



Foreign Affairs & Trade Bulletin

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

July-September 2013

68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly – Leaders Week



The Honourable Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa led Samoa's delegation to the General Debate of the 68th regular session of the General Assembly which opened on 24 September 2013. He was accompanied by Mrs. Gillian Malielegaoi, the Associate Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Tafua Maluelue Tafua and Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Aiono Mose Sua.

A number of High Level Events were organized during the Leaders week at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Highlights of these events are highlighted in page 3.

Prime Minister Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi during his keynote address at the United Nations General Assembly, 27 September 2013

Samoa holds ACP Presidency

Samoa took over the Presidency of the African Caribbean & Pacific (ACP) Group of States from 1 August 2013 to 31 January 2014.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Samoa to the Kingdom of Belgium, His Excellency Fatumanava III Dr.Paolelei Luteru is the new Chairman of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors in Brussels.

At the first meeting of the Committee on 12 September 2013 Fatumanava stressed that Samoa's presidency will be defined by actions and not words. He said that the ACP Group shall continue to focus on the 'bread and butter issues' of its cooperation with the EU which included the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations, the private sector development strategy for the ACP Group, and the programming of the 11th EDF at the national and regional levels including bridging funds.

Fatumanava further highlighted the importance of the future of the ACP Group both in the recommendations to be submitted to the 8th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government and the finalisation of the ACP position on the post 2015 Development Framework.

For the ACP Group to grow and enhance its future relations with its strategic partners, Fatumanava argued that the Group needs to forge a new strategy imbedded in dialogue at the political level. He noted that the focus of current engagement has primarily been 'money centred' rather it should concentrate on the political aspect of engagement which would provide a conducive environment for the technical discussions and negotiations to follow. The ACP Group would benefit from this approach especially on key global issues such as energy, climate change, democracy and rule of law, good governance, investment and the Post-2015 Development Framework. The ACP Group must be positioned as a value

added partner and move beyond the constraints of donor-recipient mentality. Under Samoa's ACP Presidency is the Chairmanship of the 98th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers to be held in Brussels in December 2013.

You can access the ACP Secretariat Press Release and watch the video of Ambassador Luteru's interview with Ms Josephine Latu-Sanft, Press Attaché at the ACP Secretariat on <http://www.acp.int/content/featured-video-samoan-presidency-targets-action-rather-talk-acp-envoys>



His Excellency Fatumanava III Dr.Paolelei Luteru, Chairman of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors, with the ACP Secretary General Alhaji Muhammad Mumuni (far left) during the 865th Meeting of the Committee of Ambassadors on 12 September 2013

FTOM and FTMM Meeting 2013

On the 17th and 18th of July, Forum Trade Officials from around the region met in Apia for the annual Forum Trade Officials Meeting. This was followed by the Forum Trade Ministers Meeting (FTMM) which was held on the 19th of July 2013 at Tanoa Kitano Tusitala Hotel.

Discussions revolved around the following issues: the engagement of members in the Multilateral Trading System, status of the negotiations within the region including the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus, the review of the Pacific Aid for Trade Strategy, Intellectual Property Rights and Traditional Knowledge issues, the linkages between trade and health and other trade related activities within the region. The Meetings also considered the work that is currently undertaken by the Pacific Island Trade and Invest (PT&I) network of offices and how these facilities could best be used in improving Pacific Islands exports, inward investments and tourism promotions.

PACER Plus National Consultations

National Consultations on PACER Plus 22-23 July 2013 Apia, Samoa

The National Consultations were co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Office of the Chief Trade Adviser (OCTA) to brief Parliamentarians, private sector, civil society as well as the non-governmental organizations and academia, on the developments in the PACER Plus negotiations and how the interests and concerns of Pacific Island Countries were being addressed. The meeting also discussed the interface of PACER Plus negotiations with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the multilateral trading system. The session focused particularly on the priority negotiating areas as well as future issues including: labour mobility, Rules of origin, development assistance, customs procedures, sanitary and phytosanitary, technical barriers to trade, trade in services and investment as well as trade in goods. **Continued on page 2...**

News from the International Relations and Protocol Division

Presentation of Credentials to the Head of State

The following Ambassadors travelled to Samoa to present their credentials to His Highness Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi, Head of State of Samoa:

- ♦ H.E Mr. Isauro Torres, Ambassador of Chile, 29th August 2013.
- ♦ H.E Dr. Anne Schleich, 15th July 2013.
- ♦ H.E Apostolic Nuncio to Samoa, Archbishop Martin Krebs, 26th September, 2013.

