



Government of Samoa

Foreign Affairs & Trade Bulletin

January—March 2016

12th Green Climate Fund Board Meeting, Songdo, Republic of Korea, 8-10 March 2016

Samoa, through Ambassador Aliioaiga Feturi Elisaia is representing the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) constituency on the Green Climate Fund Board for three years from 2016 to 2018. The Ambassador of Seychelles for Climate Change and SIDS issues, Ronny Jumeau is the Alternate Board member and Mr. Joseph Aitaro of Palau is the SIDS Adviser to the Board representatives.

The 24 member Board met at the GCF Headquarters in Songdo, Republic of Korea from 8-10 March 2016. Amongst key decisions taken by it included the adoption of the Fund's first Strategic Plan for 2016, the accreditation of 13 new entities plus others in order to deliver against the target of approving USD 2.5 billion Fund resources in 2016. The simplified approval process for smaller and micro projects will be part of the Board's agenda for its June 2016 meeting. Hopefully this will go some way to assist SIDS when submitting project proposals.

The GCF Board also decided to hold its 15th meeting in Apia in mid-December 2016. Samoa and Australia (Australia is the current Co-Chair of the GCF Board) will be hosting the meeting jointly on behalf of the Pacific region.



The 24 GCF Board Members at the 12th Meeting of the Green Climate Fund Board, Songdo, Republic of Korea

60th session of the CSW

The 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women was held at the UN Headquarters from 14 to 24 March 2016.

The new Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, Mrs. Fuimapoao Beth Onesemo-Tuilaepa, headed the Samoan delegation from Capital which included Ms. Louisa Apelu, Assistant Chief Executive Officer for Women, Ms. Faatino Utumapu of Nuanua O Le Alofa and Ms. Cherelle Fruean from the Pacific Young Women's Leadership Alliance.

The Head of Delegation participated in the General discussion on the "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled, "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the 21st century", and in one of the four ministerial roundtables on the theme, "Strengthening normative, legal and policy frameworks for Gender Equality and Women's empowerment". A copy of the statement delivered during the general discussion can be found on the dedicated web page for CSW60: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016/official-meetings>.

A bilateral meeting was organized for the delegation to meet with the UN-Women Executive Board Secretary and his staff given that Samoa's 3-year term on the UN-Women Executive Board started in January 2016. The bilateral allowed the Secretariat to give a brief overview of the Board's roles and functions and also facilitated a good exchange on the upcoming work of the Board and expectations for the Annual Session scheduled to be held on 27-28 June 2016.



Fuimapoao Beth Onesemo-Tuilaepa, CEO for MWCSO delivers Samoa's National Remarks during the General Discussion

Update on PACER Plus negotiations

A series of PACER Plus meetings took place from 29 February to 6 March, 2016 in Brisbane, Australia. The Governing Board for the Office of the Chief Trade Adviser (OCTA) met to discuss the work programme of the Office and to hear about the progress of negotiations to date. Other topics of the discussion focussed on the future of the Office and the implementation of the agreement once negotiations are concluded.

A High Level meeting also took place in which Pacific Ministers with a few countries represented by officials deliberated on the status of negotiations, remaining issues to be addressed and the next steps for PACER Plus while recognising the deadline of June 2016 given by their heads of government for negotiations to conclude.

The last of the meetings was the Fourteenth Intersessional Meetings where Australia and New Zealand resumed negotiations with the Pacific Island countries on the remaining issues in trade in goods, product specific rules and temporary movement of natural persons. Some countries presented their initial market access offers and discussions on these were undertaken in bilateral sessions during the last two days.

A representative from the World Bank delivered an interesting presentation on 'How to maximise investment agreements to attract and link investment in parties to an agreement'. The presentation reported several success stories of the different countries that the World Bank has helped to attract, link and maintain investments, in particular to each country's niche potentials.

With a few months before the June deadline set by heads of Government extensive work now lies ahead for the officials, especially concerning market access negotiations given that majority of the Parties have tabled market access offers. Dates for the next intersessional meeting have yet to be finalised.

Public Private Partnership for SIDS Conference, 22-24 March 2016, Aruba

A high-level event to support public-private partnerships in SIDS was organized by the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) and the Government of the Netherlands in Aruba from 22-28 March.

The Conference is a direct follow-up to the Samoa Private Sector Partnership Forum held in Samoa during the Third International Conference on SIDS in 2014 and part of the overall implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. The aim of the Conference was to provide a platform to showcase partnership success stories and explore mechanisms where these successes can be scaled-up and replicated in other SIDS.

