

RECIPIENTS OF THE ONOC-USP PACIFIC REGIONAL SPORTS RESEARCH PROJECT



Bwere Tione
Kiribati

Masters by Thesis in
Physical Education

Brief Background

Prior to taking up the scholarship, Bwere Tione was a primary school teacher in Kiribati employed by the Government of Kiribati. He holds a Bachelor of Education (Primary Education) from USP and a Diploma in Primary School Teaching from Kiribati Teachers College. He has also undergone various trainings such as the Child Protection Training of Trainers and the Oceania Sport Education Program (OSEP) Educator Certificate.

Bwere is talented and skilled in fostering academic skills and social attitudes in diverse elementary school students, as well as skilled in working with diverse student classrooms. Bwere is also certified to deliver ONOC OSEP's "Sports in Communities (Administrator)" course and has also coached basic level basketball and badminton.

Why did you apply for this scholarship?

As a passionate sports person, I am always interested in sports programs. Pursuing this program will strengthen and build my capacity in sports education.

How do you find out about the scholarship?

I work very closely with the Kiribati National Olympic Committee (KNOC) and found out about the program through OSEP.

What are your plans after completing the scholarship in terms of sports development in your country, and in Oceania at large?

I am a Physical Education Teacher and also an OSEP Educator in Kiribati so after this program I will continue to teach Sport concepts in secondary schools as a P.E. Teacher, and in my community as an OSEP educator.

From a regional perspective I would like to pursue Master Educator (ME) and Regional Master Educator (RME) levels with OSEP, to assist countries outside of Kiribati.

RECIPIENTS OF THE ONOC-USP PACIFIC REGIONAL SPORTS RESEARCH PROJECT



Kiali Molu
Tuvalu

Masters by Research in
Politics & International Affairs

Brief Background

Kiali Molu was a public servant with the Government of Tuvalu before taking up this scholarship program. He was the Chief of Protocol at the Department of Foreign Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Tourism, Environment and Labour from 2011 to 2016. Molu also did a three-month stint in Suva, Fiji, at the Tuvalu High Commission.

Molu drafted the first ever physical education curriculum for Primary and Secondary schools in Tuvalu when he was a Curriculum Development Officer for the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. He holds a Postgraduate Certificate in Diplomacy and International Affairs from USP and a Bachelor of Sports and Leisure (major), and minor in Political Science at the University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand.

Why did you apply for this scholarship?

I hope to demonstrate and prove to communities and governments in Pacific low-lying islands about the significance of sport in our daily lives and its link to national development.

How have you found the program so far?

Research study is challenging and time consuming, but with supportive supervisors pushing you, the aim is always to reach the finish line.

What are your plans after completing the scholarship in terms of sports development in your country, and in Oceania at large?

To use sport for fun rather than competition at community level. Through “social sports” you can mobilize and be inclusive. Competitive sports are always selective omitting the many, including the disabled. Through sport for fun, I strongly believe that it can alleviate some, if not all negative parental/politician views toward sports, and focus on the general purpose of sports instead of competition. In the region, I aim to advocate the importance of sport for a healthier population, and for peace and harmony. I aim to also lobby for stronger policies for sport inclusivity.

RECIPIENTS OF THE ONOC-USP PACIFIC REGIONAL SPORTS RESEARCH PROJECT



Koini Vuli
Fiji

Masters in Sociology

Brief background

Prior to taking up the scholarship, Vuli worked in New Zealand. In 2003 she worked as a Legal Clerk for R. Patel & Co. in Suva, Fiji. From 2005 to 2015 she held several positions in Fiji, firstly as a Researcher, a Media Officer and later a Distribution Officer with the Sports Communication (Fiji) Limited from 2005 to 2008. She later joined the Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption as a Special Assistant Officer and was later promoted to Fraud Investigation/Assistant Commission Officer and later moved up to the Commission Officer role.

Vuli graduated with a Post Graduate Diploma in Psychology at USP in Suva, Fiji in 2008. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Psychology also from USP. Vuli has been involved in all levels of rugby from being a player, coach, referee to executive member of Suva Rugby Union Referee Association. She spent some time as a rugby referee with the Canterbury Rugby Referee Association while in New Zealand.

Why did you apply for this scholarship?

The programme is an opportunity to research the welfare of women rugby players, looking at women's experience in rugby, being a former player myself, and referee in a male dominated sport. This research involves in-depth interviews with female rugby players on their experiences both on and off the field. The end product is to have policies in place that can allow women and girls to pursue their dreams in rugby and to create a safe environment for them.

How have you found the program so far?

Very interesting and challenging. For me it means pursuing a higher degree in sports development, in a bigger picture it's an opportunity for Pacific islanders to contribute in sports research.

What are your plans after completing the scholarship in terms of sports development in your country, and in Oceania at large?

Work in an area of women's rugby, development or education.

RECIPIENTS OF THE ONOC-USP PACIFIC REGIONAL SPORTS RESEARCH PROJECT



Taburimai Tewaki *Kiribati*

Postgraduate in
Sports Management

Brief background

Taburimai was a former teacher in Kiribati. He has also worked as the Assistant Secretary in the Public Office in Kiribati, Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy and Principal Sport Officer in the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sport and Social Affairs. He is currently the secretary of the Kiribati Sport Authority, a post he has held since 2017.

Taburimai holds a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education and Sport from the Manuel Fajardo, Universidad de Ciencias de la Cultura Fisica y Deporte in Havana, Cuba in 2015, a Diploma in Kinesiology from Nancy Uranga Romagoza, Facultad De Cultura Fisica, Pinar Del Rio in Cuba 2015, and a Diploma in Recreation from Nancy Uranga Romagoza, Facultad De Cultura Fisica, Pinar Del Rio, Cuba in 2015. Taburimai also has a Diploma in Body Building also from Nancy Uranga Romagoza, Facultad De Cultura Fisica, Pinar Del Rio, in Cuba in 2015.

Why did you apply for this scholarship?

I want to help to develop sports in Kiribati and as well as in the Pacific region.

What are your plans after completing the scholarship in terms of sports development in your country, and in Oceania at large?

Upon finishing, I would love to go back and work with the Ministry of Sports in Kiribati, do restructuring if possible, promote and change the mindset of Kiribati people to love and support Sports. Create market and opportunities for athletes within the country, in the region and internationally.

My research is based on the status of sport in Kiribati. It will help the Government understand its status. From issues to strength, the Government will use them to develop sport. The research, although based on Kiribati, will feature other countries from Pacific as well. The study itself will be data and collection of articles on sports in the Pacific islands. It can be used by ONOC for future Sport projects and for future scholars. The research will start with its root, the foundation and status, which I believe is the best choice, before going into detail and specific studies of sport in Kiribati.