Tenth Pacific Health Minister's Meeting

The Tenth Pacific Health Ministers Meeting held in Apia, Samoa in July was hosted by Government of Samoa with secretariat support from WHO and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and VIP/ protocol support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. This meeting provided an opportunity to continue to move towards the healthy islands vision.

US Embassy of Apia



**Mr. Peter J. Ganser,
Chargé d'affaires for
the US Embassy, Apia**

In September, Mr. Peter J. Ganser assumed the position of Deputy Head of Mission and the Chargé d'affaires. Mr. Ganser is a seasoned diplomat with a diverse professional background. Since joining the Foreign Service, Mr. Ganser has served in five geographic regions in three different zones during his six overseas tours. He is fluent in Italian, Spanish and Portuguese. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade welcomes Mr. Peter J. Ganser to his new posting and the Ministry looks forward to working with him, to continue to further deepen the already strong relationship between Samoa and the United States.

Farewell visits

- ♦ H.E Mr. Antonius Agus Sriyono, Ambassador of Indonesia, 30th July to 1st August 2013.
- ♦ H.E. Mr. Avanindra Kumar Pandey, High Commissioner of India to Samoa, 27th July to 30th July 2013.

Visiting VIPS

- ♦ **Delegation from Masdar (UAE-Pacific Partnership Fund):** The delegation was in Apia from 16th to 19th July 2013 to meet with government dignitaries and officials regarding Samoa's plans for renewable energy and to discuss how the UAE-Pacific Partnership fund could play a role in Samoa's plans.
- ♦ **Hon. Murray McCully, New Zealand's Foreign Minister:** The Hon. Minister was in Samoa from 5th to 6th August 2013 on an official visit to maintain the important ties between Samoa and New Zealand.
- ♦ **Delegation from New Zealand:** Rt. Hon. Jim Bolger (Former Prime Minister of New Zealand), Mrs. Joan Bolger, Mr. Crawford (Vice Chancellor of Waikato University), Mrs. Crawford, Ms. Linda Smith, (Dean of the Maori and Pacific Department). This delegation was in Samoa from 5th to 9th August which coincided with Samoa New Zealand friendship week.
- ♦ **Official visit - Ambassador of Argentina, H.E.**

Mr. Fernando Escalona visited Samoa from 31st August to 3rd September 2013 during Teuila Festival and brought over a Tango Group to perform for the first time in Samoa. The Tango Group from New Zealand performed on Monday night 2nd September 2013 in front of the Government Building.

- ♦ **Official visit – H.E. Mr. David Huebner, Ambassador of the United States of America to Samoa,** visited Samoa from 28th August to 1st September 2013. Ambassador Huebner and the U.S. Embassy brought over the renowned Harlem Gospel Choir from the USA to perform in several venues throughout Samoa.
- ♦ **Mr. Fang Qiuchen and delegation (23rd to 24th September) -** Mr. Qiuchen and delegation were in Samoa to discuss relevant issues concerning the 2nd China-Pacific Island Countries Economic Development and Cooperation Forum.
- ♦ **H.E. Mr. Wang Hungju, Vice Chairman of Environment and Resources, (26th to 28th September 2013)**

Diplomatic Posting

Mr. Rapture Pagaialii, Senior Foreign Service Officer with the PIRP Division was posted as Counsellor for the Samoa Mission in Tokyo, Japan. Mr. Pagaialii departed on 17 August 2013. We wish Rapture all the best during his diplomatic posting.



Samoa Ambassador: H. E. Leiatua Dr. Kilifoti Eteuati and Counsellor, Mr. Pagaialii (centre) with residents of Samoa in Tokyo, Japan during welcome dinner.

