



01 October – 31 December 2019

# NEWSLETTER

## Merry Christmas

### SPC Pacific High-Level Dialogue on Water and Sanitation, 25 November 2019 Suva Fiji

By: Secretariat



On 25 November 2019, the Director General of the Pacific Community convened a one-day meeting of a cross-section of representatives of the

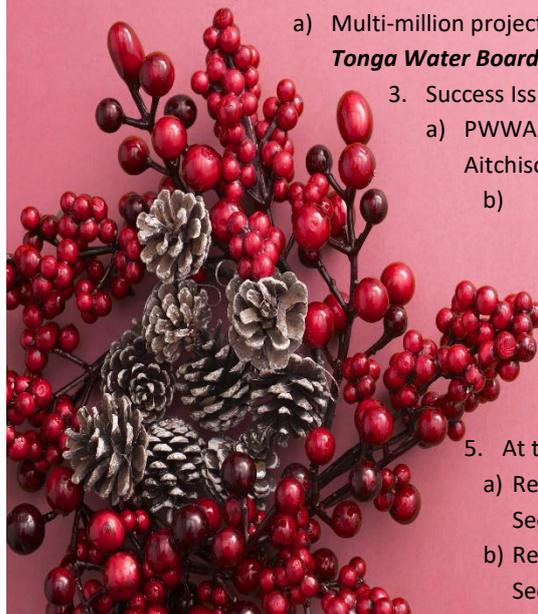
Pacific island countries and partner agencies in order to seek strategic advice on what is needed to accelerate action towards access to safe and resilient water and sanitation for all Pacific islanders by 2030. Our Chairperson, and CEO were invited to attend, however due to the declared State of Emergency Samoa was in which required all government CEOs to assist, the Chairperson was unable to attend.

The CEO attended on behalf of PWWA and presented together with Halston Wani deBrum of Majuro Water of the Marshall Islands on the work of PWWA in the region, highlighting the capacity building programs for young professionals, governance and benchmarking, but also

political leadership and ownership engendered through having an annual conference and annual Water Ministers Forum. PWWA specifically sought increased support by partners to strengthen local capacity for resilience to the impacts of disaster and climate change, and sustainability of investments.

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The one-day Dialogue resulted in a Call to Action – calling on Pacific island governments and partners to engage in a broader dialogue, make commitments to prioritise water and sanitation investments, and take urgent and immediate action to:

1. Increase support to strengthen local capacity for resilience;
2. Invest in evidence-based decision-making;
3. Strengthen leadership on water and sanitation;
4. Harness advocacy for change;
5. Coordinate efforts across sectors; and
6. Establish effective frameworks for action.



#### Why This Call?

SPC says in its Call to Action that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes a goal (SDG 6) and targets for universal access to safe and affordable drinking-water, adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and ending open defecation. SDG6 is widely recognized as an enabling goal, critical to achievement of many other SDGs.



But, far too many of our Pacific peoples continue to live without access to safe and resilient water and sanitation, and far too many live with a disproportionately high exposure to the risk of water-related disasters. The data provided by countries indicates that approximately half of the Pacific population lives without access to basic drinking water facilities, and more than two-thirds live without access to basic sanitation. It is not that no action is being taken. Every country in the region is making progress in increasing access to water and sanitation. The issue is that in too many cases national efforts are not keeping pace with population growth, disaster setbacks and the accelerating impacts of climate change.

The disparities in access and challenges to progress in Pacific island countries vary from other regions and countries in important ways, and these differences need to be considered when discussing how the Pacific region might progress towards the SDG water and sanitation targets.

SPC recognized there are many actors and stakeholders in water and sanitation in the Pacific, and not all could be present at this initial dialogue. We expect this dialogue will continue but as a first attempt, the dialogue has indeed captured increased attention of countries and especially partners to the sheer magnitude of the task at hand in the Pacific region in the next decade.

## PWWA'20 SET THE DATES



The graphic features a yellow background with a cluster of colorful circles on the left, two large chevron arrows (one red, one green) in the center, and a blue circle on the right containing the text 'Cook Islands'. Below the circles is a yellow plumeria flower. To the right of the flower is a bulleted list of event details.

**5-9 October  
2020**

**Cook  
Islands**

- Pacific Water Ministerial Forum
- PWWA Conference and Expo

**MORE UPDATES COMING UP SOON SO  
WATCH THIS SPACE**



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS



From: Tonga Water Board, Tonga

## Multi-million Project boosts Nuku'alofa Water Service



HM King Tupou VI unveiled a plaque, at Mata-ki-'Eua, Tongatapu, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 to mark the completion of a USD\$16.7 million project that was

launched in 2011, funded by Asian Development Bank and the Australian Aid.

