



PNA INTERN DAPHINE

What is one thing that you learnt or inspired you about the tuna industry during this time? One thing that inspired me about the tuna industry is the means it provides for my country along with the other PNA nations. Tuna brings about means of food, job opportunities and generate income for my country.

How was this experience as a whole? The experience was an eye-opening one, a great exposure to a new environment and market place. Everything was new and I was a little shy of nearly completing my undergraduate program, majoring in Human Resource Management and minor in International Business Marketing. Therefore, I was learning a lot through this internship. I learned how sustainable practices is forever critical in managing our resources, particularly our tuna in this case. I also learned how important tuna is across the world. The tuna industry not only provides means of food but it also opens job opportunities and generate income for the PNA countries. I was tasked with reports, presentations and also building networks outside the Marshall Islands. The experience was somewhat of a pathway to future opportunities. The experience was also very personal to me because I found out I was pregnant during the second month of my internship. The Pacific team were very supportive and helpful as I was very scared and away from family. The Pacific team responded in a way in which reminded me so much of my family and our Marshallese culture, where support is always there especially in times of trouble and uncertainty. This is the kind of team I look forward to working with.

Could you introduce yourself a little bit? lakwe! My name is Daphine Wase. I am 27 years old and currently working as a Senior Aid Coordinator at the Division of International Development Assistance (DIDA) under the Ministry of Finance in the Marshall Islands. I am a Mom to my 2-year-old son, Anton Wase. I love meeting new people and getting to know other cultures.

How long did you work at Pacifical? I worked as a marketing intern at Pacifical for three months; November 2017 to February 2018.

What was something you liked about the internship program? Something I liked about the internship was presenting to potential clients. I was able to meet and establish new networks. It also gave me the opportunity to educate people about the Marshall Islands. Most of the time, people do not know or haven't heard about the Marshall Islands or any other PNA nations to be frank. Therefore, I'm happy I was able to teach people a thing or two about the Marshall Islands.

What is one thing that shocked you about the tuna industry? The Marshall Islands is made up of 29 atolls and 5 islands. The land mass is very limited but its ocean is huge. Although we may be small, but with our ocean, we are ocean states. Therefore, even with our limited land mass, our ocean brings so much more. The tuna helps both domestically and internationally. Our tuna is a global product that many developed nations look for. With that being said, one thing that shocked me is my small nation is one of the biggest tuna suppliers for these big and advance, developed nations.



PNA INTERN EOGHAN

Eoghan was just 19 when he came all the way from Palua to have a 3 month internship at Pacifical, we interviewed him about his time here.

Could you introduce yourself a little bit? My name is Eoghan Olkeriil Ngirudelsang. I am 21 years old now but I was 19 years old at that time when I did the internship.

How long did you work at Pacifical? It was around 3 months.

How was this experience as a whole?

My experience was great!! I had travelled a lot before the internship but mainly to Asian countries, I had never been to Europe. So as you can imagine, it was something out of my comfort zone. However, I enjoyed my stay and was very happy to experience the different cultures and different ways of living. Aside from my stay, the work culture was also very different. In Palau, most jobs start at 7:30 am to 4:30 pm or 8:00am to 5:00pm. I also learned so much and met new people who taught me countless things about the tuna industry.

What is one thing that you learnt or inspired you about the tuna industry during this time? I think the whole tuna industry was something inspirational altogether. I have lived in Palau all my life and have heard very little about the tuna industry. In my own opinion and reflection after the internship, I believe that it is because although Palau is part of PNA, and though tuna are migratory fish, we do not have large stocks of tuna population as compared to what Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, or FSM has. On the other hand, Palau in its capacity as a very small island has also been active globally in terms of conservation of both reef fishes and migratory fish as well. Furthermore, I think these are the reasons why I was not familiar with the tuna industry; but after completing my internship I was able to absorb many information about the industry and therefore I found the whole internship quite inspirational and I see it as an eye opening learning journey.

What is one thing that shocked you about the tuna industry? I think the size of the tuna industry is what shocked me the most. I did not expect the tuna industry to be one that is worth billions and billions of dollars.

What was something you liked about the internship program? What I appreciate the most about the internship are the valuable information that I garnered. While in Pacifical, I wrote an article about the "Palau Marine Sanctuary" a major policy that Palau made to ban commercial fishing in its waters as well as close 80% of its EEZ to any type of fishing whatsoever. Through my research for that article, I was able to understand a lot of things related to PNA and the tuna industry like the Vessel Day Scheme for example. I can also tell you that I appreciate what I learnt at Pacifical even more today. That is because 2020 is election year in Palau with our national elections taking place in November and with bad economy due to the covid-19 pandemic, our leaders as well as many candidates to public office are always discussing VDS as well as other policies about the tuna industry that Palau can do to create revenues for the country one of which is to suspend the "Palau Marine Sanctuary" so the country can regain some of its loss caused by covid-19. To further point it out, because of my internship at Pacifical, I have a really clear understanding of the tuna industry as well as PNA therefore I can understand what is being discussed about the tuna industry in Palau politically.

How could we improve the internship program?

I think the program is perfect. However, it would be really great if it continues so more people can get to join and learn more about this industry that is so important and so big yet quite unrecognisable.