It was a pleasant morning and the day was calm with few clouds and gentle wind blowing from the Ocean side. Different groups of trainees already assigned to different tasks, roam around joyfully trying to get their different errands done before time and sounds of music from the Manaba afar filled the air with soft music which made the day, the most enjoyable, busiest but most of all, a memorable day for the 38th Course trainees.

The program started at 3pm with a welcoming speech from the Master of Ceremony followed by a speech from the selected trainees whom one spoke in Japanese and the other translated it into the Kiribati language.

Honourable guests on that day were the Secretary for Ministry of Labour and Human Development, Taiwan Ambassador, Australian and New Zealand High Commission representatives, MTC Officers, Director of Marine, a representative from the Fire Brigade, Managers from different recruiting Agencies, Higashide San from Japan Tuna, Priest from the Roman Catholic, Alcoholic Awareness and Family Recovery representatives, families of the 38th Course trainees.

FTC is now proceeding toward accreditation by the Marine Division of Kiribati and the International Maritime Organization, the IMO. Preparation by all departments is now underway and definitely by the middle of this year, the goal will be pursued. Part A of the Quality Manual has been drafted and one copy has been despatched to the mother ministry for appraisal and it is expected that the next part of the QM will be definitely drafted and circulated this coming days for amendments before it is sent to FTC Headquarters, Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development. It is the first time for FTC to take such actions eventhough it is 20years old now.
The 39th Course intake test was carried out in the Northern island group. These islands include Makin, Butaritari, Marakei, Abaiang, North Tarawa, Maiana, Kuria, Aranuka, Abemama and Ocean Island. As occasionally done, BTC and TUC were included in this intake test as most of the people living in these overcrowded places came from all islands of Kiribati.

The first islands to be visited were Abemama and Marakei by two different groups of Instructors. Timon and Konorio conducted the intake test at Abemama while loota and Obeti conducted the same intake test at Marakei. It took three days to accomplish the intake tests on these islands and after their return, another two different groups of Instructors left the campus and went to the next islands.

The next islands were Makin, Butaritari and Abaiang. Makin and Butaritari’s intake test was conducted by Itioa and Kakiata. They spent one week on these two islands, three days in Butaritari and four days in Makin.

Maiana’s intake test was carried out and conducted by Temaua and Obeti. They spent two days to do their work and return on their third day to Tarawa.

Kuria and Aranuka were the next islands to be visited by the FTC officers for the same purpose.

Temaua and Tebarine conducted the same test at Abaiang island and they spent three days to finish their work. Two days after their return from Abaiang, another group was prepared to be sent to Maiana island.

Timon and Konorio conducted the test in these islands and spent a whole week there; three days at Kuria and four days at Aranuka.

The last outer island to be visited was North Tarawa. Itioa and loota conducted the intake test there and it was the only island which took two trips for reasonable reasons.

The Island council requested that as they had many isolated islets, they needed more time to inform their people there so that no complaints would be raised against them later. Their request was finally approved but under one circumstance, they had to pay for the extra hotel and meal charges for the Instructors which they agreed to do so. It took five days to do the test in this island and on the sixth day, FTC boat came and pick the instructors to take them back.

The last councils to have this intake test conducted at their places were TUC and BTC. The Principal, deputy Principal and all instructors together with three female staff helped in this important function as more than a hundred candidates registered their names and attended the test.

It took three days to complete the screening test, the paper test and interview to all candidates and medical check up was followed for the selected candidates.

Only Ocean island was not visited in this intake as no candidate registered their names to do the test on the island.
and families of all Staff members of the Fisheries Training Centre.

The Fishing department was the only department this time to demonstrate different kinds of techniques used in the Pole and Line fishing vessels.

These techniques included; handling, treatment and preparation of fishing pole, esatsuri where the fisherman used live bait to catch the skipjack, moyai where two poles connected with only one chan (lure) was used by two men to catch a big sized yellow fin or skipjack (20kg) and the last technique where 3 fishing poles connected with only one chan (lure) was used to catch a 25~30kg yellow fin or tonbo (albacore).

After the fishing demonstration, honourable guests were escorted to the Maneaba where the formal parts; Certificate award and Prize giving was carried out.

There were four prizes awarded this time which two of them were very new in the history of the Fisheries Training Centre.

The Discipline award was given to the most well behaved trainee and it was awarde3811, Tongsob from Xmas Island. The second award was the Academic award given to the most stand out academic result and it was won by Arinete Teikake from Tamana.

The new awards, Staff of the Course award was an award given to the best staff who has given his best output and effort to the Institution through out the Course and this award was won by Senior Instructor, Timon Iokaara from the Engine Department.

The last award, Special Intake Award was given to Tamana Island Council for it’s best trainee,

Tamana Island Council was given the first prize for the “Special Intake Award” for the remarkable result of it’s 38th Course candidate, Mr. Arinete Teikake, cadet number 3831.

This award is FTC newly created award given to any Island Council which has the best candidate in that course whose academic results and disciplinary record stands out among the whole lot or the whole course. The island concerned will be given an extra candidate in the following outer island intake beside the quota provided by the Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development. This will give them the idea that well disciplined and good candidates will bring their island more future job opportunities. This will also create a closer relationship between the Island council and its youth in the way that it will encourage them to have good behaviours and good discipline.

Mr Arinete Teikake won the Academic Award and had less than fifteen offences committed from the beginning of his training until the end at the Centre. For these reasons, his home island, the island which he was selected from, Tamana, won this award and will be given one extra candidate for this coming Outer Island intake for the South-
On the 3rd of December 2009, FTC held its first drill on Disaster Plan, newly designed by the Deck Department for the protection and safety of lives of the Fisheries Training Centre staff and trainees!

This Disaster plan’s main objective is to repeatedly give awareness and alerts to all staff and trainees on how to act, where to be and what to do when natural disasters like tsunami strikes!

The rapid ringing of the bell will trigger the warning to all staff and trainees that the disaster is coming in a few minutes or hours and must go immediately to their designated places!

The Commanding Officer is the Institute’s principal, Captain Rui Natake and he is responsible to control all units. The On scene commander is his deputy, Mr Tentau Teikake and he is assigned to help the Commanding officer in controlling all units.

There are nine units altogether which are specially assigned to do different tasks.

The first unit, Batten down unit is assigned to close all doors, windows and other openings of all FTC buildings.

The second unit, Life jacket unit is assigned to collect all life jackets and rain coats to the staging area and to the boats.

The third unit, Transport unit is assigned to arrange all transports needed to evacuate all staff and trainees during that time.

The fourth unit, Boat unit One is assigned to fit outboard engines on all boats.

The fifth unit, Boat Unit Two is assigned to take and bring canned foods and other available long lasting foods onto the boats.

The sixth unit, Boat Unit Three is assigned to take and collect water in any means of closed containers and bring them onto the boats well lashed and secured.

The seventh unit, Boat Unit Four is assigned to bring any kind of clothes and take them onto the boats.

The eighth unit, Boat Unit Five is assigned to prepare and take fuel onto the boats.

The ninth unit, Boat Unit Six is assigned to prepare and to take onto the boats outboard engines and to plug in plugs on all boats.

The Disaster drill is planned to be held every month and all units are expected to do their parts properly and smoothly so that no complications will be created and expected to arise during times of disaster.

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