



# Foreign Affairs & Trade Bulletin

April-June 2016

## 2016 Budget Presentation – Investing in a growing economy

Local business and government leaders were welcomed at Victoria Business School (VBS) to hear Finance Minister Hon. Bill English speak as part of the Dean's Lunch Series on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016.



*Photo caption: Prof Bob Buckle, HE Leasi Papali'i T Scanlan (Samoa), Hon Bill English, HE Joy Kere (Solomon Islands), HE Cristiano da Costa (Timor-Leste), A/Prof Winnie Laban, and HE Teremoana Yala (Cook Islands) at the VBS Dean's Lunch in May*

Hon. Minister Bill English's presentation covered critical features of the 2016 Budget, discussing the key priorities and next steps in New Zealand's economic programme from the National-led Government's eighth budget. The title of the Minister's talk was 'Investing in a Growing Economy', and he told those gathered that the outlook for New Zealand's economy was positive and that "this Government is ambitious for New Zealand".

"With a strong economy and continued prudent management of the government finances, we can realise more of that ambition. Our eighth

Budget showed a healthy set of public accounts – with rising surpluses and falling debt, on the back of an economy forecast to grow at around 3 per cent on average over the next few years, supporting more jobs and higher incomes."

Professor Bob Buckle, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Victoria Business School, remarked: "We are delighted to have had the opportunity to host over 50 friends and supporters of the Victoria Business School to listen to the Minister's excellent presentation on the NZ economy and key features of the 2016 Government Budget.

"One of the interesting features of the Minister's presentation was New Zealand's relatively strong fiscal performance compared to that in many other developed economies. Another was the Minister's discussion of the priorities in this year's Budget, and the way fiscal policy design is evolving to tackle those priorities."

Norman Gemmill, Chair in Public Finance at Victoria Business School, officially thanked the Minister saying "as we have learned to expect from Minister English ... an informative and entertaining presentation". Victoria Business School was also privileged to host four High Commissioners at the Victoria Business School event, including HE Leasi Papali'i T Scanlan (Samoa), HE Joy Kere (Solomon Islands), HE Cristiano da Costa (Timor-Leste), HE Teremoana Yala (Cook Islands).

## Opening of Samoa's Honorary Consulate in Fukushima Prefecture

Samoa officially opened its Honorary Consulate in Fukushima Prefecture on 26 March 2016 at the Headquarters of the Joban Kosan Company Ltd which runs the Spa Resort Hawaiians hotel, a large Polynesian and Hawaiian themed spa resort in Iwaki City.

The ceremony also included the formal commissioning by the Ambassador of Samoa to Japan, H.E. Faalavaau Perina J. Sila-Tualaulelei of Mr. Naomi Inoue, President of the Joban Kosan Company Ltd, as Samoa's Honorary Consul in Fukushima Prefecture.

Also present at the ceremony were the Deputy Governor of Fukushima Prefecture, senior government officials, as well as members from the business community. Honourable Fonotoe Pierre Lauofo, former Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa who was in Japan on an official visit long planned and facilitated by the Japanese Government to meet with private sector members also spoke to acknowledge the support by Japan to Samoa.

The Honorary Consulate will work with the Embassy of Samoa in Japan in the promotion of tourism, trade and investment between Japan and Samoa and consular activities in the Fukushima Prefecture.



*(L-R): Iyo Matsumoto (Samoa Embassy), Hon. Fonotoe Lauofo, Ambassador Faalavaau, Honorary Consul Mr. Inoue, Mr. Pagaiatii, and Mr. Tualaulelei.*

## Farewell Visit:

### H.E. Dr. Anne-Marie Schleich, Ambassador of Germany to Samoa, 17<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> May 2016

H.E. Dr. Anne-Marie Schleich has served as the Ambassador of Germany to New Zealand and Pacific Island States, including Samoa from 2014-2016 with residence in Wellington, New Zealand. The Ambassador during her tenure has contributed in strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries by overseeing a German funded small scale project on promoting medical education in Samoa. Under this project, the Federal Republic of Germany through their Embassy in Wellington and in collaboration with the National Health Services sent over medical experts from Germany to assist at the Samoa National Hospital.

Ambassador Schleich was accompanied by Dr. Wulf Killmann, CEO of German Society for Cooperation (GIZ). The German Development Agency GIZ is cooperating with the Government of Samoa and local communities on an ongoing "Adaptation to Climate Change" project involving 12 villages with the target of increasing depleted fish stocks.



