

May 2017

Voice of the Future



Page	Topic
2	Photo Page
3	VYC—Finishing
3	HYC—combination

Vision: A well develop healthy nation in which youth is value as the most important resources to contribute to the development of it's country.

Blue Ocean Economy Meeting with MAFFF on Organic Farm.

MEIDECC and CSFT co-host a discussion Platform on SDG 14 to feed in to the Pacific Leader Green Growth Coalition meeting and the New York Ocean Summit.

The meeting include Government Ministry, Civil Society and town officer as well as district officer from the communities.

“We all know that by hurting our environment we are harming ourselves” said MEIDECC CEO Paula Ma’u said on his opening remark of the meeting “So it is our duty balance development of the economy with what mother nature have give us. To develop more way not to harm our natural surrounding so that we may have a healthy environment”.

The one day national meeting ended up with comment from all parties on ways forward that we can take for a greener future.

On Monday the 22nd May a Deputy CEO , Drew Havea team from TNYC organic farming project asked the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry, Food and Fisheries for a meeting with the Honorable Minister for MAFFF, Honorable Semisi Fakahau to talk on the position of the youth of Tonga regarding organic farming.

Mr. Navuso Tuamei’api the Organic Advisor Officer from the Tonga National Youth Congress did a presentation on organic certification and how many farmer’s has been certified organic as well as how many farmer on the waiting list to be certified. Navuso also talk about the SDG and work plan of the TNYC organic 2030.

Present in the meeting was the CEO of MAFFF Dr. Viliami Manu, Mana’ia Halafih the

Deputy CEO , Drew Havea chair of the Board for TNYC and Ms. Lolohea Director for TNYC.

Discussion focus on 2 main issues organic farming to be in the MAFFF sector Plan and forming of a organic steering committee.

The honorable Minister was very happy to discuss these two issues and have identify that the sector plan have not include organic farming so an organic plan will have to be develop and attach to the sector plan and that work will be done by MAFFF and TNYC.

He also endorse the organic member and it’s member and scheduling a time for the first meeting of the organic steering committee.



Ha'apai Youth Congress

It is no secret that the most important factor in the formation of Tonga National Youth Congress (TNYC) is the youth, and between the age of 14-35 are the age range. Even with all the programs and the projects TNYC develop for her youth there is always time to acknowledge all help that elderly people gives and the guidance that they offer.

On the 23rd of May 2017 Ha'apai Youth Congress (HYC) set up a program for this day to celebrate and to honor elderly people of Ha'apai. The eldest in the program is a woman 92 years of age and the youngest is young

man who is living with disability 33 years of age

“Our Ha'apai Youth Congress office is standing tall today because of all the help that people in the community have shown us” said Teisa Fakatene, HYC office manager “we may have come on this day to celebrate with our seniors of all the helps that they have provided for our Ha'apai youth but the most important work is done by the elderly care giver's in each family.

HYC office manager have set up a carer groups to goes out and take care of these elderly people that doesn't have anyone to take

care of them and to attend to their needs when they require.

“I've put the task out to our youth members to come and take care one elderly person” said Teisa Fakatene “and there are numbers of volunteer accept the task to take care one elderly. Mothers and daughters have took on this task and it's a blessing for our small islands”

Vava'u Youth Congress

2017 have become a festive year for the Vava'u island. This year there are four major festival that will be held at Vava'u and Vava'u Youth Congress (VYC) is upgrading her resources to meet with the coming events.

“At VYC very own green house we been making sure that our organic garden can meet the rising demand that will come from these festival that will happen here in the coming months” said VYC officer, Kato Tau “right now there are vegetable that can be harvest from the green house and some will be harvest in the coming months in time for

the festival. But we also do seed saving in our green house as well as showing volunteer ways to cook with okra”.

The newest addition that VYC will add to there market is the coconut soaps

“in the passing month we were at Tongatapu in the soap making facility of “TNYC learning how to make coconut soaps” said Kato “now that we know how to make coconut soap we will add that to our market when all these festivity is happening, but we won't make them like how they make it at Tongatapu.

Vava'u have it's own style to add to her soap that will make it more fashionable”.

VYC is looking onward to make there sales and help there youth groups





'Eua Youth Congress

The staff of 'Eua Youth Congress (EYC) is making sure that the youth groups of 'Eua have the senses of inclusive at EYC. In doing this they have gone out on an outreach program and make sure that each youth groups are still a member of EYC.

"From the 17-19 of May we went out and validate all membership of the youth groups here at 'Eua" said 'Amelia Latu, office manager of EYC "we have 14 youth groups members each are happy to be a part of EYC".

In addition, on the 25-26 of May EYC Internal Control System (ICS) officer Palavi Tahaafe have done follow up to the vanilla farmers that are member as organic growers.

"In the passing year our vanilla organic growers had a great prize for the vanilla bean" said Palavi "we are looking to do the same this year and we are confident that we will have a fair prize when we sales our vanilla bean on the market this year".

Further more, on the 23rd JICA volunteer from the Vava'u office branch did a training to the staff of EYC on seed saving and joining him was another JICA volunteer who did a training on how to cook with okra.

"This was a great training because now we can do seed saving" said 'Amelia "so now we don't just count on seed that send from TNYC but we can save our own seed so that our garden is continues. More over we got a cooking lesson to, so

we may be growing healthy vegetable here at 'Eua but we also know how to cook in the healthy way".

Last off n the list on the very busy month of 'Eua Youth Congress is getting ready for their annual election of the EYC president.

"We were schedule to do our election on May 23 but now we have move up the election and general meeting date to August 14" said EYC office manager

EYC is gearing up with activities to do for the coming youth day, Agriculture show, and the vanilla buying season which is already underway.

School Dropout Program

The School Drop Out (SDP) program is becoming one of the program that is very dear to the Tonga National Youth Congress .

There are 10 student that are in the SDP and on the May 19th the SDP team completed phase three of the program. This was paying for all the school fee of all 10 students as well as visiting their homes and meeting with there parents.

"The great value of this project is that we are actually helping this youth in their time of needs" said SDP officer Silia Tu'ivai "we have pay for all these kids school fee for term two and have even visited there homes and meet up with the parents. I think another value of the program is that we do follow up on our students. By doing this we can see how our students is doing in school and if ever in trouble we can try to solve it with

them "

From Te'ekiu to Siesia the SDP have found a student in need and is attempting to help that student complete their education for a better life and standard of living in the future.