



Nauru Bulletin

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COVID free, time spent preparing

Australia grants travel exemption for Nauruans requiring urgent critical medical care

Movements and activities on Nauru maintain a level of normalcy with the backdrop of caution during coronavirus. Although Nauru is still free from the virus, the government continues its capture and contain policy for the management and minimisation of the impacts of coronavirus.

Air travel is maintained with the once fortnightly flights to and from Brisbane flying in passengers who then go into managed quarantine for two weeks; while freighter planes fly in two or three times a week to bring in supplies for the island.

As previously reported in President Lionel Aingimea's situational media updates, the Nauru Government is thankful for the special travel exemption granted earlier this month by the Australian Government to allow Nauruans requiring urgent critical medical care to enter Australia for treatment. The exemption extends to other Pacific Island countries also.

In this time of strict travel restrictions, the government is pleased with this breakthrough in medical referrals.



President Lionel Aingimea keeps the public informed through regular situational media updates

This positive development was followed by news of the breakdown in negotiations with the Fiji Government to allow Nauru Airlines entry to operate a repatriation flight for Nauruan students and other Nauruans. One flight was allowed on 9 April but subsequent requests by the Nauru Government to permit Nauru Airlines entry into Fiji were unsuccessful. The Fiji Government instead proposed their national carrier to service the charter.

The Government is reviewing repatriation options.

There are over 100 Nauruan students, with families, studying in Fiji at various levels from primary through to tertiary.

The Coronavirus Taskforce conducted an emergency practice drill on Thursday 15 May to test the response systems of police, health, emergency services and communications using the scenario of a break out by a confirmed coronavirus person from quarantine.

The drill, conducted in Ijuw District lasted just over an hour with the full test run using all available communications streams of phone text blasts, Facebook, radio and email messaging. A command post was established at the taskforce office located in Parliament House.

In his media address to the Nauruan public the morning of the drill, President Lionel Aingimea said the drill was important to "identify any gaps that need improving," and turned out very worthwhile for all stakeholders, with valuable lessons learnt.

Currently there are 47 people in quarantine across the two residences at Meneñ Hotel and Canstruct's Anibare Village •

Nauru celebrates 52nd constitution day, new citizens sworn in

His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea and Madam Ingrid Aingimea hosted a lunch banquet at the Meneñ Hotel for the occasion of Nauru's 52nd Constitution day and the fifth citizenship ceremony.

The event was held at the Meneñ Hotel where 30 individuals were presented their certificates by President Aingimea; however, citizenship was granted over the course of a year, from May 2019 to May 2020.

In his opening address, President Aingimea highlighted the global coronavirus pandemic and the world "going through an unprecedented time," and compared the rates of infection and death to the two world wars.

"This coronavirus fight so far with deaths and those who have been affected is now on par with World War I and because the



30 citizenship certificates were conferred on the eve of Nauru's 52nd Constitution day

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Nauru celebrates 52nd constitution, new citizens

...from pg 1

infection rate and the death rate are growing exponentially, we could even surpass the death rate of even the Second World War.

“We have been blessed by the grace of God in that we are coronavirus free.”

President Aingimea then welcomed the new citizens and highlighted some of the privileges they will have as Nauruans and shared some insight of Constitution Day including the annual athletics carnival that is held as part of the celebrations.

“We celebrate the constitution for in it is the genesis of all our law. Any law that is not in compliance with what our constitution says is void,” the President said.

“In the constitution are our freedoms, we are able to worship, we are able to assemble, we are able to own property, it identifies how we are governed, it tells us how laws are to be interpreted and most importantly it identifies us as a people under God.”

The opening words of Nauru’s Constitution acknowledge “God as the almighty and everlasting Lord and the giver of all good things. And whereas we humbly place ourselves under the protection of His good providence and seek His blessing upon ourselves and upon our lives”

“They [citizens] are in one way or another contributed and still are contributing to Nauru. Some know nothing else but life on Nauru and life as a Nauruan. For them citizenship is but the legalising of something that they have in their heart. Nauruans have always been an inclusive people.”

Lastly, the President wished every athlete a “safe and an excellent sports carnival.”

“Let’s keep working together, let’s keep praying together for our country and let’s keep fighting together against coronavirus and let us take a vow on this Constitution day that we work together as team Nauru to protect our citizenship and our way of life.”

