



Alumni Association will open to graduates



Kiribati's Kabiriera Karibanang, a graduate eligible to be an Alumni. (Story Page 5)

WITH the graduation of more than 1,600 students since the College began in 2007, APTC is well on its way to fulfilling its primary goal of helping to fill the shortage of skilled labour in Pacific Island Forum countries.

By 2011 an additional 1,400

students will have graduated into the region's work force, raising the level of technical expertise in such fields as tourism and hospitality, health and community services, construction, automotive, manufacturing and electrical trades.

At each graduation ceremony, APTC General Manager Antoine Barnaart has sent a consistent message: "Graduates will always be a part of APTC and they take with them the future reputation of the College."

For this reason the College will be establishing a regional Alumni Association with local chapters in each country in which APTC operates. This will allow for formal input into the future of the College by past graduates with the

continued support of APTC.

The Association will provide an opportunity for Alumni to network socially and professionally and support new graduates in the transition from study to work. It will also encourage Alumni to support various student activities.

The Association will provide professional development opportunities for Alumni in identified areas of interest and promote linkages between APTC graduates and potential employers.

Because of the Alumni's experience as graduates and as citizens of their various island countries, their assistance in monitoring employment and productivity outcomes will be of help to both APTC and the

Association.

An APTC Alumni Association interactive website is being constructed that will house Alumni contact details and articles of interest. The website will also enable Alumni to connect with each other as well as offer information on employment and training opportunities.

Invitations have been sent to all graduates and more than 350 have already registered for the Association. Initial meetings have been held in Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands with further meetings scheduled for Samoa and several non-campus countries in the near future.

APTC Advisory Group Reaffirms Support



Damien Rapese (PNG AG member) and Anna Pasikale (NZAid Observer) during the meeting.

The APTC Advisory Group has reaffirmed their commitment to the College and its contribution to the South Pacific community. Advisory Group members met in Suva on 25 February with senior AusAid and APTC managers to review College activities. It was the fifth meeting held by the Group since 2008.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to review the progress of APTC and to advise

the College on policy and strategic development issues. The Advisory Group also provides AusAid with advice on a range of industry and TVET issues for the Pacific region. The Advisory Group is comprised of men and women from the South Pacific, drawn from governments, regional organisations, industry and education sector representatives who are strongly committed to education and life-long learning. A special highlight of this meeting, according to participants, was hearing an "enthusiastic" account from Nauru member, Cyril Buramen, on his experience as an APTC student undertaking the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment (TAA).

Cyril described a number of key outcomes from the course which he said dramatically changed his approach to vocational teaching, even though he is already an experienced TVET

teacher. Students enrolled in the course were made up of existing teachers and industry professionals. The course was held in Nauru. Following the meeting, the next day was set aside to allow the Advisory Group members to observe more APTC innovations and developments. This included a visit to the new APTC hairdressing salon where students demonstrated their "expertise" in both grooming and massage on the members and received "high marks" for their efforts. They were also shown the significant redevelopment and transformation of APTC workshops in Suva to an international standard where students showcased for members a representation of their work. "A productive and motivating time both in and out of the Board Room," was agreed by all.

APTC Student Stats at a Glance; Data as of 28th April 2010

APTC CURRENT ENROLMENTS (Scholarship and Fee Paying Students)	Male	Female	Total
Students currently enrolled in STH	204	269	473
Students currently enrolled in SHCS	16	119	135
Students currently enrolled in SACEM	971	66	1037
Total Currently Enrolled Students: All Schools	1191	454	1645
APTC GRADUATES (Excluding Current Enrolments)	Male	Female	Total
Students graduated from STH	395	468	863
Students graduated from SHCS	7	91	98
Students graduated from SACEM	463	27	490
Total Graduates: All Schools to Date	865	586	1451

President shares ideas on APTC



His Excellency, President Anote Tong at Kiribati graduation.

KIRIBATI President, the Honourable Anote Tong is a strong supporter of APTC.

The General Manager of APTC, Antoine Barnaart recently met with the President to discuss the importance of the College in Kiribati. It was the third meeting between the two over the past several years.

President Tong, who was an early and committed supporter of the APTC concept at Pacific Island forum meetings, confirmed that the APTC has developed into a strong regional TVET institution providing essential training to I-Kiribati in a range of industry disciplines.

