



APTC two years closer to reaching its target

WITH 425 graduates and a further 1,167 students now enrolled in its four campuses, APTC is well on its way to reaching its target by the year 2011.

It is expected by that time to have graduated 3,000 students and with the success the 425 have already achieved, APTC will have helped to fill the shortage of skilled labour within Pacific Island Forum countries. This is the primary reason for its existence.

The APTC success story that began in July 2007, is a reflection of the commitment and quality of its trainers and administrators, but it is the students who have embraced the opportunities it has provided, and as graduates, they have proven that the whole program works.

There are many stories of success where the graduates have achieved significant improvement in their new or former employment since leaving APTC.

The following is a selection of these success stories but it is only a small representation of the results the students are experiencing on graduation.

Oliva Lapalapa from Samoa, the country's first graduate in



Three new APTC graduates became tutors working at ACEM in Fiji (story pg 3).

2008 in Fitting and Machining is now an Executive with British American Tobacco. The company was so impressed with the results that they are sending two more employees to attend the Fitting and Machining course.

Ane 'Ema Filipe has assumed her new position as Chief Cook and Supervisor of Housekeeping at the Australian High Commission residence. She was an assistant cook with housekeeping duties before she graduated from the School of Tourism and Hospitality.

Nishatt Hassan, a Fiji graduate from the School of Tourism and Hospitality won the Silver and Bronze medals at the highly competitive Fiji Salon Culinaire organised by WACS (World Association of Chefs). She is now employed at the Five-star Vomo Island Resort in Fiji.

Tuataake Taarie, a Kiribati graduate, has been appointed Front Counter Receptionist at the Otintai Hotel as a result of her studies at APTC's School of Tourism and Hospitality. In Papua

New Guinea 37 graduates from the School Tourism & Hospitality are now employed in the tourism industry and 79 graduates from the School of Automotive, Construction, Electrical, and Manufacturing are employed by the Ok Tedi Mining Company.

As their careers and the other graduate careers blossom, so does another important element in the continuing growth of APTC - its alumni. The alumni is comprised of all APTC graduates, and as Antoine Barnaart, General Manager of the APTC Coordination Office said, "They are the ambassadors for the College, many of whom will go on to do extraordinary and outstanding things in the future."

"I believe it is important for APTC graduates to maintain their association with the College through an active Alumni, by making themselves available to attend APTC students' departure meetings and graduation ceremonies, to become guest speakers, and advocate continuing education and life-long learning," Mr. Barnaart concluded.

Samoa welcomes Australian Foreign Minister



Mr Stephen Smith (centre) surrounded by APTC students and staff in Samoa.

APTC Hospitality Operations and Cookery students from its Samoa campus paid special welcome to The Honourable Steven Smith MP, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs at a cocktail party organised by the Australian High Commission. The event marked the end of Mr. Smith's official visit to Samoa.

The students provided the cooking and served 12 varieties of dishes, operated the bar, served canapés and kept the front house in a

professional manner for the 150 guests.

The evening was a success for the APTC students with favourable comments from guests that included the Samoan Observer newspaper. Reflecting on the overall contribution of the college, it wrote in part, "APTC is delivering world class vocational education and training to Pacific Island students..."

CPCs meet, review activities for the first time

FOR the first time Country Program Coordinators (CPCs) recently met in Fiji for a week-long professional development program that included a series of training sessions.

It was also an opportunity to put faces to names and the enthusiastic response from those who attended confirmed this initial meeting as a success.

CPCs, who work directly for APTC, have been called the 'front line troops' of the program, employed in campus and non-campus countries to provide logistical and organisational services primarily to the students, the schools and the APTC Coordination Office.

The training sessions took place both in Nadi and at the Rakiraki Hotel where the School of Tourism and Hospitality operates a training centre.

Topics ranged from financial and administration procedures, APTC Country Strategies, as well as College Activities, Performance and Plans, and the 2009-2010 Professional Development Strategy.

The CPCs were also invited to attend the Cross Cutting Policy Work Team meeting, where they participated in discussions on Gender and HIV issues.