*The Ambassador of Germany, H.E. Dr. Anne-Marie Schleich and the Head of State, His Highness, Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi (Source: Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany)*

## Samoa's 54<sup>th</sup> Independence Week of Celebrations in Wellington



*Photo caption: H.E. Leasi Papalii T. Scanlan at the delivery of his remarks during the 54<sup>th</sup> Independence Church service and the opening of the Samoan Language Week*

A church service for Samoa's 54<sup>th</sup> Independence Day was conducted at the Pacific Islands Presbyterian Church in Newtown, officiated by Rev. Tauinaola Tofilau on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and this was well attended by the community where, H.E. Leasi Papalii T. Scanlan spoke about the significance of this important day to the Samoan people.

**Samoan Language week** - On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2016, the Samoa High Commissioner, H.E. Leasi Papalii T. Scanlan,

Mrs Joyce Scanlan and staff from the Samoa High Commission attended the official opening ceremony for the Samoan Language Week at the University of Victoria Wellington. The Samoa High Commissioner delivered the keynote address to officially open the Samoan Language week at the University on the theme "*E feleleimanu ae ma'au'i o latouofaga*" "*Birds migrate to environments where they survive and thrive*" and what it meant to Samoans living in Aotearoa, New Zealand that while people are here in New Zealand to seek a better future for families, church, village and country, people will always go back to the place they call home, Samoa.

**Samoa's 54<sup>th</sup> Independence Day** - The High Commission celebrated Samoa's 54<sup>th</sup> Independence day on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016 at the Marist St Pat's Rugby Club. This was well attended by 150 invited guests from the Diplomatic Corp, New Zealand Parliament and the Samoan community. The keynote address was delivered by H E Papali'i T Scanlan where he highlighted the strong relationship between Samoa and New Zealand, especially the priority areas where New Zealand continues to provide assistance including the energy sector, tourism sector, private sector development and others for which the Government of Samoa is grateful. Furthermore, the High Commissioner acknowledged the benefits of the existing Recognised Seasonal Employment Scheme and he looks forward to the launch of the NZ Christchurch Rebuilt Pilot Scheme in August. The High Commissioner called on the New Zealand Government to kindly look at the issue of "remittances" which unfortunately, given the ongoing efforts by major commercial banks to close down the accounts of Money Transfer Operators has adversely affected the flow of remittances not only to Samoa but also to other Pacific Island countries. Hence, he requested the New Zealand government's assistance to resolve this serious problem for the Pacific. The New Zealand Government representative was the Minister of Pacific Island Peoples Hon Mr Peseta Sam Lotu'iga who responded to the High Commissioner's address by emphasizing the importance of the relationship between Samoa and New Zealand.

**Samoa's Independence Cup Golf Tournament** - The Samoa High Commission hosted its 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Diplomatic Golf Tournament on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 at Judgeford Golf Club. This tournament commemorates Samoa's independence and aims at strengthening the relationship between the High Commission and the Diplomatic Corps as well as the Samoan Community in Wellington. The High Commissioner Leasi Papalii T. Scanlan at the conclusion of the event officially presented the Wellington Samoa Golf Academy with their Golf ID cards and programs for the year and the presentation of prizes to those who attended the Golf tournament for this year.

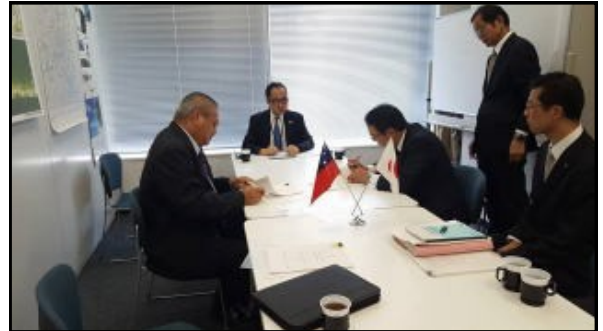
## Hon. Papali'itele Niko Lee Hang, Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure signs the contract of the Project for Enhancement of Safety of Apia Port in Tokyo

The contract for the Enhancement of Safety of the Apia Port was signed by the Honourable Papali'itele Niko Lee Hang on behalf of the Government of Samoa, with the Wakachiku Construction Co. Ltd of Japan. The signing ceremony took place on 3 June 2016 in Tokyo, Japan.

