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Training



Colin Chung



Tuvalu



Afelita



Spto



Tuvalu's Afelita Resort

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South Pacific Tourism Organisation

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Located north of Fiji and south of Kiribati is the tiny Pacific island nation of Tuvalu home to 10,000 Tuvaluans who call this dot which is made up of three reef islands and six true atolls, it's been home for generations. Tuvalu also played host to the Pacific Island Forum this year, hosting diplomats and stakeholders from the Pacific region and globally.



On this island is a tiny thriving niche tourism industry with quaint B&B's and lodges. The Pacific Tourism Organisation has been working with it's country members and stakeholders to deliver capacity building to business owners and staff to achieve sustainable practices, which will help with their green footprint.

In 2018 the total % of tourism contribution to Tuvalu's GDP was 19.55% PTO recognises the need to help with this growth by working with small business owners. One such business that is determined to run a clean sustainable property is Afelita's.

Afelita



Running a small business is never easy and especially if you have to do it all yourself. Ensuring that the business is environmentally sustainable makes the challenge even more daunting but that's exactly what Afelita's is about. A small boutique island resort in Tuvalu, owned and operated by a husband and wife team, Afelita's proves that it can be done.

Lita Pita, along with her husband are the proprietors of Afelita in Funafuti, Tuvalu. She is also the manager, the chef, the receptionist, the hostess or the tour guide. She is whatever Afelita needs her to be to ensure that it keeps running. Being on an island away from the mainland has its own sets of challenges, but Afelita's has taken this on and sees these as opportunities of how they can be creative in meeting their needs. The resort is powered by solar panels and grows its own food in organic gardens.

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The Training

One of the shortcomings that Lita felt was in her skills as a chef however she recently had the opportunity to improve this through training provided by SPTO and the Government of Tuvalu. The training focused on Food and Beverage, Food Safety and Handling and Customer Service for the tourism industry targeted at communities and youth in and around Funafuti as a means of gaining new skills. Lita had a very positive experience during the training and it also changed her outlook on how she runs her business.



Participants look on as Colin Chung demonstrates how to prepare tuna for use in poke, sashimi and fish cakes

“I didn’t have the confidence to present my cooking to my guests because I knew that something is missing. I needed some training in some basics of doing things local to meet international standard. When I was invited to the first week of the workshop here, I thought its business as usual” says Lita.

She was amazed at all the learning that took place and emphasized the need in the market for hands on practical and said the second week was where she found her inspiration.

“Of course, I read cookery books but nothing compared to watching the trainers in action and us trying it ourselves, we learnt to make cocktail food, soups, main courses and salads”

Lita ended the training by giving an emotional speech at the closing of the training. “This training filled that void in my cooking, operating and running of Afelita. Before I would get stressed when people book to come eat at Afelita. Now I have confidence, I am showcasing my training and I have guests saying nice things about

the display and the taste of food — I never tasted my food before now I do. Our local food has a bland taste now there is a spice in taste.”

PTO is proud to provide quality training to small businesses, communities and youth groups to ensure that they are able to reap the benefits that tourism brings in sustainable ways.

The training was part of PTO's support for Tuvalu as an PTO member country. With the Leaders' Meeting in August, ServicePro Training and Consultancy Services of Fiji conducted the training under the oversight of the Tuvalu Ministry of Tourism and PTO.

By Neisau Tuidraki

Training



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