

Blood Runs Deeper Than Water: The “*Tamamanu*” concept in Tokelau.

In Tokelau, “*tamamanu*” literally means “small bird” – connotes humbleness, caring, respect, acceptance, accommodate and love to name a few. The term is often used to refer to non-Tokelauans residing in Tokelau for whatever reasons or for however long period of time. There is also the accepted notion that the security and welfare of the *tamamanu* is the business of the whole community. Normally used with a humble and positive connotation, the word *tamamanu* also refers to non-Tokelauans because they don’t have connection to any land. For example, in modern Tokelau, there are Tongan, Fijian, Samoan and Tuvaluan families working in areas of health, education and environment that fits the traditional definition of *tamamanu*.

In traditional Tokelau, when a family *utuga* (fish catch) is being distributed amongst other extended family households, the *fatupaepae* (female vested with extended family welfare matters) would remind whoever is physically apportioning the *inati*, “*alofa atu ko la ki na tamanu*” (don’t forget to apportion a share for the *tamamanu*). Although times have changed, the core value of looking after the *tamamanu* is still evident through the inclusive and recognition accorded to these foreigners. Implanted into the Tokelau cultural values is the notion that any visitor or someone with no connection to the land is deemed a *tamamanu*. And, it is the general perception that it is everyone’s duty to look after the *tamamanu* where ever possible.

When I was at a young age, my grandma who was also the *fatupaepae* of the *Fagatiale* extended family never overlooked to include an American anthropologist by the name of Judith Huntsman with a *inati*, whether it be fish or other family food resources from the outer islands of Nukunonu. She lived quite a distant away from our house and as far as I could remember she was the only foreigner living on Nukunonu at the time. As young kids, my cousins and I were tasked with carting the *inati* (share) of other extended family households including the anthropologist. Equipped with our *kete* (woven baskets), we would deliver door to door whatever family resources was being distributed.

Two questions that comes to mind then are, how long does someone qualify to be a *tamamanu*?
Is there a traditional formula to figure out when to stop referring to someone as a *tamamanu*?

I use myself as an example. I am a fifth generation Portugese, fourth generation Wallis and fourth generation Magalogalo. Do I still qualify *tamamanu* status today? I have yet to hear someone confirm that in the affirmative? What can be confirmed for sure was that my Portugese, Wallisian and Magalogalo ancestors were certainly labelled *tamamanu* when they first landed in Tokelau! They would have gone through the special rituals and treatment afforded only to a *tamamanu*. I am not arguing that *tamamanu* a bad thing but just trying to illustrate the fact that some of us came through lineages of *tamamanu*. So, I guess then that when a foreigner marries into Tokelau society and have offspring that legitimately connects them to the Tokelau lineages, that is enough to connect someone to the land hence the label *tamamanu* ceases. Although it is comforting to know of my past history and the different spirituality that is within who I am, what I know is that my ancestors, once were warriors in their own right, were somehow referred to as *tamamanu* once upon a time.

Foreword by:
Mika Perez
Director of EDNRE

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EDNRE ISSUES ENDORSED BY COUNCIL AND MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL FONONO

Tokelau is now joining the South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO)



The island nation of Tokelau is trying to boost its Tourism Industry by formally joining the South Pacific Tourism Organisation.

The Tokelau second General Fono (Parliament Session) held in June 2019 had approved and endorsed the issue of Tokelau to join the South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO).

In a letter to SPTO dated 16 April 2018, the Director of EDNRE Mika Perez not only enquired about the process of becoming an SPTO member but also highlighted the challenges as to why Tokelau has taken a cautious approach towards tourism in the past years. "With a small but closely knitted society Tokelau places significant priority on maintaining its socio-cultural practices and has therefore view tourism as a high threat especially to social harmony and the natural environment" says Perez.

Over the recent years Tokelau has adopted a sustainable approach to socio-economic development. Part of this approach is exploring viable options that would achieve its vision of improving the quality of life for its people. It is for this reason that the Tourism option has been re-visited and because of the concerns on the associated risks, Tokelau needs assistance in various forms so that it is able to pursue this option with care.

