



# APII NIKAO REBUILD PROJECT

*Funded by the People's Republic of China*



Project Release

23 May 2017

## CONSTRUCTION OF APII NIKAO BEGINS AT LAST

The vision for a sustainable school with the capacity to serve young students in a modern and flexible learning environment – will soon come to life. Excavation of the building footprints began last week, marking the start of construction for the long awaited Apii Nikao rebuild project.

Three (3) classroom blocks covering approximately 5,200m<sup>2</sup> will be constructed over the next eight months. The buildings will feature flexible learning spaces which comprise of large learning areas for each grade and break-out spaces for individual or smaller group learning. These flexible spaces support innovative learning principles promoted in New Zealand schools. Apii Nikao introduced the innovative learning system when Nikao Maori and Avatea schools merged in early 2015. Water tanks, solar panels for power generation, and a pillared-concrete fencing system will be installed to make the school more resilient to climate change and to reduce its carbon footprint.

In October 2015 the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) confirmed their commitment to the Apii Nikao rebuild. The start of construction was officially announced by His Excellency Ambassador Wang Lutong at the ground-breaking ceremony held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May.

The PRC Government has assigned three companies to the project. China Urban Construction Design & Research Institute Co. Ltd was appointed early 2016 to finalise the designs and specifications in close consultation with the Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC). The designs, based on the original design submitted by CIIC, were finalised in March 2017 following several exchanges with the CIIC. In November 2016 China Railway Fifth Survey and Design Institute Group Co. Ltd was appointed as the Construction Supervisor. Their primary role is to ensure the project designs, specifications and quality standards are being achieved.

China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) was awarded the construction contract in April this year. Mobilisation of their management and staff started soon thereafter to allow work to start without further delays. Excavation of the site for the building foundations commenced last week. The reinforcing steel work for the foundation pads is scheduled to kick off in the coming week.

CIIC and the PRC companies are committed to ensuring the project is delivered in a timely manner and to the standards required. Prime Minister Henry Puna, in his address at the ground-breaking ceremony said "our people can rest assured that our strong relationship with the People's Republic of China has allowed us to have a huge input into the final shape and form of Apii Nikao, and we can now move forward with a sense of pride and confidence that the new school will guarantee benefits for the students, staff and the good people of Nikao."

The new Apii Nikao school buildings is scheduled to be ready for handover before school begins in 2018.

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For enquiries contact:

Special Projects Unit, Cook Islands Investment Corporation, email: [apiinikao.rebuild@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:apiinikao.rebuild@cookislands.gov.ck) or phone: (+682) 23 139.