



Foreign Affairs & Trade Bulletin

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

January—March 2015

Samoa Embassy in Belgium

Second Meeting of ACP Ministers of Health, 25 to 26 February 2015, Brussels, Belgium



Samoa's Delegation
Honourable Tuitama Dr. Leao Talalelei Tuitama,
Mrs. Gualofa Matalavea-Saaga and
H.E. Fatumanava Dr. Pa'olelei Luteru
Photo credit: ACP secretariat

The Ministers of Health from African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries met for the Second Meeting of ACP Ministers of Health held from 25 to 26 February 2015. The first ACP Ministers of Health meeting was held in 2007. The meeting was preceded by the ACP Senior Health Officials' meeting from 23 to 24 February 2015. The main focus was to exchange views on the challenges and strategies of the health sector in the post-2015 period. To this end, discussions were focused on

strengthening health systems and the importance of countries being vigilant and prepared. This was further emphasized in light of the Ebola outbreak in Africa and other diseases such as Malaria and Chikungunya, of which the latter remains prevalent in the Caribbean and Pacific regions. Ministers also reaffirmed the need to include health as a key item on the post-2015 development agenda. Other health issues such as nutrition, finance predictability, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), as well as progress on the Millennium Development Goals on health were common concerns amongst the countries present and were discussed at length.

Representatives from international organizations such as the European Commission (EC), World Health Organization, GAVI, Global Fund and World Health Summit (WHS) gave presentations on their roles in tackling the current health issues and the resources they could offer.

Ministers underlined the need for member states to endorse Universal health Coverage, with sustainable financing, as the over-arching health goal of the sector amongst the proposed Sustainable Development Goals. The Ministers also called on governments and development partners to increase their support for strengthening health systems especially in vulnerable states.

Samoa was represented by the Honourable Tuitama Dr. Leao Talalelei Tuitama, Minister of Health who led the delegation, Mrs. Gualofa Matalavea-Saaga, Assistant Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Health, H.E. Fatumanava Dr. Pa'olelei Luteru, Ambassador of Samoa to Belgium and Mrs. Anna Main, First Secretary.

The ACP Secretariat will now review the Ministerial recommendations and make proposals to the Committee of Ambassadors as to how some of these could be actioned under the intra-ACP envelope of the 11th EDF.

FACTS:

Did you know:

- ◆ In 2009, Samoa became the first country since the 1970s to change the side of the road on which cars are driven. (driving on the left.)
- ◆ In 2011 Samoa skipped a day, and jumped westward across the International Date Line (IDL)
- ◆ Samoa officially became the 155th Member of the WTO on the 10th May 2012.
- ◆ Samoa hosted the world for the Third SIDS Conference in 2014

New Postings to Overseas Missions



American Samoa's newly appointed Consul General, Mr. Poloma Komiti

Auseugaefa Mafaituuga Vaasatia Poloma Komiti is the newly appointed **Consul General** to American Samoa. Mr Komiti was a former Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of the Prime Minister & Cabinet for the period 1997-2009. His post as Consul General in American Samoa will be for a period of 3 years from 2015-2018.



Fa'alavaau Perina Sila-Tualalelei: newly appointed Ambassador to Japan

Ms Fa'alavaau Perina Sila-Tualalelei is Samoa's newly appointed **Ambassador** to Japan. Fa'alavaau's term is for 3 years from 2015 to 2018. She was appointed CEO of the SIDS Secretariat during Samoa's hosting of the 3rd UN Conference on Small Island Developing States [SIDS] held in 2014. She has worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade for more than 22 years and was previously posted in Brussels and New York.



Ms Hinauri Petana Newly Appointed High Commissioner to Australia

Samoa's newly appointed High Commissioner to Australia for three years commencing in 2015 until 2018. Ms. Hinauri Petana has held a number of senior positions within the Ministry of Finance including being appointed as Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry for a period of 10 years from 1999-2009.

