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EU PacTVET

European Union Pacific Technical and Vocational Education and
Training on Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Adaptation Project



EUROPEAN UNION PACIFIC TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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The European Union. The Pacific Community. The University of the South Pacific

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European Union PacTVET Project

Project Overview Brief

Background

The European Union Pacific Technical and Vocational Educational and Training in Sustainable Energy (SE) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) project or EU PacTVET is the *Third* component of a larger programme: Adapting to Climate Change and Sustainable Energy. The European Union funded PacTVET project is a €1.1 million project currently being implemented by The Pacific Community (SPC) and The University of the South Pacific (USP).

The programme aims: *“To enhance sustainable livelihoods, strengthen countries’ capabilities to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and enhance their energy security at the national, provincial and local/ community levels in fifteen Pacific Island Countries.” (Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste (East Timor), Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.)*

The project commenced with a needs analysis on a national basis which revealed that FORMAL qualifications were required for “genuine” capacity building in the areas of SE and CCA – with particular emphases on recognition of “Resilience” (climate change adaptation and disaster risk management) as an employment sector for the region – and professionalization of this sector. National stakeholders were keen to ensure opportunities for learning via formal qualifications were available to all people affected by climate change, meaning that the capacity building opportunities offered by the qualifications should be applicable across the board from grassroots community members to government and private sector managers. This has

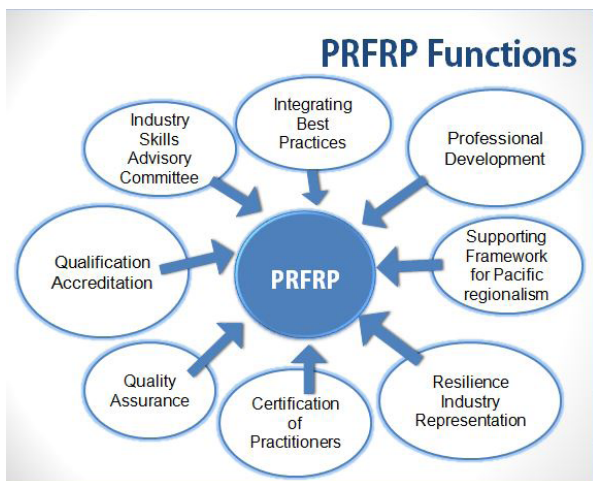
led to the qualifications being constructed around a “competency” and “skill-set” approach. This means that people can pick what competencies they need to “up-skill” in order to improve their own capacity – a menu of competencies and skill sets are available within the qualifications. Completing a range of units will build into a full qualification. Countries can deliver different aspects of the qualifications (i.e. competencies which build into skill sets which build into a qualification) according to their own needs. National providers have been identified (e.g. Cook Islands Tertiary Training Institute, Kiribati Institute of Technology, the School in Tuvalu is Motufoua Secondary School) who will deliver different skill sets. Additionally, as qualifications are regional, skill sets will be mutually recognized and can be built upon by completing competencies/skill sets at more than one educational provider.

Breaking New Ground: World First achievements in TVET Education

National stakeholders guided project progress and led to **3 Global firsts** for the EU PacTVET Project with support from all 15 countries:

1. **Provisional regional, rather than national agreement on government sanctioned qualifications** – Regional Certificates 1-4 in SE and Regional Certificates 1-4 in Resilience. We now have our first truly regional qualifications as Certificates 1 and 2 in SE have been accredited as Regional Certificates in Sustainable Energy by the Educational Quality & Assessment Programme.
2. **A new TVET subject area:** The development of formal qualifications at levels 1-4 on the PQF, which cover the subject area of “Resilience” (CCA and DRR). Qualification strands include: agriculture, coastal management, energy and infrastructure, fisheries, forestry, health, tourism and water resources.
3. **The recognition and professionalization of a “Resilience Sector”** via the creation of the Pacific Regional Federation of Resilience Professionals (PRFRP).

Pacific Regional Federation of Resilience Professionals



The PRFRP is an industry advisory association which was launched at the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management on October 26th, 2016 in Suva, Fiji.

The purpose of the PRFRP is to support certification of resilience professionals and industry recognition of the Resilience qualifications through a sustainable maintenance and quality control mechanism via regional Industry Standard Advisory Committees (ISACs); the Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands (SEIAPI) fulfils a similar role for sustainable energy practitioners.

More precisely, the PRFRP is the body where practitioners and members of the science and technology community will meet and discuss the essential skills and knowledge to be included in the resilience qualifications.

