



Compass of Innovation and Success

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SIMSA'S DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF SHIPS ATTAINS CERTIFICATE IN VESSEL REGISTRATION

Mrs. Catherine Talua Indu is the Deputy Registrar of Ships with the Solomon Islands Maritime Safety Administration (SIMSA). Catherine, as she is fondly referred to, is a graduate of Solomon Islands College of Higher Education (SICHE) and Solomon Islands National University (SINU) graduating with an Advanced Certificate in Technology (Marine Engineering Class 3). Catherine recently completed and graduated with a Certificate in Vessel Registration awarded by the Lloyds Maritime Academy. The study was financially supported by the Pacific Community (SPC) in July this year. Catherine is the first Solomon Islands female to study in the maritime field and work on board vessels as a marine engineer and as a Seafarer. And that is not all. Catherine is also one of the first female maritime Officers in the Solomon Islands. She and a fellow Seafarer Officer were the first two female Fisheries Observers to board foreign fishing vessels in the Pacific and have been doing so for two years straight. For 7 years Catherine has worked as a Second Engineer and six months as a Chief Engineer and for the past 9 years, Catherine has been working for SIMSA.

Catherine stated that she came across opportunity to apply for the course in Vessel Registration when conducting research on the Maritime Lloyd Academy website with the help of her Director Capt. Tim Harris.

"Applying for this course two years ago was easy but the problem was the finance", Catherine said and mentioned that she had previously applied for sponsorship in 2016 through her Ministry, with the approval from the Permanent Secretary but finance could not be secured. However, this did not deter Catherine and she kept seeking out opportunities for funding "I didn't give up and when the Maritime Governance Workshop facilitated by SPC was held in the Solomon Islands, I informed the Deputy Director of Transport, Mr. Thierry Nervale who advised me to contact the SIMSA Director to make a request for sponsorship. My course fee was being paid by SPC, in which I wish to convey a big thank you to SPC and especially the then EDD Transport Program, now Geoscience Energy Maritime Division (GEMD)", Catherine stated.

When asked what would be different now and how better she can contribute to SIMSA and maritime in general with her qualifications acquired, Catherine stated that with the new qualification, she is able to understand and is well-versed with what ship registration is in the maritime area and being informed of

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Flag State requirements, duties, management, factor influencing choice of registry, flag of convenience and Port State Control. With her training, Catherine is better able to serve SIMSA and Solomon Islands.

Her word of advice for women considering a career in maritime - *“Whilst it is a fact that the Maritime sector is a male dominated, I encourage other women who want to make a career in maritime to strive with determinations, to move forward and to achieve your goals – there are a lot of opportunities available, we just need to reach out.”*

PacWIMA extends its congratulations to Mrs. Catherine Talua Indu in her great achievement as well as in her current role within SIMSA. Her achievement is also contributes to the recognition and visibility of women in the Maritime Sector, which is one of PacWIMAs agenda in achieving *SDG 5 – in inspiring women and girls and promoting female professionals in the Maritime Sector in the Pacific.*

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