



Foreign Affairs & Trade Bulletin

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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Trade Division

TWO SAMOA TRADE FAIR 13TH - 17TH APRIL UTULEI PARK, AMERICAN SAMOA



*The Deputy Prime Minister,
Honorable Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufofo and the Lieutenant
Governor Honorable Lemanu Mauga*

On the 13th to 17th April 2015, a Two Samoa Trade Fair organized in partnership between the Government of Samoa, the Samoa private sector, the Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC) and the Samoa Chamber of Commerce together with the Government of American Samoa Department of Commerce and the American Samoa Chamber of Commerce concluded on a high note in American Samoa.

The joint event which is the first of its kind to be hosted in American Samoa was officially opened by the Lieutenant Governor Hon. Lemanu Mauga of American Samoa with remarks made by the Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufofo.

The trade fair which ran in parallel with the celebration of the American Samoa 100th Flag Day, provided the opportunity for both countries including participating businesses and organizations to showcase and provide trade opportunities for products made in both Samoa and American Samoa

- promote 'made in Samoa' products and services to the American Samoa market as well as opportunities to tap into the US Mainland market
- exhibited Samoan fashion and arts work particularly artwork by Women and Youth
- opened up new partnerships and created more than 100 future trade partnerships between the 2Samoa's private sector as a pathway to developing an economic agreement between the two countries and support businesses in the 2Samoa's in ensuring future opportunities are realized

A total of 57 businesses from Samoa and 30 businesses from American Samoa took part in the Trade Fair and Fashion Show. The exhibitors were subdivided into the fresh produce, arts & crafts, garments & textiles, processed food & beverages, other manufactured products, services and tourism.

The finale of the trade fair came in the form of a fashion and gala dinner that was conducted on the last day of this important event. A total of fifteen (15) Fashion Houses from the two countries participated in this event which attracted a total of five hundred guests who witnessed the different array of garments and fashionable wears that the designers had to offer.

On the overall outcome of the trade fair, the event being such a success and an eye opener for most that the exhibitors from the two countries were already asking as to when the next Trade Fair will be. What really stood out from the trade fair is the lucrative partnerships that were formed from this event and overall an estimated US\$150,000 was obtained through the sales made by the exhibitors.

This Trade Fair will serve as an important marker in progressing work on improving cooperation and collaboration across the different sectors for the Two countries. It also complements the work presently in place for the development of a Trade and Investment Agreement that will benefit the two countries in the future.

WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Validation Workshop 24th April 2015

During the month of April, consultations commissioned by the World Bank and IFC in collaboration with Ministry for Revenue and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, were undertaken in Samoa to discuss the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). This agreement aims at the simplification, standardization, and harmonization of procedures & processes and associated information flows to move goods through the supply chain in a transparent and predictable manner.



*The CEO Ministry for Revenue, Pitolau Lusua Sefo,
with her Opening remarks at the Validation Workshop
Photo: MFAT*

Following three weeks of consultations with key stakeholders and agencies from the Private sector (Freight forwarders and customs brokers) and Government institutions, there was a Validation workshop held at Hotel Millennia Conference room, on the 24th April. The purpose of this workshop was to validate the provisions of the TFA for Samoa's implementation. A baseline for the report was finalized by both private sector and Govern-

ment Ministries in the categorization of each provision relevant to Samoa. The final report by the World Bank will be released by the end of the year.

PACER Plus National Consultations 15-18 June 2015 Apia, Samoa

In the third week of June this year, the Office of the Chief Trade Adviser (OCTA) in collaboration with the Ministry for Revenue and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade conducted national consultations on PACER Plus. The objectives of the consultations were to update government ministries, private sector, non-government organizations, civil society and academics, on the status of PACER Plus negotiations and to gauge their views on the key negotiating issues that form the basis of Samoa's national positions for ongoing negotiations in PACER Plus.

The last two and a half days were dedicated to individual consultations taking place in parallel sessions on these key areas; Trade in Goods and Trade in Services. The Trade in Goods session was devoted to developing Samoa's initial draft market access offer under PACER Plus and identifying sensitive products to be excluded from tariff commitments. The Trade in Services, Investment and MNP sessions provided opportunities for stakeholders to identify their export interests into Australia and New Zealand markets and propose sectors of which foreign investment would contribute more to Samoa's economy taking into account Samoa's commitments under the World Trade Organization and current legal framework. Discussions on the movement of natural persons focused more on areas where there are greater needs for employment opportunities within our negotiating partners and the exploration of issues (if any) which are currently hindering such movement for our people in search of better futures and quality of lives.

