



Alumnus Information

Name: ATALIFO Terry Rofino

Country: Fiji

Organization, Position: Fiji Meteorological Service, Principal Scientific Officer - Climate

Training Period (Batch): First Batch (Aug 2016 – Mar 2019)

University: Tohoku

Research Theme: Seasonal Variability & Influence of El-Niño Southern Oscillation on Tropical Cyclone Activity in the Southwest Pacific

Greetings

Noa'ia and a pleasant Bula Vinaka to my fellow Pacific Island alumni, supportive colleagues from JICA, Asia-SEED and my beloved Sendai community. I am forever grateful for the support, opportunities, experiences, and the lifelong friendships forged during the course of my study program in Japan. These memories are etched in my heart.

Current Role and its Relation to Study Objectives.

My role at the Fiji Meteorological Service is to monitor Fiji's climate and to provide respective bodies/ institutions/ Government entities/ organizations, farmers etc. with essential climate related information that would be used to support and enhance the well-being of our Fiji Island community. In addition, providing Tropical Cyclone (TC) information to Fiji and our neighboring Pacific Island countries is a critical task prior to any TC season.

The main objective of my Masters in Science program at Tohoku University is to obtain a skillful prediction and understand how TC activities are physically controlled by climate phenomenon such as El-Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO).



The Experience – Studies and Leisure

The knowledge and skills gained during my 2.5 years of studies has enabled me to better understand the seasonality and influence of ENSO on TC activities in the Southwest Pacific. Secondly, practical exposure during my internship at Japan Meteorological Agency's Tokyo headquarters greatly enhanced my operational knowledge and skills in tracking and estimating TC intensity. Aside from all the hard work and sweat, I was also fortunate to mingle with experts from JMA, and MRI at my University/JICA organized programs. I also learnt a lot more about international cooperation and negotiation.

Two and a half years flew by quite fast. Not only was I engulfed in studies and meetings; my spare time was spent on the rugby field, with new found friends, Sunday church services and with my wife and two sons. To date, my family and I still use chop-sticks during meals, converse in Japanese (simple sentences), prepare sushi for lunch and walk to school and work as much as we can.

Career Plan & Message to Pacific LEADS prospective

Continue to save lives, enhance livelihoods through providing timely, accurate and up-to-date climate/TC related information. To Pacific LEADS prospective: when given the opportunity, do you best and study hard, go sightseeing, enjoy the 4 seasons, Japanese culture and cuisine, be kind and establish good relationships. Give back to the Japanese community in whatever way possible. Leave a lasting impression.... Oh, one more thing - always be on time 😊