The EDNRE believes that by joining the regional organisation will manage to get support from the SPTO in providing technical assistance commonly in terms of capacity building training and other source of assistance to improve skills and knowledge in the tourism sector.

Mr Christopher Cocker Chief Executive Officer responded in a very positive way by accepting Tokelau proposal to be a full member of SPTO.

SPTO was established in 1983 as the Tourism Council of the South Pacific. It is the mandated organisation representing tourism in the region and its mission is to "Market and Develop Tourism in the South Pacific" with a vision that tourism will Inspire sustainable economic growth and empower the Pacific People.

Director of EDNRE Mr Mika Perez will be meeting with SPTO chief executive officer Mr Christopher Cocker in September to get more updates on SPTO events.

◆ **Margaret S Paul**

Agriculture Division on Fakaofu established after GF endorsement

The Agriculture division on Fakaofu was formally established after receiving an endorsement from members of General Fono during its second parliament session in July 2019

The endorsement of the new division under the Economic Development, Natural Resources and Environment (EDNRE) on Fakaofu is now formally published

Agriculture division will be responsible for overseeing the Bio security (Tokelau & Apia), Quarantine (Tokelau & Apia), Lands and Soil Management, Aquaculture, Livestock, Plants, Seabed Mining, Moamoa Farm, Support Officer.

In 2012 the General Fono endorsed a recommendation by EDNRE to establish divisional offices on all three villages to carry out the main functions of the department as Fisheries division (Fakaofu), Economic Development Division (Nukunonu), Environment Division and Main Office (Atafu).

All divisional offices were headed by a Manager and equipped with appropriate staff to not only implement divisional annual work plans accordingly but also to enhance close working relationship between EDNRE and the villages.

In 2017, Fisheries gained a standalone government entity status hence EDNRE presence on Fakaofu became compromised.

Agriculture Division will not only continue EDNRE presence on Fakaofu but the bulk of the services allocated to this division are strategic to Tokelau biosecurity with Fakaofu being a frequent first port of call for vessels from Apia.

◆ **Margaret S Paul**

Tokelau welcome Jacinda Adern visit—Nukunonu Atoll

On Tuesday 30th of July 2019 it was a beautiful sunny day for the people of Nukunonu. A day that the people of Nukunonu were looking forward to meet Honourable Prime Minister of New Zealand. A trip that the whole nation were longing for. It has been 15 years the last visited from a Prime Minister of New Zealand. Today was a History for the whole nation; Honourable Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern led a delegation from New Zealand to visit Tokelau.

People of Nukunonu were patiently waiting with their colourful uniforms and their lovely traditional wear for the arrival of the Prime Minister Honourable Jacinda Ardern and her delegation.

They were arrived safely on the wharf and some members of the Taupulega of Nukunonu were ever ready to warmly welcome them.

Before Honourable PM Jacinda Ardern and her team landed their foot on Nukunonu land the Nukunonu Toa - Nukunonu warriors were performed a War dance .

This dance was performed not only for entertainment but was a traditional warrior dance to check the delegation were arrived whether a friendly visits or hostile visits.

“ Ko he toa eo he fenua ko tona tulaga e fakamautinoa e haogalemu tona fenua mai na Malaga e tau mai ki te Ava”.

Fakafehili te Malaga pe he Malaga a, tali mai te palemia he malaga manuia kua fakaulutonu mai ki gauta.

One of the Toa gave a signal to the Nuku that the Malaga was a friendly Malaga. The Nuku allowed the delegation to come on land. The Prime Minister and delegation received garlands from some of the School Children. Elders of the island were lined up to meet the PM and her delegations.

Matiti School were ready for the arrival of Honourable Prime Minister and her delegation. Two national Anthems were beautifully sung by Matiti School. One for Tokelau and one for New Zealand.

After sang the two national anthems, Matiti School were shown their excitement by waving the flags for both countries Tokelau and New Zealand. Also made their way to the school to organize and get ready for the PM and her team’s visit.

