

# Dr. 'Alisi Wenonalita Kautoke-Holani

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## Personal statement

A results-oriented executive manager with over 15 years of experience in trade, business development and labour mobility policy and strategic management in the Pacific. I am committed to delivering results through: building strong partnerships with stakeholders; empowerment of staff; effective strategic planning and process-based management; and targeted monitor and evaluation of programs. As a fervent Pacific Islander, I am invested in using my skills to contribute to the sustainable development of Pacific Island Countries.

## Key Skills

- Labour mobility policy development, analysis and management in the Pacific
- Pacific Island trade policy analysis and trade negotiations
- Strategic planning and process-based management design
- Private sector development policy and development support in Pacific Island Countries
- Executive management in the public sector
- Extensive experience in financial and HR management
- Monitor & Evaluation program design
- Mixed-methods research and analysis
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal
- Proficient in English, Tongan and Japanese

## Employment History

### Consultant, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Nuku'alofa, TONGA

(October 2018 – March 2019)

Achievements and responsibilities:

- Developed the Tonga Labour Mobility Policy Framework – Tonga's first labour mobility policy to manage low-skilled and semi-skilled labour mobility from Tonga and to enhance the development impact of labour mobility in Tonga;
- Developed a 5 year Action Plan to facilitate the implementation of the Tonga Labour Mobility Policy Framework;
- Conducted extensive stakeholder consultations on labour mobility issues and built network to facilitate establishment of an institutional framework for labour mobility in Tonga;
- Designed the organizational reform program for the Labour Sending Unit in Tonga;
- Developed strategies for improved worker protection and support to families of workers so as to reduce the negative social impacts of labour mobility;
- Developed reintegration strategies to increase the economic impact of labour mobility including through the economic empowerment of women and youth development;

- Developed strategy for improving efficiency of recruitment and deployment of workers for the RSE, SWP and PLS so as to contribute to poverty alleviation and increased demand for Tongan workers;
- Revised data management needs of the LSU and developed plans to address these gaps;
- Revised labour mobility pre-departure training processes and developed plans for improving the quality of training provided;
- Analysed statistical data on economic growth, poverty, unemployment and skills development in Tonga to confirm how labour mobility can best contribute to development in Tonga.

### **Consultant, Friendly Island Shipping Agency, Nuku'alofa, TONGA**

*(March 2019 – April 2019)*

Achievements and responsibilities:

- Developed the 5-year strategic plan for Tonga's leading inter-island ferry and cargo service;
- Designed a process-based management system to improve efficiency of FISA operations;
- Provided capacity building support for FISA senior management on strategic planning;
- Developed process-maps to guide the design of operational manuals for FISA;
- Led budget planning and HR management planning required for the implementation of the FISA strategic plan.

### **Deputy CEO, Ministry of Trade & Economic Development, Nuku'alofa, TONGA**

*(August 2011 – Present)*

Achievements and responsibilities:

- Provided policy advice to Minister and CEO on trade, business development, labour, and consumer protection issues;
- Managed the formulation of policies for trade development, private sector development and consumer protection and empowerment;
- Led the development of regulations to improve ease of doing business in Tonga, increase protection of consumer rights, address market failures through regulation of prices and basic consumer goods and services;
- Led statistical data collection and analysis for the formulation of trade and business development policies;
- Negotiated trade agreements including the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Cooperation Plus (PACER Plus) and the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA);
- Led stakeholder consultations and outreach programs to improve public-private partnerships;
- Represented Tonga in domestic, regional and international forums on trade and business development;
- Developed the Ministry's corporate plan, financial plans and annual management plans;
- Led the Ministry's strategic planning activities;
- Developed a process-based management system to improve the operations of the Policy Division of the Ministry;

- Developed a Monitor & Evaluation mechanism to facilitate the delivery of the Ministry's strategic outcomes and outputs;
- Managed the staff and budget of the Policy Division of the Ministry;
- Acted on the CEO position for extended periods while CEO was out of the country.

**Acting Deputy Secretary for Commerce, Ministry of Labour, Commerce & Industries, Nuku'alofa, TONGA**

*(July 2010 – July 2011)*

Achievements and responsibilities:

- Managed the administration and enforcement of the Business License Act and Regulations, Foreign Investment Regulations, Price Control Act and the Weights & Measures Act;
- Administered the enforcement of the Cooperatives Act and the provision of support to cooperatives and credit unions in Tonga;
- Reviewed processes and developed operational manuals to improve efficiency;
- Streamlined activities and responsibilities to reduce inefficiencies;
- Managed the staff and budget of the Commerce Division of the Ministry.

