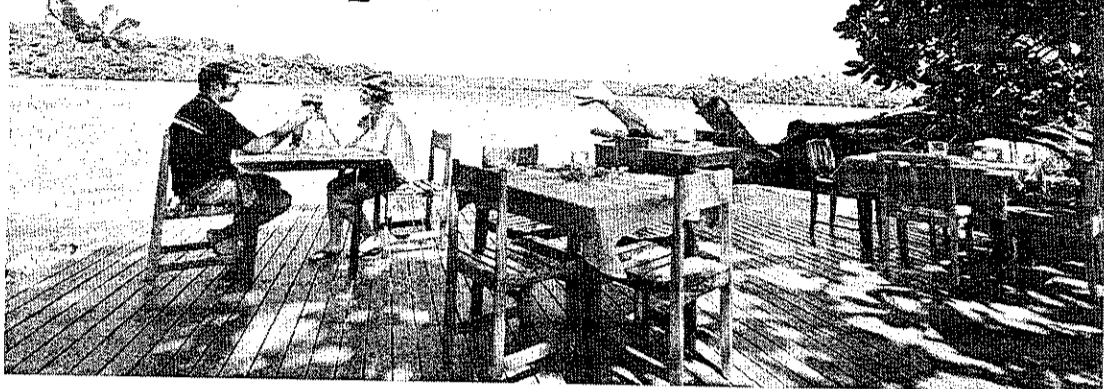


Quick Escape to Turtle Bay Lodge, East Coast Espiritu Santo



ON THE WAY TO CHAMPAGNE

Beach, right next to the Blue Holes and situated on one of the most beautiful bays in Santo, Turtle Bay Lodge is a small, boutique accommodation with an exquisite waterfront and gorgeous gardens.

With only ten rooms, all with full ocean views, the lodge provides a very intimate and 'home away from home' experience.

In the mid-range of the accommodation scale, this is a waterfront holiday that everyone can afford.

Its relaxed and friendly environment will make you feel comfortable and give you the room to unwind and get closer to nature.

Close to all the attractions, Turtle Bay Lodge is the perfect base to get to know the stunning natural wonders of Espiritu Santo. If you would like to simply relax, the lodge's gardens and seafront offers plenty of secluded areas for complete privacy and peace. Turtle Bay welcomes day guests and offers superb snorkelling, kayaks to paddle across the bay and up the river all the way to the Blue Holes and a great swimming pool for children to spend hours of fun in the water.

They can also organise all tours and transport so all you need to do is just 'show up'. The restaurant has a romantic wooden deck hanging

over the water with gorgeous views across the bay for those special evenings and a Caribbean feel to it all.

And after a day of fun in the sun, the extensive menu featuring daily specials with local fresh fish, seafood and of course, Santo's famous steak, will great you with another night of delicious dining in lovely surroundings.

Turtle Bay Lodge is all about feeling at home and enjoying the best that Santo has to offer, away from the pressure of daily life.

The lodge caters for families, couples and friends looking for a place with character, seclusion and a relaxed and fun atmosphere!

Saufali Youth Association gets first ever training

By Harrison Selmen

A YOUTH ASSOCIATION IN AVUNALELO village on Malo that brings together students who have dropped out of school, has recently been fortunate enough to benefit from the first ever management training course to be held in their area. The programme took place from October 21 to 25 and was facilitated by the Chamber of Commerce.

Saufali Youth Association is a youth group comprised of school leavers which works to involve youths in different activities with the aim that they may come to realize their importance and value inside their communities. It is hoped that from there they may go on to perform valuable roles for their village, island, province or at the national level.

The training programme was funded by the Australian TVET centre in

collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce in Port Vila. Twenty nine participants attended the programme altogether.

President of the group, Tavui Toa, told the Daily Post the youth group had been formed back in 2007 and this was one of the first ever training sessions to have been held in their area to help them with life skills. He said many of the attendees had small retail businesses and this training would help them to improve their businesses.

"We will continue to remain solid within our group and will continue to work together to get more training courses in our area to help develop us. We believe that even though many of us have been left out of the normal formal education system we keep our hopes alive, and know that in life there will always be success if we strive to achieve it," Toa said.



The participants pose for a picture after the training programme

CD Pacific strengthening voices of the Pacific island states

VISITING THE PACIFIC REGION

last week and speaking at the USP Emalus Campus conference room on the 26th of October, 2013, was the Swiss Minister of Foreign Affairs, Didier Burkhalter, who confirmed Switzerland's determination to foster small island states' presence in Geneva.

This will be achieved through CD Pacific, an online and in situ multilateral diplomacy capacity development programme, implemented by the Geneva-based Diplo Foundation.

Geneva, being the second center of the UN and home of many NGOs, think-tanks and other international actors, has proven to be the place where solutions to many international

problems are found and where regulations are internationally adopted, be they concerned with environmental issues, health, trade, migration, human rights or humanitarian action and so on.

Every day, issues are discussed in Geneva that may have an enormous impact on the population of this country as well as the whole of the south Pacific region, said Federal Councilor Didier Burkhalter during the launch of CD Pacific - the capacity development programme in multilateral diplomacy for Pacific island states.

This project, custom designed using Diplo Foundation's online training expertise, will strengthen the

participation of Pacific island states in multilateral organisations.

Prime Minister Moana Carcasses stressed its importance, saying that "for our small island, like the rest of the Pacific, this type of capacity-building development is essential."

"We cannot afford to be left out of global negotiations. Yes, we are small island states, but we share global problems. Many of the issues that are of relevance for us are addressed in Geneva. Climate change is for us a matter of survival. We are often hit by humanitarian disasters. Geneva is the world humanitarian capital, with the headquarters of the Red Cross, the United Nations High

Commission for Refugees and several others major organisations.

"Internet communication is vital for our ability to stay in touch with the rest of the world. For us, participation in these processes is not only a matter of necessity, but also of urgency".

The PM also mentioned that he would discuss the importance of opening permanent missions in Geneva with his counterparts from other Pacific islands.

Participating remotely through video-conferencing, Diplo Foundation director Jovan Kurbalija explained the three phases of the CD Pacific approach - online training, online policy research and pol-

icy immersion - in which participants will travel to Geneva to engage in real-time multilateral negotiations.

He said, "The end of CD Pacific will be the beginning of a sustainable community of Pacific diplomats engaging in the rich diplomatic canvas of international Geneva".

The CD Pacific project is financially supported by Switzerland's Federal Department for Foreign Affairs and implemented by the Geneva-based Diplo Foundation.

The overall Swiss contribution is around Vt15million (CHF142, 000). CD Pacific will focus on building a network of partners, institutions and experts.

The online course (<http://www.diplomacy.edu/capacity/pacific>) will start in January, and face-to-face policy immersion will take place in Geneva in May 2014.

Diplo Foundation (Diplo) is an independent non-profit organisation established in 2002 by the governments of Switzerland and Malta. Diplo's main mission is to increase the capacity of small and developing states to engage effectively and efficiently in global policy processes, negotiations and diplomacy.

The local coordinator for the launch of the CD Pacific, Ms Dalsie Baniala, acknowledged the audience and the important dignitaries who attended and witnessed the event.

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