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THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS INITIATIVE



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SCALING UP PACIFIC ADAPTATION (SUPA)

Tonga Climate Change Awareness Week 2020

Report: Video competition



Pacific
Community
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Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



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SOUTH PACIFIC

GCCA+ SUPA video competition attracts youth and women's groups



Ms. Marika Moala, leader of the Hala'ovave Youth Group, receives the first prize for the video competition



Prize winners picking up their gardening tools at Pacific Timber and Hardware

The Hala'ovave Youth Group prepared an informative short video which claimed the first prize during a video competition that was organized as part of the National Climate Change Awareness Week (NCCAW) that took place from 20th – 25th September 2020. The competition was aimed at raising awareness about climate change impacts in Tonga and the actions undertaken by Government, civil societies, NGOs and communities to build their resilience to the impacts. The competition was initiated by the European Union-funded Global Climate Alliance Plus - Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) Project and open to interested groups and individuals.

The theme of the NCCAW and the video competition was “*Takanga 'etau Fohe ki ha Tonga 'oku Tu'uloa*” or “Building a Resilient Tonga.” The winners were selected after a thorough evaluation process and were awarded their prizes by the Prime Minister of Tonga, Hon. Dr. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa during the Exhibition Day (Friday 25th) that marked the completion of the NCCAW. The winners received shopping vouchers for Pacific Timber and Hardware (PTH).

Winners and their prizes:

- 1st Prize: \$1,000.00 – Hala'ovave Youth Group
- 2nd Prize: \$600.00 – Lotu-mo-Ngaue Women's Group
- 3rd Prize: \$400.00 – 'Alo-'i-Talau Youth Group
- 4th Prize: \$300.00 – Lapaha Youth
- 5th Prize: \$200.00 – Ha'atafu Women's Group

There were two consolation prizes of \$100.00 shopping voucher each for the Ha'ateiho Youth Group and the Bourke's who also took part in the competition.

The Hala'ovave Youth Group leader, Ms. Marika Moala was excited about the win and said, "We're grateful for the GCCA+ SUPA team for preparing such an awesome competition for us to take part in. The competition has reminded and empowered us to take serious action about the impacts of climate change."



A representative from the Lotu-mo-ngaue Women's Group who won the 2nd prize



A representative from the Ha'atafu Women's Group who won the 5th prize

She added, "The problems we face on a daily basis are enormous but we are extremely happy because our \$1,000 shopping voucher prize has enabled us to purchase gardening tools such as digging folks, spade, hoe, rake, hand trowel, digging shovel, soil knife, etc. – for us to promote home gardening in our community."



'Alo-'i-Talau Youth from the island of Vava'u who participated in the competition and won third prize with their shopping of gardening tools at the PTH Store in Vava'u

Similar sentiments shared by the spokesperson of the Lotu-mo-ngaue Women's Group, Ms. Frances Moala who shared the experience and excitement of the group whilst taking part in the competition.

“We did not just like the competition...we loved it! We had fun and it motivated us to do more about our environment because climate change is no joke. Our involvement in the competition has brought us together. We learned that the fight against climate change requires a coordinated approach. We must work together at all levels – from us at the community level, to national, regional and of course, at the international level.”



Hon. Prime Minister of Tonga Hon. Rev. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa is led by the Director Climate Change, Lu'isa Tu'afitu-Malolo to assess various booths displayed during the Exhibition Day that marked the closing of the National Climate Change Awareness Week 2020

The National Coordinator of the GCCA+ SUPA Project, Manu Manuofetoa, thanked those who took part in the competition, in particular the winners and praised them for their efforts in preparing the short videos.

Mr. Manuofetoa said, “I am thankful for these groups who have made sacrifices to take part in the competition. 11 groups registered but only 7 submitted their video clips. We gave these groups only two weeks to prepare and submit their videos and I was amazed with their efforts.”

Mr. Manuofetoa added, “The video clips provided are very important. The majority portrayed the reality of the negative impacts of climate change on-the-ground. These films provided powerful messages that will definitely inspire others to take action against the impacts of climate change. Simply put, when people

understand climate change and start taking action, whether big or small – that is building resilience at its best.”

The competition was made possible with financial support from the GCCA+ SUPA project and Pacific Timber and Hardware.



