

# The Benefits of Sustaining Capacity Development in the Pacific based on the AFD/GEFPAS Regional Waste Management Training

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# Problems in the Pacific

- Increase in waste generation
- Limited availability of land for landfills (atolls)
- Remoteness of Islands
- Small, sparse populations
- Limited institutional and human capacity



# Vocational Training Program

- SPREP's Regional Waste Management Vocational Training Program has been running since 2013 initially under AFD funding and subsequently under GEF-PAS funding. Griffith University was initially contracted to design and deliver the program with FNU as the host.
- The program has trained over 60 participants since its inception and achieved the objectives.
- The project has been able to deliver high-quality trainers with sound knowledge of the 'hardware' of waste management (technology) and 'software' of waste management (policy and strategy). Such knowledge has benefited the PICTs in solving their waste management issues and challenges. Creation of 'local champions' is a key long-term benefit of the program.

# MODULE 1 - WASTE MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

- **Unit 1** Introduction to waste management
- **Unit 2** Waste to resources
- **Unit 3** Policy and strategic approaches to waste management
- **Unit 4** Waste characterisation
- **Unit 5** Collection, transfer and transport
- **Unit 6** Recycling and Return
- **Unit 7** Composting
- **Unit 8** Waste to Energy
- **Unit 9** Cleaner production and green growth
- **Unit 10** Awareness communication and education
- **Unit 11** Project Management



# MODULE 2 - LANDFILL MANAGEMENT

- **Unit 12** Introduction to waste disposal sites
- **Unit 13** Landfill site selection
- **Unit 14** Sanitary landfill Design and Construction
- **Unit 15** Fukuoka (semi-aerobic) landfill design and construction
- **Unit 16** Landfill monitoring and closure

# MODULE 3 - HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

- **Unit 17**      **Hazardous waste management**
- **Unit 18**      **Disaster Waste Management**
- **Unit 19**      **Hazardous waste collection, storage and disposal**
- **Unit 20**      **Emerging hazardous waste streams**
- **Unit 21**      **Hazardous waste regulations**
- **Unit 22**      **Regional waste management**

# Program Delivery

- Formal Lectures (opportunity to learn)
- Daily presentations by participants on topics covered (opportunity to share the experiences) on covered topic areas
- Field Visits
- Project development and presentations

# Opinion of Past Participants

- *“Personally believe that Regional Solid Waste management Training has played a key role in terms of capacity building of SWM practitioners from around PICs and at same time enabled the sharing of good practices, lessons learnt and various challenges”*
- *“The training also contributed towards establishing a cleaner Pacific Alumni network which acts as a platform to discuss burning issues evolving around SWM. Hence, the training shall be sustained with more active role to be played by former participants”.*

*Shalend Prem Singh*

*Senior Health Inspector - Lautoka City Council*



# Opinion of Past Participants

- *“As I embark on a higher mission of working as a manager, my learnings and insights from the course have greatly helped me personally, to better plan, manage, and make priority programs in areas of SWM. Sharing success stories from our PIC professional colleagues and networking just added on to the already highly effective learning from the program”*
- *“I am truly grateful to be a part of a network of SWM professionals whose knowledge and resources will certainly develop a very resourceful pool of practitioners in SWM for our small PICs”*

***Naresh Narayan***

***Senior Health Inspector (Operations), Suva City Council***

# Opinion of Past Participants

- *“Regional Solid Waste Management Training was a great initiative that has assisted our Department of Waste Management in building up capacity in managing waste in Tuvalu. The training has given us the opportunity to share as well as to learn from other PICs the success stories of managing waste in an environmentally friendly manner”*
- *“I believe that the Regional Solid Waste Management Training should be a continuous initiative that will benefit the PICs in the area of proper waste management and the training should be extended to the National level to reach out to more potential trainers in the country”*

***Susana Minute Telakau***

***Director of Department of Waste Management, Tuvalu***

# Need for Sustaining Capacity Building

- Training and Capacity building in waste management and resource recovery is a 'Journey' and not a 'Destination'.
- Newer tools are emerging to assist waste managers in finding answers to waste management issues.
- The role of waste management is changing significantly from the limited scope of dealing with wastes to the broader scale of resource recirculation (circular economy).
- Implementing resource efficiency related policies and programmes are inherently a multi-stakeholder process which calls for multilayer partnerships within and between communities, businesses, industries and government sector

# Way Forward (Key Messages)

- Waste management training and capacity building can be effectively accomplished only by conveying both appropriate content and applying proven teaching and learning processes.
- Success and sustainability will depend on whether we have groomed a champion to drive the agenda at work, and how much post-training mentoring to provide new knowledge, as it evolves
- Involve the past participants in the delivery of the training. They can boost the confidence and bring useful case studies
- Provide funding for undertaking demonstration projects that can be replicated in the region. Subsequent funding to be decided upon KPIs
- Consolidate highly successful training programs (AFD/GEF PAS, JICA JPRISM) into a single program possibly leading to a formal recognition of learning (Certificate/Diploma)