

## Attachment training in practical analysis of current policy questions

*In February 2016, three government analysts — Toaa Tokoia and Tabuki Teoraata from Kiribati and Salome Taufa from Tonga — joined Philip James, Pacific Community’s Economic Officer (Fisheries), in Noumea for training in the practical analysis of current policy questions relevant to their individual countries. The two Kiribati analysts were jointly funded by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development in Kiribati and SPC. The economist from Tonga was jointly funded by SPC and New Zealand as part of the capacity development element of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research project supporting the deep water snapper industry in Tonga.*

The three analysts spent between two and three weeks at SPC, Noumea, working on a range of issues, including an analysis of the aquarium industry and management plans; analysis of government-supported fish farming businesses; and data collection methodologies for markets.

The analysts were exposed to cost-benefit and other analysis for fisheries and policy decision making. The time in Noumea also allowed the analysts to learn about bio-economic modelling, project monitoring, evaluation and learning from SPC specialists in these areas.

The attachments forged closer links between country and SPC analysts and between different country analysts who are faced with similar issues. It is hoped that these relationships will continue to develop in the future for the benefit of the countries involved.

It is hoped that in the future, economic attachments can become a further element of the very successful young professional and scientific attachment scheme that has been ever present for many years in the Coastal Fisheries Programme at SPC. SPC hopes to attract donor funding to fund additional attachments. Expressions of interest in participating in future attachments should be forwarded to:

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*Data from this aquaculture and aquarium holding facility in Tonga were part of the information used to do an analysis of the aquarium industry and management plans (image: Philip James).*