

26th January, 2021

## **MEDIA RELEASE: 10 years of skills training partnership in Kiribati**

Since 2011, the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has supported in-demand, quality skills training in Kiribati, in partnership with the Government of Kiribati' Ministry of Employment and Human Resource, through Kiribati Institute of Technology.

*"Australia is proud to have supported the skills and technical training of I-Kiribati over the past 10 years in partnership with the Ministry of Employment and Human Resource, through the Kiribati Institute of Technology,"* said the Australian High Commissioner to Kiribati, Bruce Cowled.

The Australian Government support has been provided through the Kiribati Technical and Vocational Education and Training Sector Strengthening Program (2011 – 2015) and the Kiribati Facility (2016 – current).

'Te Katiteuanaaki', (Kiribati for 'Inclusion'), is at the heart of the Kiribati Facility delivered through Kiribati Institute of Technology. The past 10 years of skills training partnership has seen significant progress in recognition of gender equality, disability inclusion, and youth engagement.

Female student enrolments have increased to more than 50%, students living with disability are supported to study mainstream courses, I-Kiribati youth have returned to training through the Bridging course, and outer island training has grown with the opening of an additional campus on Kiritimati Island and the Bridging course delivery in Abemama.

The partnership has also provided the opportunity for graduates to gain an Australian awarded qualification, to employ local staff, and deliver support services for graduates and I-Kiribati workers towards gaining employment in local and overseas labour markets.

*"The skills training partnership has grown from strength to strength and has benefited our I-Kiribati boys and girls who have undertaken training and have managed to secure jobs in Kiribati and abroad with qualifications that are equivalent to Australian qualifications,"* said the Honorable Minister, Taabeta Teakai.

A flexible delivery response to labour market demand at Kiribati Institute of Technology supports the Government of Kiribati' 20-Year Vision (2016-2036) to create long-term economic and social stability in Kiribati.

-- END--

The Kiribati Facility is supported by the Australian Government and implemented by Scope Global.

For media enquiries please contact Marketing and Communications Project Officer, Kiribati Facility: [inneke.taalman@scopeglobal.com](mailto:inneke.taalman@scopeglobal.com) or phone +61 8 7120 8451.