Secretary for Justice and Border Control, Jay Udit then briefed the new citizens of their roles and responsibilities as Nauruans.

Then His Honour Justice Rapi Va’ai presided over the oath ceremony for the 30 citizens before thank you remarks by John Short who summed up the occasion in three words: “pride, privilege and *pwabwa*.”

Pwabwa is a Nauru custom where money or material possession of a person who has accomplished or achieved something in life,

Constitution day church service

President Aingimea and Madam Ingrid Aingimea joined ministers, diplomatic corp, government representatives and members of the public and church congregation in a packed service at the Orro Church, Aiwo, Sunday morning, Constitution Day, 17 May.

The special service, hosted by the Nauru Congregational Church Council, was in commemoration of the 52nd anniversary of Nauru Constitution Day.

After the doxology, came the trooping of the colours by the Nauru Police Force and the call to worship, with Bible readings from Psalm and John 1 and a sermon delivered by Pastor Stanley Dabuae entitled “The Perfect Law”.

Refreshments were served after the service at the Centennial Hall, with NCC youth as hosts.

In the evening, NCC Women’s Fellowship celebrated their 98th anniversary at Centennial Hall •



New citizen John Short sums up this milestone in three words: pride, privilege and pwabwa

is freely given, with pride, to anyone who asks for it.

Mr Short thanked the Nauruan community for “accepting me and embracing me,” as a citizen of Nauru and recalls his early days as a sub-contractor being told by his colleagues, “if you want to be Nauruan, all you have to do is just be Nauruan.”

“And I guess that was the changing point in my life. From that day I stopped becoming a contractor and started working down my path of becoming Nauruan.”

“In my old country [Australia], I was just your average citizen, but this is the country that you would live and die for and stand behind and everyone’s got the same thinking and that’s what makes Nauru such a wonderful place to be.

“I’ve had the privilege of looking in from the outside and it’s a life-changing thing for me,” Mr Short said.

In closing, Justice Minister Maverick Eoe welcomed the new citizens to the “national family” and observe “the loyalty that you have pledged today.”

“As you depart after this auspicious occasion as new citizens and members of our Republic, our history will be yours now. Our people will embrace you with the narrative of your history, the weaving of which now begins into the larger story of this Republic.

“Through our laws and our traditions, we commit to continue to recognise your personal rights as an individual in a small but proud nation with collaborative values, inclusion, tolerance and diversity,” Minister Eoe said.

The Constitution of Nauru was adopted on 31 January 1968, but alterations made by the Constitutional Convention of Nauru under Article 92 were made on 17 May 1968, hence the date we celebrate Constitution Day •



Pastor Stan Dabuae escorts President Lionel Aingimea and Madam Ingrid Aingimea from church at the end of the Constitution day service

Evergreen retains constitution athletics title

Team Evergreen has once again defended its title by winning the constitution day athletics carnival, Saturday 16 May, with 1022 points ahead of Blues with 880, Boe 164, Aida 160 and Ubenide with 158 points.

A proud Evergreen, President Lionel Aingimea, alongside Madam Ingrid Aingimea, ministers and diplomatic staff opened the traditional Constitution Day athletics carnival.

Athletes from each constituency marched the oval, assembling before the President, who praised them, saying of sports, “it’s not about winning, it’s not about losing, it’s all about taking part”.

President Aingimea then moved to the start line of the first race of the day to fire the starting gun, in this case, a clapper board specifically designed for the purpose •



President Lionel Aingimea officially opens the main day of the Constitution day athletics carnival, 16 May

Practice makes perfect: COVID emergency response drill

A mock COVID-19 emergency scenario was played out in Areal time on the ground at Ijuw, Thursday 14 May.

Emergency services, police, health, IHMS, security providers, multicultural affairs representatives along with messaging channels Government Information Office (GIO), Nauru Media and Digicel, came together to enact ‘Scenario 1: uncontrolled breakout into the community’ following the group’s three-day COVID strategic response planning workshop the previous week.

Stakeholders worked together, 6-8 May, to develop a coordinated plan to strategically navigate through the scenario, which began as a ‘desktop’ solution they then honed and perfected, and later practiced and rehearsed before it was enacted on the day as a live drill.

