

Onwards and upwards for Papua New Guinea's National Fisheries College

Jeff Kinch, Principal

The National Fisheries College (NFC) of Papua New Guinea (PNG) had a successful year in 2015, resulting in various achievements and advancements, some of which are described below.

To support fisheries training across PNG, NFC has been providing valuable training materials and capacity building opportunities to Technical and Vocational Educational Training (TVET) institutions in PNG's maritime provinces. This programme has been developed and implemented by NFC's Deputy Principal, Matia Rikis, and assists TVET institutions by providing training opportunities to students who want to obtain employment in PNG's fisheries sector. A similar programme will be implemented in 2016 for both post-harvest operations and aquaculture training.

To support capacity building in the Pacific Islands region, NFC hosted Ratu Apenisa Sauturaga from Fiji, who was attached with NFC's Pacific Island Regional Fisheries Observer (PIRFO) Training Program for six weeks, to complete an ongoing PIRFO trainer development attachment programme that was supported by the European Union's DevFish2 project and the Forum Fisheries Agency. In addition, two Tuvaluans, Uni Satalaka and Taula Kaio, from the Tuvalu Maritime Training Institute were also trained.

The Head of Fisheries Training at the Kiribati Maritime and Fisheries Training College, Ritang Ubaitoi along with one of his instructors, Bauro Uerem, visited NFC to observe the delivery of the college's Purse-seine Deckhand Course. NFC also provided training to two South Koreans from Dongwon Ltd, Sangwoo Park and Ah Ram Yoo. NFC Instructors also delivered trainings for other Pacific Island neighbours, with the delivery of post-harvest operation courses in the Solomon Islands for SolTuna and National Fisheries Development Ltd, which was supported by DevFish2. The college also provided post-harvest operation training in Samoa in conjunction with SPC.

In order to improve post-harvest operation courses at NFC, a consultation workshop on the Post-Harvest Training Package or Curriculum was conducted, and was attended by quality assurance managers, production managers and human resource managers from various processing companies in PNG. The purpose of the consultation workshop was to agree on the final competencies or units required for certificates 1, 2, 3 and 4, and for a diploma in post-harvest operations.



The National Fisheries College fisheries training vessels FTV Pokajam and FTV Maliu (image: Jeff Kinch).

Following several audits by the National Maritime Safety Authority (NMSA), NFC now has approval to conduct training in the mandatory requirements for safety familiarisation (STCW-VI/1) and security (STCW-VI/6). NFC is also hoping to gain approval to conduct Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel compliance in 2016. Staff in the Commercial Fisheries Operations programme also obtained their Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) certificates, which means that SOLAS courses can now be run at NFC. A Fire Fighting Complex and Sea Safety Survival Centre have been built at NFC, and the college has been upgrading its facilities, including two new buildings: one for Student Services and the other one to house NFC's new library.

NFC has been assisting NMSA with the newly developed Marine Order concerning Fishing Boat Operations and Qualifications. Once this legislation is approved, NFC will be in a strong position to continue providing quality training for people wishing to be part of PNG's fisheries sector, and thus contributing to the aspirations of Vision 2050 and other development policies implemented by the national government.