



Accompany, Improve, Influence

V-LAB IS NOW UP AND RUNNING !

And ready to promote and support entrepreneurship & innovation in Vanuatu.

Less than 10 months after we started thinking about setting up the **first Business incubator in Vanuatu**, V-Lab is now fully operational and ready to welcome its first incubees !

It took us only 10 months to set up the association, secure space and a **partnership with Yumiwork, Port-Vila first co-working space**, identify partners and sponsors, issue a call for business idea and select our first incubees !

This would not have been possible without the initial support of New-Zealand and of its High Commissioner in Vanuatu Mr. Jonathan Schwass who generously provided initial funding to kick start the Association.

To implement its first **incubation Program**, V-Lab has now everything it needs!

- A great committee for the association composed of highly committed and experienced Ni-Vanuatu entrepreneurs
- A wonderful space where we can operate in Yumiwork
- Generous sponsors from the private sector who believed in us and our project from the beginning
- And last but not least, fantastic entrepreneurs ready to spend the upcoming year with us.

As the idea behind V-Lab is first and foremost to connect people so as to create an environment that is more conducive to entrepreneurship and innovation in Vanuatu, V-Lab has initiated during the first 3 months of 2020 a series of discussions and reflections with a number of potential partners including MFAT, DFAT, UNDP, USP, AUF, etc.

The purposes of these discussions, beyond developing partnership with key stakeholders is to identify ways to start **promoting entrepreneurship and innovation among specific target groups**, such as seasonal workers or students. We are hopeful that in the coming months, we will be able to start programs targeting these groups so as to offer them the necessary information and support to unleash their potential !

This newsletter **shall** provide its readers with update on our activities, successes, challenges, opportunities, etc.

So stay tune and don't hesitate to share with us your comments and ideas so that V-Lab can more effectively fulfil its mission.





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During the two first months of the Incubation Program

COACHING

Introductory and weekly meetings between incubee and Coach.

MENTORING

Monthly meetings with Mentor who provides the incubee with Strategic Guidance and Advice through exchange of experience.

TRAINING : PLANNED WORKSHOPS

- WHAT IS ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- ENTREPRENEURSHIP ASSETS AND DEFICITS, DEFINING EXPECTATIONS
- COMPUTER SKILLS
- COMMUNICATION & ELEVATOR PITCH

Following a call for business ideas launched in Vanuatu's media during the month of December, V-Lab has received almost 40 applications!

Out of these applications, 10 entrepreneurs were pre-selected and subsequently interviewed by our selection panel.

Ultimately, 4 projects were selected, though the choice was really difficult given the quality of the applications received. These are:

Jean-Marcellin TEILEMB and **Louisa TUFALE**, both students, intend to develop an online platform called HOMESTAY aimed at supporting ecofriendly tourism in Vanuatu through the promotion of homestays and other types of sustainable housing solutions.

Roy HARRY is the innovative founder and owner of GPS Vanuatu Dotcom. He intends to become Vanuatu's best and cheapest GPS tracker providers in Vanuatu

Jack and Mary KALSRAP proudly own and operate Mamma's Laef Vanuatu which provides a locally made, eco-friendly alternative to disposable (plastic) hygiene products.

Vincent MARK is running a digital marketing company and is also managing an online platform (out of Facebook) called Lokol Praes which support local businesses to sell their products to the Islands of Vanuatu.

In addition, V-Lab agreed to support another project which may not necessarily take the form of a business but whose formidable social and innovative dimensions compelled us to act. This is the **VANUATU INTER-ISLAND TELEMEDICINE AND LEARNING NETWORK (VITAL)**. VITAL was initiated a few years back in the geographically isolated and remote village of Naviso on Maewo Island and aims at providing telemedicine services to the community members by connecting medical staff on the island to doctors and surgeons in Port-Vila. This was made possible through an access to Internet provided for free by the Company KACIFIC. During the years of operation of the project hundreds of patients have benefited from telemedicine including dozens with life-threatening cases. In this context, V-Lab will support **Dr Basil LEODORO**, the main doctor behind the project, to scale it up to the rest of Maewo and to other Islands.

During the upcoming years, these entrepreneurs / innovators will receive an extensive package of support consisting in:

- Access to Yumiwork office facilities
- Mentoring/coaching services
- Extensive business training
- Voucher to be used with business service providers
- Access to V-Lab's extensive network, etc.

We wish them all good luck in the development of their business and projects !



MEET THE V-LAB ASSOCIATION



Marc-Antoine Morel is the Founder and Director of V-Lab.

He worked 15 years with the United-Nations throughout the world before he moved with his family to Vanuatu. After working as Manager, Corporate Services at AJC, one of Vanuatu's main business advisory Services Firms, he is now fully dedicated to V-Lab.



Serah Tari is the Vice President of V-Lab.

She graduated from the Australia Pacific Technical College in 2012 and 2015. Since then, she has established herself as an entrepreneur and consultant supporting many development projects in Vanuatu. She is also the Head of the Women Weaving Association (WEAV).



Julia King is the Secretary of V-Lab.

She is very actively involved in the business and sport sectors in Vanuatu. Director of Kava House, Julia is also the Head of the Women Business Association of the Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce and Industry. On the sporting side, Julia is the Head of the Vanuatu Women in Sport Association



Nazario is the Treasurer of V-Lab.

He is an accomplished Athlete and Entrepreneur in Vanuatu. Having competed for Vanuatu as a Judoka in may international competitions (including the 2012 Olympics), Nazario started a very succesfull security Business in the country "Guard Island Security" which employs more than 90 staff.



Blake Napwatt is the Founder and CEO of Powermind Co., An Innovative and Entrepreneurial Business Consulting Enterprise for unemployed youth in Vanuatu. In addition to being one of the leaders of the internationally renowned Choir "Soul Harvest", Blake is also very much involved in his community of origin where he dedicates a lot of his time supporting and mentoring young people (incl. Some with addictions)



Nelly Willy is the former Executive Director of Youth Challenge Vanuatu, a non profit organisation seeking to support community and youth development by inter alia assisting young people to find work. Nelly as a wealth of experience in the development and social sectors and is actively involved in community development work. throughout Vanuatu.