Back: Antoine Barnaart (GM APTC) Soweri Qumivutia (Scholarship Co ordinator), Eileen Aukitino, Tosi Matautia, Jade de Bruyn and Sister Koleti. **Front:** Amelia Kanalagi (Scholarship Assistant), Nancy Palmer, Berlinrose Dick, Colleen Peacock-Taylor (M&E Officer) and Asseneth Tugiau.

APTC Coordination Office, ACEM, and the School of Tourism and Hospitality conducted the sessions.

The CPC's who attended were Tosi Matautia from Samoa, Berlinrose Dick from Vanuatu, Asseneth Tugiau from PNG, Nancy Palmer from Solomon Islands, Jade de Bruyn from Nauru, Eileen Aukitino from Kiribati and Sister Koleti from Tonga.

"The meeting was very informative and reaffirmed my role as a Coordinator," said Tonga's Sister Koleti. "It was great meeting the other Coordinators in person, listening to their

experiences, and learning what is expected of us to successfully run our various areas of responsibility."

"As a new Coordinator, I really appreciated the program, and learning the APTC procedures and policies," said Eileen Aukitino of Kiribati. "APTC workshop gave us a platform to share ideas."

Jade de Bruyn of Nauru summed up the feelings of the others attending when she commented, "I felt like I was able to give Nauru (and even other small island states) a voice and that I was actually listened to, particularly regarding the

difficulties faced by students from small, isolated places. It was great! "

Apart from the day sessions, the CPCs were hosted to a dinner at Fusion, the Namaka School of Tourism and Hospitality campus restaurant, and were also given a tour of the new kitchen by the School's Country Manager, Mr Jim Irwin.

On their trip to Rakiraki where they stayed overnight for the further sessions, they received an added bonus: Students at the school performed cultural dances and many of them were from the same countries as the CPCs.

Revisit the campuses

Although we have introduced the APTC campus structure in previous newsletters, from comments we have received, we believe it continues to be useful.

APTC has four campuses located In Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Vanuatu, collectively forming its college. The campuses are defined by their training programs:

- **Fiji:** School of Tourism and Hospitality (STH) School of Automotive, Construction & Electrical, and Manufacturing (ACEM) School of Health and Community Services (SHCS)
- **Samoa:** School of Tourism and Hospitality (STH) School of Automotive, Construction & Electrical, and Manufacturing (ACEM)
- **Papua New Guinea:** School of Automotive, Construction & Electrical, and Manufacturing (ACEM)
- **Vanuatu:** School of Tourism and Hospitality (STH) School of Health and Community Services (SHCS)

APTC is aligned with existing private and government training and business facilities in each of the island countries it has campuses.

FEF's Roberts supports APTC

MR Ken Roberts, CEO of the Fiji Employers Federation (FEF) sees the APTC as having a positive impact on the way the country trains its vocational students.

"I have been a member of the APTC Advisory Group since the Fiji College's inception," said Mr Roberts, "and I admit that at first I was somewhat skeptical when APTC was first announced.

"At that time, Fiji was feeling the effect of migration, with skilled workers lining up at the Australian and New Zealand High Commissions. Like many other employers, I thought that people would be training in order to leave the country in even greater numbers, and at a faster rate, as an Australian qualification would make it easier to leave."

However, since APTC began in Fiji, Mr Roberts has changed his opinion, and says that employers' early fears have dissipated.

"We've seen good results, those who have trained and graduated are going back to their previous employment. Not only have the graduates received a certificate, but they have acquired the ability to pass on much of what



Mr Ken Roberts

they have learnt to their fellow workers."

Mr Roberts believes the fact that students show a willingness to develop an APTC alumni speaks well of the College and its continuing influence in the workplace, "as well as being useful for the graduates to stay connected and communicating with each other.

"I am also impressed by the level of commitment demonstrated by the APTC trainers and the noteworthy relationships I have seen developed with the students," said Mr Roberts. "It is obvious that a strong bond is made between trainers and students." Mr Roberts also remarked on the positive effect that APTC was having upon local TPAF instructors. "APTC and TPAF work together very closely," he said. "TPAF trainers are seeing different ways of imparting knowledge.

"APTC is a valuable part of the training landscape," says Mr Roberts. "Their courses and graduates are playing a positive role in changing the perception of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)."

Vanuatu teacher/students benefit from training

NOT all success is measured by new jobs and increased pay packets.