Samoa Mission to the UN in New York

Closing of the International Year of SIDS – 24 February 2015

The closing ceremony of the International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was held on 24 February 2015. The event was organized by the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the Office of the High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS (OHRLLS) which included an Address by the Under-Secretary General of UNDESA, Mr Wu Hongbo, and remarks by the Champions of the International Year of SIDS.

The ceremony concluded with a Panel discussion moderated by the Under-Secretary-General of the OHRLLS, Mr. Gyan Chandra Archarya, focusing on the theme “SIDS issues as global issues: Positioning SIDS in the Post-2015 Development Agenda”, which aimed to address the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and ways this implementation will benefit from and strengthen the post-2015 development agenda, the Climate Change process, and the Financing for Development process.

46th session of the Statistical Commission, 3-6 March 2015

The forty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission took place at the UN Headquarters on 3 to 6 March 2015. Mr. Muagututia Sefuiava Muagututia, Government Statistician attended from Samoa. This session included a discussion on how to address indicators for the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals and Targets.



**Mr. Muagututia Sefuiava Muagututia
Government Statistician representing
Samoa**

59th session of the CSW

The 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women was held at the UN Headquarters from 9 to 20 March 2015. Over 4,000 women from Government and Civil Society and academia converged on the United Nations Headquarters for the two-week meeting.

The Honourable Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiatua, headed the Samoan delegation consisting of Ms. Louisa Apelu, Assistant Chief Executive Officer for MWCSO, Ms. Rosalina Ah Sue, Senior Sergeant of the Ministry of Police, Ms. Faatino Utumapu of Nuanua O Le Alofa and Ms. Cherelle Fruean from the YWCA.

The Minister delivered remarks during the general discussion, highlighting the developments made by Samoa at the national and local levels to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and what challenges remain. The full statement can be viewed online at:

<https://papersmart.unmeetings.org/ecosoc/csw/csw59/statements/>. The Minister also participated in one of the four Ministerial roundtables on “Transforming politics and public life to achieve gender equality”.



**The Honorable Minister of Women,
Community and Social Development,
Afioa Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiatua
Photo Credit: Samoa NY Mission to the
UN**

Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The United Nations will launch during a Summit in September 2015 the post-2015 development agenda. The task of defining this agenda is currently being elaborated through informal consultations of the UN General Assembly. In January they had the Stocktaking Session, in February they had the discussions on the Declaration and from the 23-27 March, they discussed the Goal targets and the report from the Statistical Commission on the Indicators. The Assistant Attorney General, Ms. Loretta Afamasaga joined the Samoa delegation during the last Post-2015 consultations. The next consultations will be held from 20 to 24 April 2015 on the Means of Implementation.

Political, International Relations and Protocol Division

Presentation of Credentials

The following Ambassador and High Commissioner travelled to Samoa to present their credentials to His Highness, Tui Atua Tamasese Efi, Head of State of Samoa

- ♦ H.E. Dr. Carmelo Barbarello, Ambassador of Italy, 4th February 2015



**H.E. Dr. Carmelo Barbarello, Ambassador of Italy,
His Highness, Tui Atua Tamasese Efi, Head of State,
Masiofo Filifilia Efi, spouse of Ambassador Mr.
Javier Barca and Honorary Consul of Italy, Mr. Paul
Cafferelli Photo by: Samoa Observer**

- ♦ H.E. Mr. Jonathan Sinclair, British High Commissioner, 10th March 2015



**Her Highness, Masiofo Filifilia Efi, His Highness,
Tui Atua Tamasese Efi, Head of State of Samoa and
British High Commissioner, H.E. Mr. Jonathan Sinclair.
Photo Credit: Jonathan Sinclair's Twitter account
(@JWRSinclair)**

Visiting VIPS

- ♦ H.E. Mr. Du Qiwen, Special Envoy of China to Post Forum Dialogue: Official visit to meet the Prime Minister, Hon. Tuilaepa Aiono Lufesoliai Sialele Malielegaoi : 5th -7th March 2015
- ♦ Secretary General for the Pacific Islands Forum, Dame Meg Taylor: Official visit and to attend “China and the Pacific: The View from Oceania”: 24th-28th February 2015.