The delegation and the Nuku were seated and the Master of Ceremony then the General Manager for Taupulega Nukunonu started the Programme.

After all the formal programme and speeches, the delegation was prepared for the School’s visit. Women and men were cooked different kind of food for the PM and her team also for the whole Nuku.

Now it came to the last moment to say farewell to the Prime Minister and her team before they board HMNZS OTAGO on their way to Fakaofo.

People of Nukunonu were prepared the traditional dance for the farewell and provided gifts for the delegation.

PM was very surprised and very pleased to see the lovely presents from Nukunonu and mostly the carving piece where her baby’s name was carved on it.

“Never go with an empty hand” said Honourable PM of New Zealand. She said those words from her mum.

In return the Prime Minister also offered a gift to the people of Nukunonu and the Faipule Siopili Perez received the gift on behalf of Nukunonu.



PC: Litiā Maiava TNMO – Te Mana

◆ Faioa Ala

Formal Welcome from MC – GM Asifangalua Pasilio

- Opening Prayer - Deacon Halehio Lui
- Welcoming Words by the Elder of Nukunonu – Vaka Tavite
- Kava of Kava Ceremony
- Remarks by Prime Minister Hon. Jacinda Ardern
- Faipule Sio Perez Remarks followed by the presentation of the "Tifa" and the dance
- Remarks by Minister Kris Faafoi
- Remarks by Administrator Ross Ardern
- Brief introduction of the rest of the NZ delegation



MC: Asifangalua Pasilio



Honourable Prime Minister and her team were kindly welcomed by the Principal and Head girl and Head boy of Matiti School outside before they were entered the School's hall to meet the school children, teachers and support staff.

Head Boy – Atunaisa Ben
Head Girl – Malia Aleki



Prime Minister and her team visited Saint Joseph Hospital. All the St Joseph staffs were lined up to meet them then honourable Prime Minister and the team took a tour inside the hospital before cutting the ribbon for the new hospital Staff residence which is named after her

Jacinda Ardern Accomodation



As the PM travelled back to the HMNZS OTAGO, adults and children of Nukunonu stood on the wharf and all waved to the PM and said Tofa ni



Women's of Nukunonu was given the Privilege

During the Prime Minister Ms Honourable Jacinda Adern's visit to one of the beautiful island of Tokelau—Nukunonu; the Fatupaepae (Women association) had a privilege to sit down and discuss their issues with her honorable.

There were two issues were raised during the meeting:

- ◆ Women's health
- ◆ Climate Change

In discussion with the women about these issues, the women were encouraged to have their health checkups fortnightly to prevent and control non communicable diseases.

Furthermore, climate change was another issue that was raised by women as a major concern for each Nuku as it affected Tokelau as a whole in the land, lagoon and the lives of the people. They approached Honorable Prime Minister to address this as an issue to look at in the future and to assist them in any ways of adapting to climate change.

Ms Prime Minister responded in a positive way of donating 6 million dollars to the Department of Energy for upgrading the solar system in mid October 2019. She also informed the women about the CTG monitoring machine she donated to St. Joseph's hospital. This machine is of monitoring and recording the fetal heartbeat and the uterine contractions during pregnancy.

Honorable Ms Jacinda Adern was also impressed with the women's summit that was held in Atafu early this year. She encouraged the women to plan for another summit and to be based on women leadership when she might be able to attend.

The meeting was ended with presentation of gifts from Fatupaepae including carved handicrafts such as small local canoe, tuluma and hooks. These carving gifts were locally made by men of Nukunonu.

- ◆ **Sosefina Pase**



Photo Credit: Jnr Lahalo Sakaria

Prime Minister's visit to Fakaofu Island

Fakaofu has been in full three weeks preparations for the Prime Minister, Hon. Jacinda Adern visiting the Tokelau islands.

Strong workforce including Tialeniu School children with teachers, old and young ladies and gentlemen have seen played a big role for this working starting from the beginning every day from 7:00am up to 6:00pm. It was noticeable the big change, that is the Fakaofu's beautifulness that has been planted within this period by everyone. Well done folks!! Even though was tough and not so easy job but because everyone was so exciting and so looking forward for her visiting trip as a mother country to Tokelau. The Taupulega worked so hard on their own putting bit and pieces together before the Prime Minister step ashore.