Samoa was represented at the Conference by the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Public Enterprise, Ms. Elita Tooala, and the Counsellor of the Samoa Mission in New York, Mrs. Francella Strickland-Simonet. Ms. Tooala was one of the key speakers in the Infrastructure session of the Conference.



Ms. Elita Tooala, CEO Ministry of Public Enterprises

Samoa's begins its 3-year term on the Executive Boards for UN-Women and UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS (2016-2018)

Samoa was elected in April 2015 to serve as a Member of the Executive Board for UN-Women and the Executive Board for UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS respectively. Samoa's 3-year term commenced on 1 January 2016.

UN-Women held its First Regular Session on 9 February 2016 which adopted the Annual work plan for annual session of 2016 and provided a dialogue on financing the UN-Women's strategic plan including its Flagship programme initiatives and the implementation of UN-Women's coordination mandate. Samoa delivered a general statement during the session covering UN-Women's activities nationally and in the Pacific region. The full text of the statement can be found online on UN-Women's PaperSmart portal at:

<http://papersmart.unmeetings.org/executive-boards/un-women/firstregularsession2016/statements/>.

The Samoa Mission has been attending various meetings and briefings leading up to the 2 Boards respective Annual sessions in June

and the Joint Meeting of the Executive Boards of UN-Women, UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF and WFP.



Ms. Ida Tifitifi Fuimaono's 4-year posting as First Secretary with the Samoa Permanent Mission to the United Nations will conclude by the end of March 2016 before she returns to Samoa's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Samoa's Ambassador hosted a farewell reception for representatives of the Pacific islands states with Missions in New York and some of Ms. Fuimaono's select friends to mark her impending departure and closure of yet another chapter in her Foreign service career.



PSIDS Farewell reception in honour of the First Secretary's conclusion of post in New

Samoa elected as the first Coordinator of the ACP SIDS Forum

H.E. Fatumanava Dr. Pa'olelei Luteru, Ambassador of Samoa to Belgium and the European Union (EU), has been elected as the first Coordinator and Chair of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Forum on Small Island Developing States. The SIDS Forum was established in late 2015 in recognition of the persistent and systematic vulnerabilities unique to SIDS. As SIDS make up almost half of the ACP membership, the SIDS group forms an important constituency within the ACP community. The SIDS Forum is mandated to be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway with a view on focusing on mutual areas of support and interest with the EU, providing a platform to discuss issues of specific relevance to SIDS and increasing stakeholders' awareness to the challenges that SIDS face. The SIDS Coordinator is appoint-

ed for a term of one year and will rotate annually amongst the four ACP SIDS Regions (Atlantic, Caribbean, Indian and



H.E. Fatumanava Dr. Pa'olelei Luteru, Ambassador/Coordinator of ACP SIDS Forum (Photo Credit: ACP Secretariat)

International Women's Day at ACP House

The Embassy of Samoa participated in the celebrations for International Women's Day at ACP House in Brussels on 8 March 2016. The theme of the celebration was "Women Moving Forward" and it resonated throughout the speeches, artistic performances and cultural presentations held to celebrate the resilience of women in the face of diversity. The cultural presentations were made by three women speakers including Ms. Katalaina Sapolu, Director of the Rule of Law Division at the Commonwealth Secretariat, who spoke about the role of women in moving forward political participation and policy making in the Pacific region. Ms. Sapolu also shared her personal insights on women in leadership and politics from Samoa, her national country. The celebration ended with a fashion show which showcased designs from Africa and the Pacific including traditional and modern designs from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The night ended with a cocktail reception where the participants sampled ethnic foods from the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions prepared by the various



Some of the diplomats celebrating International Women's Day at ACP House in Brussels (Photo credit: ACP Secretariat)

ACP Embassies in Brussels.

The Johoku Shinkin Bank of Japan donates to the School Children of Samoa

On 25 January 2016, the Embassy of Samoa in Japan, on behalf of the Government of Samoa, received a generous donation from Mr. Kotaro Omae, President of the Johoku Shinkin Bank and Founder of the 'Love Commons Project' during a handover ceremony at the Headquarters of the Johoku Shinkin Bank in Tokyo. The donation comprised boxes of exercise books, pencils, as well as school uniforms intended for the school children of Samoa.