Samoa Embassy in Tokyo

PALM 7 Senior Officials' Meeting, 4 March 2015, Tokyo, Japan.

Senior officials from all Member countries of the Pacific Islands Forum and the Forum Secretariat met with their counterparts from the Government of Japan to prepare for the 7th Pacific Leaders' Meeting with the Prime Minister of Japan, known as PALM 7. The PALM 7 Summit will be held in Iwaki-city, Fukushima, Japan on 22 and 23 May 2015.

At the pre-PALM Senior Officials' Meeting, held on 4 March in Tokyo, Forum Member officials took the opportunity to emphasize key concerns for the Pacific region, including the environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction, as well as the important reforms to regional decision-making introduced by the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. Endorsed by Forum Leaders in 2014, the Framework establishes a new political process to drive regional cooperation and integration and will be an important reference point for the Pacific's engagement with development partners, such as Japan.

The Senior Officials' Meeting also provided a valuable opportunity for Forum Members and the Government of Japan to reflect on the progress and successes of the Pacific Environment Community (PEC) Fund, a US\$66million initiative of PALM 5 in 2009. Under the PEC Fund, which is coordinated and managed by the Forum Secretariat, the 14 Forum Island Countries have been allocated US\$4 million each to support projects in either solar power generation or sea water desalination. Eight countries have completed their projects, while the remaining six Forum Island countries are making rapid progress in implementing their projects.

The Pacific Leaders' Meeting was initiated by Japan in 1997 to strengthen relations with Pacific Island Forum countries and work jointly towards the development of the Pacific region. Through the PALM process, Japan and Pacific Island Forum countries have an opportunity to enhance cooperation and strengthen relations. PALM meetings are held every 3 years, with the last meeting, PALM 6, held in May 2012 in Okinawa.

Samoa was represented at the PALM 7 Senior Officials' Meeting by H.E. Leiatua Dr. Kilifoti Eteuati (Ambassador of Samoa to Japan), Mrs. Tasha Siaosi (ACEO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade) and Mr. Rapture Pagaialii (Counsellor, Embassy of Samoa in Japan).

Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 14-18 March 2015, Sendai, Japan.

The UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) is a UN-hosted conference to discuss international strategy on disaster risk reduction. Japan hosted the third conference from 14 to 18 March 2015 in Sendai, following the first conference in Yokohama in 1994 and second conference in Kobe in 2005.

Japan, as the host country of the conference as well as an advanced country in disaster risk reduction, has been actively leading discussions toward the formulation of the new international framework for disaster risk reduction (post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduc-

tion) to be adopted at this conference as well as preparations for the convening of the conference in cooperation with the UN and the host city (Sendai City), among others.

Through the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Conference outcome, participants requested the United Nations General Assembly to integrate into its post-2015 strategy for sustainable development seven goals to reduce risk for loss of life, livelihood and critical infrastructure from disasters, through enhanced national planning and international cooperation. Death and



(L-R): Mrs. Filomena Nelson (ACEO, MNRE), Hon. Faamoetauloa Taito Faale Tumaalii (Minister of Natural Resources and Environment), Mr. Rapture Pagaialii (Counsellor, Embassy of Samoa in Japan).

destruction from earthquakes, extreme weather and other hazards around the world would be decreased significantly by 2030 according to goals set by countries at the meeting.

The new Framework calls for concrete indicators of progress towards those goals to be measured against the disaster losses in the decade after the adoption of the 2005 Hyogo Framework for Action, its predecessor. Noting the rapid growth of population in urban areas, it also calls for such progress to be measured per 100,000 people globally.

Samoa's delegation to the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai was led by the Hon. Faamoetauloa Taito Faale Tumaalii, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Samoa. Mrs. Filomena Nelson, ACEO of MNRE also attended the conference as Samoa's delegate.