The President said that APTC has provided a welcome and additional support for TVET development in Kiribati through its cooperative

agreement with the Kiribati Institute of Technology, signed in 2008.

In 2009, APTC delivered the Australian Certificate IV in Training and Assessment on Tarawa for KIT teachers who recently graduated after successfully completing the program.

Commenting on the APTC I-Kiribati graduates, the President said that "although it is great to see so many I-Kiribati successfully completing their training with APTC, it is also important for APTC to work with the Kiribati Government and industry to ensure graduates can utilise their new skills ... all graduates need to be able to obtain employment otherwise

they will lose motivation ... this includes employment opportunities both on Kiribati as well as internationally."

Mr. Antoine said that he agreed with President Tong's comments and outlined the comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of APTC outcomes, which are undertaken in conjunction with current students, graduates and employers.

A full analysis of APTC Kiribati data is being undertaken in order to complement APTC future planning and to share with the Kiribati Government.

Vanuatu Chapter first for interim Association



Vanuatu graduates meet to discuss forming their interim Alumni Association chapter. This is their second meeting.

SIXTY-ONE graduates in Vanuatu have formed an interim APTC Alumni Association chapter even before it has officially been launched, a testament to their enthusiasm towards the concept.

The Association has already held its second meeting and elected an interim set of office bearers. President Flora Vano (graduate with a Certificate III in Hospitality Operations, and soon to graduate with a Certificate IV Training and Assessment) listed several reasons why the Association is so important to the graduates.

She said that she wanted the Association to assist other graduates in maintaining their connection with APTC. She said that APTC has provided an opportunity to meet people from other island countries and they want to pursue these friendships to broaden their cultural understanding as well as maintain their contacts.

Through the Association, she believes that by connecting with APTC they will receive updated information that will be important to

their members. It is important to her and the Association, she said, that they have the opportunity to assist current students with the skills they have received to help them achieve their goals.

The members have already set an interim agenda that includes fund raising activities such as a walkathon, as well as involving itself in community services such as World Aids Day, and helping new students on Orientation Day.

Of the Ni-Vanuatu APTC Alumni who have joined the interim Association, the majority are graduates in Hospitality Operations, Hospitality Supervision, Tourism Operations, Children's Services, and one graduate in Painting and Decorating.

Other officers are Secretary Christopher Tosiro (Graduate in Certificate III Commercial Cookery) and Treasurer Willie Karie (Graduate in Certificate III Hospitality Operations) who have been elected to coordinate the activities of the interim Alumni Association.

Meet the Trainer



Kevin Lennon

KEVIN Lennon is an APTC Fitting and Machining Trainer who has worked in Papua New Guinea for nearly two years.

Kevin, who hails from Gladstone in Queensland, Australia, works primarily at the APTC POMTECH Campus, but travels to carry out training in the remote areas of PNG.

This is not Kevin's first overseas posting, having taught in Shanghai for four years, but said he was enjoying his experience in PNG "... as it allows me to embrace other cultures."

"I was surprised by the standard of my students," said Kevin. "They are very dedicated and very eager to learn, they are great. Although the two groups I teach have very different backgrounds, one with little or no industry experience, the other, existing workers who have had industry experience, both love the course and the training they receive."

Kevin concluded by paying tribute to his colleagues. "APTC staff are the best people to work with and I thank them for all the assistance they have given me, and a special thank you to the PNG national staff for their help and friendship."

Graduates impress employers

The College is currently collecting information from a wide range of employers throughout the Pacific about the impact that APTC graduates are having on their businesses.

The following are quotes from recent employer surveys in response to the question, "What impact (if any) has APTC had on the productivity and overall performance of your business?" APTC gathers employer views through questionnaires, interviews and focus group meetings.

Solomon Islands Resorts / King Solomon Hotel, Honiara

"APTC training has shown significant positive change for all staff who attended their courses. Most are now in supervisory positions. This has greatly improved the day to day operations of the hotels, and the staff's greater confidence has had a huge impact."

Shane Kennedy
Managing Director.

Ok Tedi Mining, Papua New Guinea

"General impression is excellent - workmanship has improved, skill levels have increased and above all, the attitude of the trainees has changed and the paradigm has shifted. APTC training has added value to final OTML productivity."

Michael Papi
Tradesman Acting Team Leader.