Apia Port is one of the most important social and economic infrastructures in

Samoa and will be rehabilitated under this Project. The main structure of the project includes the extension of the wharf, rehabilitation of the container yard and repair and maintenance of the tug boats. The construction is scheduled to begin later this year for the next two years.

Also present at the signing ceremony were H.E. Faalavaau Perina J. Sila-Tualaulelei, Ambassador of Samoa to Japan, Mr. Asofa Fereti, General Manager of the Samoa Ports Authority, Mr. Papali'i Willie Nansen, General Manager of Samoa Shipping Corporation, Mr. Tomane Lotomau, Port Master of the Samoa Ports Authority and Ms. Soteria Noaese, Assistant CEO of the Ministry of Finance.



## Pacific Fisheries Ministers Meeting in Wellington 12-15 April 2016

Hon Murray McCully, Minister of Foreign Affairs welcomed the visit to New Zealand by 40 Pacific Fisheries Ministers and officials at a Powhiri (welcome ceremony) held at teWhareAorere, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016. "The Pacific's largest economic asset is its fisheries and we are committed to helping Pacific nations to manage this resource in a sustainable way," Mr McCully says. Ministers from the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, were in New Zealand to gain a first-hand understanding of New Zealand's approach to fisheries management in an effort to get a similar system introduced in the Pacific region.

This follows a Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) agreement that looks at introducing a quota-based system to the region and the PIF leaders want to see an increase in economic benefits from the Pacific's fisheries in the next five years. "At last year's Pacific Islands Forum, New Zealand announced \$50 million to help support the development of a quota catch-based management system in the Pacific and this visit by Pacific Ministers builds on that commitment. At the moment fishing vessels in the region pay a daily fee to catch as much fish as they like, which has raised concerns some fisheries, could become unsustainable over time "A regional catch-based management regime will provide Pacific Governments with the information they need to address illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, and more effectively manage the resource," Mr McCully says.

The Ministers' four-day programme included a visit to the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) as well as meetings in Auckland and Wellington to get first-hand experience about New Zealand's fisheries. In Nelson, a group of Pacific Fisheries Officer students currently studying at NMIT meet the Ministers. NMIT has trained 361 Pacific Fisheries Extension Officers since 1979 from 21 different countries in the Pacific. NMIT's International Maritime Institute of New Zealand showed the Ministers its maritime and aquaculture training programmes and facilities, including the salmon hatchery and bridge and engine room simulation suites. Nelson-based fishing companies control the largest share of New Zealand's fishing quota. The region has the largest fishing fleet in the country and is the centre of aquaculture. Some of the key topics of interest discussed during the meeting at Amora Hotel included the US

Tuna Treaty and the Labour Mobility Fisheries Pilot Scheme. The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Laauli-o-le Malietoa Leuatea Polataivao Schmidt led Samoa's delegation to the meeting joined by Mrs Joyce Ah Leong, Assistant CEO Fisheries and a representative from the Samoa High Commission.

**Pacific Energy Minister's Conference**  
**7 June 2016 – \$1 billion for Pacific energy projects**

New Zealand and the European Union welcomed the successful conclusion of the Pacific Energy Conference in Auckland which was held at Eden's Park on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016 that saw donors commit over \$1 billion for sustainable energy projects in the Pacific.

The conference was attended by close to 400 delegates and this is a follow-up to the Summit held in 2013 in Auckland. Co-hosted by the New Zealand Government and the European Union, the conference focused on investment opportunities to increase renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy access for Pacific island countries. Since the 2013 Summit, the Pacific has made significant progress implementing efficient, clean and affordable renewable energy initiatives with over 50 of the 70 projects being completed and the others now underway.

However, more needs to be done as dependence on fossil fuels continues to generate significant costs, both economically and environmentally. Pacific island countries are the most

at risk from climate change and their commitments to renewable energy sends a strong message to the world.

"The \$635 million committed at the 2013 Pacific Energy Summit has translated into over \$900 million of investments across 70 projects," New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully says.

"Investments and funding announced at the conclusion of this meeting will support Polynesia to achieve more than 50 percent renewable energy by 2024, provide access to electricity for an estimated 1 million people in Melanesia, and help other countries in the region to double their renewable energy generation.

"For our part, New Zealand has agreed to provide a further \$100 million to energy projects in nine Pacific countries, bringing our total contribution to \$220 million," Mr McCully says.