Ambassador Leiatua pays a farewell courtesy call on

His Majesty The Emperor Akihito as well as other Japanese Dignitaries

The Ambassador of Samoa to Japan and concurrently, non-resident Ambassador to the Russian Federation and the Republic of the Philippines, H.E. Leiatua Dr. Kilifoti Eteuati paid a farewell courtesy call on His Majesty The Emperor Akihito on 12th March 2015. Samoa officially opened its Embassy in Tokyo, Japan in July 2009. H.E. Leiatua Dr. Kilifoti Eteuati is Samoa's first Ambassador to Japan and he left Tokyo on 17th March 2015, upon the completion of his tour of duty in Japan.

Ambassador Leiatua also met with the State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Mr. Minoru Kiuchi over a farewell luncheon hosted by the

State Minister. Hon. Kiuchi expressed his gratitude to Ambassador Leiatua for his contribution in strengthening the bilateral ties between Japan and Samoa. Ambassador Leiatua responded by thanking the Hon. Kiuchi for all his assistance and the support from the Japanese Government. He said that it was an honour to serve as Samoa's Ambassador and that he thoroughly enjoyed his time in Japan.

Ambassador Leiatua also paid farewell courtesy calls on the Ambassador of the Russian Federation (H.E. Mr. Afanasiev), Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines (H.E. Mr. Lopez), Ambassador of New Zealand (H.E. Mr. Sinclair), State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (Hon. Dr. Yamagiwa), Japanese Member of Parliament (Hon. Oguma), President of Yazaki (Mr. Shinji Yazaki), and the President of Kyowa Shipping Line (Mr. Takamatsu).

In addition, Hon. Yoshiro Mori, former Japanese Prime Minister and current Chairman of the Japan Rugby Football Union, Vice-President of the Rugby World Cup 2019 Organization Committee, President of the Tokyo Organizing Committee of the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, visited the Embassy of Samoa on 16 March 2015. At this meeting, Hon. Mori expressed his appreciation to Ambassador Leiatua for the cooperation and close friendship with Japan during his tenure and also conveyed his hopes to further intensify the close mutual relations between Samoa and Japan. Ambassador Leiatua conveyed his gratitude to Hon. Mori for his strong support to Samoa, particularly in the establishment of the Japan-Samoa Parliamentary Association.



**Hon. Mori and Ambassador Leiatua at the Embassy of Samoa in Tokyo, Japan.
Photo credit: Samoa Embassy in Tokyo**

Samoa scholarship students graduate in Japan

Three of our Samoan students under the Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Scholarship graduated this month (March 2015) from three different Universities in Japan.

Dr. Edna Temese Manutai graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy from the Graduate School of Science and Engineering at Ibaraki University. Mrs. Lenara Tupa'i Fui graduated with a Master of Arts in International Relations from the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies at Waseda University. Ms. Akenese Sio Eti graduated with a Certificate after completing the Teacher Training Program at Tokyo Gakugei University.

Samoa Introduces Geneva Convention Bill 2015

Geneva Convention Bill 2015

Mr. Aiono Mose Sua, Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade introduced and explained the proposed bill known as the 'Geneva Convention Bill 2015' to the Legislative Assembly Meeting in March. The bill hasn't been passed yet, therefore an overview of the Bill is as follows:

Explanatory of the Bill:

The Geneva Conventions Bill 2015 (Bill) seeks to domesticate and give effect to certain Conventions made in Geneva on 12 of August 1949 and its 2 Additional Protocols of 1977. Samoa acceded and became a party to the 4 Geneva Conventions and its Protocols on the 23 August 1984. The Conventions have a retrospective effect whereby it takes effect from 1 January 1962, whereas the Protocols took effect on 23 August 1984. The aim of the Conventions and its Protocols is to protect those who are not involved in the hostility of wars (civilians, health workers and aid workers) and those who are no longer participating in the hostilities, such as the wounded, sick and shipwrecked soldiers and prisoners of war. The Bill also provides for the protection of certain protected emblems and items such as the "Red Cross" designation and emblem. Finally, the Bill makes consequential amendments to the Samoa Red Cross Act 1993.