There were venues (development projects) that the prime minister supposed to be visiting which sadly did not had the time to do so but she was seen happy and pleased about her visit to Fakaofu. Hon. Aliko Faipule Afega Gaulofa spoke on behalf of the Taupulega and the people of Fakaofu regarding all the big project and other developments that Fakaofu is currently working on during his Ministerial speech to the Government of New Zealand through the Prime Minister.

The prime minister also met Tialeniu School kids and teachers. For this she was so happy and proud that she planted a Kanava tree in the school compounds and was named after her.

- ◆ **Tavita Gaulofa**

Tokelau participated in Women Leadership in Meteorological and Hydrology Workshop



Group Photo



Group Presentations

Tokelau was amongst the invitees to participate in the workshop on Leadership for Women in Meteorological and Hydrology for Pacific Island Developing States in World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Regional Association V (South-West Pacific).

The objectives for this workshop were to:

- promote gender-sensitive leadership
- Strengthen the leadership skills and capacity of female professionals at the national level
- build experience in participating in an international meeting
- increase the number of women at PMC-5 and WMO constituent body meetings in the short-to medium-term.

This workshop was for Pacific women to be empowered, to gain knowledge and confidence in ourselves and our abilities particularly in a male-dominated field as well as learning how to deal with situations that we would feel discriminated or challenged in.

The workshop was opened by a word of prayer and welcoming remarks by WMO Representative for the South-West Pacific, Mr. Henry Taiki followed by the official opening address by the Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa and Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, the Honourable Fiame Naomi Mata'afa. Ms Mary Power WMO Director of development and regional activities department also delivered her remarks on behalf of WMO.

"Honor your needs, attend to them, understand them and address them because you can only take care of others if you take care of yourself first" says UN Resident Coordinator Dr. Simona Marinescu during her motivational speech.

The two day workshop was wrapped up with unique stories and how they are overcoming personal challenges professionally. I soon realized that it did not matter how different our levels of confidence, intelligence and expertise were because each of us had something to learn from one another. The concept of giving and receiving was a constant fundamental aspect throughout the workshop because it is part of how we empower, elevate and amplify for each other.

Within group sessions, we identified characteristics that we believe strong female leaders should have, identifying leadership characteristics within ourselves as well as sharing our challenges and giving and receiving words of advice, support and encouragement. Confidence-building was a key component of this workshop because the belief in one's ability to succeed enables us to free ourselves from the constraints of self-limiting attitudes, take action and persevere.

To be fearless and confident, I had to step out of my comfort zone and immerse myself in public speaking which I fear and I had somehow found confidence in myself with also the help of my fellow women who were there with me. As I learned from this workshop, we learn not from our experiences but from reflecting on them and until now I am still reeling from this workshop because that is how much it has had an impact on me.

I strongly recommend our colleagues and whomever to participate in similar workshops in the future. As Dr. Simona Marinescu stated, such experiences 'help you from your past to your becoming' and this experience definitely played a part in mine. I would love for others to be able to experience, learn and gain as much as I did in this workshop because not only did I walk out with faith in myself but also with a network of new friends and allies that I would turn to for knowledge, support and encouragement. At the end of the day, we serve ourselves in order for us to serve others.

Tokelau was represented to the workshop by Meteorological officers of Nukunonu and Atafu Ms Nerisa Malaki and Ms Teagai Tovio.

◆ **Teagai Tovio**

EDNRE staff boosts knowledge and skills on effective communications



Group activity on challenges faced by met directors with media

EDNRE staff enhances her knowledge on effective communications from a Mana Class facilitated by SPREP at Sheraton Hotel on the 2nd of August 2019 before attending the PMC meeting from the 5th -9th August 2019.

