



28 June, 2020

### ALUMNUS INFORMATION



**Name:** Kalavatagaloa Morrissey (known as "Loa")  
**Country:** Niue  
**Organisation, Position:** Government of Niue, Executive Assistant & Advisor to the Premier (previously Senior External Affairs Officer, Office of External Affairs).  
**Training Period (Batch):** Aug 2017 – Sept 2019 (2<sup>nd</sup> Batch)  
**University:** Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU), Beppu City, Oita Prefecture, Japan.  
**Research Theme:** Small State Diplomacy - Exploring the Survival Strategies of the Kingdom of Hawai'i.

### KNOWLEDGE, SKILL AND EXPERIENCES ACQUIRED

**P-LEADS:** I was fortunate to be with a great batch of people, building a network across the pacific. The P-LEADS 2<sup>nd</sup> Batch was my family in Japan, the group chats and daily messages kept me going when I was far from home. For that I am grateful. Knowing that we were all going through this together, sharing knowledge and experiences was comforting and reassuring.



**APU:** APU has helped shaped my world, its multicultural learning environment opened my eyes to wider perspectives. This hub of global knowledge was a perfect place for me to actively learn, establish lifelong friendships and contribute to finding solutions to issues that the world is facing today. It was an opportunity to share about where I'm from and my pacific culture, which I did as much as possible. I was blessed with having Professor Yoichiro Sato as my supervisor, who shared all his knowledge, believed in me and pushed me to achieve my goals.



**INTERNSHIP:** During my internship at the "Sasakawa Peace Foundation" I gained a deeper more updated perspective about individual pacific island countries, I learnt about open sources of data, useful for my future work. I met with people and made connections with networks that I can contact in the future to strengthen the relationship between Niue and Japan. I was fortunate also to have a great supervisor in Mr. Hideyuki Shiozawa.

### UTILIZATION OF ACQUIRED SKILLS

All the skills, knowledge and experiences that I have gained in the past two years has provided me with tools that are currently helping with my work.

Since my return home I have been able to act as liaison officer for the visit from the Japanese Ambassador to Niue from Wellington New Zealand. As well as write many briefing papers, reports and plans during this global covid-19 pandemic crisis. I have also used some of the connections made during my time in japan for my work.

If anyone of you (past, present or current P-LEADS) need a contact in Niue or visits, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me. 😊



### FUTURE CAREER PLAN

I started a new job last Wednesday (17<sup>th</sup> June 2020). I am now the new "Executive Assistant & Advisor" to the Premier of Niue.

Being part of this program has opened doors to opportunities for me. My future career plan is to work my way up in the Government of Niue.

My desire is to continue to contribute to my small island nation "Niue ke Monuina – A Prosperous Niue".

### MESSAGE TO ACTIVE PACIFIC-LEADS PARTICIPANTS IN JAPAN

I wish you all the best with your studies, take care and stay safe, make the most of your time in Japan, use it to make memories and experiences that you will remember.

Don't waste the opportunity, its only two years of your life, time will fly.

If you apply yourself, you will leave Japan not only with a Degree, but also a better version of yourself.

You all have the potential to be a future leader of your country. In Niue we say "Mata ki Luga" - "Look Up" the sky is your limit.