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## **Cook Islands – Health & Safety Case studies**

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# Case Study One – COOK ISLANDS



## » Project

- Tereora College Rebuilding project – NZ Funded
- July 2017 as a result of a complaint by Foreman onsite

## » Issue

- Several Health and Safety practices not being applied
- Workers not provided with decent working conditions

## » Outcome

- Worksite Inspections carried out, including reviewing of the health and safety document provided by the contractor
- Working conditions improved and health and safety measures was implemented

# Country specific H&S Challenges – COOK ISLANDS



## » Geographical led Challenges

- Skilled and qualified workers had to be brought in from overseas (NZ)
- Workers from overseas are better informed on what health and safety measures are not being implemented on the project

## » Sectorial led Challenges

- Human- Resources – skills shortages, workforce training and sector-specific labour market challenges
- Operational issues – production process and logistical challenges

## » Other country specific Challenges

- Regulatory and Policy – completion over compliance factors, govt priorities
- Economic factors – cost over completion factors, supply and demand needs

## Case Study Two – COOK ISLANDS

### » Project – Customs Building Asbestos Removal

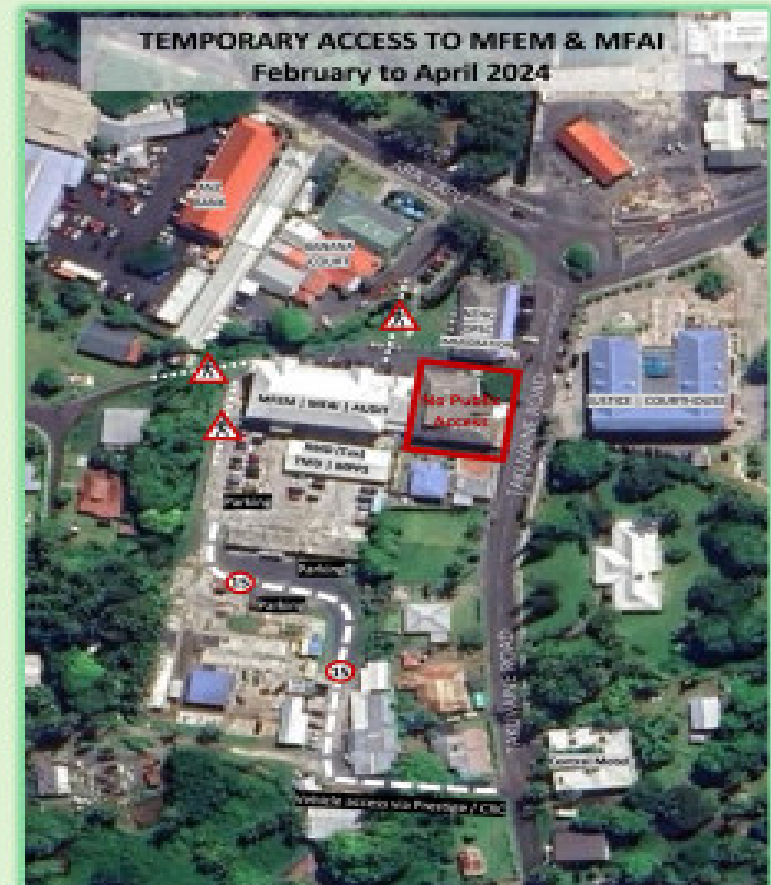
Safely replace asbestos tile roofing with profiled metal roofing, in a small work site, in a public area, during cyclone season.

### » Issue

1. Hazardous material
2. Small work site
3. Weather (cyclone season)
4. Sun

### » Outcome

1. Public health risk from airborne asbestos fibers
2. Workers at risk of injury due to potential clutter and cross-contamination.
3. Public health and safety risk from unsafe structure
4. Worker health and safety risk from heat and sunstroke.