Ambassador Sila expressed the Government of Samoa's sincere appreciation to President Omae and the Management and Staff of the Johoku Shinkin Bank for this generous gift, which she noted is the third consecutive year that the Bank has made this donation for the school children of Samoa as it testifies to the close and friendly partnership between the Johoku Shinkin Bank and the Embassy of



Ambassador Sila and President Omae during the Handover Ceremony in Japan

COSME EXPO 2016

Samoa participated in the COSME EXPO 2016 that was held from 20-22 January 2016 in Tokyo, Japan.

The COSME EXPO is the biggest annual exhibition in Japan specializing in cosmetics and pharmaceutical products. This year's event brought together almost 700 companies/organizations exhibiting skincare products (anti-aging cosmeceuticals, face and body lotions and soaps, hair products) and packing options from 42 countries in Africa, Asia, Americas and Oceania. A total of 25,000 people visited the 3 day event. The expo is a platform to promote, display and encourage business between manufacturing companies, trading agents, distributors, retailers and consumers.

The Pacific participated in this year's expo for the first time. Facilitated by the Pacific Island Centre and the Embassy of Samoa in Japan, Samoa's representative was Mailelani Samoa. The other two Pacific Island countries were Vanuatu and Niue. All their prod-

ucts were coconut or tamanu oil based, which are very popular with Japanese customers. Mailelani showcased beautifully packaged/wrapped body lotions, oils, soaps, balms which received high acclaims from booth visitors and resulted in subsequent follow ups after the expo. The Embassy displayed and promoted samples of essential oils extracted from mosooi (popular in Japan as ylang ylang), cinnamon, lemon grass, lime and eucalyptus as produced by Scientific



Staff of the Embassy of Samoa in Japan; Staff of the Research Organization of Samoa (SRO) and Pacific representatives at the COSME EXPO 2016.

Visit to the Yagumodai Elementary School by the Embassy of Samoa in Japan

The Samoa Embassy in Tokyo was invited by the Yagumodai Elementary School, located west of Tokyo, to give a presentation on Samoa (geography, history, people, culture, food, sports, entertainment, etc) as well as to attend their Samoan School Lunch Day. The school children were excited to learn more about Samoa and over 470 students had Samoan food for lunch which they really enjoyed. The lunch provided included fish, banana with coconut cream, chop suey, rice, milk and cocoa.

Counsellor Rapture Pagaialii expressed the Embassy's appreciation to the Principal, Teachers and Students of Yagumodai Elementary School for the kind invitation.

This is an important activity undertaken by the Embassy as part of promoting Samoa to



The Japanese community and the Principal and Teachers of Yagumodai Elementary School

47th session of the Statistical Commission, 8-10 March 2015

The Forty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission took place at the UN Headquarters from 8 to 10 March 2016. Government Statistician, Mr. Muagututia Sefuiva Muagututia, attended the 3 day session and spoke at a few events throughout the Session in his role as one of 2 SIDS representatives with Fiji in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) tasked to come up with appropriate indicators for the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The IAEG presented its report to the Statistical Commission on Sustainable Development Indicators which was adopted by the Commission on the session's last day. The IAEG report will be key to further intergovernmental discussions on the implementation



Mr. Muagututia Sefuiva Muagututia presenting his views from a SIDS perspective and IAEG Member at the SE4ALL side event on SDG 7 Progress

Trade Mission July 2016

The government of Japan has approved the government of Samoa's request made last year for the next trade and investment mission from Japan to the Pacific region to come to Samoa. The mission to Samoa is tentatively scheduled to take place in Samoa in July 2016. The trade missions are part of the outcomes of the PALM7 in May 2015 to encourage business, trade and investment between companies and private sectors of Japan and the Pacific Island countries. More details to follow.

Waitangi Commemoration Day

Every year on Waitangi Day, 6 February, New Zealanders of all communities and backgrounds gather to commemorate the signing of New Zealand's most historic document TeTiriti o Waitangi, The Treaty of Waitangi.

Waitangi Day at the Treaty Grounds started at 5am on Saturday 6th February 2016 with the traditional Dawn Service in TeWhareRūnanga, the carved meeting house.

The Samoa High Commissioner, HE Leasi Papalii T. Scanlan accompanied by Mrs

Joyce Scanlan **CONTINUED PAGE 4** attended this historic occasion along with other Members of the Diplomatic Corps as well as a number of officials from Foreign Governments accredited to New Zealand. HE Leasi accepted the Maori challenge at the Upper Treaty Grounds and then spoke in the Ancestral House on behalf of the visiting Dignitaries. Throughout the day there were continuous celebrations at three different areas of the grounds: Upper Treaty Grounds, Waka Stage and the Sports Field opposite the Treaty Grounds which included a historic



HE Leasi Papalii T. Scanlan, Mrs Joyce Scanlan, Members of the Diplomatic Corp, officials from Foreign Governments Accredited to NZ during the Reception at Waitangi

tour of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds.

