

Training Co-ordinator's visit to Tonga

25th 29th April 1987

Prepared by

Dr Rusell Howorth
Training Co-ordinator
CCOP/SOPAC

PREPARED FOR: Committee for Co-ordination
of joint prospecting of
mineral Resources in the
south Pacific Offshore Areas
(CCOP/SOPAC)

AS A CONTRIBUTION BY: UNDP Project Office
Project RAS/86/125 Investigation of Mineral
Potential in the South Pacific

Training Co-ordinators Visit to Tonga 25th 29th April 1987

OJECTIVES

- 1) To discuss with the national representative, Tongas's training requirements particularly at technical and first degree level in so far as CCOP/SOPAC can be assistance over the next 3-5 years.
- 2) To make government training officers aware of CCOP/SOPAC's training activities planned for the next two years.
- 3) To discuss with Education department officers the desirability of an earth science module for the senior high school curriculum
- 4) Make a brief visit to Kanokapolo to examine and evaluate the success of the coastal reclamation project outlined in CCOP/SOPAC Technical Report No. 32 1983 (TG.8)

PRESENT GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE OF GEOLOGICAL PERSONNEL

Tonga does not have a geological survey division as such, but operates a small geological team within the Department of Lands, Surveys and Natural Resources. The present government ranking of resource work related to CCOP/SOPAC is:

- 1) Hydrocarbons
- 2) Minerals (essentially epithermal gold potential)
- 3) Coastal development: wholly carried out by CCOP/SOPAC and includes sand/gravel resources work.
- 4) Hydreology.

With the present Minister of Lands, Surveys and Natural Resources being also a Deputy Prime Minister the senior responsibility for these priority areas is being shared as follows :

- Sione Tonganivala, Department of Lands, Surveys and Natural Resources (CCOP/SOPAC)
- Sione Kite, Prime Ministers Department (Hydrocarbons and Minerals)

Beneath them is the following hierarchy :

Stone Tongllava
Sione Kite

Government Geologist
(David Tappin)

Assistant Geologist
Saimone Helu BSc.

Assistant Geologist
Fuka Kitekei'aho (presently completing HSc.)

Geological Assistants

1. Stone Soakai
2. New position vacant

Training Geologist
Fuka Kitekei'aho (Will become vacant in 1987)

Field Assistant
Hikaele Apikitoa

The Government Geologist position is at present funded by United Kingdom. Dave Tappin is due to finish in January 1988 and if he renews his contract it will be for two years. If he is replaced it will be a funded position for three years.

During late 1987 it is anticipated a hydrogeologist funded by New Zealand will be in office.

It is likely that in two years (three years maximum) that one of the Assistant Geologists will become Government Geologist and a vacancy arise for 1 Assistant Geologist.

In the immediate future basic training for the new Geological Assistant will be required, together with the new Trainee Geologist.

Saimone Helu is expected to go to United Kingdom in late 1988 for one year on a British Council Scholarship to do a one year MSc. course at Imperial College. Fuka Kitekei'aho must complete his MSc in New Zealand as soon as possible but no later than February 1988, to allow reasonable overlap between the two Assistant Geologists. Once he returns the Trainee Geologist position will become vacant. Furthermore, at least two mining companies have recently taken out exploration licences in Tonga for one year and are expecting to use the government Assistant Geologists as local counterparts as well as provide training in exploration techniques.

CCOP/SOPAC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

This was discussed and a copy left with Tonga for careful consideration prior to Annual Session.

ICOD PROPOSALS

These were discussed and endorsed by Tonga's national representative.

SAIHONE HELU SECONDMENT TO TECHSEC ON SPEC FELLOWSHIP

This was discussed and endorsed by Tonga's national representative and copies of the necessary documents given to Training Co-ordinator.

COASTAL MAPPING WORKSHOP. TUVALU

Tonga nominee is Saimone Helu.

COASTAL PROCESSES WORKSHOP, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Tonga nominees are Saimone Helu and Uilou Samani (to be replaced by Dave Tappin if CIOA funding for Helu to attend Annual Session is approved). Tonga is to request CCOP/SOPAC to seek additional funds for Uilou Samani to attend. Saimone Helu and Uilou Samani to prepare a paper on seawall construction and coastal development at Nuku'alofa for the Workshop. Tonga is also prepared to present a case study on sediment budget studies of Tongatapu.

MEETING WITH SIONE LUANI, PRINCIPAL TRAINING OFFICER, ESTABLISHMENTS. PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Responsibilities for in service training of government employees.

All CCOP/SOPAC's "In-service" training was discussed, including the Earth Science and Marine Geology Course, Workshops and the CCOP/SOPAC Fellowship Scheme.

Tonga's position regarding recognition of the Certificate in Earth Science and Marine Geology as a qualification was discussed at length, and resolved such that Tonga civil service will now recognise this certificate as equivalent to a diploma in so far as eligibility for promotion is concerned.

MEETING WITH PAULA BLOOMFIELD, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

The CCOP/SOPAC Scholarship Scheme was discussed and welcomed.

The future involvement of CCOP/SOPAC in developing an earth science curriculum module for senior high schools was also discussed and welcomed.

MEETING WITH EMILY MOALA, SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER, PLANNING/TRAIN(NG

This person was looking after scholarships, in particular for first degree training, but also for government employees who are awarded a scholarship which is teneable for 12 months or longer. The CCOP/SOPAC scholarship scheme was discussed and welcomed.

MEETING WITH MANA LATU, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND THE HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Tonga is at present undergoing a review of its High School science curriculum. The opportunity to introduce an Earth Science module was welcomed. As a next step towards developing such a module with SOPAC's assistance, the Training Co-ordinator was invited to Tonga during the last week of June to speak with the Principals Association and the Science Teachers Association.

COASTAL RECLAMATION PROJECT, KANOKUPOLU (WORK PROGRAMME ELEMENT TG.8)

This reclamation project was recommended by Techsec. Technical Report 32 in 1983. It appears to have been very successful. Little or no sign of erosion is evident and the previously flooded area is now essentially dry.

More trees could be planted along the foreshore to help stabilise the fore dune in areas where vegetation cover is thin.

SCHEDULE FOR TRIP

Saturday 25 April

Depart Nausori 09.00
Arrive Nuku'alofa 11.50

Monday 27 April

08.30-12.30 - David Tappin, Government Geologist
13.30-16.00 - Sione Tongilava, CCOP/SOPAC National Representative

Tuesday 28 April

09.00-10.00 - Sione Tongilava
10.00-11.30 - Sione Luani, Principal Training Officer,
establishments, Prime Minister's Office

12.00-12.30 - Paula Bloomfield, Director of Education -
13.30-14.00 - Emily Moala, Senior Education Officer
Planning/Training

14.00-16.30 - Mana Latu, Assistant Director of Education,
and Curriculum Development Unit for High
School Science

Wednesday 29 April

08.30-09.30 - Sione Tongilava
09.30-10.00 - Sione Kite, Deputy Secretary to Cabinet
Prime Ministers Office

0.00-10.30 - Sione Luani
1.00-11.15 - Mana Latu
1.30-14.00 - Visit Coastal Reclamation Project at
KanoKupolu
14.00-14.30 - Tia Barrett, First Secretary,
NZ High Commission

Depart Nuku'alofa 10.00 p.m.
Arrive Nausori 11.00 p.m.