NES’ Acting Secretary and COVID Taskforce Coordinator Barassi Botelanga said that the plan will ensure all stakeholders and agencies understand their roles and responsibilities at each point in Nauru Health’s 4-stage response plan.

In this scenario, a COVID-19 confirmed person at the Meneñ Hotel observation station is exasperated with being in quarantine and decides to break through security and run randomly in the community, heading towards Ijuw.

The mission is to quickly capture, contain and detain the person of interest (POI) and those who may have come into contact with him.

The action plan is to:

1. Lockdown the area, notifying the taskforce, close borders, message the public;
2. Respond by capturing, containing, transferring the POI to the COVID-19 remand centre as well as contact tracing and subsequent isolations;
3. Isolation, including home isolation, monitoring and reporting to taskforce and;
4. Recovery when lockdown is lifted, messaging, debrief and evaluation happens and close contact health evaluations are done.

On-the-spot evaluations were performed by nominated assessors in each team and will be presented at the debriefing session the week following Constitution Day. This feedback will be a valuable tool for improvement, as up to five subsequent drills around the island are planned.



Step 2 of action plan: First responders at the drill conducting mock interview with captured POI actor to establish contact tracing

The Ministry of Health and Medical Services has developed a 4-stage national response plan.

Currently, Nauru is at response stage 1 with no cases in Nauru. At stage 1, the response includes border control measures, response preparedness for the next stages and heightened public awareness.

At stage 2, the scenario is that a few cases are on-island and are contained, with the aim to prevent local transmission.

Stage 3 of the national response plan will be enacted if an increasing number of imported cases are witnessed or cases develop outside containment stations. The response at this stage will be border closure, reduced movement and social contact and the suspension of all non-essential activities; the base level at which much of the world has been living for many months now, and only just beginning to ease.

A stage 4, the final stage, response is triggered should community transmissions and COVID-19 infection clusters arise. At this point, in order to minimise the impact on the community, restrictions on movement and physical contact will be tightened, and all efforts across the nation will be focused on the crisis response.

Mr Botelanga says we need to continue with the required national effort and cooperation of the public: “we still need your help, we can’t do it alone.

“We are in Stage 1. We don’t wait until we’re in Stage 3. This is the time to be receiving the messages and obeying the law.” •

Airline receives \$2.5M government support for COVID redundancy

As the global aviation sector experiences challenges and the brink of collapse, the government is providing Nauru Airlines \$2.5 million in funding to directly support its staff as they face drastic changes and financial challenges during coronavirus.

Travel restrictions globally are also having a major impact on Nauru Airlines with measures taking on coronavirus. Border restrictions and closures and halting of international travel are affecting the airline.

However, as Nauru Airlines maintains minimal movement with fortnightly passenger flights to and from Brisbane and a few freighter flights each week bringing in supplies for the island, four passenger planes have been parked due to the reduced flight activity.

As Minister for Nauru Airlines, President Lionel Aingimea says “this affects our airline dramatically, in a financial sense,” adding that in 2021 the airline is looking at 80 per cent less operations which means revenue for the airline will be down by millions.

The President noted major international airlines feeling the effects of the downturn caused by COVID-19 to the point of going into receivership or filing for bankruptcy.

“By the grace of God, Nauru Airlines hasn’t gone there [bankruptcy or receivership]. But saying that, it has impacted our airline,” President Aingimea said.

Nauru Airlines is an Australian registered company, however, its status as a foreign company in Australia, renders its Brisbane based staff ineligible to participate in the Australian government’s JobKeeper scheme.

Pre-COVID, there were 226 total airline employees in Nauru and Brisbane. Forty per cent of the total 132 Brisbane based work force are expected to be made redundant.

“That is a lot of families from our dedicated workers, who will now be in hardship and face the uncertainty and challenge of being unemployed,” Nauru Airlines Chairman Dr Kieren Keke said.

“Part of the government subsidy will be used to give these employees some additional redundancy payments to help them survive for longer facing the challenges of being unemployed.

“It is Nauru’s way of thanking them for their service and hard work they have provided to keeping the essential air services to Nauru operating over the years, through the many ups and downs.”

Stand down for Brisbane staff has been in place from the end of March, since the start of COVID-19 travel restrictions, essentially forcing the airline to cease most operations.

Redundancy laws in Australia differ from Nauru laws and as such the airline’s Brisbane based staff will be more affected by the stand down rules.