The PRFRP will provide their advice to, and will be the regional ISAC for, the Regional Certificates in Resilience. The Education Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP), along with national accreditation agencies, will be responsible for the accreditation of the new qualifications.

The PRFRP benefits the entire community of resilience practitioners from the grassroots to project managers by facilitating certification and ensuring sustainability of formal educational courses in resilience and sustainable energy covering thematically together more than ten strands: from tourism and health to energy and agriculture.

This wide coverage ensures a full cyclical economically viable framework to sustainable ecosystem services in the region, hence enhancing implementation of projects such as Ridge-to-Reef (R2R).

Progress so far

As of November 2016, the EU PacTVET project has had 3 major regional meetings with representatives from the 15 Pacific countries, private sector, donor agencies, other stakeholders and development partners the European Union.

Endorsement of national and regional TVET qualifications in the fields of “Resilience” and “Sustainable Energy” and project activities at all levels have been obtained via these meetings. A key partnership with the Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC) was formed in order to develop the new regional qualifications.

Milestones

- The regional Training Needs and Gaps analysis was completed in all 15 countries by October 2015.
- The EU-PacTVET project has partnered with the Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC) and the Educational Quality & Assessment Programme (EQAP) to develop and accredit regional TVET qualifications in SE and Resilience.
- A Regional Industry Standards Advisory Committee (ISAC) for both SE and Resilience was established to provide technical input to the competency-based qualifications. 3 Regional ISAC meetings have been held, plus an on-line forum hosted by the FHEC. Outcomes include: endorsement of qualifications content for Certificate levels 1 to 4; agreement on the process to obtain regional accreditation through EQAP. National accreditation processes are done individually with each country.
- Delivery of the first ever certificate level course in climate change and disaster risk reduction through the Vanuatu Institute of Technology in partnership with GIZ and the Vanuatu Ministries of Education and Climate Change.

- Support to train the trainers based at national TVET institutions for delivery of Certs 1 to 4 qualifications/ skillsets/ competencies.
- Advocacy with donors on “accredited training for genuine capacity building”
- In parallel, with EQAP accreditation processes, levels 3 and 4 in Resilience are currently in the process of being accredited by USP. They have received approval from the USP Senate and are expected to be offered in 12 countries by 2018.
- Development of online learning resources for all qualifications.
- Building the membership body and establishing the PRFRP.

Accolades

The EU PacTVET Project has been the recipient of 2 awards in 2016 for its ground breaking work in the areas of addressing climate change adaptation:

- Special award for research having most impact in Pacific Islands Region from the International Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific Region (Springer Scientific Publishers).
- Special Recognition Award from the International Vocational Education and Training Association (IVETA) World TVET Conference 2016 for advancing TVET education in climate change adaptation.

Recommendations from energy Ministers

Based on the findings of the EU PacTVET needs and gap analysis and stakeholder meetings, at the THIRD PACIFIC REGIONAL ENERGY AND TRANSPORT MINISTERS’ MEETING (Nuku’alofa, Tonga, 27 April 2017), the Ministers:

- i. Agreed that the region’s capacity building and training on sustainable energy should be based on formal accredited TVET qualifications and supported continuing

- research and development in the area of sustainable energy;
- ii. Acknowledged the activities being carried out by the EU PacTVET project, the Pacific Community and the University of the South Pacific in support of developments in sustainable energy;
- iii. Agreed to encourage PICTs students to pursue educational pathways and higher qualification opportunities on sustainable energy available from nationally and regionally accredited tertiary education institutions;
- iv. Agreed that while encouraging a national approach, a regional approach to accreditation of sustainable energy competency-based qualifications and skill sets in the vocational educational sector – including a system for incorporating quality assurance/ accreditation/ recognition of formal and informal learning (project-based training) was also to be supported;
- v. Agreed that while encouraging national systems, they also support the development of regional systems for recognition of current competencies and recognition of prior learning;
- vi. Agreed to support an industry-driven demand based TVET system for sustainable energy through national and regional professional industry associations; and
- vii. Encouraged close cooperation between USP (as a Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency hub) and PCREEE on capacity building and the nexus between innovation, entrepreneurship and business incubation to facilitate involvement of national educational institutions.

Further information

<http://prdrse4all.spc.int/node/4/content/pactvet-pacific-technical-and-vocational-education-and-training-sustainable-energy;and>
<http://prdrse4all.spc.int/node/4/content/third-pacific-regional-energy-and-transport-ministers-meeting-24-28-april-2017>