This is one of several rounds of stakeholder consultations that have taken place in efforts to continue to inform all stakeholders on the developments of the PACER Plus trade agreement.

PACER Plus 10th Inter Sessional Meeting, Vanuatu

The Pacific Island Countries (PICs) and Australia and New Zealand officials met again in Vanuatu in early May for the tenth inter-sessional meeting on PACER Plus negotiations. This meeting was supposed to take place in March but was later rescheduled to May after Vanuatu was hit by Cyclone Pam. Negotiations were mostly text-based as Officials and facilitators work hard to advance negotiations and conclude as much chapters as possible. On the agenda for negotiations were some remaining issues in chapters on Labour Mobility, Temporary Movement of Natural Persons, Development Assistance, Rules of Origin etc. A needs assessment study for the PICs was

being undertaken to identify trade-related development assistance needs and capacity constraints to implementing the P+ Agreement. This consultation for Samoa took place on 27-29 May 2015 of which stakeholders consulted have voiced what is needed to better implement P+ when negotiations conclude and agreement enters into force.

Parties also considered the technical parts of the Trade in Services and Trade in Goods chapters such as how commitments will be presented in schedule format for services; and market access

each PIC to assist with preparations in these areas as negotiations progressed to 'requests and offers' stage of which results will be binding commitments of parties under P+.

offers' modalities for goods. Given the capacity constraints of some PICs, it was agreed that the Office of the Chief Trade Advisor will be visiting

Samoa Embassy in Tokyo

Prime Minister of Samoa meets with the Prime Minister of Japan in Iwaki, Japan.

On 22 May 2015, Hon. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, held a bilateral meeting with the Hon. Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa, who visited Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture to attend the 7th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM 7).

Prime Minister Abe expressed his respect and appreciation to Prime Minister Tuilaepa for attending all of the PALMs held to date, and also stated that he would like to work together for the success of PALM7, this time being held in a disaster-affected area, and to build a new partnership between Japan and the Pacific Island countries. Prime Minister Abe also expressed anew his gratitude for the support extended by Samoa at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011.

In response, Prime Minister Tuilaepa told that he was pleased to attend PALM seven times in a row, and expressed his gratitude for the hospitality extended by the people of Iwaki City. Prime Minister Tuilaepa also stated that Samoa places an emphasis on cooperation with Japan in the field of disaster risk reduction, and in this context, highly appreciated that PALM7 was held in Iwaki City, a disaster-affected area.

Prime Minister Abe conveyed the Japanese Government's intention to provide 3.5 billion yen in funding for port development in Samoa, and to provide cooperation towards the development of a regional hub in the areas of climate change and disaster risk reduction through the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP). Prime Minister Tuilaepa expressed his appreciation in return, and expressed his determination to further strengthen the cooperation with Japan on economic issues and global agendas.

Prime Minister Tuilaepa offered his support to Japan's proposal to the United Nations regarding the World Tsunami Day. The two leaders also



Prime Minister Tuilaepa of Samoa shaking hands with Prime Minister Abe of Japan after their bilateral meeting in Iwaki city, Fukushima, Japan.

Photo Credit: Samoa Embassy in Tokyo

exchanged views on various issues and cooperation in the international community, including climate change and the UN Security Council reform.

Samoa's Ambassador presents her Credentials to the Emperor of Japan



Ambassador Sila presenting her Credentials to His Majesty the Emperor of Japan at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Japan.

Photo Credit: Samoa Embassy in Tokyo

The Ambassador of Samoa to Japan, H.E. Faalavaau Perina J. Sila-Tualualelei presented her Letters of Credence and Recall to His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, accrediting her as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Independent State of Samoa to Japan. The credentials ceremony took place at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on 20 May 2015.

During the ceremony, Ambassador Sila conveyed to Emperor Akihito the greetings and best wishes from Samoa's Head of State, His Highness Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi for the Emperor's good health, happiness and well-being. She also expressed the desire of the Government of Samoa to further strengthen the cordial bilateral relations that presently exist between Japan and Samoa.

His Majesty Emperor Akihito expressed his gratitude to Ambassador Sila for the Head of State's kind sentiments and expressed his hope for the relations between Japan and Samoa to be further enhanced.