Iron Bottom Sound Hotel, Honiara

"At the moment there are not many training schools or institutes



Amelia Kanalagi, APTC Admin/ Logistics Officer (left) and Vivian Villanaeva, in front of Iron Bottom Sound Hotel, Honiara.

that conduct training for hospitality here in Honiara. Hence APTC graduates will reduce the training period and "cost" to employers. Having seen one of our employees graduate from APTC has given the other staff hope that they too can have the opportunity to broaden their knowledge and gain more skills related to their jobs. Because of this hope they work hard and have a positive disposition."

Vivian Marisa M. Villanueva
Hotel and Restaurant Manager.

Otintaai Hotel Kiribati

APTC training enables graduates to find good jobs in the region so that they can support their families. Positive benefits occur when the graduates share their knowledge and skills with non-APTC workers.

Aara Tekanana
Manager
APTC Graduate January 2009
Hospitality Supervision
Certificate IV

United Nations Fund for Women Solomon Islands

"Training is of high standard and improves the quality of work of an agency. I have visited the APTC training centre and witnessed high quality teaching and resources. UNIFEM is fortunate to have a skilled and competent, graduate, which has increased the credibility of the UNIFEM presence in the Solomon Islands."

Val Stanley
Interim Country Project Coordinator.

Mary's Motel Kiribati

APTC graduates are more confident in their work and are better able to meet customer needs. They know how to do things the proper way and are more professional in their appearance and approach.

George Teanoko
Manager
APTC Graduate January 2009
Hospitality Supervision
Certificate IV

CWR Construction, Vanuatu

In a telephone interview, Mr. Roberts said he is using graduates who have returned from APTC training to guide other workers through their daily tasks, resulting in multiple benefits. APTC has provided training in carpentry, electrical, painting, fitting and machining to 12 students from CWR Construction.

Charlie Roberts
Owner.

Niue students plan future



Matenili Vilila (left) and Laufoli Hakehemotu working at diesel fitting in Fiji.

THREE students from Niue will return to their island country to help in its development on completion of their courses.

Currently studying at campuses in Fiji and Samoa are Niue citizens, Matenili Vilila, Laufoli Hakehemotu and Kenneth Green.

Matenili and Laufoli, who work for the Government of Niue at the Public Works Department, came to Fiji to study Certificate III in Engineering-Mechanical Trade-Diesel Fitting. This entails seven-week study blocks at the Public Works Department training facility in Walu Bay, Suva, with six-months between blocks, back home in Niue, "... putting into practice what we have learnt," said Matenili. "Our course is spread over two years, which is a big commitment."

Laufoli agreed, "Fortunately our wives and children are very supportive of us. When I am back in Niue I plan to put into practice what I have learnt here in Suva."

Also from Niue, and studying Certificate III Commercial Cookery at the Samoa campus is Kenneth Green. Kenneth is Chef and Manager of the family owned Katuali Coffee Shop in Niue.

Kenneth, who is following his dream of expanding the café into a restaurant, said, "This course will assist me to achieve this by teaching the fundamentals of proper restaurant techniques. It teaches you valuable information, which I will carry through the rest of my life."

First students enrolled from Palau and Marshall Islands

THE first students from the Micronesian countries of Palau and the Republic of Marshall Islands (R.M.I.) have recently been enrolled in APTC's Fiji and Samoa campuses.

Marshall Island's Christina Reimers is currently pursuing her studies in Certificate III Hospitality Operations at the residential training school in the Rakiraki Tanoa Hotel on the Western side of Fiji's main island, Viti Levu. Christina was employed at the RRE Hotel in Majuro, the capital of the Marshalls before entering the College.

"I am very excited to be in

Fiji," said Christina. "I am grateful for the experience and the chance to be here, learning so many new things."

Sharlie Grady and Abel Kuterbis, now students at the Samoa APTC campus, were both employed at the Palau Pacific Resort. Before enrolling in Certificate IV Hospitality – Supervision, Sharlie was a Food and Beverage Supervisor, while Abel, now enrolled in Certificate III Tourism, was a Recreational Attendant at the resort.

Sharlie believes, "An opportunity like this comes once in a lifetime," a sentiment



Christine Reimers from R.M.I. training at Rakiraki Tanoa Hotel.

endorsed by Abel, who said, "Learn to achieve." Both students believe that making a commitment to their training will provide them with greater opportunities in the future.

