

Ambrym tour guide leaders receive national accreditation

By Anita Roberts

EIGHT TOUR GUIDE LEADERS from the island of Ambrym are the first in Vanuatu to have acquired national accreditation, after successfully going through the first ever Tour Guide Leader Training scheme.

Tour Guide Leader Training is a training and coaching program developed and made possible through a partnership between the Tourism department and the Australian funded TVET (Technical Vocational and Educational Training) program.

The Malampa Province TVET Centre coordinated and financed the training which involved a combination of Vanuatu National Training Council accredited tour-guide training, conducted by the Vanuatu Institute of Technology, on-the-job coaching and mentoring by TVET program industry experts, and ProMedical first aid training.

The names of the tour guides are: John Taso, Joseph



Ambrym Tour Guide Leaders, training at the volcano on October 2012. (Photo Source: Pascal Guillet)

Wilfred and Boe Wilpen from the west of the island; Philimon Paul, Gideon Enock and Jeffrey Bong from the south east; and John Willie and Edwin Da from the north of Ambrym.

These guides have gone through intensive tour-guide training since 2011.

Coaching workshops included the development of international standard camps set up at the volcano sites in the West, South East and North Ambrym camps, for overnight trekking.

Tour guides are important tools to the tourism industry.

Director of the department of Tourism, George Borugu, handed over to the guides both their accreditation certificates and badges last Friday. He congratulated the tour guides, encouraging them that, as certified Ambrym tour guides, they ought to be examples to

guides in the other islands of Vanuatu.

TVET Malampa Tourism officer, chairperson of the West Ambrym Tourism Council and the Ambrym Tour Guide representative acknowledged TVET for its funding and coordination support.