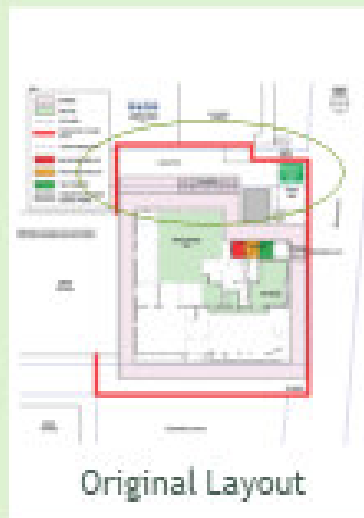
## Country specific H&S Challenges – COOK ISLANDS

### » Geographical led Challenges

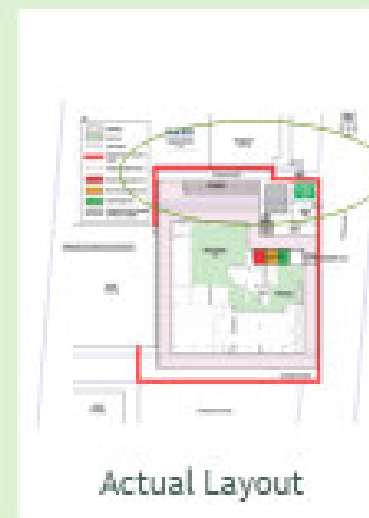
1. Small worksite
2. Public area

### » Sectorial led Challenges

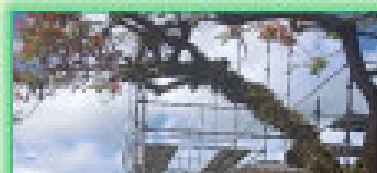
1. Lack of legislation / regulation regarding asbestos removal
2. Workers' nonchalant attitude towards health & safety



Original Layout

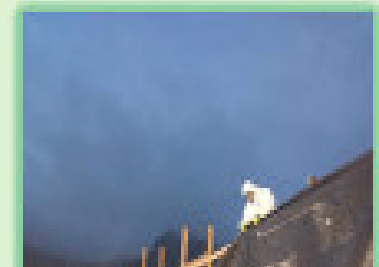
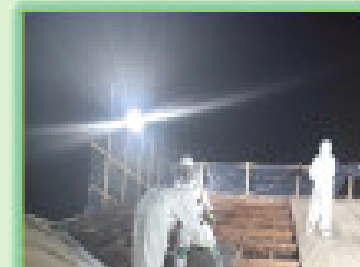
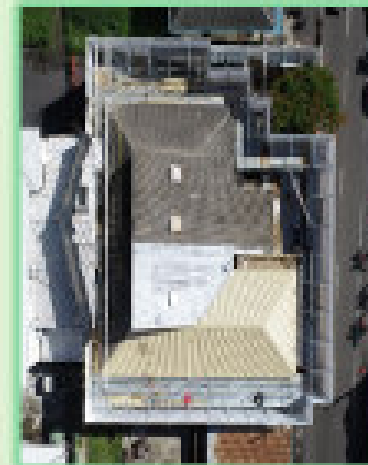


Actual Layout



# H&S Opportunities/Solutions– COOK ISLANDS

- » Geographical based Solutions/Opportunities
  1. Small worksite
  2. Public area
- » Sectorial based Solutions/Opportunities
  1. Legislation/regulation
  2. Attitude towards H&S
- » Other country specific Solutions/Opportunities



# Country specific H&S Challenges – COOK ISLANDS



## » Burning Questions

- The Cook Islands is currently reforming its Workplace Health and Safety and Workers Compensation systems, with a new Bill that we hope to pass through Parliament this year
- The new Bill will look at Industry-led workplace health and safety practices, putting the onus on to the duty-holders of each Industry to lead codes of practices that fit the industry
- The role of the Labour Inspectorate is to carry out compliance inspections to the specific codes of practice provided by the Industry
- Does ADB want our asbestos?
- What is everyone else doing with theirs? There isn't enough land in the Cook Islands and it is expensive to send it overseas.

# Meitaki maata.