APTC Graduates

APTC is well on target to graduate 3,000 students by the end of 2011. And while it is achieving its target numbers to help fill the shortage of skilled labour in the Pacific, its true worth can be measured in the success of its graduates. Below is a selection of those who are making a difference. The list could be significantly larger but because of space limitations it is only a small representation.



Joy Kenneth

Joy Kenneth, Solomon Islands

Joy, a teacher for 10 years, took up her new teaching position at the School of Special Development Centre – Early Intervention at the beginning of the year, before taking part in the April graduation ceremony where she received her Certificate III in Children's Services.

One of four teachers at the school that caters for children with a wide range of disabilities, Joy is responsible for 21 of the 40 students.

Joy said that her interest in Special

Education, "...especially in the sign language," developed while she was training. "You need to have the heart and passion for disability students," she said. Joy lives this passion, saying that there are many rewards from working in this field, including "learning and understanding more about my students' development ability." Joy believes that it is important to listen to and understand her students, and "acknowledge them as part of the community."

Jimmy Rova, Solomon Islands

After graduating with a Certificate III in Hospitality (Operations) in Vanuatu, Jimmy Rova was employed by the country's newly opened Heritage Park Hotel. As a result of this Solomon Islander's work at the hotel, he has recently been awarded a Solomon Islands Government scholarship to undertake three years full-time study for a Bachelor of Arts degree in Tourism through the University of Papua New Guinea.



Michael Oripri

Michael Oripri, PNG

Papua New Guinea's Michael Oripri graduated with a Certificate III in Carpentry in December 2009. Shortly thereafter, he was employed by Digara Construction, a major building company based in Port Moresby. In a few short months he so impressed his employer with his competence and work ethic, that he was promoted to Leading Hand with the responsibility of supervising a team of workers.



Sosaieti Tuani

Sosaieti Tuani, Samoa

Sosaieti Tuani has been employed by the Samoa Ports Authority working at the Aleipata Wharf in Apia as its Maintenance Supervisor before beginning his studies at the APTC Fiji campus. Upon graduating with a Certificate III in Carpentry, he resumed his job with the Authority. His newly acquired skills have been recognised by management and he has been promoted to Construction Foreman responsible for all work on the Wharf with a team of eight workers. The Wharf was destroyed by the recent tsunami and the rebuilding program is a part of Sosaieti's responsibilities.



Flora Vano

Flora Vano, Vanuatu

Flora Vano typifies the commitment to learning that many of the students embrace in their APTC studies. Flora was employed as the Restaurant Supervisor at the Moorings Hotel in Vanuatu when she enrolled to study at the Vanuatu campus

in the Certificate III course in Hospitality Operations. This course was paid for by her employer. At her own expense she then re-enrolled in the Certificate IV Training and Assessment course. Her hard work has paid off. She has been promoted to Restaurant Manager responsible for two outlets: Air Port Café at the international airport terminal and Moos Bar and Grill, both located in Port Vila. She supervises 18 staff.

Elsie Maino, PNG

Elsie Maino was employed as a Service Manager at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Papua New Guinea when she enrolled at APTC's Fiji campus to study Certificate IV in Hospitality Supervision. After graduating, Elsie returned to the Crown Plaza Hotel and was promoted to Meeting Sales Manager with a major responsibility of expanding its event and conference program.



Lafaele (Raphy) Magi

Lafaele (Raphy) Magi, Samoa

Lafaele Magi is now employed as a bartender aboard the Samoan Shipping Corporation's new 33 million tala ferry, Lady Samoa III. Securing this much sought after position is a result of his success in the Certificate III Hospitality part-time course at the APTC Samoa campus. Previous to his enrolment, the Samoan was unemployed, but like many students with limited working experience, he showed an aptitude to learn and was accepted into the College.

Where are they now?



Larry Toilolo, Thomas Neru, Trainer Haydn Durnell and Simon Fruean

Larry Toilolo, Thomas Neru and Simon Fruean, Samoa

APTC's reputation in providing highly trained graduates in a number of disciplines resulted in three Samoans being offered employment at Apia's Hyundai Automotive dealership months before they completed their studies. The three, Larry Toilolo, Thomas Neru and Simon Fruean will graduate in 2010 with a Certificate III in Automotive Technology.

