



3rd February, 2020

Alumni Information.

Name: Toaiauea Toabwa

Country: Republic of Kiribati

Organization, Position: Ministry of Education, Research Assistant Officer

Training Period (Batch): 2016-2018 (1st Batch)

University: International Christian University (ICU)

Research Theme: Education & Unemployment of Secondary School Graduates in Kiribati: The Perspectives of Unemployed Secondary School Graduates and other Stakeholders.

Acquired Experiences, Knowledge and Skills



I'm Toaiauea Toabwa from Kiribati, graduated with a Master of Art in Education from the Graduates School of Education at the International Christian University (ICU) in 2018. Studying under the Pacific LEADS program for two years in Japan was stupendous experience.

The internship under the program at Okinawa AMICUS International School was a great learning experience to understand and learn the context of the Japanese quality education that contribute to students' life-long learning and future career pathways.

The Master Thesis I studied at International Christian University equipped me with relevant knowledge and skills in the area of research in education with some to mention; evaluation of education programs and policies, understanding educational theories, formulating research proposals, quantitative and qualitative research methodologies to collect and analyse data.

Apart from my academic study, I have explored some fascinating places in Japan that I never experienced before, for instance, a trip to one of the

Japanese famous five lakes (Lake Kawaguchi to recall) which offer a fantastic view of Mt Fuji. Even though I was unable to explore the whole of Japan, but I learnt that Japan is a well-organized nation, technologically advanced, has the most efficient train railway system, strong traditional culture, respectful and trustworthy people, clean and safe



environment with the wonderful four seasons.

Application and Achievements

In 2018 when I returned to Kiribati, the life experiences that I have learned from the program was changing my mindset and become parts of my storytelling to inspire my children about the value of education if

they are studying very hard in school. The knowledge and skills that I have acquired from my research paved my way to obtain a new job at the Ministry of Education as the Research Assistant Officer for the Policy, Planning and Research Development Unit (PPRD). My major roles as the Research Assistant Officer are to: work closely with PPRD and Executive of the Ministry of Education to identify specific areas and issues that require research and study, coordinating external and internal researchers and conduct surveys to help analyse research for possible publications.

Last year (2019), I demonstrated my abilities to engage in several education research studies jointly conducted by the Ministry of Education and Australian funded project namely the Kiribati Education Facility (KEF). I also had the opportunity to present the findings of my research theme to potential stakeholders in Kiribati during the Education Research Symposium organized by the Ministry of Education. Given the potentials



that I have, the Executives Management of the Ministry of Education recruited me as one of their 'Think Tank Teams' to address major educational issues and 'Core Technical Team' to formulate the Ministry's Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) 2020-2023.

Message to my fellows of the Pacific LEADS

Although time is very fast in this dynamic world, I would like to encourage my fellow Pacific LEADS to make use of the learning experiences acquired from the program to support your country and move on to explore further opportunities ahead. I wish you all the best and success in your future endeavors.