OPENING SPEECH

FOR

SAKAIO MANOA

Hello everyone and welcome to this year’s Regional RIMF Training Workshop. To all of you… our colleagues and partners, it is very gratifying to look around the room and see enthusiastic and dedicated representatives gathered together with a common goal and that is to improve our knowledge, skills, and networking abilities, all with the intention of building a stronger interrelated partnership within the membership of the FFA. It is vital to keep apace with the rules, regulations and technology that support our industry. By meeting, collaborating, and implementing new forms of connectivity and compliance, we will advance and progress. It has been said, “Every successful individual knows that his or her achievement depends on a community of people working together.” We are proud to support the community of the FFA.

Our greatest assets are our **human** resources… people like you, who encourage and inspire with your interest in our programs. We constantly look for guidance to those that have worked to contribute to the effectiveness of this organization. Sadly, we recently lost one of the people who had a positive and lasting impact on this group. Pauliasi Civilo was an exemplary Senior Fiji Fisheries Compliance Officer. His passing reminds us of the impact that a person can make. In dedication to his memory may our future work meet his admirable and thorough standards.

This business thrives on collaboration from our industry and community and on that note I would like to acknowledge the generosity of our colleagues from New Zealand and Japan for their support in funding the RIMF activities. I would also like to recognize our partner agency, SPC, for its continued encouragement as we all come together to fulfill our mandated mission. It is also important to mention all of the positive work done at the recent Leader’s Forum. Each activity, collaboration, workshop and meeting is vital in forging the connections and understanding that serve to bring what would otherwise be separate entities into one cohesive and functioning network.

Of course we are all aware of the need for constant association and dialogue and it is with that in mind that we are proud to announce the soft launch of the FFA MCS mobile app. The integrated toolkit features five new MCS modules and we are confident that as you familiarize yourselves with the capabilities of the app you will find that you have a tool that will support and foster a more sustained and thorough experience of the FFA community and its core compliances.

As I said a few moments ago, we are very excited to have all of you here to work together as a diverse, vital, and cohesive community. It is our intention that at the end of this session you all leave here with an even greater understanding of our organizational aims and with complete confidence in knowing that the FFA will continue to support its member countries to provide the tools necessary for a modern sustainable, responsive and growth oriented industry.

Thank you all!