

## **Background**

The Kiribati Marine Training Centre (MTC) is a locally-based organisation that contributes to economic and social well-being in Kiribati through provision of training for occupations seeking work in the local marine sector.

In 2006 the New Zealand Aid Programme contracted the New Zealand Maritime School (NZMS) to provide institution support and services to the MTC. The aim of this project was to improve the ability of the MTC as a maritime training institution to better contribute to the economic and social well-being and the human resource development of Kiribati.

Specifically, the project objectives were to improve: MTCs management and strategic planning capacity; staff skills; the quality, depth and breadth of training services; and to increase participation of women. NZMS was to achieve this by operating as an advisor, facilitator and coordinator, providing MTC with a range of technical inputs, guidance, planning support and capacity building initiatives.

However, recent concerns have been raised about the conduct of graduates aboard international ships, and the safety of women aboard, which need to be addressed. In addition, issues have arisen around number of available job opportunities for graduates since the economic downturn.

## **Purpose and Objectives**

The mid-term review was undertaken three years into the five year institutional strengthening project. The purpose of this mid-term review was to determine:

- The extent to which the project has achieved its stated goals and objectives.
- Whether the New Zealand Aid Programme should renew the contract with NZMS to provide support to MTC beyond existing commitments.
- How the project could best support the MTC in the future, given the changing economic and social context.

## **Main Findings**

- Good progress has been made with over half of the project objectives achieved and more underway. However, much of this progress has been achieved through the efforts of the MTC rather than project implementers. Less than adequate time and effort have been provided to the implementation of institutional strengthening project by the NZMS.
- Strong leadership within MTC mean many of the impacts of the project will be sustained. However, the project could do more to ensure impacts of guidance and capacity are sustained through provision of written materials and other measures.
- Problems around graduate behaviour aboard ships are real and require action.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The review provided nine key recommendations including the following:

- Restructure the project contract to provide a more specific and limited/activity driven approach to obtaining focused impact on several of the pending activities and to ensure milestones are met.
- Provide additional support for development of English language programme and implementing of follow-up actions on gender issues.
- New Zealand recommend to the Government of Kiribati to convene a task force to address discipline issues of Kiribati Seafarers.