



Debriefing Note
Shipping of Infectious Substances and other related hazardous substances &
Water Quality Trainings
21st to 24th November 2022
Alofi
Niue

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Presented today, Thursday, 24th November 2022 at 2pm to:

1. Director of Health, Ministry of Health, Niue – Dr Edgar Akau’ola
2. Principal Public Health Officer, Ministry of Health, Niue – Ms Grizelda Makoi

Objectives of visit:

- To conduct IATA certification and re-certification training for the shipment Class/Division 6.2 Infectious Substances and related hazardous materials by air;
- To conduct Water Quality training to Public Health staff, Ministry of Works and Department of Environment in Niue.

Achievements:

1. Four (4) Hospital staff from Niue Fouu Hospital are now certified as IATA Certified Shippers for the shipment of Infectious Substances Category A and Category B and other related hazardous substances by air.
2. IATA training was very intensive but all four candidates successfully passed and achieving more than 80% of the final exam which is a requirement for IATA certification to be a certified shipper for Class/Division 6.2 Infectious Substances (Category A and Category B) and other related hazardous materials.
3. A total of 8 participants (3 from Hospital, 2 from Department of Environment and 3 from Ministry of Works) attended the two (2) days training.
4. Water Quality training covers important aspects of proper sample collection, transportation, storage, testing and reporting of water quality results to appropriate officials in Niue to guide and implement effective interventions to maintain good quality and standard of water safe for consumption for all Niueans.

5. Bacteriological and chemical testing of water was covered in depth and demonstration of how to perform these important tests and following standard SOPs was also covered. Knowledge on bacteriological and chemical testing including procedures was shown or demonstrated to participants.
6. Enumeration of bacteriological counts and chemical test results on water to align with WHO standard format of reporting was also discussed and taught to participants.
7. Good to have other partners (Ministry of Works and Department of Environment) involved in this water quality training in Niue to be involved in this training to maintain good networking with partners and develop clear understanding on the specific roles of each agency towards quality monitoring of water on Niue.
8. Sharing of results on water quality testing especially chemical testing and bacteriological testing is in place between partners to develop a consensus on water quality result that will guide or inform decision makers on water monitoring on Niue.
9. Scheduling of water collection and testing between Ministry of Works and Public Health Hospital is known between the two agencies. Chemical testing from Ministry of Works is done on a monthly basis while Public Health do their water monitoring (for 42 locations) on bacteriological and chemical testing every quarter.

Areas Needing further support:

1. Equipment/test devices for expanding the chemical testing at Niue Fouu Water Public Health Laboratory is greatly needed. A need to expand diagnostic capacity in chemical testing of water is greatly needed based on information received on the following:
 - inappropriate disposal of biochemical hazardous wastes (used x-ray developing solutions) that were inappropriately been disposed off in the 10-15 years;
 - the current disposal methods of house-holds septic tank wastes where it is being disposed off in one area of the island; and
 - high usage of insecticides/pesticides for agricultural purposes which often leach into the soil and affect ground water supply.
2. Based on the above, the following heavy metals including insecticides and herbicides would need to be tested to have some knowledge on the baseline concentration in water and to determine its toxicological level and impacts on human health.
 - Mercury
 - Silver
 - Lead
 - organophosphates and carbamates, active ingredients found in pesticides and which affect the nervous system.
 - Chemical testing on chemicals present or used as weed killers such as glyphosate, atrazine, dicamba, paraquat, triazine, diquat, glufosinate, metolachlor, urea derivatives, trifluralin, and surfactants which had impacts on human health.

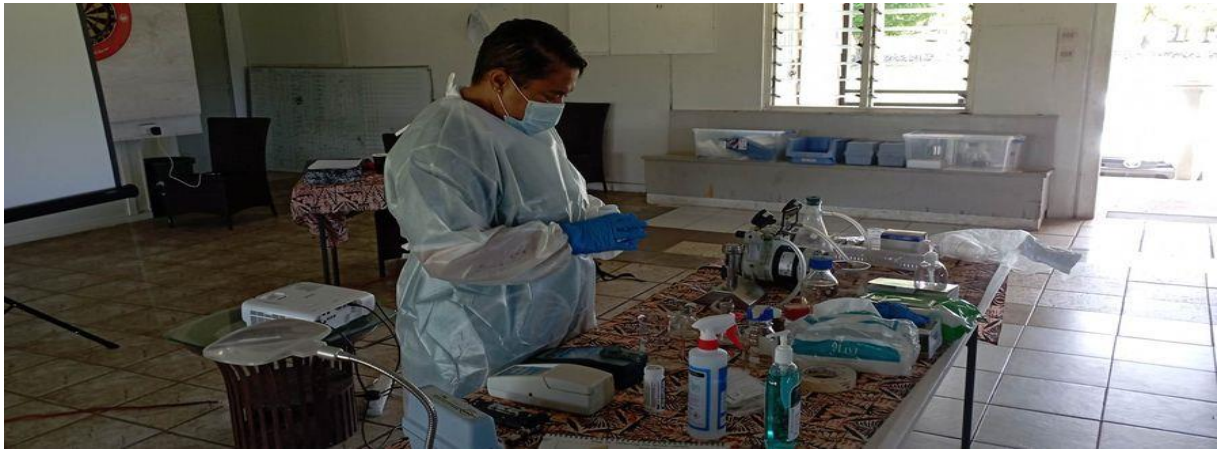
Training photos:

1. Shipping of Infectious Substances – IATA Training.



2. Water Quality Training





Acknowledgement:

On behalf of SPC GCCA+SUPA and PHD in Suva, I wish to convey my sincere gratitude to the Government of Niue for allowing SPC to come and provide this training on IATA and Water Quality testing. I wish to acknowledge the following whose support had enabled SPC to successfully complete these two trainings for Niue.

1. Director of Health, Ministry of Health Niue – Dr Edgar Akau’ola
2. Principal Public Health Officer – Ms Grizelda Makoi
3. Public Health Officer – Ms Andy Manu
4. Public Health Officer – Mr Reuben Siataga

A full report on the above activities will be shared soon.

Fakaauae lahi

