



Pacific-LEADS NEWS LETTER



January 31st 2020

Alumnus Information

Name: Chris Giro Wagatora

Country: Solomon Islands

Organization, Position: REDD+ Implementation Unit, Forest Resources Management and Technical Service Division, Ministry of Forestry, Principal REDD+ Officer

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

University: University of Tsukuba

Research Theme: Evaluation of Potential Water Resources in Tropical Forest Ecosystems at Kolombangara Island, Solomon Islands



Figure 1: At Fui-Hokuroku Flux Research site, near Mt. Fuji

Hello Every Pacific Island Wantoks!

My 2.5 years study at the University of Tsukuba Japan provides me with learning opportunities to gain new technology, knowledge, skills, as well as to learn and experience Japanese culture and tradition through seminars, conferences, meetings, lectures, presentations during lab seminars. My field of study is 'Master's program in Environmental Sciences'. I was able to learn and gain new knowledge, technology and skills in forest hydrology, python programming, GIS & Remote sensing to support my ministry through my job.

During my 2.5 years study, I had an opportunity to carry out field survey research study at Kolombangara Island, Solomon Islands through research collaboration with the University of Tokyo and the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI) of Japan. Apart from my master's program, I was able to enroll and study in Special Certificate in Sustainable Science, Technology and Policy (SUSTEP) program majoring in 3 different fields, Environmental Hydrology and Disaster Prevention in Climate Change, Ecosystem and Biodiversity Conservation and Remediation, and Environmental Policy and Planning. The knowledge and skills gained from these two studies enable me to support and contribute positively to my ministry and also to my country as whole.

Below are some of the activities/programs I engaged in after completion of my studies in Japan;

- Part of the team who review 'The State of Solomon Islands Environment 2019 report'
- Part of the team who contributed towards 'Solomon Island Forest Reference Emission Level' -A report submitted to and published by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Support the JICA Sustainable Forest Resource Management Project in the Solomon Islands
- Part of Vanuatu National Forest Inventory team who carry out National Forest Inventory at Tanna Island under GIZ support
- Developed Ministry of Forestry 2019 Annual Report
- Developed REDD+ Annual Work plan and budget 2020.
- GIS Mapping of REDD+ Potential Sites

My future plans, are to be involve more in the REDD+ Programme and to engage in any future research collaboration in the Solomon Islands with any interested Japanese Researcher. My final message is '*Make use of your everyday moments in Japan!!*'. Arigatou Gozaimasu!!!