Also present at the ceremony was Japan's Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, Hon. Mrs. Sanae Takaichi, and Rapture Pagaialii, Counsellor at the Embassy of Samoa in Tokyo.

Ambassador Sila is Samoa's second resident Ambassador to Japan. Her term is for three years.

Pacific Leaders gather in Japan for the PALM 7 Summit



Prime Minister of Japan and Leaders of the Pacific in Iwaki city, Fukushima Prefecture, Japan.

Photo Credit: Samoa Embassy in Tokyo

The 7th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM7) was held on 22 and 23 May 2015 in Iwaki-city, Fukushima prefecture, Japan.

The Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting is a summit-level meeting which has been held every three

years since 1997. Leaders openly discuss various issues that Pacific island countries are facing in order to build close cooperative relationships and forge a bond of friendship between Japan and Pacific island countries. Samoa's Prime Minister Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi has attended all the PALM Summits since its inception and is known to many as a "Legend of PALM". Japan's Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe pledged no less than 55 billion yen to the Forum Island Countries in the upcoming three years until PALM8 to fund development activities in Forum Island Countries in the seven priority areas of disaster risk reduction, climate change, environment, people-to-people exchanges, sustainable development - including human resource development, oceans, maritime issues and fisheries, and trade, investment and tourism.

*The Embassy of Samoa in Tokyo will be involved in the implementation and follow-up of the PALM 7 outcomes with the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Embassy of Samoa in Tokyo celebrates Samoa's 53rd Independence Anniversary



Ambassador Sila and guests celebrating 53rd independence, Japan.

Photo Credit: Samoa Embassy in Tokyo

The Samoan Embassy in Tokyo led by Ambassador Faalavaau Perina J. Sila-Tualualelei and Mr. Tupai Pouleta Tualualelei commemorated the 53rd Anniversary of Samoa's Independence with a reception on 12 June 2015 for the officials of the Japanese government, members of the diplomatic community, business community, as well as friends and supporters of Samoa.

Around 160 guests attended the reception, which was held at the Grand Palace Hotel. Top Japanese officials who graced the event included Hon. Dr. Daishiro Yamagiwa, State Minister for Economy, Trade & Industry and Co-Secretary General of the Japan-Samoa Parliamentary Association, Members of the Japanese Parliament (Diet), and Members of the Japan-Samoa Parliamentary Association.

In Ambassador Sila's welcome remarks, she stated that Japan was one of the first countries to offer development assistance to Samoa after her independence in 1962. Ambassador Sila highlighted the importance of the close and friendly ties between Japan and Samoa which has been further illustrated by Samoa's strong mutual support for people-to-people exchanges, for the transfer of

knowledge and capacity building. She also paid a special tribute to all the JICA/JOCV volunteers who have served and are serving in Samoa and expressed her appreciation to the members of the Samoan community in Japan for their active involvement and support in the Embassy's outreach activities.

The guests were treated to a variety of Japanese and Western cuisine and greatly appreciated the performance of traditional Samoan dances featured during the reception by the Samoan Nippon community in Japan.

ALFS Asia-Pacific Festival and Charity Bazaar 2015

On Wednesday 8th April 2015 at the ANA Inter-Continental Hotel in Tokyo, the Embassy of Samoa



Samoan and Japanese supporters who volunteered to help at the ALFS Charity Bazaar, Tokyo, Japan.

Photo Credit: Samoa Embassy in Tokyo

in Japan participated in the Annual Asia-Pacific Festival and Charity Bazaar which was organized by the Asia-Pacific Ladies Friendship Society (ALFS). This organization is made up of wives of Ambassadors as well as wives of Japanese politicians and prominent businessmen.

On the occasion of this year's ALFS Festival and Bazaar, Samoa's Embassy set up its handicraft booth exhibiting Samoan items and products to raise funds for welfare, education and disaster relief in Asian and Pacific countries. A second Samoan food booth served traditional cuisine, which was greatly appreciated by hundreds of visitors.

As a result of last year's charitable contribution, the Embassy funded ten (10) tuition scholarships, tenable at the National University of Samoa for the 2015 academic year.

Samoa Mission to the UN in New York

Samoa is elected to the Executive Boards of UN-Women and UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS

During the ECOSOC Coordination meeting held at the UN Headquarters from 8 to 10 April 2015, Samoa was elected by the ECOSOC membership to the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment Women (UN-Women), and the Executive Board of United Nations Development Fund/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services (UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS) for the terms 2016-2018, respectively. This will be the first time Samoa will serve on an Executive Board of one of the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies.