3rd Polynesian Leaders Group Meeting Auckland, New Zealand: 30th August 2013

The Heads of Government of the member countries of the Polynesian Leaders Group (PLG) met in Auckland, New Zealand on 30 August 2013 for the third time since its inception in November 2011. It was attended by the Prime Ministers of the Cook Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, the Premier of Niue, the President of French Polynesia, and Ministers from Tokelau and Tonga. Aotearoa New Zealand was represented by the Hon. Tariana Turia, Minister of Disabilities and Whanau Ora and Hon. Alfred Ngaro, National List MP; and Hawaii by Dr. Kamana'opono Crabbe, CEP of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Under the new chairmanship of the President of French Polynesia, Hon. Gaston Flosse, the Leaders discussed various procedural and policy issues including mobility between PLG countries for visitors, labour, goods, and services; areas of renewable energy cooperation and the advantage of a coordinated approach to renewable energy financing; regional transportation opportunities created by a sub-regional airline; creation of opportunities in areas such as

fishing by sharing best practices among PLG member countries; as well as discussions on new initiatives in the region such as the Hawaiki Submarine Cable, Nansen Initiative, and Oceania 21.



Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi and Heads of governments for member countries of the Polynesian Leaders Group in Auckland New Zealand, 30th August 2013

H.E. Mr Isauro Torres, Ambassador of Chile presents his credentials to the Head of State, His Highness Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi.

His Excellency Mr. Isauro Torres, the new Ambassador of Chile to Samoa, presented his Letters of Credence to His Highness Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi on Thursday 29 August 2013 at the Head of State's residence at Tuae. Whilst in Apia, he paid a courtesy call on the Deputy Prime Minister (also Acting Prime Minister), other members of Cabinet and the Diplomatic Corps as well as heads of non-governmental organizations. H.E. Mr. Torres is also the Ambassador of Chile to New Zealand where he resides.



Left to right: Her Highness Masiofo Filifilia Imo, His Highness Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi, H.E. Isauro Torres, Mrs. Maria Isabel Molina (Spouse of H.E. Isauro Torres) and Mrs. Maria Cepeda-Kappenberger (Honorary Consul of Chile to Samoa) at the presentation of credentials ceremony on Thursday 29th August 2013

PACER PLUS National Consultations continued from page 1...

The meeting not only provided an opportunity for the participants to be briefed on the status of the negotiations, but also allowed them to provide inputs on the key issues being discussed as the PACER Plus negotiations progresses.

News from Samoa Mission in New York

Monday, 23 September 2013: United Nations Secretary-General's MDG Event

The Prime Minister was invited by the Secretary General to participate in the "MDG Success: Accelerating Action and Partnering for Impact" high-level event which he hosted on Monday, September 23, 2013 in the Trusteeship Council at UN Headquarters in New York.

The Prime Minister was a panelist for the session called "From Global to Local: Translating global aspirations to country-level action." The other panelists included the Chair, United Nations Development Group, Ms. Helen Clark; Mr. Per Heggenes, CEO, IKEA Foundation and Ms. Sheila Oparaocha, ENERGIA International Secretariat.



President Obama and First Lady, Michelle Obama and Hon. Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Malielegaoi, Mrs. Gillian Malielegaoi at the Obama Reception.

Tuesday, 24 September 2013: High-Level Political Forum

The Prime Minister made an intervention at the Inaugural Meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development during the session on "Global Partnerships for development to create jobs and improve sustainable lifestyles." The Prime Minister again highlighted the SIDS Conference to be held in Samoa in 2014 and a partnership program for the SIDS Conference which will "focus on maximizing local employment and economic development opportunities for youth in Samoa with a view to promoting sustainable employment beyond the SIDS conference."

Wednesday, 25 September 2013: High-level Breakfast on the International Conference on SIDS 2014

Samoa co-hosted with UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the Office of the High Representative of Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) a High Level Breakfast on raising the visibility towards the 2014 Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held in Samoa. It was also an opportunity for Samoa to highlight its proposed theme for the Conference which has now been endorsed by the SIDS countries - "The Sustainable Development of SIDS through Genuine and Durable Partnerships."

