



"Start Your Fishing Business" training in the Cook Islands, Tonga, Samoa and Kiribati - an update

As you are probably aware from reading our previous articles, SPC, with financial assistance from the Commonwealth Secretariat, is assisting the region with the establishment of a pool of certified trainers in small fishing business planning and management (Start Your Fishing Business programme). This project aims to increase private sector participation in the development of coastal fisheries in PICTs by improving the entrepreneurial skills of existing or prospective small business owners.

The Start Your Fishing Business (SYFB) course and materials, based on the International Labour Organization (ILO) "Start Your Business" model, were initially tailor-made to suit the specific needs of the Papua New Guinea (PNG) artisanal fisheries sector and have been successfully delivered in PNG since 2003. The SYFB training concept was then exported to Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, where nationals have been trained to become certified trainers and now deliver these courses to small fisheries business owners.

This year, SPC, the Commonwealth Secretariat and their counterpart institutions in PNG have worked on expanding the network of competent SYFB trainers to four other countries: Cook Islands, Tonga, Samoa and Kiribati. A similar gradual training methodology was used and the initial phase of the project was the delivery

of a sub-regional training of trainers (TOT) SYFB course for 12 participants in Apia, Samoa in April 2007 (see SPC Fisheries Newsletter #121). After attending the TOT course, and in order to become accredited by ILO as SYFB trainers, the apprentice-trainers are required to deliver one SYFB course to their target audience, under the supervision of master trainers.

As part of the TOT course, participants produced an action plan for the subsequent phases of the project. From mid-July to August 2007, participants in the initial TOT course, except the participant from Kiribati, successfully ran their trial courses in their respective countries. In-country training of entrepreneurs (TOE) workshops were organised as shown in the table below.

Country	Workshops	Master Trainer	Date
Tonga	Ha'apai	Brenda Sainol	16-27 July 2007
Tonga	Vava'u	Brenda Sainol	1-14 August 2007
Samoa	Apia	Peter Piawu	16-27 July 2007
Cooks	Cook Islands	Brenda Sainol	20-31 August 2007
Kiribati	Tarawa	Peter Piawu	Postponed to December 2007

This capacity building programme was successfully completed by making possible the accreditation of 11 Pacific Islanders as ILO/SYFB trainers by their supervisors, the PNG-SBDC master trainers.

SPC is keen to export the SYFB training concept to other Pacific Island countries. It is envisaged that SPC will continue to seek the Commonwealth Secretariat's financial support for the further extension of the SYFB trainer network in the region.



Master Trainer Peter Piawu (standing) during classroom training session.



Participants produced an action plan for the subsequent phases of the project.