11th Session of the UNFF

The 11th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF11) convened at the UN Headquarters from 4 to 15 May 2015. Mr. Moafanua Tolusina Pouli, Assistant Chief Executive Officer for the Forestry Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, attended from Samoa and delivered a statement during the high-level segment of the session. The session adopted the resolution on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) beyond 2015 which highlights how sustainable forest management (SFM) is vital to transformative change and addressing development challenges. The session was attended by over 125 Member States, including 30 Forests Ministers and Vice Ministers.



Mr. Moafanua Tolusina Pouli delivering Samoa's National Statement during the UNFF High-level segment

Photo Credit: Samoa New York Mission

NPT Review Conference, 27 April to 22 May 2015

Samoa was represented at the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) which convened in New York for a month. Samoa was represented by the Permanent Mission with Ambassador Elisaia as Head of Delegation Ambassa-

dor Elisaia delivered a Statement during the General Debate of the Conference reiterating Samoa's long-standing position on general and complete disarmament and emphasizing the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapon. Samoa also announced its plans to become a Member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and conclude an additional protocol under the IAEA. The full statement is available for download at <http://www.un.org/en/conf/npt/2015/>.

First Meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), 1-2 June 2015

The Government Statistician, Mr. Muagututia Sefuiva Reupena Muagututia travelled to New York to attend the Inter-agency and expert group meeting on Sustainable Development Goal indicators which was held on 1 and 2 June 2015.

MGE2, 1-5 June 2015

The Second Meeting of Governmental Experts (MGE2) to consider the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (SALW-POA), convened in New York from 1 to 5 June 2015. Mr. Toddystanley Iosefa, who heads the Arms section at the Ministry of Police, travelled to New York to attend the week-long meeting. The meeting considered the implications of recent developments in SALW manufacturing, technology and design for effective marking, record keeping and tracing, considered practical steps to endure the continued effectiveness of national marking, record-keeping and tracing systems in light of such developments, and the transfer of technology and equipment as well as capacity-building for the full and effective implementation of the POA.

Adoption of the GA Resolution 69/288 on SIDS

On 8 June 2015, the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/288 entitled 'Comprehensive Review of the United Nations system support for Small Island Developing States'. In the resolution, the General Assembly mandated the Joint Inspection Unit, on the basis of the recommendations and findings outlined in its report, to conduct a comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States, with a view to enhancing the overall effectiveness of such support and respective roles in supporting the sustainable development of small island developing States. It emphasized that the review should be undertaken in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

The Assembly also requested that the initial findings of the review and the recommendations

thereon be included in the regular report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventieth session the complete results should be included as an addendum to the report before the end of the seventieth session.

Internships at the Samoa Mission

From 4 May to 16 June 2015, Ms. Elizabeth Aisi, a student of Scarsdale High School and a national of Papua New Guinea, spent 6 weeks as an intern at the Samoa Mission, as part of the High School's Student Options Program. Ms. Aisi's work included covering the post-2015 development agenda and Financing for Development negotiations, amongst a range of other UN meetings, providing briefs to the Head of Mission and diplomatic staff.

Ms. Aisi was picked out of 5 other presenters to share her work experience with the whole Senior grade. She graduated on 26 June 2015 from Scarsdale High School.



Ms. Elizabeth Aisi with the Samoa Mission team

Photo Credit: Samoa New York Mission

In 2014, Ms. Ceara Rooney and Mr. Ben Schaare of New Zealand were attached to the Mission for 6 months to assist with the preparations for the Third International Conference on SIDS.



Ms. Ceara Rooney and Mr. Ben Schaare with the SIDS Samoa Team in New York

Photo Credit: Samoa New York Mission

'Energizing the SAMOA Pathway' side event of the Vienna Energy Forum

Ambassador Elisaia travelled to Vienna, Austria to be a discussant at a side event entitled 'Energizing the SAMOA Pathway' which was organized by the Government of Austria, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and SIDS Dock. The side event was held on 19 June 2015 in the margins of the Vienna Energy Forum.