Tuasivi Kaleopa, Samoa

Tuasivi Kaleopa is self-employed with his own company JK Welding. He is a Certificate III graduate in Engineering-Fabrication at the Samoa campus. He credits APTC with helping him to develop his fabrication skills. Following graduation his business has expanded, highlighted by a tender he has won from the European Union to build 152 steel gates for village schools in Samoa.



From left: Ponifasio Eneliko, Setefano Paulo, Vice Chancellor NUS-IOT and Faave Foaga.

Ponifasio Eneliko, Setefano Paulo, and Faave Foaga, Samoa
Ponifasio Eneliko, Setefano

Paulo and Faavae Foaga reflect the quality training that APTC is providing in its TAFE program. The three Samoans have recently completed Certificate III courses at the National University of Samoa-Institute of Technology (NUS-IOT, APTC's training partner in Samoa). The three are lecturers, the first from the Institute to graduate. Ponifasio and Setefano have graduated with Certificate III in Engineering Fabrication Trade, while Faavae graduated with Certificate III in Engineering Mechanical Trade (Refrigeration and Engineering).



Ravinesh and Abhinesh Chand

Abhinesh and Ravinesh Chand, Fiji

Abhinesh and Ravinesh Chand are brothers. With little education but some experience in tiling, the brothers entered the APTC Certificate III course in Wall and Floor Tiling at the Fiji campus. Graduating in October 2009, Abhinesh and Ravinesh wasted little time in applying their new skills, setting up their own company, Quality Tile Setters, that now employs two workers. The brothers attribute their new-found success to the "excellence in their APTC course." In early 2010, Abhinesh returned to APTC to study Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.

Kabiriera Karibanang, Kiribati

Graduating February this year in Certificate III Automotive Technology after periods of

study in both Kiribati and Fiji, Kabiriera returned to work in the transport section of the Kiribati Government Plant and Vehicle Unit. Almost immediately, Kabiriera was promoted to Foreman of the mechanical section, with responsibility for six other workers. In April, the Departmental Manager said that Kabiriera is soon to be promoted again, this time to Training Officer, so that he can instruct his workmates on light vehicle maintenance and repair.



Serah Tito (right) with AusAid's Fiona Cornwall

Serah Tito, PNG

What were once male dominated professions are no longer barriers to APTC students. Gender equality is a major focus of the College, which is epitomised by Serah Tito, a Papua New Guinean who has recently completed her studies, graduating with a Certificate III in Engineering- Fabrication Trade. Last year's winner of the "Apprentice of the Year" at the Ok Tedi Mining Company in PNG where she is employed, she says that the APTC course has "opened windows of opportunity" for her. "I can now see a possibility to work and further my career anywhere in the world. That is a major achievement for me!"

Filimoni Dakui, Fiji

New APTC Certificate III Patisserie Fiji campus graduate, Ratu Filimoni Dakui has been "living his dream" putting his newly acquired skills to good use in the kitchen at the Novatel Hotel in Fiji as a Patisserie chef. In his job he



Filimoni Dakui and Novatel Executive Sous Chef, Krishneel Mudaliar

prepares pastries and desserts for conferences and other functions, for up to three a day, six days a week. To meet this challenge he attributes his success to the outstanding training he received from APTC.

Annelies Filo, William Pale and Sevelino Mafi Ma'asi, Tonga

Few APTC graduates can claim cooking a favourite dessert for a King. But Annelies Filo, William Pale and Sevelino Mafi, have combined their skills obtained as graduates of the APTC Certificate III Commercial Cookery course in Fiji and not only provide his Majesty, the King of Tonga, with his favourite dessert, profiteroles, but find the time to manage the kitchen and bar as well as the accommodation at the Waterfront Café in Nuku'alofa.

James Walkerpoo, PNG

While most graduates enter or return to the workplace there are those who have used APTC as a springboard to a higher education. A perfect example is James Walkerpoo who graduated with a Certificate III in Tourism Operations. With the help of an AusAid scholarship, the young Papua New Guinean moved to Melbourne where he is now pursuing an Advanced Degree in Tourism (Management) at Box Hill Institute and expects to finish his studies in December of 2011.

Course designed to aid villagers



APTC students work to rebuild their villages as part of their Certificate II Housing Repairs & Maintenance course. Shown at work are (left) Paepaeala and Liu prep a bathroom at Poutasi; (centre) Falelime and Sialofi prep formwork at Lepa Village and (third from left) Faasua and Tuua prep a floor slab at Saleapaga; (right) Tevi Lilo and Donald mixing concrete at Saleaamua village.

