



Alumnus Information

Name: Josef Pisi

Country: Samoa

Organization, Position: Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) Associate

Training Period (Batch): August 2016 – March 2019 (1st Batch)

University: Hokkaido University – Faculty of Environmental Science

Research Theme: Building Resilient Ecosystems to the Impacts of Invasives Species and Tropical Cyclones through Forest Restoration (Global Environmental Management)

Welcome to 2020 & Talofa lava from the beautiful Island of Samoa!!

It is with great pleasure that I share this newsletter to you as we embark on our journey for this promising new year.

✚ Acquired Knowledge & Skills

From my research, I was able to formulate restoration and management strategies to build resilient ecosystems against natural variations in Samoa. By assessing the spatio-temporal changes in lowland forests, priority invasive plants



Figure: Receiving certificate of completion with my fellow first batch colleagues from the Director of JICA Hokkaido.

driving the most impacts were determined for management, and potential native framework species for restoring forest ecosystem structures and function were identified. Analyzing field data had enabled me to apply some of the advanced analytical tools like *BiodiversityR* and ArcGIS to name a few, to assist with formulating technical resolutions.

✚ Knowledge & Skills Application

Upon completion of my studies, I was fortunate to work for

the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment (SPREP) to coordinate a brand-new and exciting mechanism called [PRISMSS](#) (*click for more details*), a support service launched in July 2019 to cater for the urgent needs of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) to upscale invasive species management on the ground. It is a fitting role as my academic experience enabled me to facilitate technical advice and experts' availability where it's needed upon request by PICTs. I was also humbled with the opportunity to review and update Samoa's National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan, a 5-year guide on invasive species management. As the first PRISMSS initiative, a five weeks management course was conducted on 22nd September involving 11 PICTs to develop PICTs programs of work for the next five years. There, I was thrilled to meet some of my first batch P-LEADS colleagues.

✚ Career Plan & Message to Pacific LEADS students

Serving the region through SPREP has always been the ultimate career goal, of that I am grateful to the Pacific-LEADS for paving that path for me. Other than improving myself professionally, I hope to expand the PRISMSS and engage more service providers from outside the region to assist PICTs in managing invasive species.

To my Pacific friends in Japan, build on your strengths and what you know you can make a difference on. SOIFUA!!