# SUCCESS ISSUES OF PWWA

## PWWA BOARD MEMBER NEW ROLE – GARY AITCHISON

FROM: Secretariat



Mr. Gary Aitchison, previous Export Manager of Hydroflow NZ as known throughout the Pacific region; and board member of the Pacific Water and Wastewater Association is now General Manager of Pipeline Products NZ & Pacific at Derwent Industries NZ Ltd. He is an

experienced water expert with a demonstrated history of working through out the Pacific Islands in the potable and non-potable water infrastructure markets. Mr. Aitchison was given the PWWA honours as Water Professional of the Year at its Annual Conference in Port Vila, Vanuatu 2019. He continues to support and provide for the Pacific Utilities in terms of water professional developments and trade.

Once again, Pacific Water and Wastewater Association acknowledges the great promotion of Mr. Gary Aitchison, Allied member and long standing humble supporter of PWWA as General Manager by profession.

## PWWA FOUNDER YOUNG WATER PROFESSIONAL SEALS HIGHER POLITICAL POSITION IN MARSHALL ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

FROM: Secretariat



Kitlang also known as 'Kitti' Kabua has been with Kwajalein Atoll Joint Utility Resources (KAJUR), Inc. since January 2015, as the Special Adviser to the Senior Management Team. She is a graduate

of American University in Washington, DC where she received her BA in Economics. Kitlang works with the Electricity, Water and Wastewater Utilities under KAJUR, inputting data and analyzation. She was also one of the first Young Water Professionals since its inception in 2017.

From the Water sector to being a member of Parliament is a dream come true to this great

contributor of PWWA YWP's program according to Ms. Kabua in her status posted in Tweeter.

"I am a young Marshallese woman running for a Kwajelin Senate seat in the November 2019 elections. I am passionate about helping my people and I can be an agent of change. I have gained greater insights into the work of #Parliament through this training" - Kitlang Kabua

She is now an elected female of Parliament joining the Nitijela. PWWA congratulates Ms. Kabua's great achievement and wishes her well in her new appointment, hoping to make change in the water sector in the Marshall Islands and the Pacific region through her reign as MP.

Additional fallout from the 18 November election is the reduction in the number of women in the new parliament to two women out of 33 MPs. Both Daisy Alikik-Momotaro and Armenta Mathew did not get re-elected whilst President Hilda Heine was re-elected, together with newly elected female MP Kitlang Kabua joining the Nitijela.

## MOERK WATER BRINGS CLEAN WATER TO WHERE IT IS NEEDED

Our mission at Moerk Water (Perth, Australia) is to deliver drinking water to remote communities and areas through decentralised, robust and sustainable water treatment technology powered by renewable energy. Our technology treats a wide range of water types from sea water or brackish water to contaminated water into



safe drinking water that meets WHO water quality standards. We put a strong emphasis on using simplified technology that is easy to operate and maintain. To support the local community, we provide education

on operation and maintenance of our technology and deliver technical support to ensure a dependable source of water. This ongoing support system has been proven to be a success factor for our projects since 2011. Moerk Water's holistic solution creates local jobs, promotes local business development and works to strengthen and equip local communities.

We are honoured to have made a significant impact on the lives and health of the people in many areas in the Pacific. Our projects in Vanuatu, Milne Bay (Papua New Guinea), and Kiribati are especially outstanding. Following you can read more about how the lives of these people have been impacted; During a visit of the project together with an international delegation on his home island of Uripiv in Vanuatu, Hon. Ralph Regenvanu (MP) Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade (Vanuatu) said: "First time in history of our island we have a source of water which is reliable. When the rainwater tanks

are empty, groundwater is not the best to drink. Whatever happens, we have a source of freshwater to drink." Brad, a Mission volunteer, who lives on Uripiv expressed his gratitude and said: "We've never gone past December 1st before without a big rain to end the dry season here on Uripiv.



above: Moerk Water solar powered RO 150 l/hr seawater treatment; the "Little sister" of the 300 l/hr RO Desalination machine in Vanuatu

But we're still waiting for the big rain to come this year. I don't know of any family - including our own - that has any rain left in rain tanks. We are all depending on the desalination project for clean water at the moment.

The Uripiv people are even sharing the water with family members from a nearby island that have even less water than

we do." These are strong testimonies for the success of the solar powered, reverse osmosis desalination plant which provides 800 islanders with 280 litre per hour of safe drinking water all year-round. In 2018, the Moerk Water team, together with the health centre, the Water Department, the Water

Committee of Uripiv and local NGO (V2Life) installed this unit. One year after the installation and successful operation, the Moerk Water ran another training for the daily operator. We were thrilled to see with how much enthusiasm and great care they operate the unit on a daily basis.