**Assistant to Minister, Ministry of Labour, Commerce & Industries, Nuku'alofa, TONGA**

*(January 2009 – July 2010)*

Achievements and responsibilities:

- Managed the implementation of ministerial policy development initiatives on trade, investment and business development;
- Assisted the Institute of International Trade (Australia) in the development of the PACER Plus Impact study for Tonga;
- Facilitated the set up of processes for Tonga's participation in the Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme (PSWPS);
- Supported research on the viability of setting up a Tonga Trade & Investment Board;
- Supported research on the viability of a trade office for Tonga in New Zealand;
- Drafted policy papers to Cabinet;
- Drafted ministerial statements and communications;
- Managed the Minister's office.

**Assistant Industrial Promotions Officer, Ministry of Labour, Commerce & Industries, Nuku'alofa, TONGA**

*(January 2004 – January 2009)*

Achievements and responsibilities:

- Assisted the administration of the Industrial Development Incentives Act;
- Planned and participated in foreign investment promotional activities including the development of information for potential foreign investors and the organization of foreign investment promotional activities;

- Developed information tools to improve private sector access to business development information including business development assistance;
- Developed the first Tonga Investment & Trade Newsletter and was responsible for the development of the monthly editions.

## **Visiting Research Fellow, Australian National University, AUSTRALIA**

*(November – December 2017)*

Achievements and responsibilities:

- Assisted the design of research programs on labour mobility in the Pacific
- Developed publications relating to labour mobility in the Pacific

## **Education**

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### **PhD, University of Adelaide, Australia**

*(January 2014 – April 2018)*

- PhD Thesis – “ The Roles of the PACER Plus Agreement and the Seasonal Worker Program in enhancing the development impact of labour mobility in Pacific Island Countries”

### **Master of Public Policy, Massey University, New Zealand**

*(January 2007 – December 2008)*

- MPP Thesis – “ Agricultural export growth and economic development for Tonga: the quest for efficiency”

### **Bachelor of Arts (International Economics), International Christian University, Japan**

*(January 2000 – December 2004)*

- BA Thesis – “ Trade between Tonga and Japan” a case study of the squash export industry”

### **Certificate - Japanese Language, International Students Institute, Japan**

*(September 1998 – December 1999)*

## **Publications & Conference Presentations**

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- Kautoke-Holani, A. (2018). Labour Mobility in the PACER Plus. *Asia & The Pacific Policy Studies*. Australian National University. Canberra, Australia.
- Kautoke-Holani, A. (2018). Encouraging and Enhancing Economic Development in the RSE and SWP. *Department of Pacific Affairs*, Australian National University. Australia.

- Kautoke-Holani, A.W (2017), Enhancing the Development Impact of Labour Mobility in Pacific Island Countries. University of Adelaide. Australia
- Kautoke-Holani, A.W (2008). Agricultural export growth and economic development for Tonga: the quest for efficiency. Massey University. Auckland New Zealand

Presented at:

- Australasian Aid Conference, 18 – 20 February 2019, ANU, Canberra, Australia. Title of presentation: “ Development Benefits of Labour Mobility for Pacific Sending Countries”. The presentation was made as part of a panel presentation by the Australia Pacific Training Coalition (APTC).
- Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting, 9 – 11 October 2018, Solomon Islands. Title of presentation: “What’s Possible? What could Labour Mobility in the Pacific look like in 10 year’s time? A labour sending country perspective”
- NZIPR Oceans & Islands Conference, 1 - 2 December 2018, Auckland University, New Zealand. Title of presentation: “Bridging the policy-research gap in the Pacific – Insights from labour mobility negotiations in PACER Plus”
- 2018 Pacific Update, 5 July 2018, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji. Title of presentation: “ Labour Mobility in the PACER Plus”
- Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting, Brisbane, November 2017. Presented as part of panel on the development impact of labour mobility in Pacific sending countries
- Australasian Aid Conference, 14 February 2017, ANU, Canberra, Australia. Title of presentation: Enhancing the development impact of labour mobility in Pacific Island Countries

## Hobbies & Interests

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- Community and youth development work in my local community – develop project proposals to fund community and youth development projects; community and youth activities
- Travelling and learning about new cultures and languages
- Reading
- Research

## References

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References are available upon request.