, and to protect the long-term interests of consumers throughout Vanuatu. In the electricity sector, the URA monitors the concessions operated by UNELCO in Malekula, Port Vila and Tanna; and Vanuatu Utilities and Infrastructure Ltd (VUI) in Luganville. In addition, the Authority assists to resolve consumer disputes and advises the Government on matters related to electricity, water and energy policies.

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