IN September of 2009, Samoa was hit with a tsunami that destroyed many villages leaving thousands of people homeless and 143 dead.

As part of the relief effort, the Samoan Government initiated a major reconstruction program with help from International Aid Agencies (including AusAID) to rebuild many of the lost fales (homes). Caritas Samoa and Habitat for Humanity are jointly organising the rebuilding of the fales in five of the most seriously affected villages.

On AusAID's recommendation it was decided that APTC students would be selected from five hard-hit villages for a Certificate II in Housing Repairs and Maintenance. The students would work alongside the volunteers from Habitat for Humanity in the rebuilding projects in their villages for the practical components of a training course.

APTC received support from the National University of Samoa (NUS), the Samoan Qualifications Authority (SQA) and AusAID in establishing this unique training

program, which is not offered anywhere else in the Pacific by APTC.

The College worked closely with village councils and church ministers in the selection process. Students from five tsunami-affected villages, Sale'a'auma, Salepaga, Lepa, Satitoo or Poutasito, were able to apply for the course. The applicants needed to be over 18 and were required to meet the literacy and numeracy entrant standards of APTC and to undertake an interview before selection.

There were over 30 applicants for the fifteen available places in this course. The successful applicants were enrolled in the Certificate II in Housing Repairs & Maintenance; APTC offered them a fee waiver as well as all their training equipment and uniforms. AusAID has provided an allowance to each student for the six months of the course. APTC provides two trainers, Mike Adamson and Sajendra Bali, highly qualified tradesmen with considerable

Pacific Island experience.

Not only are the students helping in the reconstruction process in their villages, but they are also developing their eligibility for further study at NUS-IOT or to progress to Certificate III in Carpentry through APTC.

Progress to date has been encouraging. The students have already completed half of the subjects required to complete the course. The students work two days a week in a classroom environment learning theory and practical applications. They then spend the remaining three days of the week working alongside the Habitat for Humanity volunteers.

APTC managers have visited project sites and met many of the students. In their talks with the students they have found them to be very enthusiastic about the training; some are talking about starting their own businesses or furthering their studying.

One student emphasised the importance of the project. He said, "The community looks at us

differently now because we are setting an example of how we can help ourselves."

The students commented that many more villagers want to get involved in the reconstruction efforts and are interested in returning to school to learn a trade when they see what "hard work, the right attitude, and commitment" can do.

In discussing how the project is affecting village life, the mothers and wives of students told the trainers that "community spirit" is improving and people are starting to feel more hopeful about the future.

"Helping the men has helped us think about what is good and not just what we have lost." They also hoped that more girls could get involved in learning new skills.

The village women have been cooking meals for the APTC students and Habitat for Humanity volunteers, and are looking forward to seeing the students graduate in August in Apia.

Young children helped by trainers in Fiji

TWO young children are now receiving an education in a school setting due to the vision, persistence and effort of two APTC Trainers.

Six-year-old Jennifer, who has Down syndrome and eight-year-old Aliti who has cerebral palsy, are both living at the Treasure House Orphanage in Nadi.

Kerryn Puckey and Cheryl Payne realised that the children would greatly benefit from regular school or kindergarten attendance

to further enhance their strengths, interests, skills and knowledge.

Kerryn asked her APTC students, studying Certificate III Children's Services, for assistance. Her student, a teacher at Mount St. Mary's School in Nadi, responded positively and arranged for Jennifer to attend kindergarten. Jennifer is now enjoying class one.

For Aliti, Cheryl enlisted the advice of Susana Daurewa, who was the Head Teacher of the Lautoka Special School for

seventeen years. An assessment was made and it was hoped that Aliti could enrol in her "old" school.

Lice, a staff member from Lautoka Special School began her Certificate III in Children's Services, and she too became aware of Aliti's plight. The current Head Teacher, Litea, also visited Aliti and it was decided that Aliti could attend the school twice weekly. She settled in very quickly and is now attending full time, in Lice's group. Aliti particularly enjoys the physiotherapy sessions.

Kerryn said that to see the smiles on the faces of the two young children when they attended their first day in school was well worth the wait and effort. She and Cheryl thanked the staff at Treasure House, the Lautoka Special School, Mount St. Mary's School and Kindergarten, and their APTC students, for helping to make the girls' inclusion into school such a great success.

