

NEWS

TONGA NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND ACCREDITATION BOARD



October 16th 2018:

TOURISM ITAC ESTABLISHED

During its October 12th monthly meeting, the TNQAB Board of Directors approved an application submitted by the Tonga Ministry of Tourism to establish its first *Industry training advisory committee (ITAC)*. This ITAC comprises twelve (12) highly experienced individuals identified from relevant fields in the Service sector in Tonga, including Tourism management, Hospitality, Whale watching, Food and Beverages, Customer service, and Front office management.

The members of this Tourism ITAC include:

1. Mrs Salote Fukofuka (ITAC Chair) – Former Director of Tonga Campus, USP, representing women in Agritourism;
2. Mrs Papiloa Bloomfield Foliaki – Former Tonga parliamentarian, hotelier and owner of a variety of tourism and hospitality businesses.
3. Mr. Simana Kami – Owner of Oholei Beach Resort, extensive experience in tour and travels, entertainment, from both Tonga and Australia;
4. Mrs 'Ungatea Palu – head of Destination Development Division, Tonga Ministry of Tourism;
5. Ms Kelela Tonga, Officer-in-Charge of the Division of Marine and Ports, Ministry of Infrastructure;
6. Mrs Pulupaki Ika, Head of Culture Division, Acting CEO, Ministry of Tourism;
7. Mrs Seilose Fifita – Chief Education Officer and Coordinator of Tourism programmes at the Tonga Institute of Higher Education (TIHE);
8. Mr. Kisione Pakalani - President of the 'Eua Tourism Association, and a member of the Tonga Tourism Authority Board of Directors;
9. Mr. William Tovehi - Former Chef of both the Cottage Breeze Restaurant and the Tano'a Dateline Hotel;
10. Ms Mele Manuofetoa -- Sales and Marketing Manager of REAL Tonga Airlines.
11. Mr. Lolesio Lui – President of the Vava'u Tourism Association.
12. Chief Executive Officer, Tonga Ministry of Tourism.

The establishment of the Tourism ITAC is the culmination of months of collaboration between the National Qualifications Unit of TNQAB, Tonga Ministry of Tourism, and Tonga Skills. The application was lodged by the Mrs Pulupaki Ika and Mrs 'Ungatea Palu both of Tonga Ministry of Tourism.



Back row (L-R): Vilimaka Foliaki (TNQAB), William Tovehi, Pulupaki Moala Ika, 'Ungatea Palu; Front row (L-R): Kelela Tonga, Salote Fukofuka, Papiloa Foliaki, Simana Kami, Kisione Pakalani, Mrs. Pakalani. ITAC member not in photo: Lolesio Lui.

Purpose of Tourism ITAC: National qualifications

The purpose of establishing this ITAC is for it to act as the main source of industry advice to the development of national qualifications in tourism. Since the beginning of this year, TNQAB has been working together with the Ministry of Tourism in the development of seven (7) national qualification proposals, which are now ready for the ITAC to work on.

National qualifications in Tourism

The finalised qualifications proposals are:

1. National Certificate in Tour Guiding, Level 3;
2. National Certificate in Cookery, Level 3;
3. National Certificate in Customer Service, Level 3;
4. National Certificate in Food and Beverages, Level 3
5. National Certificate in Whale Watching Guiding, Level 4;
6. National Certificate in Commercial Cookery, Level 4; and
7. National Certificate in Front Office Management, Level 4.

The selection of fields and subfields for these national qualifications was informed by research conducted by Dr. Semisi Taumoepeau and colleagues

from the Auckland Institute of Studies (AIS). Dr. Taumoepeau and Dr. Nick Towner both of Auckland Institute of Studies are also being consulted by the Ministry of Tourism to take the leading role in the development of the national qualifications, while Mr. Vilimaka Foliaki of TNQAB provides the professional guidance regarding quality assurance standards required by TNQAB for registration on Tonga Qualification Framework (TQF).

These qualifications will be Tonga's first national qualifications at post-compulsory education and training (higher educational training institutions and universities).

ITACs for national qualification development

The Tourism ITAC is the 2nd ITAC to be established for the purpose of national qualification development. In July this year, the Board also approved an application submitted by the Tonga Institute of Science and Technology (TIST) to establish the Carpentry ITAC (<http://tnqab.com/downloads/NEWS%20ITAC%20final.pdf>).

Tonga Skills

All of the above developments are made possible through financial assistance from the Australian Aid Program *Tonga Skills for Inclusive Economic Growth* (or Tonga Skills).

Interested in ITAC or national qualifications?

BECOME A MEMBER

**INDUSTRY TRAINING
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
(ITAC)**



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HELP US HELP YOU HELP TONGA!

**We need ladies and gentlemen as
advisors of national qualifications**

Talk to us at TNQAB, Tel 28136 or visit our office, 1st
floor, Molisi City Central, Nuku'alofa

Where and How to find us

Interested individuals and organizations are invited to contact TNQAB using any of the means of contact and addresses below:

First floor

Molisi Tonga City Central

Cnr Salote Road and Unga Road

Nuku'alofa, Tonga

Email: EnquireNQ@tnqab.to or vilimaka.foliaki@tnqab.to

Telephone: 28136 Ext 12