

The Flexible Learning Approach in Waste Management in the Pacific towards Accredited Competency

By Johann Poinapen

Clean Pacific Roundtable, Suva, 21 August 2018

Modes of learning at USP

- USP is a multi-modal university
- Courses offered in a variety of modes:
 - Face-to-face
 - Online (>80%) and F2F (<20%) - Moodle
 - Blended (incl. distance and flexible learning)
 - Print – moving away from this
- USP has a sophisticated satellite communications network – USP-Net, also 4 countries has optic fibre
- Provides links to 15 campuses and centres

Moodle platform

- Moodle allows students and lecturers to communicate effectively anytime and any place
- Lecturers can:
 - upload materials
 - post discussions and send messages
 - create assignments, case studies, quizzes and reports
- Two-way communication (students and lecturers)

Flexible learning

- An educational philosophy concerned with providing learners with:
 - increased choice, convenience and personalisation to suit the learner
- Involves a number of pathways to achieve learning objectives and the development of teaching and learning processes to maximise outcomes for all learners

Flexible learning approach in Waste Management in the Pacific

Gap assessment:

1. What do countries need to know?

- Public Health
- Solid Waste
- Hazardous Waste
- Aspects related to WW (leachate, sewage, agriculture, R2R)
- Policies and MEAs
- Monitoring/Evaluation/Reporting

Flexible learning approach in Waste Management in the Pacific

Gap assessment:

2. Pedagogy - University: How to deliver the topics?

- Certificate - TAFE
- Undergraduate (Units)
- Postgraduate Certificate and Diploma
- MSc (by Research) – Innovation/Technology

NB: Recognition of prior learning

3. Short technical training courses

Roadmap

- No accredited Waste Management courses currently being delivered in any of the PICs universities
- Development and approval process (2-3 years)
 - Development of course
 - Departmental review and endorsement
 - Faculty review and endorsement
 - USP Senate and Council
- Roll-out (first batch)

Delivery (Flexible Learning)

- Face to face
- Online (<20% remains face to face)
- Blended
- Cohort (3 – 4 weeks intensive lectures, then online assignments, discussions and support, then 2 – 3 weeks intensive final lectures) – *Compress the learning hours*
- Roll-out the delivery through scholarships (co-funded)
- Undergraduate (2 – 3 units in the Degree programme)
- Postgraduate (Certificate and Diploma)
- MSc (by research)?

Sustainability

- Scholarships (internal and external)
- Progressively embedded into USP's core programme

Vinaka