The training was officially opened by a representative of Seasoned Pacific journalist and President of the Pacific Environment Journalists Network, Mr Iliesa Tora, whereby participants were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and identify existing relationships their Met services have with local radio stations, as well as challenges they have with regards to either speaking live on radio or disseminating information on radio.

The aim of the training is to support Pacific Island Met Directors and other senior personnel of Meteorological Hydrological Services in their endeavour for effective communication skills through master classes in social media and radio. Hence the role of communications for Meteorological Services across the world is crucial to the well-being and survival of many Pacific island communities and people.

The purpose of this training is to reach your audience through social media and hearing you loud and clear on radio. This is to communicate information clearly and effectively to a wide audience helps enable effective preparedness for weather and climate impacts to come. Participants from small island pacific countries expressed their experience over radio in terms of alerting the community of disaster and climate hazards. Most of the countries have more than one radio stations except for Tuvalu, Marshall Islands, Nauru and Kiribati.

Tokelau shared its experience as a bit unique from other pacific countries as it does not have a radio station but uses other communication way for disseminating of information to the public in times of disaster and cyclones. It was something that captured the attention of the trainers and participants and needed to be addressed as an issue in the meteorological area.

Furthermore, the training was very beneficial to the attendees on how to raise awareness to communities and also to break down meteorological terminologies to other simple languages where the public can adapt to it and will be used as a daily common language. "We do not need to 'dumb down' our terminology and language. What we need to do is to raise people's understanding of that language" said Ms Moera Tuilaepa-Taylor of Radio New Zealand, one of the trainers for the Mana classes.

Mana Class encourages the met directors and communication staffs to develop their social media policy in order to clarify the rules of using social media account in the department and also for the security of staff and other risks.

Tokelau was represented by Tourism Officer/E-News Editor Ms Margaret S Paul under EDNRE department.

The training was financially co-funded by WMO, CREWS Initiative, Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Government of Samoa whereas the training support provided by Pacific Environment Journalists Network, Pacific Media Network and Radio New Zealand Pacific.

◆ **Margaret S Paul**

TOKELAU ATTENDED THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL MEETING—5



Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-5) participants

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) of the Government of Samoa hosted the Fifth meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-5) in Apia from 5th to 9th August 2019. The meeting brought together PMC's members, government officials from SPREP member countries and partners, to discuss, promote and explore opportunities to strengthen weather, climate, water and ocean services. Background history of the PMC.

The PMC is a specialized subsidiary body of SPREP created to facilitate and coordinate the scientific and technical activities of the Regional Meteorological Services in region. The PMC comprises the Directors/heads of Meteorological Services of SPREP Members with the aim to strengthening capacity, safety, well-being, and development aspirations of the people of the Pacific during the provision of weather, climate, and related development services by: (i) providing an open forum for members to discuss and collaborate on issues related to the advancement of meteorological services in the Pacific; (ii) building on mutual and complementary strengths to develop innovative approaches that help sustain national and regional development goals stated by each nation; and (iii) collaborating with partner organizations and agencies in related sectors to achieve development objectives.

Participants from the EDNRE department achieved all their goals that they set out to discuss during the meeting. Tokelau was also able to highlight that for Tokelau data is vital, it helps with risk assessments, and breaking down data silos to improve Meteorological and Hydrology data accuracy by using a multi-layered approach to validate Met and Hydro data.

We mentioned that since 1990 our rain gages have been damaged, and we have not been able to keep accurate data since that time, until recently through the New Zealand MFAT FUNDED Project, 'Strengthening Water Security in Vulnerable state Islands', three water gages have since been commissioned on all three atolls.

Through the same project, a recent survey conducted by SPC, using state of the art technology to scan for underground water on the three main settlements of Tokelau, it was detected that our underground water lenses, is storage to nearly 160 million litres of fresh water that can be harvested in future.

We updated the Meteorological council that the Met Services in Tokelau has been in progress over the years under the care of the ENDRE. At present, we have one semi-automatic weather station that has been installed, and another 2 to be installed in the near future. The department is hoping to collect consistent monthly data with the hope to develop a prominent centralized database that will enable us to do Tokelau's weather forecast in the future. Tokelau used the opportunity to express our faafetai and faamalo to Samoa Met for preparing and translation of our weather forecast.

