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1ST SOLOMON ISLAND FEMALE STUDYING AT WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY



To be the first ever Solomon Island to study at the World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmö is a dream come true for Ms Rachel Kosalu Bare-Anita. Ms Rachel Kosalu Bare-Anita is currently pursuing a MSc. Maritime Affairs with the intention of graduating in November, 2017.

Ms Rachel Kosalu Bare-Anita graduated in 2011 from the University of the South Pacific with a Bachelor of Arts degree (majoring in Marine Affairs & Geography).

In 2012 she started working as a Senior Marine Officer with the Solomon Island Maritime Administration (SIMSA). Whilst working with SIMSA she realized that the maritime industry in the Solomon Islands like others in the world is male dominated.

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This motivated her to continue to work with the aim to continue further studies and career in the maritime field. And when this opportunity came up, she saw this as the door to study and broaden her understanding in how better she can contribute to SIMSA. Ms Rachel Kosalu Bare-Anita stated *“At WMU I am learning new subjects and acquiring the knowledge and skills about the maritime field which I have never known or knew little about in the past. Thus, I believe that the knowledge and skills I will acquire at WMU are useful and will be utilized for the enhancement of SIMSA and the maritime field in the Solomon Islands as well as internationally.”*.

When asked on how she came about in selecting WMU, Ms Rachel Kosalu Bare-Anita stated answered that she first heard of the World Maritime University through a work colleague who had previously studied in WMU in 2012. *“The name of the University caught my attention and I started enquiring to know more about WMU and my interest to study at WMU continued, and here I am”*. As part of training capacity building, she applied to WMU in 2015 for 2016 entry and was accepted to do MSc in Maritime Affairs specialized in Ocean Sustainability, Governance and Management and was awarded a sponsorship by Sasakawa Peace Fellowship (Nippon Foundation, Japan). According to Ms Rachel Kosalu Bare-Anita, so far, only two males from the Solomon Islands graduated from WMU and she is the first female to study at WMU. With that, her aim is to collaborate with Solomon Islands Women in Maritime (SIWIMA) to encourage both women and men to attend WMU.

As a motivation for other young women, *“Once you are motivated to do something, in a position that would make a positive impact on you and your country and making sacrifice. For me, my hardest decision was leaving my 22 months old son to come and study at WMU. Yet, I am grateful for this experience because it helps me to come out of my comfort zone and come across the globe to fulfill my dream to study at WMU and to continue with my career in the maritime field. I believe, in the future, my son will thank me for making such a decision,”* Ms Rachel Kosalu Bare-Anita.

The World Maritime University in Malmo, Sweden was set up as a postgraduate maritime university by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), a specialized agency of the United Nations. Rachel joins a few other women whom have graduated from WMU whom are advocates for other women and girls to pursue a career in the maritime industry.

Pacific Women In Maritime Association (PacWIMA) wishes Ms. Rachel Kosalu Bare-Anita the very best in her studies and future plans within the maritime industry.

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