Investors include conference co-hosts New Zealand and the European Union, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank Group, Japan, United Arab Emirates, and Australia.

Since 2013, New Zealand and the EU have partnered to deliver renewable energy projects in Tuvalu, Samoa, the Cook Islands, and Kiribati.

The EU signed with New Zealand a Joint Declaration of Cooperation on a Pacific Partnership for Sustainable Energy. This signals EU-NZ

commitment to expand the scope of their close cooperation on renewable energy to benefit, among others, Tonga, Niue and Northern Pacific.

"Furthermore this declaration paves the way for the future expansion of the successful EU-New Zealand partnership to fields such as climate change, in accordance with the framework established by the Paris Agreement, and sustainable agriculture, starting with Vanuatu."

The Samoa delegation to this meeting was led by the Minister of Finance, Honourable Sili EpaTuioti, the Samoa High Commissioner, Leasi Papalii T. Scanlan, Tile Lei'a Tuimalealifano, General Manager of EPC, Papalii John Ryan, Chairman EPC, Vanda Faasau Chan Tung, Assistant CEO Renewable Energy MNRE and Samani Carel Tupufia, Assistant CEO Environment & Renewable Energy SROS.



*Pacific Energy Summit Leaders Group Photo including Hon. Sili Epa Tuioti, Minister of Finance of Samoa*

**40<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Festival and Charity Bazaar 2016**

The Embassy of Samoa in Japan participated in the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Asia-Pacific Festival and Charity Bazaar that was organized by the Asia-Pacific Ladies Friendship Society (ALFS) on 6 April 2016. The ALFS is an organization made up of female Ambassadors, wives of Ambassadors of some countries from Asia-Pacific based in Tokyo and ladies from Japan.

At this year's event, Samoa set up its handicrafts stall exhibiting and selling Samoan products and handicrafts, such as lotions, oils, soaps, handbags etc to the thousands of visitors. A food stall was also set up serving Samoan cuisine that was widely appreciated by many guests at the bazaar. The main purpose of this particular event was to raise funds to be donated to charitable institutions in each of the ALFS member countries to support grassroots/community projects that promote the welfare and education of women and children in their respective countries.



*Staff of the Embassy of Samoa in Japan; Samoan community members and friends at the ALFS Charity Bazaar in Tokyo on 6 April 2016.*

**Other activities**

The Embassy of Samoa in Japan also participated in other events, such as the Business Seminar to promote the Trade Mission to Samoa at the end of July, Cherry Blossom Event hosted by the Prime Minister of Japan, Spring Garden Event hosted by the Emperor and Empress of Japan, Study Tour to the Emperor's Stock Farm, 2016 World Orchid Show (Samoa's orchids were displayed at the show), Pacific Islands Ambassadors' Conference at the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Oita, and many others.

**Ceremony for Top Achievement Award for scholarship student Sina Ah Sam – 26 May 2016**

The second-year commerce student received the award in front of Samoan High Commissioner Leasi Papalii T. Scanlan, as well a crowd of friends, University staff and representatives from award sponsors, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Sina received the award for outstanding academic results in her first year in the New Zealand Pacific Scholarship, run by the New Zealand Aid Programme at Victoria.

Sina is studying Accounting and Commercial Law and Taxation. In addition, she is this year a mentor for first-year commerce students for the Māori and Pasifika mentoring programme, Te Pūtahi Atawhai. Sina is also a member of the Samoan Students' Association and Victoria Plus.

In her speech, Sina encouraged her fellow Pasifika students to make the most of opportunities studying at Victoria. "When we come here to study, we not only represent ourselves and our families, we are representing a nation that is hopeful of us and is awaiting our return so we can use the knowledge we gain to make a difference back home and contribute to its

development.”

Helena Cook and Julia McEnteer from Victoria’s New Zealand Aid Scholarships team presented Sina with a pounamu necklace as a taonga to recognise her success. Dr Cook said “She was very shy and quiet, but has blossomed into someone who’s confident and doing such an amazing job. I’ve been really impressed with her heart, the way she’s endlessly upbeat and acing her classes.”

Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pasifika) Associate Professor Hon. Luamanuvao Winnie Laban praised Sina’s perseverance and passion that has seen her achieve top grades, and her generosity in finding time to help other students as a mentor. “Sina studies hard and aims high, and that’s going to provide wonderful opportunities in the future when she starts her career. Sina is a great role model for our Pasifika students as she personally demonstrates the importance of academic achievement.”