We also expressed appreciation to the WMO for allocating funds to improve technical equipment's and operational metrological equipment's; however Tokelau looks forward to a more promising outcome as per our proposal.

Tokelau proposed the establishment of a FM Radio through to WMO as a Disaster Risk Management tool that will take updates on weather and disaster related program to all people in Tokelau.

At the CREWS steering committee meeting, Tokelau received welcomed news that the FM Radio communication tool is part of the annual work plan over the next few months.

◆ *Hans Wesche*

12TH PWWA CONFERENCE AND 5TH WATER MINISTERIAL FORUM



Ministers of Water Sector from Pacific Region



is in line with the national and universal Sustainable Development Goal 6.

The event was co-hosted by the Vanuatu Government and Vanuatu water utility UNELCO. Last year's event was held in New Caledonia. The 2020 13th PWWA Conference and 6th Water Ministers Forum will be hosted by the Cook Island Government.

Tokelau was represented at the 12th PWWA Conference and 5th PWWA Ministerial Forum by Hon. Elehi Kelihiano Kalolo, Director of EDNRE Mikaele Perez and Environment Officer Christian Perez.

Australia's first appearance at PWWA Forum applauded

Australia's Assistant Defence Minister and Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Hon. Alex Hawke, has been applauded for being the first Australian minister ever to attend a Pacific Water and Wastewater Association (PWWA) Ministerial Forum.

Australia for stepping in, in terms of investment in the Pacific, PWWA Chairman Taviri also urged all governments to act faster on climate change and response to the needs of their people for water. "I want to invite other utilities who are not part of PWWA to become members.

We are prepared to bring them in despite their lack of financial membership," he said. "We want everyone to unite and work together to deliver the universal water and sanitation sustainable development goals. "I also want to appeal to allied utilities from Australian and NZ companies with expertise to come and work with us, including those from New Caledonia." The PWWA Chairman is also the current Manager of Water PNG and Acting Manager of Eda Ranu, the water utilities in Papua New Guinea.

Tokelau was represented to the meeting by Hon. Kelihiano Kalolo and director of EDNRE Mr. Mika Perez

◆ *Mika Perez*

Around 300 delegates attended the 5th Wastewater Ministerial Forum (5 - 6 August) and the 12th Pacific Water and Wastewater Conference and Exhibition (7 - 9 August) in Port Vila, Vanuatu with the theme "Small Island Water".

The delegates included ministers for water sectors around the Pacific region, members of the Pacific Water and Wastewater Association (public utilities, affiliated and allied), young utility personnel and stakeholders. Vanuatu Prime Minister, Charlot Salwai, opened the event at the National Convention Center following welcome remarks by the Minister of Lands, Alfred Maoh.

The meetings ran in parallel at Warwick Le Lagon from Monday 5 to Friday 9 August with exhibitions by water technologists from Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia, and Fiji. Each Pacific minister for water presented on their respective countries issues related to water, hygiene and sanitation during the two day ministerial forum component.

In the official's component, various technical presentations and discussions were some of the main activities. Young water professionals component of the forum offered an opportunity for future young leaders from government ministries and utilities around the Pacific to experience and gain knowledge and more about their specific trades. 'Smart Island Water' is the theme of this year's event, which

PWWA, which is the collective voice for the Pacific on water related issues at the regional and international level has been in existence for more than two decades.

The attendance of the Australian Minister at the 5th PWWA Ministerial Forum in Port Vila this week was "a win" for the association. According to the PWWA Chairman, Raka Junior Taviri, Minister Hawke announced a funding facility from which Pacific countries can take funds from to rehabilitate and improve infrastructures in his recent to Port Vila for the annual Wastewater Ministerial Forum.