The Nauru Government will continue to support Nauru Airlines staff, with the COVID-19 crisis prompting a 40 per cent lay-off of Brisbane-based staff

All Brisbane staff have been on some level of stand down, with some on full stand down which means no work and no pay. The CEO and senior management who are required to work full time, all took a 20 per cent salary cut across the board.

After much deliberation, the government and the airline’s board decided to subsidise stand down by paying its Brisbane staff an additional redundancy package to June so that no staff will have 100 per cent salary cut.

“At worst, some staff will be on half salary for May and June,” Dr Keke said.

“For Nauru based staff, the government subsidy means that no Nauru based staff will be on stand down. All Nauru based staff will remain on full salary.

“Staff who had excessive leave accumulated have been asked to take leave with full pay to reduce this.”

However, as part of the government’s subsidy, in exchange for these employees continuing to receive full pay, they will be deployed to other areas of national need to work. This may be in other government departments, state owned enterprises or other areas.

“We [Nauru Airlines] are very grateful to government for their quick understanding and agreement to support these families in these challenging times. It makes me proud to be Nauruan and to know that our government prioritises people’s lives and welfare,” Chairman Keke said.

President Aingimea said the situation is unavoidable but was important to take measures and assist the airline staff and expects the \$2.5 million will help cushion the effects of redundancy •

COVID ports regulations gazetted

With cargo, fuel and phosphate ships due in Nauru soon, the National Disaster Risk Management (Coronavirus (COVID-19)) (Ports) Regulations 2020 are notified 20 May 2020 with the objectives to limit contact when loading and off-loading cargo, control personnel movement, permit screening and ensure contact tracing occurs.

Vessel masters must ensure travellers and crew understand signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Twice daily temperature checks are imposed, with potentially infectious individuals isolated, full documentation submitted and common areas

and rooms disinfected, all before arrival in Nauru waters.

Crew is not to disembark and the regulations detail crew use of PPE, continued twice daily temperature checks, advising minimal contact and hand hygiene and protective behaviours and the use of electronic means to complete paperwork and conduct briefings.

Contraventions of the regulations attract a \$10,000 fine to be paid within 24 hours of being charged or before leaving the Republic, whichever is later.

Request your copy of the regulations (GN No. 100) from Government Gazette at naurugazette2019@gmail.com •

Teamwork for success: health COVID preparations

Around 50 healthcare representatives, including Health Secretary Chanda Garabwan, gathered for the COVID-19 preparedness and response workshop for healthcare workers, 6 and 7 May.

Consultant advisor to the health minister and COVID taskforce head Dr Kieren Keke opened the workshop with the message that success in the face of the COVID-19 challenge will result if everyone across health works as a team.

Dr Keke used the analogy of his son Joseph, who performed all the right drills and put in the work over the rugby season, only to find that the team's continual game losses were the result of players playing as individuals and not listening to the coach or following the captain's game plan.

Dr Keke presented Nauru's COVID-19 impact assessment, the taskforce organisational plan and Nauru's 4-stage response plan.

"Our first level strategy is to catch it [COVID-19] at the border.

"One of our advantages, which is normally our disadvantage, is that we're very small. We've got small numbers. With small numbers, we are able to test 100 per cent of everybody that arrives in Nauru – something that a lot of other countries would struggle to do," Dr Keke said.

Dr Keke reinforced the role health plays in supporting the rationale behind the 4-stage response plan when communicating with the public, if Nauru moves into stages 2 or 3.

"All of us, as health, need to be the biggest advocates for enforcing and educating people why restrictions are needed.

"They are primarily about stopping the virus spreading, but also so we, as health, can deal with people that need medical treatment."

Questions from the floor included an enquiry about plans for health workers to ensure theirs and their families' safety, if COVID-19 patients are being treated in the remodeled acute block at the hospital.

"Protecting our health workers is a key priority in this.

COVID-19 Pacific appeal, \$35.3M

Nauru will be one of 14 recipient countries of a UN Pacific COVID-19 response plan valued at \$35.3 million, launched 8 May.

UN Resident Coordinators from the Pacific, Sanaka Samarasingha and Simona Marinescu, launched the plan to address immediate needs in education, food security, livelihoods, water and sanitation, nutrition, protection, logistics, as well as emergency telecommunications.