The event was very well attended and some of the speakers included the United Nations Secretary General, The President of the General Assembly, the President of Nauru as Chair of AOSIS, President of South Africa, President of the European Commission and the Prime Minister of New Zealand.

Friday 27 September 2013: Prime Minister addresses the United Nations General Assembly

The Prime Minister addressed the General Assembly on 27 September 2013 at the United Nations General Assembly Hall. The Prime Minister's Statement is available on the UN General Assembly website <http://gadebate.un.org/68/samoa>



The President of Nauru as Chair of AOSIS delivering his statement during the High-level breakfast event on SIDS.

Samoa signs the Arms Trade Treaty

The Prime Minister signed for Samoa the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) on 25th September 2013 during a special signing ceremony at the United Nations Headquarters. The ATT now has more than 100 signatures including the United States. Secretary of State John Kerry signed on behalf of the United States, officially making the largest arms exporter part of the global treaty.

Samoa Established Diplomatic Relations with Ukraine

Samoa and Ukraine established diplomatic relations on 23 September 2013 through the signing of a Joint Communique between the Permanent Representative of Ukraine, H.E. Mr Yuriy Sergeyev, and the Permanent Representative of Samoa, H.E. Mr Allioiga Feturi Elisaia.

News from the Scholarship Division

Pacific Island Forum Scholarship Awards for China 2013 / 2014 Intake

There were 10 awards for this year offered throughout the Pacific Island Forum Countries. After a thorough ranking and screening process done in Fiji, there had been 6 candidates from Samoa that were successfully selected to undertake studies tenable in China from Bachelors Degree to Postgraduate level. Amongst these candidates were 3 Males and 3 Females. A briefing session was held at the MFAT Conference Room whereby the students who have graduated and are still in Universities in China talked about their experiences and the different life in China. This was followed by a formal reception hosted by the Chinese Ambassador, Hon. Li YanDuan at the Chinese Embassy at Vailima to officially congratulate the new students that left Samoa on the 1st September 2013 for China.

Bilateral Scholarship Scheme

Under the Bilateral Scholarship Scheme between the Government of Samoa and the Government of the People's Republic of China, there were also opportunities to study in China that were taken up by 11

Samoa students. Among the new recipients of the Bilateral Scholarship Scheme, 4 were Males and 4 were Females. They were catered altogether with the PIF successful candidates to the briefing session held at MFAT conference room as well as the formal reception at the Chinese Embassy at Vailima. The 8 students flew out to China altogether as a group with the PIF successful candidates on the 1st September 2013.



New Chinese awardees for 2013/2014 intake upon arrival into Beijing

USP Alafua Open Day

"E au i le tauola, e au i le fagota". This is the cultural concept that guides the university's role in *shaping the student's future* and was also the theme for the USP Open Day 2013. It was a successful open day as the blend of activities from different faculties, officials and hundreds of schools highlighted the impact that USP has on the development of future leaders for Samoa. The scholarships division took part in the Open Day and had a booth where information about scholarships was handed out to the students.

The Scholarships Division has worked closely with the University of the South Pacific (USP) Alafua, in catering for the needs of the students, seeking scholarship opportunities to pursue their degrees. The main concern for the Government of Samoa is to increase the number of science graduates for the purpose of having enough science teachers, as this is one area in Samoa that needs great development. Information about the requirements for scholarships at USP was widely disseminated during the USP Open Day held in August 2013. These included the change in requirements for the application of a Bachelor in Agri-

culture whereby USP has offered to fund the first four papers as a prerequisite for the approval of a Samoan Scholarship funded award.

Commonwealth Scholarship in the United Kingdom 2014

Samoan citizens who wish to study in the United Kingdom (UK) now have the opportunity to do so through the Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme. This scholarship invites Samoan citizens to apply for 2 awards for postgraduate level (one for Masters and one for PhD level studies) that are offered in the UK for the

2014 intake.

The Scholarship Office is happy to assist with any queries about the Commonwealth Scholarship program regarding eligibility and requirements. In addition, further information pertaining to this award can be found on the MFAT website (www.mfat.gov.ws/SCHOLARSHIP.html).