Ask Certificate III Children Services graduate, Ms Rollin Tanga of Vanuatu. Ms Tanga recently returned to work as a teacher at Central School, Vanuatu, after completing her studies with APTC Health and Community Services at the



Vanuatu's Rollin Tanga surrounded by her students in her classroom.

Vanuatu campus.

"I am proud to be an APTC graduate," said Ms Tanga. "Studying for Certificate III in Children's Services with Trainer Rachael Harper has made such a difference to my teaching. So now, my students are having a very different learning experience in my classroom."

She said that she has implemented the techniques learnt during her course that have been adapted to the classroom.

"It is very exciting to see the students benefit from learning about health, hygiene and healthy eating," continued Ms Tanga. "All of this has made an impact on the children in my class. The children are more confident about working independently, but they also feel more open to talk to me," Ms Tanga concluded.

Graduates tutor at ACEM

WHILE APTC graduates usually return to jobs where they have already been employed, or find new areas of employment in the community, there are others who are now working closer to home, and that's at the School of Automotive, Construction and Electrical, and Manufacturing (ACEM).

Ramiza (Suzie) Razak, Sajendra Bali, and Mavuka Tokona are all graduates of ACEM and have been employed as tutors at the school.

"This is a reflection of the quality of their studies as students. They not only excelled at their particular discipline but they showed the leadership skills that are required to perform as tutors," said Mr. James Knynenburg, Manager-Product/Content for ACEM.

As tutors, the three assist the trainers to implement the ACEM programs. This experience, combined with further studies, could eventually lead to the position of trainer according to Mr. Knynenburg.

Ms. Razak is an ACEM graduate in Wall and Floor Tiling with extensive prior experience in her field. Previous to her training,

she was self-employed for three years after leaving Climatic Tile Works where she worked for seven years.

Sajendra Bali is a graduate in carpentry. He taught for over two years with Training & Productivity Authority of Fiji (TPAF) prior to enrolling in ACEM. A carpenter and joiner by trade, Bali previously completed an apprenticeship with the Public Works Department, then worked in the building industry before joining TPAF.

Mavuka Tokona is one of ACEM's first graduates from its Painting and Decorating program. Studying part-time, he was employed by the Public Works Department with almost 19 years experience. On graduating, Mavuku was promoted within the PWD to Foreman/Supervisor, before joining ACEM as a tutor.

ACEM now employs seven tutors, all of them local, although only these three graduated from the APTC school.

"The tutors have allowed us to work more closely with our students, ensuring that the level of training continues to an international standard," Mr. Knynenburg said.

Shangri-La graduation another APTC first



Shangri-la graduates with School of Tourism and Hospitality's Jim Irwin (centre back), Anthony Bailey (back right), Cathy Joyce (front left) and Oliver Budack (front right).

IN a class where students have between 10 to 30 years' experience in the tourism industry, 21 graduates received their Certificate IV in Hospitality (Supervision) at a graduation ceremony at the Shangri-La Fijian Resort and Spa in Fiji. All the students are full-time employees at the Resort, which makes it the first time that this eight-month intensive part-time course was organised at the students' place of employment.

Mr. Anthony Bailey, Head of the School of Tourism and Hospitality said in his remarks to the students, that this new course "was a unique partnership between APTC School of Tourism and Hospitality, and the Management Team at the Shangri-La Fijian Resort." This program has set a framework in which other resorts in the region can participate while still employing their workers full-time.

Locals takeover APTC's ACEM finance posts



Vanessa Didiwik-Mosoro, Rita Malele, Karen Bonner (Senior Finance Officer Australia) and Margaret Tunaulu assume new finance posts.

APTC'S ACEM has localised its Office Finance Manager positions in Samoa, Papua New Guinea and Fiji from August 2009.

Rita Malele from Samoa, Vanessa Didiwik-Mosoro from Papua New Guinea and Margaret Tunaulu from Fiji have been appointed to the positions operating out of their respective college campuses.

Following their appointments, all three women worked closely with their Australian counterparts who had previously held the

Office Finance Manager positions.

In addition, the three completed two-weeks induction at ACEM Head Office, on the Sunshine Coast in Australia.

