



October 2019

## What I acquired through Pacific-LEADS program?

My name is Melesungu Pule. I graduated from Nagoya University in March 2019 with Masters in International Development. Since returning, I have resumed full time service with the Ministry of Tourism in the Marine Activities Unit.

The skills and knowledge I have acquired through the Pacific LEADS program is tremendous. The great experiences from both studied and living in Japan has helped me mature enough especially dealing with my daily expenses. ☺ Living and studying in Japan has been one of the most enjoyable experiences of my life. It has provided me with academic and internship opportunities.



### Alumnus Information

Name: Melesungu Pule  
 Country: Tonga  
 Organization, Position: Ministry of Tourism, Senior Tourist Officer  
 Training Period (Batch): Oct 2016-Mar 2019 (1<sup>st</sup> Batch)  
 University: Nagoya University  
 Research Theme: Sustainable Tourism Through Emphasis on Whale Watching in Tonga



My research was on *Sustainable Tourism Through Emphasis on Whale Watching in Tonga*. It aims at identifying the factors affecting whale watching in Tonga and how to emphasize sustainable whale watching in Tonga. My research is contributing to my current job. The team that I work with organize and conducting

training for whale watching guide and skippers throughout the islands of Tongatapu, Vava'u, Ha'apai and 'Eua. The purpose of these training is to enhance their knowledge and skills needed for the whale watching activity. My current career plan is to continue developing management plan to improve the whale watching industry.

The internship I did at the Pacific Island Centre (PIC) in Tokyo was crucial. I got the opportunity to interviewed local tourism operators and travel agents regarding ways to increase Japanese tourists coming to Tonga.



To my fellow P-LEADS members, I would like to encourage you all to enjoy most of the opportunity of studying and living in Japan as it has been a great experiences for me.