We also have an open door policy with a room filled with resources pertaining to Educational institutes overseas to assist with your questions and needs.

News from Samoa Mission in Brussels

Pacific Conference on the Future Perspectives for the ACP Group – Samoa will host the Pacific Consultations on the Future of the ACP Group at the Aggie Grey's Resort at Mulifanua on the 17-19 October 2013. The 14 Pacific ACP member states have been invited to attend the conference with participants from civil society / private sector, government officials, parliamentarians as well as regional and international organisation representatives. The Pacific conference is the first of a series of ACP regional consultations to be undertaken in all six ACP regions. The outcomes of these consultations will contribute to the work of the ACP Eminent Persons Group (EPG). The 12-member ACP EPG, chaired by the former President of Nigeria Chief Olusegun Obasanjo has been tasked to look at the future of the ACP beyond 2020 when the ACP-EU Cotonou Agreement comes to an end.

ACP Parliamentarians meet in Brussels – The 33rd Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly was held in Brussels on 18 September 2013. Inter-sessional meetings were also held on the same week in preparation for the 26th ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 25 – 27 November 2013.

Samoa is represented by MP Lautafi Selafi Purcell. Lautafi is the Chair of the Political Affairs Committee and is a member of the Bureaus of the ACP and ACP-EU Parliamentary Assemblies.



MP Lautafi Selafi Purcell at the meeting at ACP House

Observation Mission to Zimbabwe – The Ambassador of Samoa, HE Fatumanava III Dr Paolelei Luteru was part of the ACP Ambassadorial Mission to observe the national elections of the Republic of Zimbabwe held on the 31 July 2013. The mission was a response to an invitation from the Government of Zimbabwe for the ACP to observe their national elections.

News from the Trade Commissioner in Auckland

Trade Commissioner Takes Part in Language Competition

The Trade Commissioner, Fonoti Dr Lafita'i I Fuata'i was one of the 3 judges for the Auckland Samoan Language Competition organized by the Auckland Primary Principals Association which was held at the Jean Batten School in Mangere on Wednesday 4th September. The other judges were Ms Faimai Tuimauga, veteran school teacher and academic, and Leni Ropati Mamea of Radio Samoa. A total of 23 primary schools from around Auckland entered for the 3 top honours.

The winners were announced as follows:

1st: Miracle Alailima from Randwick Park School who spoke on 'E aoga le Tupe ia te a'u' (Money is useful for me); 2nd: Eline Peni from

Mangere East Primary School who spoke on 'E taua la'u Aganuu' (My culture is important); 3rd: Henry Paneta from Otahuhu Primary School who spoke on 'Poto' (Wisdom).

The 3 place getters received trophies and certificates, while the rest of the participants all received certificates for participation. The speech competition has been running annually for the past 5 years for Years 5 and 6. According to the Jean Batten Principal this is a wonderful event which is a great show case for both the Samoan language and the Samoan culture, and is well supported by the parents and families of the Samoan community in Auckland.

Samoa High Commissioner Addresses First NZSTIC Annual General Meeting

His Excellency Leasi Papalii Tommy Scanlan addressed the business community of the NZ Samoa Trade & Investment Commission after its first Annual General Meeting on September 17th at Samoa House in Auckland. Leasi was asked by the Commission to talk about business opportunities in Samoa. He started on the positive growth of the Samoan economy over the past 20 years despite setbacks and devastations as a result of natural and man-made disasters. Recent years have seen tourism and construction taking the lead in bringing about this growth through finance and business sectors as well as Government playing major roles.

Leasi also commented on the role of major sources of foreign exchange including remittances and tourism. The construction of new hotels has also impacted positively. He also touched on policy and structural reforms including financial liberalisation which have contributed to the stability of the Samoan economy over the years. But a major problem has always been around. That is, there has not been a significant increase in the level of foreign direct investment into Samoa. This was the challenge left with the members of NZSTIC – to come up with ways and ideas to increase the demand for Samoan-made products as well as increase NZ investments going into Samoa. The evening concluded with cocktails hosted by NZSTIC.



Speech Competition Winners and the Judges

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