Although Nauru and some other Pacific countries have no confirmed cases of the virus, their economies are already deeply



Across all areas of health, staff are being prepared to respond as a team to the COVID threat

"Protection of our workers is paramount," said Dr Keke, going on to describe the acute ward remodeling that includes a separate dedicated staff entry for donning of head-to-toe personal protective equipment (PPE), with a two-way booth to stow clothing and a separate exit to doff PPE.

Around the world, these kinds of strict PPE measures are what save the lives of front-line workers: "we have spent nearly \$1 million on PPE."

Added to this, Dr Keke informed staff that Australian engineers are advising acute ward building contractors on ventilation systems required to maintain negative pressure in the ward for the carrying out of specific medical procedures within the intensive care setting – a vital and expensive exercise.

Other presentations included hospital preparedness plans, public health updates, caring for carers, infection prevention, teamwork and communication. On Day 2, workshop topics focused on case management across a range of patient categories and scenarios, laboratory procedures, nursing care, finishing with a drill and the presentation of certificates.

Nauru remains COVID free and continues to plan and prepare, with everyone's help, to ensure it remains so •

impacted, with a massive slowdown in tourism, imports, exports, and remittances.

A speedy recovery through the COVID-19 pandemic protects the most vulnerable, especially women and children, as well as jobs and small businesses.

An additional Pacific health plan, led by WHO, requires \$42 million for procurement, training of medical personnel and risk communications.

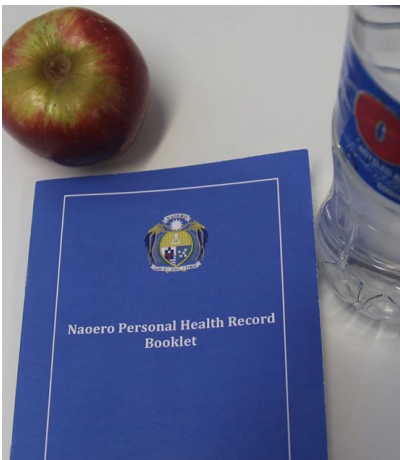
Pacific nations are highly fragile, climate-vulnerable and, in many cases, tourism-dependent economies, some of which are also recovering from the impacts of recent Cyclone Harold •

NCD blue book saves lives

Health's non-communicable disease (NCD) manager, Don Kadir, has designed and begun distribution of a little blue book that can save lives.

The Naoero Personal Health Record Booklet is what health staff mean when they ask patients, "Have you got your blue book?" – an NCD personal health record that registered diabetic and hypertensive patients carry with them whenever they attend any health service, including the hospital, accident and emergency, diabetes clinic, dietician, dental clinic, eye clinic and wellness centres, located at Yaren and Anibare.

Not only does the booklet record insulin dosage, medication and check-up schedules, blood sugar, weight and blood pressure readings over time, it also contains vital information about diabetes and its complications, foot care, health tips, first aid instructions for diabetic emergencies, heart attack and stroke, and a healthy menu section.



The Naoero Personal Health Record booklet helps patients better monitor and manage their condition

So how can a little blue book save lives?

Having a personal health record helps patients to be more engaged and therefore better manage their care, track their progress, schedule appointments and keep tabs on medications. Extended family and at-home carers have access to knowledge of the patient's condition and treatment schedule, as well as education about the disease.

Not only that, but according to Mr Kadir, when some medical staff are moved to other clinics, and at the moment, to quarantine duties, and expat doctors come and go, the personal health record helps coordinate and combine information from multiple providers.

A properly maintained, up-to-date record booklet reduces delays in locating patient information, improves health professional-patient communication and increases the chances that health problems can be identified and earlier interventions initiated if needed.

In an emergency, key patient information is on-hand if the booklet is carried with the patient and contains up-to-date details.

Mr Kadir says there are around 900 registered diabetic patients on Nauru, all of whom should have a personal health record 'blue book', which can be issued at the diabetes clinic at Naoero public health centre in Denig.

Take responsibility for your health and have your up-to-date blue book with you for every appointment.

Call Don Kadir on 557 3073 to learn more •

Nauru leads ocean minerals debate

Nauru's Permanent Representative to the International Seabed Authority (ISA) Margo Debye co-hosted a webinar with over 30 delegates, 6 May.

