Leonard Boaz is the Deputy Director and Human Resource Manager for the Vector Borne Disease Control Program (VBDCP) in the Solomon Islands. Mr Boaz has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Suva, as well as a Post Graduate Diploma in Applied Parasitology and Entomology from Kuala Lumpur and a Masters of Science in Public Health and Tropical Medicine in Manila.

Mr Boaz’s purpose in undertaking the APMEN fellowship program was to design and develop a training course for the National Vector Borne Disease Control Program of the Solomon Islands. This program potentially may be adopted by the South Pacific Region with other institutions. It is very important to develop the human resource capacity of the NVBDCP as malaria programs scale up their operations to control and progressively eliminate malaria in Solomon Islands and other Pacific Countries.

Host Mentor Organisation: ACTMalaria is an inter-country training and communication network that operates within Asia. ACT Malaria’s head office is based in Manila, Philippines. There are 11 country Malaria Control Programs whom are members of the ACTMalaria network. The network aims to provide collaborative training for member countries to meet the needs of malaria control in Southeast Asia and the Mekong valley; and improve communications among member countries on malaria problems affecting common borders.

“This Fellowship will assist me to collaborate with other institutions to run training programs and be able to coordinate the human resource capacity building of the VBDCP. The need for human resource development capacity in the Solomon Islands is not only required for planning, managing and implementing malaria interventions but also to empower officers with high quality education so that they can receive more recognition in terms of promotion while working in the Solomon Islands government.”

“I will be able to collaborate with other institutions and coordinate the human resource capacity building of the Vector Borne Disease Control Program across the region.”