APTC brings training to the rural workplace

APTC continues to promote its policy of providing training to students in the more remote areas of the Pacific region to ensure that students and employers have access to College services. Some of the sites outside of capital cities where innovative APTC training is being conducted include the following:



Two young tourism graduates celebrate end of course in Santo.

Tourism on Santo

The latest people to benefit from this effort are on the island of Santo in Vanuatu. Santo is Vanuatu's largest island, about 300 miles northwest of the country's capital Port Vila. Sixteen students have successfully completed the APTC's Certificate III course in Hospitality in the Santo town of Luganville.

The students are all employed in tourism facilities on the island including the Beachfront Resort, Coral Quays Resort, Moyyan By The Sea, Deco Stop Resort, Hotel Santo and Aore Resort.

According to Jan Matheson, APTC Vanuatu Country Manager, the success of this pilot training has resulted in an "overwhelming number" of applications for a second course to be held in Santo, planned for May 17, this year.

One of the Santo students, bartender Charlie Vira said that he didn't believe he had much to learn after spending 17 years in his profession. However, in his speech at the end of course ceremony, Charlie said that there was indeed so much that he didn't know, and talked about how valuable this course was for him and his fellow students. In closing, he thanked APTC and his employer for the opportunity to learn.

East New Britain Palm Oil

In the East New Britain Province in Papua New Guinea, located approximately 600 kilometres from the nation's capital Port Moresby, APTC is providing training in a number of courses for New Britain Palm Oil (NBPOL).

NBPOL operates palm plantations and



Major palm oil business receives training in distant East New Britain.

processing mills on the island and employs a large labour force that includes a range of highly qualified trade staff.

The company is working closely with APTC to increase the capability of its staff through "progressive training to assist in increasing the skills of the people of Papua New Guinea."

The College is currently conducting training in diesel fitting, carpentry and air conditioning/refrigeration. Students will graduate with a Certificate III in Engineering - Mechanical (Diesel Fitting), Certificate III in Carpentry and a Certificate III in Engineering -Mechanical (Air Conditioning/Refrigeration).

Presently there are 45 students at NBPOL including 28 training in diesel fitting, five in refrigeration and 12 in carpentry.



Tourism has received a boost through training on Savaii.

Savaii gets tourism training

Thirteen students living on Samoa's largest island of Savaii are benefiting from a unique program to provide a broad range of basic hospitality, food and beverage service, cookery and other tourism skills.

The program has been developed in coordination with members of the Samoa Hotel Association on Savaii to "better service" the 23 tourism and accommodation providers on the island. The students are studying part-time, using the facilities of the Jetover Hotel in

Salelogoga, the island's main town. Salelogoga is approximately 50 kilometres by sea from the nation's capital Apia, on Upolo.

The students travel up to two hours each way, on a Tuesday and Wednesday, to attend classes on Savaii. Despite the distance, attendance is high over the 17-week program.

Course Coordinator, Georgie Waldron, says, "The students have greater confidence and more self-belief as a result of their training."

Feedback from the employers of the current class of 13 students indicates that this is certainly the case. "Recent follow-up interviews with the employers of the students indicates that many of the students have now been ear-marked for leadership roles within their businesses," wrote Julie Kean, APTC Samoa Country Manager.

APTC is planning to offer this course again on Savaii in February, 2011.



APTC provides wide ranging training for Ok Tedi Mining.

Ok Tedi Mining Limited

APTC has been in partnership with Ok Tedi Mining Ltd since 2007, delivering training in carpentry, diesel fitting, electrical, and metal fabrication. The Ok Tedi mine is a major producer of copper concentrate for the world smelting market.

Situated in the remote Star Mountains of PNG's Western Province (about an hour and a half plane ride from Port Moresby) it extracts and exports copper, gold and silver concentrate to customers throughout Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. Ok Tedi Mining Limited (OTML) operates the mine, which has had a major impact on one of the world's most remote places.

To date, 113 students have graduated with Certificate III in Electrotechnology-Systems Electrical, Diesel Fitting, Carpentry and Fabrication. APTC has currently 65 students in diesel fitting and six students in fabrication enrolled in its program.

The future

APTC will continue to reach out to the more remote areas of the South Pacific to ensure equal opportunity for applicants and employers alike.

Fiji's first 2010 graduation



Joining students and trainers at Fiji's graduation is APTC's General Manager Antoine Barnaart (front row centre).