The webinar addressed the key findings of recently released study *Where should the metals for a green transition come from?*

With Ambassador Debye were representatives from Nauru Ocean Resources Inc (NORI) and DeepGreen Metals Inc., along with authors of the study, Daina Paulikas and Dr Steve Katona. The paper compares the environmental, social and economic impacts of supplying base metals from the land versus acquiring those same base metals from the ocean, in the form of polymetallic nodules.



A box core being deployed to collect seafloor samples 4.5km down. NORI deployed 125 box cores in late 2019.

It is hoped that the findings from the study will continue to build and form the base of a persuasive argument in favour of sea floor mineral extraction.

"This unique life cycle sustainability analysis will allow auto manufacturers, technology companies, and policy makers to understand how these different sources of key base metals measure up against each other in this regard," Dr Katona said.

When they compared land ores and ocean nodules, the researchers found that nodule collection and processing could deliver a 70 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions, a 94 per cent reduction in stored carbon at risk, a 90 per cent reduction in sulphur and nitrogen oxides emissions, 100 per cent less solid waste, 94 percent less land use, 92 per cent less forest use and zero child labour, among other benefits.

Delegate question time raised whether recycling existing metals could meet existing and future demand, to which the authors responded that available metals for recycling are too few and demand is increasing worldwide as renewable energy technologies require more metal to manufacture products like electric batteries. In fact, the World Bank has forecast demand for minerals could rise 500 per cent by 2050. In addition, ore grades are falling.

"We need to dig up and process more ore on land to get to the same amount of metal," Ms Paulikas said.

"Nauru is proud to have partnered with NORI and DeepGreen to develop this white paper [study] and provide opportunities to explore in depth this important topic - understanding the impacts and implications of the development of polymetallic nodules.

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Nauru leads ocean minerals debate

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“As a small island developing state that relies on the ocean for our livelihoods and, as a sponsoring state, we [Nauru] do not want to look at the impacts in a vacuum as is so often the case with a new industry. It is important that we compare the potential impacts of polymetallic nodules to where metals are currently sourced - on land,” Ambassador Debye noted.

A second webinar with the authors, hosted by DeepGreen, inviting a diverse range of voices on the topic, is held 20 May.

Nauru Ocean Resources Inc (NORI) holds an exploration contract for polymetallic nodules with the International Seabed Authority (ISA). NORI is a wholly owned subsidiary of

DeepGreen Resources Inc and is sponsored by the Republic of Nauru, commencing 2011.

Margo Debye was welcomed as the new Permanent Representative of the Republic of Nauru to the ISA on 13 November 2019.

Ambassador Debye has previously served as counsellor for the Mission of Nauru to the UN in New York from 2016, also holding senior positions in Nauru Fisheries since 2001.

For more information, visit DeepGreen <https://deep.green>

The World Bank forecast referred to in this article can be found at <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/961711588875536384/Minerals-for-Climate-Action-The-Mineral-Intensity-of-the-Clean-Energy-Transition.pdf> •

Waste segregation is next: CIE, NRC

This month, the Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation’s Dandy Brechtefeld and the Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment’s Grace Garabwan are working together to reduce landfill at the dump through waste segregation and recycling.

The original project, supported by the Government of Japan through the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP), includes a waste segregation facility at the dumpsite and recycling machines; glass crusher, aluminium can and plastic bottle baling machine. Also on site is a cardboard shredder; the product of which is mixed with shredded green waste material to mulch garden beds and improve soil quality.

To make the worksite a safe and healthy workplace, foundations and roofing extensions were added, made possible by both Ridge to Reef (R2R) and NRC. These extensions help to protect recyclables which degrade when exposed to the weather, and drop below acceptable international market standards if contaminated.

Soon to be launched, a pilot program to conduct waste separation education and action at the community level; one district and one school are selected.

“NRC is doing the implementation of the project. That’s why we really want to work closely with them so that the project moves forward and we get a successful outcome after the awareness,” Ms Garabwan said.

CIE and NRC now have weekly meetings to work out the details and logistics, including safety protocols, before the pilot begins. In the district, they plan for two collection points.

“We plan to use those bins [skip bins] and let people dump their own recyclables.

“We’ll put partitions in the bins for separation [of cans, glass, plastic bottles, cardboard],” Mr Brechtefeld explained, adding that the ultimate vision is a zero-waste Nauru, inspired by the model he witnessed first-hand in Japan recently.