### **Opus International Consultants Samoa Ltd Offers Engineering Training Initiatives for Samoa**

The Government of Samoa through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), Opus International Consultants Samoa Ltd in partnership with the Institute of Professional

Engineers Samoa (IPES) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Opus to provide capacity building opportunities through short term training in the field of engineering and scholarship initiatives for Samoa. The capacity building initiatives include partially funded scholarships for students to undertake civil engineering at an approved university in New Zealand, a cadetship programme for Samoan nationals working in the civil engineering fields in Samoa as well as the secondment of engineering staff in Samoa to either New Zealand or on projects being carried out by Opus in Samoa.

Samoa’s growing number of infrastructural developments brings an increase in demand for qualified engineers. IPES and the Government of Samoa recognize that the initiatives offered by Opus is a good incentive for students to undertake engineering as a career and to enhance the capacity of engineers already working in Samoa both in the government and private sector. The partnership established between Opus, IPES and the Government of Samoa will hopefully encourage other overseas consultancy firms or contractors to follow suit and provide and establish a positive working relationship with the engineering sector in Samoa.

The MOU was signed in May 2016 by Mrs Peseta Noumea Simi, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. Paul Rooney, General Manager of Opus International Consultants Ltd; and Mr Fui Tupa’i Mau Simanu, President of the Institute of Professional Engineers Samoa.

An advertisement to invite students and engineers to apply for the above programs will be published on IPES website ([www.ipes.ws](http://www.ipes.ws)) and MFAT website ([www.mfat.gov.ws](http://www.mfat.gov.ws)) and in local newspapers, once these programs are made available for the first intake for 2017.



*(L-R) Matilda Bartley, Sharon Potoi-Aiafi (MFAT), Paul Rooney (Opus), Fui Tupai Mau Simanu (IPES President) Faina Ah Liki (IPES), Titi Tutuvanu-Schwalger (IPES)*

### **Presentation of Credentials**

#### **H.E. Mr. Manuel Pradas Romani, 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

The Ambassador of Spain, H.E. Mr. Manuel Pradas Romani presented his credentials to the Head of State, His Highness, Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at the Head of State’s residence in Tuafu.

Ambassador Romani entered the diplomatic service in 1980 as First Secretary in the Embassy of Spain in Teheran. Since then, Mr. Romani has held various other positions within the Spanish Foreign Service and these include being Deputy Head of Mission at their Embassy in Quito, Ecuador in 1990, Ambassador of Spain to the Republic of Angola in 2011, Consul General of Spain in Bayonne, France in 2012 and most recently Consul General of Spain in Lyon, France in 2013.



*L-R Head of State, His Highness, Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi, Ambassador of Spain to Samoa, H.E. Mr. Manuel Pradas Romani and spouse of the Ambassador, Elvira Lopez De Quitana Salafraña (Source: Samoa Observer)*

### **Presentation of Credentials to the President of the Republic of the Philippines, 10 June 2016**

H.E. Faalavaau Perina J. Sila-Tualaulelei presented her Credentials to H.E. Benigno S. Aquino III, President of the Republic of the Philippines on 10 June 2016 at a Presentation of Credentials ceremony held at the Malacanang Palace in Manila.

The Ambassadors from Cuba and Finland also presented their Letters of Credence to President Aquino on this date.

While in Manila, Ambassador Faalavaau also held meetings with relevant officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila to discuss various aspects of technical cooperation to promote bilateral relations between Samoa and the Philippines. Ambassador Faalavaau also attended the Commemoration of the Philippines’ 118<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence on 12 June 2016.

Ambassador Faalavaau is currently the non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Independent State of Samoa to the Republic of the Philippines.



*Ambassador Faalavaau and President Aquino during the Presentation of Credentials Ceremony in Manila, Philippines on 10 June 2016.*

### **Presentation of Credentials to the President of the Russian Federation, 20 April 2016, Moscow, Russian Federation**

H.E. Faalavaau Perina J. Sila-Tualaulelei presented her credentials to H.E. Mr. Vladimir V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation on 20 April 2016 in the Grand Kremlin Palace’s Alexander Hall in Moscow. 15 other Ambassadors presented their credentials to the President on the same date.

While in Moscow, Ambassador Faalavaau met also with Government officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss areas for technical cooperation between Russia and Samoa.

Ambassador Faalavaau is now the non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Independent State of Samoa to the Russian Federation.