Canterbury Pacific Trades Pilot Project

A Stakeholder Meeting on the Canterbury Trades Employment Initiative was held in Christchurch, on the 8th March 2016 to update members on the preparatory work and arrangements for the recruitment of Pacific Trades workers from the three countries Samoa, Tonga and Fiji to assist in the rebuilding project. This meeting was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment, the Pacific Trust Canterbury, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade NZ, Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology, representatives from the Pacific Missions in Wellington, Christchurch Trades employers and church Leaders from the Christchurch Pacific community. Samoa was represented by the Samoa High Commission.

Following on from this meeting, an assessment process will be undertaken in the three countries to select the Trades people for this project. There are twenty four (24) places to be filled and the screening process will be conducted in country when the visiting team including representatives from Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment, the Pacific Trust Canterbury and Canterbury Polytechnic Institute of Technology visit the three Pacific countries. The dates have been set for:

Tonga Tuesday 29 March – Saturday 2 April
Samoa Monday 11 April – Friday 15 April
Fiji Monday 18 April – Friday

22 April

The programme will initially be on trial for a year and provides the opportunity for tradespeople from Fiji, Tonga, and Samoa to work in the rebuilding project in Christchurch. This initiative intends to upskill workers' construction experience and obtains qualification that would be utilized upon their return to their respective countries.

The first intake is expected to commence in late May 2016.

Samoa High Commission Host Students from Victoria University of Wellington

The Samoa High Commissioner and Staff hosted a welcome luncheon for the Samoan students from Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) on Saturday 19th March 2016 at the Samoa High Commission Office. The invitation was extended to the new, current, private and postgraduate students as well as staff members of the University's Pasifika Department. The High Commissioner, H.E. Leasi Papalii T. Scanlan, in his opening remarks officially welcomed the new students to Wellington and he encouraged the students to be diligent in their school work being mindful of their families and Samoa's support as they are the ambassadors of their country. It was further relayed in his remarks that as students it is important to complete their programs so that they can make a contribution not only to their families but to the country as a whole. He concluded by stating that the Samoa High Commission Office is always open for everyone to call in should they need assistance and support. The High Commissioner also took the opportunity to congratulate the returning students for passing their exams last year and he thanked the VUW staff for looking after the Samoan students. The event was well attended by more than 30 students and staff.



H.E. Ms. Zehra Akbari with the Head of State of the Independent State of Samoa, His Highness, Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi

Farewell Visit High Commissioner of Pakistan, 10th-12th January 2016

H.E. Ms. Zehra Akbari has served as the High Commissioner of Pakistan to New Zealand and Pacific Island States from 2014-2016 at the residential High Commission of

Pakistan in Wellington, New Zealand. The High Commissioner made several efforts in building Samoa's bilateral relations with Pakistan during her post. For instance, a student exchange programme has been an ongoing development to enhance education of Samoa in the Pacific which is yet to be confirmed.

Official Visit

Senior US Official Delegation, 22nd



L-R Charge d' Affaires of US Embassy, Ms. Angelina Wilkinson; the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Mr. Daniel Russell; the Police Commissioner, Fuiavavili Egon Keil; Commander of the US Navy Fleet, Admiral Scott Swift

February 2016

US Senior Delegation from the US Navy Pacific Fleet visited the Police facilities in Samoa. The delegation also inspected the Police Patrol Boat and had a discussion with the Police Commissioner and Chairperson of the Pacific Transnational Crime Network, Fuiavavili Egon Keil on developing a programme to promote close relationship between the United States of America and the Independent State of Samoa.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand, Hon. Tupa'i Murray McCully visits Samoa

Hon. Tupa'i Murray McCully visited Samoa on 29 February 2016 for the official launch of the Mataliki ferry for the people of Tokelau. The launch will assist Samoa Shipping Corporation for travellers to reach these isolated islands of Tokelau. Minister McCully used this opportunity to further develop bilateral relations between Samoa and New



NZ Foreign Minister, Tupa'i Murray McCully at the launch of the Mataliki ferry (Source: Samoa Observer)