"Australia and New Zealand as our two big brother and sister countries must accept that we are their closest neighbors. They have to come and help us out. If they don't, where do we go and we don't have other options," he said. "We want them (NZ and Australia) to come on board. We need all countries to come together at the political level and accept the fact that we have issues in terms of water and sanitation. We need regional cooperation. "The annual Wastewater Ministerial Forum intends to get the water agenda to the bilateral and multilateral levels where the funds are there. We want many investments and funds as much as possible. "We are trying to use PWWA as our unified voice at the international arena." PWWA has 21 member countries and 30 utilities across the country. While acknowledging



Environment Officer attended the 12th PWW Conference and Expo

“Smart island water” was this year’s theme at the 12th Pacific Waste Water Conference and Expo which was held in Port Villa on the 5th – 9th of August 2019. Like previous years this programme is set to enhance young water professionals across the Pacific region with various training programmes, networking and learning from different water events happening within the region.

Various issues from the Pacific was discussed in the workshop, whereas colleagues from other Pacific Islands did presentations on ways in which they helped preserve/ manage their water supply, not only out in the field but also in terms of finance where the consumer is involved.

This was an eye opener as some of the topics discussed could be used and implemented in Tokelau. For instance we all know Tokelau relies heavily on rain water, but have we ever considered using ground water? Representatives from American Samoa discussed on well drilling and Ground Water Exploration. How they have carried out such project, the effort they put in and the end results. YWP were also fortunate to have donors from around the Pacific to discuss their work within the region and the benefits people get to receive. Tokelau at this stage is working with the SPC (South Pacific Community) Water sector to explore Underground Water alternatives in Tokelau. This is to enhance water supply for non-consumption activities in Tokelau, such as water usage for building infrastructure housing. It was a good learning curve being able to listen and observe how other Pacific regions utilise their underground water alternatives and especially engaging whether such projects are sustainable for Tokelau.

Overall the Conference was a humble experience indeed. One cannot say networking, engaging, knowledge sharing and learning stops, because I believe it never ends. Youth Water professionals including myself gathered for those very purposes towards enhancing the importance of “Smart Island Water” in the Pacific.

◆ **Chris Perez**

The South Pacific Tourism Organisation welcomes Tokelau into the SPTO Family

The South Pacific Tourism Organisation welcomes Tokelau as its 20th Pacific Island member country and looks forward to working with the Tokelauan Government in sustainably developing and promoting the country as a destination, said SPTO Chief Executive Officer, Chris Cocker.

“Tokelau’s membership was endorsed by the SPTO Council of Tourism Ministers in Apia, Samoa, last year. This month, we were formally advised that the decision to join SPTO Family was endorsed by the Tokelau National Parliament last month,” said Mr., Cocker.

Tokelau is located between New Zealand and Hawaii and accessed by sea via Samoa, as there is no airport, “Our isolation is our main constraint. Our nearest neighbor is Samoa about 500 kilometres to the south of Tokelau. Sometimes tourists discover the existence of Tokelau when they visit Samoa” said Mr. Mika Perez, Director of the Tokelau Department of Economic Development, Natural Resources and Environment.

“Tourism is on an ad-hoc basis, and we are looking at building our capacity in the sector in partnership with SPTO. We want to provide an alternative source of livelihood for our people as we have so much to offer. Our three main islands are situated in pristine environments, with vast flora and fauna and we have a unique culture and potential for tourism.” said Mr. Perez.

Mr. Perez is confident that Tokelau will contribute to the region’s tourism sector in the coming years. Mr. Cocker agreed with Mr. Perez, “The Pacific competes destinations in the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean and South East Asia who all offer unique environments. Our diverse Culture and the unique experiences in our twenty Pacific Island member countries are our competitive advantage and Tokelau’s uniqueness as an “off-the-beaten track destination” has much to offer visitors. We look forward to working with the Tokelau Government and people.”

(Source: SPTO Press Release 15 August 2019)

"Always laugh when you can. It is a cheap medicine."

A man saw a lion in the bush he knelt down and closed his eyes and started praying. When he opened his eyes, he saw the lion kneeling down in front of him praying too. What a Shock!!! The man asked the lion. Are you a Christian? The lion replied:
Stupid, don't you pray before you eat.



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Upcoming Events

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- ◆ Economic Update Issues
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