



01 August 2024

Katherine McKeough

By email: [fyi-request-27576-9905df76@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-27576-9905df76@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Katherine

**Official information request regarding SEA CAPE 2024 Tertiary Market Immersion Programme alongside the Matariki celebration**

We refer to your official information request dated 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024:

*"Please provide the process on how companies were selected to attend this programme. From a Linked In post on 11 July by Marfiya Tatlik who is a employee of the South East Asia Centre of Asia Pacific Excellence, quote:*

*"While representing both SEA CAPE and my own company, MT NZ Design, this event brought a fresh perspective to my exploration of business culture and opportunities in Malaysia." Was this employee attending as a paid employee of SEA CAPE or sponsored for her business?*

*Please also provide how many Māori businesses and Māori representatives were selected to attend this "2024 Tertiary Market Immersion Programme alongside the Matariki celebration".*

Marfiya Tatlik is the Senior Programme Coordinator for SEA CAPE who was responsible for coordinating and leading the Tertiary Market Immersion Programme (TMIP) programme. The Senior Programme Coordinator was the head of the delegation and attended on behalf of SEA CAPE as the Director of the Centre as not able to make the trip due to other commitments. There were no personal business practices involved.

The Senior Programme Coordinator's business background was voluntarily utilised for knowledge and information sharing purposes, primarily delivering valuable business information and knowledge back to New Zealand to share with local enterprises. This sharing of information is an important aspect of the TMIP programme. SEA CAPE did not sponsor any of the Senior Programme Coordinator's personal business ventures.

The 2024 TMIP around Matariki was designed specifically as a follow on from previous TMIP programmes (including last year's Matariki programme in Malaysia) and therefore only SEA CAPE alumni were eligible to be selected. Three Māori businesses (alumni) were selected to attend.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the decisions made regarding this request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact me at [oiarequests@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:oiarequests@vuw.ac.nz).

Ngā mihi nui,

Legal Services

**Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington**