

Leadership Development for Senior Administrators within Government Ministries and Business Leaders of State Owned Enterprises (SOEs)



A five-day Leadership Development workshop for senior administrators and Business Leaders of SOEs started Monday 25th July 2016 and ended on Friday 29th July 2016 at the PSO boardroom in Bairiki, Tarawa.

The program, which was conducted in two cohorts, was part of Public Service Office's initiative on Leadership Capacity Building Scheme for senior representatives of their respective Ministries and SOEs. The workshop was conducted by Professor Franco Gandolfi, senior faculty member of the School of Business at Azusa Pacific University (APU) in Azusa, California and focused on the fundamentals of leadership and their implications pertaining to their workplaces.

The participants were able to discover their preferred leadership styles and enhance their change management abilities to be able to handle leadership challenges and issues more effectively and become better managerial decision makers.

Professor Gandolfi emphasized that the world is in desperate need to produce strong leaders who will transform their organizations and guide their employees with a firm and steady hand into the future. He continued to state that it was an honor for him to accept the invitation of the Kiribati Government to conduct and facilitate leadership development in the Pacific since the future of Kiribati rests with its people and their respective leaders.

The 5-day workshop helped raise change management awareness and honed the leadership abilities of the participants of two cohorts. Professor Gandolfi thanked the Public Service Office (PSO) for their generous support and funding of this workshop. After discussing with PSO secretary Mr. Terieta Mwemwenikeaki, they expressed a strong desire to continue to invest resources into the development of leadership and management capabilities. Both Mr. Mwemwenikeaki and Professor Gandolfi stressed that leadership development must be at the heart of any sustainable capacity building exercise.

Permanent secretary to the PSO stated that the week-long training of these two cohorts represented a follow up activity which is part of PSO's strategic plan to upgrade the leadership skills of existing and emerging leaders within Ministries and SOEs of the Republic of Kiribati.

Future workshops are currently being considered as part of their Government of Kiribati's mandate to pursue capacity building activities for all its civil servants and business leaders.