*above:* Moerk Water Director Martin Brezger (on the right) on his visit to support the project and to listen to their needs. He spoke with the local team, representatives of the Water Department, the Water committee, Health Department and daily operator and Roger Sutter (2<sup>nd</sup> on the left), the V2Life Vanuatu Coordinator.

Another success story takes place in East Cape Village, Milne Bay (PNG), where the local school can stay open during the drought season for the first year thanks to the reliable and sufficient water supply. After more than one year of successfully running the Moerk Water installed system, we also trained a female teacher and others as additional daily operators to ensure the reliability and sustainability. The solar powered unit produces 1,000 litres per hour of safe drinking water treated by a nanofiltration system. 800 East Cape Villagers, the staff and patients of the local health care centre and more than 350 students of the primary and elementary schools benefit from this project. In addition to this, 2,000 people living in neighbouring islands and communities also receive safe

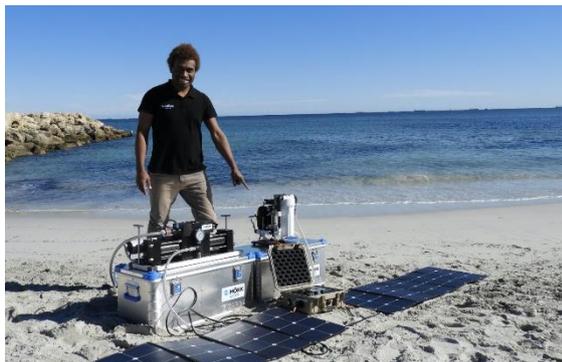
drinking water thanks to this project. In collaboration with YWAM Medical Ships Australia, we brought 600 drinking bottles to Moerk Water projects all over Alotau District. All the students love having their own water bottle that they can refill with clean and safe drinking water as often as they like! This sustainable drinking water bottle project was done in an effort to promote the prevention of plastic waste entering our water streams, rivers and oceans.

Furthermore, we are thrilled to be delivering three solar powered RO desalination plants to Kiribati thanks to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy in our latest project. Each unit has a capacity of 250 litres per hour of clean drinking water. The units are on their way to their installation location at the moment. We are excited to implement this project soon and to meet the people who will benefit from it.



Lastly, at Moerk Water we strongly care about the quality and reliability of our technology, but we also care about the people in our projects and our community. We are proud to be industry partners of Curtin University, Murdoch University and UWA. We were honoured to have Robert Iromelafo from Solomon Islands, a Master student from Curtin University, learn and work with us through his internship. He recently returned home to Solomon Island to apply the knowledge he has gained during his studies and work on sustainable drinking water solutions. We are excited to see all the accomplishments he will achieve in pursuing

his goal to ensure that everyone in his country will have access to clean water.



< Robert while demonstrating how to assemble and use our portable and solar powered 30 litre per hour unit

Another valuable Moerk Water intern, Paka Melton a former Bachelor Student from Murdoch University, Perth recently returned

home to Tuvalu: "During my internship at Moerk Water, I have learnt on how to operate the RO units powered by solar in the workshop. I am pleased to apply my knowledge and skills on what I have learnt at Moerk Water back in Tuvalu. This will help the community to rely on purified drinking water from seawater. Also, these skills will allow myself to teach the people of Tuvalu to maintain and operate RO units in future."

For more information please visit our website at [www.moerkwater.com.au](http://www.moerkwater.com.au) or write us an email to

[barbara.brezger@moerkwater.com.au](mailto:barbara.brezger@moerkwater.com.au)

Please follow us on Facebook or Instagram to learn more and see all our latest developments!

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## AT THE SECRETARIAT

### Re-appointment of PWWA Secretariat's Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Secretariat



commended the hard work the CEO has done

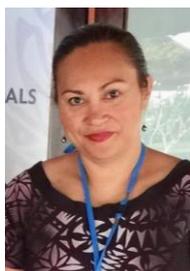
In November, the Board of Directors re-appointed the incumbent CEO, Ms Pitolau Lusua Sefo Leau for another term of 3 years as Head of the PWWA Secretariat and CEO of PWWA. The Board

for the past three years and welcomed her back to continue for another three years.



### Re-appointment of PWWA Secretariat's Finance & Corporate Administrator

FROM: Secretariat



The Board has also approved in its November meeting, the re-appointment of Vaipa Lui Tafeamaalii for another term of 3 years as Finance & Corporate Administrator

effective on February 2020 to 2023. The FCA was also complimented on her contribution to PWWA for the last three years and welcomed her to another three years.

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## ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

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<b>Dates</b>	<b>EVENTS</b>
4-6 February	AWP Partners Workshop 2020 – Sydney, Australia
16 March	Board meeting – Sydney, Australia
5-9 October	Annual Conference – Cook Islands

### **PACIFIC WATER AND WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION SECRETARIAT**

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