“In Japan, there was a small town. Every Saturday, they bring out their waste and go to this big hall. Everybody would bring their own waste; they had already done the separation. They would start doing the separation again, together.



NRC and CIE join forces to move Nauruans towards a sustainable future in waste management

“We were asked [by the town’s private waste management contractor] “do you think zero waste is possible?”. We said no, but he said that, yes, it is possible.”

Non-profit organisation Zero Waste Academy in the Japanese town of Kamikatsu signed a Zero Waste Declaration in 2003 for achievement by 2020.

Setting high goals has encouraged residents to recycle and reuse their waste, and not buy or use products that may end up as waste. It has also brought economic and creative opportunities in the form of reuse and remake retail outlets and seen innovative solutions like the lending of reusable tableware for public functions to eradicate single-use plastics and a zero waste accreditation mechanism for local businesses.

In 2018, Nauru became one of 21 eligible Pacific nations to join the Moana Taka Partnership. The partnership allows for Swire’s China Navigation Company shipping vessels to carry containers of recyclable waste from eligible Pacific island ports, pro bono, to be sustainably treated and recycled in suitable ports in Asia-Pacific. Nauru is yet to take advantage of this partnership.

For now, for Nauru’s waste management team, education, awareness and community action will be first steps, moving then to identification of overseas markets for recyclable commodities, with the long term objective to establish a sustainable and self-sustaining recycling program in Nauru for the future •

I don't smoke! World no tobacco day preparations

As we approach World No Tobacco Day at the end of May, public health is preparing to take the message to schools across Nauru, with young people encouraged to make the pledge: "I don't smoke".

Nauru Bulletin spoke to Don Kadir, one of the leads of the non-communicable disease (NCD) effort on Nauru, about plans for the day, which falls on 31 May each year, including school visits and community screening and health talks.

In line with global COVID-19 social distancing, the idea is that health representatives reach out to small groups of people, rather than hold large public gatherings at a single venue.

This year, WHO will focus on tobacco and related industry tactics to attract younger generations under the hashtag #TobaccoExposed, claiming that if a product kills eight million people a year, the manufacturer would need to attract new generations of customers – our children.

Read the full story in June's Nauru Bulletin.



NCD Manager Don Kadir uses hands-on education to engage the public on the effects of 'lifestyle' diseases caused by behaviours like smoking

For more information, visit <https://www.who.int/news-room/campaigns/world-no-tobacco-day/world-no-tobacco-day-2020> •

Donor support from Nauru's close friends continues

President Lionel Aingimea, government ministers and health staff gathered in the RoN hospital's acute block to receive generous contributions of personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical equipment, from Taiwan and Israel, 8 May.

Republic of China (Taiwan) Ambassador Dean Wang presented Nauru health with a medical supplies package valued at over AU\$220,000, which included cutting edge technology – a Lightcycler 480 PCR COVID-19 testing machine and testing kits, a thermal imager with infrared camera plus two additional thermal imager cameras, infrared forehead thermometers, along with 40,000 medical facemasks and other PPE.

Ambassador Wang also announced an additional AU\$1.65 million as an extra budgetary offer for purchasing medical supplies.

Honorary Consul for Israel Sean Oppenheimer then presented on behalf of Israel a COVID-19 PPE package including face masks, body suits, infra-red thermometers, gloves and goggles.

President Aingimea expressed his appreciation and thanks for the support of these generous donors.

"Taiwan, your friendship is so deep, we hold each other as family.

"When hard times come along, families get together and help each other."

And to Mr Oppenheimer, he asked to "please convey to Jerusalem our deep thanks for always being there."



(Photos L-R) Taiwan Ambassador Dean Wang presents PPE to President Lionel Aingimea while (R) Honorary Consul for Israel Sean Oppenheimer presents similar equipment to Deputy Minister for Health Pyon Deiyie

Health Minister Isabella Dageago also conveyed her thanks, with Health Secretary Chanda Garabwan concluding.

"I will reiterate the position of the health department and the minister for health: every life matters.

"This [the donations] will really help us – the ministry of health, the taskforce – to ensure that every life on Nauru gets treated, gets managed."

The ceremony complete, guests and staff enjoyed afternoon tea and a tour of the latest acute block renovations •

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