ICC resumed session of the Assembly of States Parties

The 13th resumed session of the Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court (ICC) was held in The Hague, Netherlands from 24 -25 June 2015. The resumed session was especially convened to hold an election to fill one judicial vacancy of the Court resulting from the resignation of Judge Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago of the Philippines on 3 June 2014. The Second Secretary, Mrs. Pierina Katoanga participated in the session as Samoa's representative. Two candidates from the Philippines and Jordan submitted nominations for the judicial post, and the candidate of Philippines, Mr. Raul Cano Pangalangan, was elected as Judge.

First Secretary graduates from the NYU Advanced Course for Diplomats

The First Secretary, Ms. Ida-Tifitifi Fuimaono, participated in the New York University School of Law (NYU) Advanced Course for Diplomats on the Law and Practice of the United Nations. The course ran for 5 months and was designed to provide practical training and insights for diplomats assigned to New York missions who are or expect to be engaged in work at the United Nations. It

introduced the legal framework for understanding the contemporary operations of and challenges faced by the principal UN organs, namely the Security Council, the General Assembly, and the International Court of Justice, with specific attention paid to threats to international peace and security, including terrorism. Ms. Fuimaono graduated with 23 other students on 17 June 2015. Seven students, including Ms. Fuimaono received Honors Certificates for their participation and submission of a research paper or essay.



*The First Secretary with Professor Jose Alvarez and Guest Speaker USG Mr. David Malone
Photo Credit: Samoa New York Mission*

UN-DESA Expert Group Meeting on Multi-stakeholder Partnerships in the Post-2015 Development Era

On 16 June 2015, the Counsellor, Mrs. Francella Strickland-Simonet, participated as a panelist in the Expert Group Meeting on 'Multi-stakeholder partnerships in the Post-2015 development era: Sharing Knowledge and expertise to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals' which was organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). Mrs. Strickland-Simonet presented Samoa's experience during the SIDS Conference, and how important the concept of genuine and durable partnerships is to implement the SAMOA Pathway and achieving the SDGs.

Political, International Relations

Signing Ceremony for the Agreement between the Government of Samoa and the Government of Korea for the Exchange of Information Relating to Tax Matters



*Signing of TIEA: Minister of Revenue, Hon. Tuiloma Lameko and Ambassador of Korea, H.E. Mr. Hae-yong Kim
Photo by: MFAT*

The Government of the Independent State of Samoa and the Government of the Republic of Korea concluded an Agreement for the Exchange of Information Relating to Tax Matters (TIEA). The Agreement was signed by H.E Mr. Hae-yong Kim, Ambassador of the Government of Korea to Samoa and the Minister for Revenue, Hon. Tuiloma Pule Lameko, to sign on behalf of the Government of Samoa constituting a bilateral Agreement between the two countries. The signing ceremony was held on Friday 15th May, 2015, at the Conference Room of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade at the FMFMII building.

The TIEA signed between Samoa and Korea is a bilateral agreement which governs and promotes the cooperation in tax matters and establishes an effective exchange of tax information for the purpose of countering harmful tax practices. The signing brings the tally to seventeen (17) TIEAs already signed by Samoa and other countries including Australia and New Zealand.

Presentation of Credentials and Visiting VIPs:

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



*Presentation of Credentials: Ambassador of France, H.E. Ms. Jeanblanc Risler, Afioga Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II, and Honorary Consul of France in Samoa, Mrs. Vaisemasenuu Zita Martel.
Photo by: Samoa Observer*



*Presentation of Credentials: Her Highness, Filifilia Josefa Tamasese, His Highness, Tui Atua Tamasese Efi, Ambassador of Switzerland, H.E. Mr. David Vogelsanger and the Honorary Consul of France: Mrs. Sylvie Salanoa
Photo by: MFAT*



Presentation of Credentials: Spouse of the Ambassador: Mrs. Viet Dung, Ambassador of Korea, H.E. Nguyen Viet Dung and Afioga Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II.



Presentation of Credentials: Spouse of the Ambassador, Nancy Gilbert; US Ambassador, H.E. Mark Gilbert; Chief Justice, Hon. Patu Tiava'asue Falefatu Sapulu; daughter of Ambassador, Elizabeth Gilbert and the US Chargé de Affaires, Mr. Peter Ganser [Photo: Talamua]



From left to right: Hon. Samuela Akilisi Pohiva, Prime Minister of Tonga, Hon. Tuilaepa Lufesolai Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Semisi Fakahau, Minister of Agriculture in Tonga, Dr. Palenitina Langaoi, Chief Secretary of State and Official, Ms. Nuni Mone.

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