With expatriates Andrew Robertson (Samoa), and Terri Brereton (Fiji), returning to Australia in August, and Shane Johnsson (PNG), moving to a carpentry teacher role in PNG, the locally engaged staff have assumed full responsibility for the finances of the campus country offices.

A unique graduation ceremony in PNG



Ms Fiona Cornwall with welding graduate, Sarah Tito at graduation ceremony.

IN a unique APTC graduation ceremony in Papua New Guinea, eighty students graduated from its School of Automotive, Construction & Electrical and Manufacturing (ACEM), all of whom are employed by Ok Tedi Mining Ltd.

The graduation ceremony, held at Tabubil, celebrated the successful partnership where

the mining company sponsored its employees into the APTC training program.

The graduates successfully completed their Certificate III in a number of trades required by the Ok Tedi including Diesel Fitting, Fitting, Boiler Making, Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing and Refrigeration.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, AusAID representative Ms Fiona Cornwall acknowledged the importance of the training partnership between industry and APTC, which "...combines the best that each has to offer, and leads to internationally recognised trade qualifications for the students, and national development benefits for PNG," said Ms Cornwall.

"Ok Tedi Mining Limited has played a key role in these important training outcomes by sharing its wealth of knowledge and experience with the students and giving them the opportunity to put their training to practical use in a workplace environment," concluded Ms Cornwall.

APTC showcases TVET at Pacific Youth Festival

THE Australia-Pacific Technical College (APTC) took the opportunity to showcase vocational education and training at the recent South Pacific Youth Festival.

The Festival, the second of its kind, was organised by the South Pacific Commission and held at the University of the South Pacific. Its purpose was to bring young people in the region together to discuss, share and highlight youth concerns.

One item on this year's agenda was the development of skills for life.

Trainers and students from APTC's Automotive, Diesel Fitting, Tiling, Painting, Carpentry and Hairdressing made presentations to Youth delegates from the 14 participating South Pacific countries.

Not only were there formal presentations in the classroom, but the Youth Delegates were also given the opportunity to experience a variety of trades at first hand.

"It is important to associate the APTC name with training either existing workers or people with Fiji Institute of Technology (FIT) qualifications, or, in some cases, TPAF (Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji)

qualifications," said Mr James Knynenburg, Manager, Product/Content, Automotive, Construction & Electrical, and Manufacturing (ACEM).

"The Youth Festival was an ideal opportunity to demonstrate in a practical way, what 'skills for life' can mean for young people and the future social and economic development of their countries."



John Joe, Richard George and Kital Nakou of Vanuatu demonstrate their carpentry skills.

Eleven graduates from Kiribati

KIRIBATI celebrated the graduation of 11 of its students from the APTC School of Hospitality and Tourism. This is the second graduation ceremony held in the country.

The ceremony took place at the Otintaai Hotel, Tarawa, and was attended by the Kiribati Minister for Labour and HRD, Ioteba Refern; His Excellency, the newly-appointed Australian High Commissioner to Kiribati, Brett Aldam; GM APTC Coordination Office, Mr Antoine Barnaart, and Ms Cathy Joyce, STH Trainer at the Namaka, Fiji campus.

Mr Barnaart told the graduates that "while you were in Fiji, you were great ambassadors for Kiribati, and now, as APTC alumni, you will be great ambassadors for the College in the future."



Graduates and guests at the second Kiribati graduation in the country.

Meet the Trainer



NARELLE WHITE is an APTC Tourism and Hospitality Trainer, based at the Vanuatu Campus since the start of 2009.

She says that the best part her job is the quality and contagious enthusiasm of her students.

"The genuine down-to-earth warmth of students in this part of the world is such a refreshing delight," she said.

Prior to her engagement as a trainer, Narelle has contributed to education and development projects in Indonesia, Vietnam and East Timor.

"I have a passion for facilitating the learning achievements of others, and enjoy generating activity-based and interactive training experiences," said Narelle.

STATISTICS AT JULY 2009

Total Graduates from APTC: 425				
Current enrolments:				
Campus Country	ACEM	HCS	STH	Total
Fiji	181	62	121	364
PNG	292	0	0	292
Samoa	251	0	95	346
Vanuatu	0	45	120	165
Cumulative Total	724	107	336	1167

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