The first graduation ceremony for 2010 saw 71 APTC Fiji graduates from a total of five different courses receive their certificates in Nadi.

Because Nadi is the centre of tourism in the country, the keynote speaker was Michael Clowes, Managing Director of Mala Mala Island Cruises, who said to the graduates, that as Fiji's future leaders in tourism, success isn't attracting first time visitors, but providing such an excellent vacation that they keep coming

back time after time.

Amongst the graduates were the first seven in Fiji to receive Certificate III Hairdressing, as well as 21 in Certificate III Hospitality - Cookery, 10 in Certificate III Hospitality - Patisserie, 25 in Certificate III Hospitality - Operations, and eight in Certificate IV Hospitality - Supervision.

The graduates came together from the three APTC campuses in Fiji: Namaka, Suva, and Rakiraki Tanoa Hotel for the ceremony.

Samoan Prime Minister encourages graduates



APTC management and Samoan students pose during graduation ceremonies.

At the largest APTC graduation ceremony in Samoa to date, a total of 63 graduates were reminded by the Prime Minister, the Honourable Tuilaepa Lufesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, in his keynote address, that they now had a "wonderful" opportunity because of the high standards set by APTC to maintain this level of professionalism throughout their working lives. Representative of these skill sets were the first three graduates in Samoa in Certificate III Hairdressing, and the first Samoan graduate in Certificate III

Hospitality, Patisserie, returning from studying in Fiji.

Also exemplifying the range of expertise, and completing their studies at the Samoa campus, were 15 graduates in Certificate III Hospitality - Commercial Cookery, 19 in Certificate III Hospitality, 10 in Certificate III Tourism, 15 in Certificate III Carpentry, one in Certificate III Automotive, Mechanical Technology, one in Certificate III Electrotechnology Systems - Electrician, and one in Certificate III Engineering - Fabrication Trade.

I-Kiribati graduates honoured by President



His Excellency President Tong (centre) with APTC's Rick Harper (left) and Jim Irwin.

"The certificate you will receive today is internationally recognised, which ranks you as the equal of any other recipient throughout the region."

With these words, His Excellency the President of Kiribati, Anote Tong congratulated the 32 APTC graduates gathered at the Otintaa Hotel for the largest yet APTC graduation ceremony of I-Kiribati students.

Graduating with Certificate IV, Training and Assessment, were 20 students who had completed their course conducted at the Kiribati Institute of Technology. Returning from training in Fiji for the ceremony were six graduates

in Certificate III Carpentry, three in Certificate III Automotive-Mechanical Technology, and one in Certificate III Cookery.

Also returning from studying overseas were two graduates who had studied with APTC in Vanuatu, one in Certificate III Children's Services, and one in Certificate III Hospitality Operations.

The President said that he looked forward to further graduations such as this, where he could show how proud he is of the graduates who take on the challenge to gain trade skills and contribute to the progress of Kiribati.

Large turnout for Vanuatu graduation



Vanuatu's Minister of Education, the Honourable Charlot Salwai (left) is joined by Australian High Commissioner to Vanuatu, His Excellency Pablo Kang, at the graduation ceremony.

Over 160 family and friends gathered in Port Vila recently to witness the APTC graduation of seventy ni-Vanuatu students where they heard the keynote speaker, the Honourable Charlot Salwai, Vanuatu's Minister of Education congratulate APTC on its contribution to the nation. Graduates received certificates

in Carpentry, Painting and Decorating, Wall and Floor Tiling, Children's Services, Commercial Cookery, Hospitality Operations, Tourism Operations, and Training and Assessment. The Australian High Commissioner to Vanuatu, His Excellency Pablo Kang, welcomed the graduates and guests to the ceremony.

Solomon Islands graduate 64

In the largest graduation ceremony ever held in the Solomon Islands, 64 students received their Certificates before more than 100 proud family and friends. The students were welcomed by AusAID Counsellor, Juliette Brassington, who emphasised the importance of continuing with their studies and lifelong learning.



Keynote speaker AusAID Counsellor, Juliette Brassington, at the Solomon Islands graduation.

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We would be grateful if you could please forward any news and photographs that you believe would be useful for the newsletter to virgo@connect.com.fj. For further information visit www.aptc.edu.au or contact antoine.barnaart@aptc.edu.au