Clauses:

PART 1 PRELIMINARY

Clause 1: - provides for the short title of the Bill which will be called the "Geneva Conventions Act 2015" once it is passed. The Act is to commence on the date it is assented to by the Head of State.

Clause 2: - provides for the definitions of certain terms and phrases used in the Bill.

Clause 3: - provides for the meaning and description of certain protected emblems and items that are protected under the Bill.

Clause 4: - provides that any reservation or declaration made by Samoa during its ratification of a Convention or Protocol, such Convention or Protocol is subject to that reservation

or declaration.

PART 2 BREACH OF THE CONVENTIONS OR PROTOCOLS

Clause 5: - provides for the offence and penalty for the breach of the Conventions or Protocols. Any grave breach that occurs outside Samoa may be prosecuted as if the offence was committed in Samoa.

Clause 6: - provides the meaning of a grave breach.

Clause 7: - provides that the Court cannot proceed with a trial of a person charged under section 5 unless the person is represented by a lawyer.

Clause 8: - provides that for a proceeding for an offence under section 5, there should be a certificate of the Minister specifying that the Conventions or Protocols apply.

PART 3 LEGAL PROCEEDINGS FOR PROTECTED PERSONS

Clause 9: - provides that Part 3 applies to a protected prisoner of war and protected internee that is brought up for trial for an offence.

Clause 10: - provides that the Court cannot proceed with a trial of a protected prisoner of war unless he/she is represented by a lawyer.

Clause 11: - provides that a notice of trial must be served by the prosecution on the defendant at least three (3) weeks before the trial.

Clause 12: - explains that this section only applies if at the time of conviction or sentence of the protected person, there is a protecting power for him/her and that the protecting power must be notified if the sentence is more than two (2) years imprisonment.

Clause 13: - provides that the Court may give direction to deduct the time a protected person was remanded in custody from his/her sentence upon their conviction.

PART 4 PROTECTED EMBLEMS

Clause 14: - provides that consent from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is required for the use of any of the protected emblems and items. The only exception is the Samoa Red Cross in relation to the use or display of the red cross emblem and the designation "Red Cross".

Clause 15: - creates an offence for the use or display of a protected emblem or item without the consent of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Clause 16: - provides that the court may make a forfeiture order in relation to an offence committed under section 15(1). PART 5 MISCELLANEOUS

Clause 17: - provides for the Head of State's power to make regulations on the advice of Cabinet.

Clause 18: - provides for consequential amendments made to the Samoa Red Cross Act 1993.

Schedule: - provides the list of the Geneva Conventions and its Protocols which apply to this Act.

Extracted from:

<http://www.parliament.gov.ws/new/wp-content/uploads/Bills/2015/3/Bill-Geneva-Conventions-Bill-2015-EM-Eng.pdf>

Facts:

Did you know:

- ♦ The Electoral Reforms in 1990 resulted in the adoption of the Universal Suffrage permitting all Samoan citizens 21 years and over to vote, a privilege that was enjoyed only by holders of Matai Titles and Individual Voters.
- ♦ Samoa's General Elections are held every five years.
- ♦ Samoa's Exclusive Economic Zone is the smallest in the Pacific at 98,500 km²

New Postings to Overseas Missions

The Re-appointments of Heads of Missions/Heads of posts for [3 years] in:

New Zealand:

Wellington - H.E. Mr. Leasi Papalii Tommy Scanlan (High Commissioner)

Auckland - Mr. Fonoti Dr Lafitai Iupati Fuatai (Trade Commissioner Samoa)

Auckland – Mr. Faolotoi Reupena Pogi (Samoa Consul General)

U.S.A:

New York – H.E Mr. Aliioaiga Feturi Elisara (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary /Head of Mission)

Kingdom of Belgium:

Brussels – Dr. Fatumanava Pa'o Luteru (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary)

New Posted Officers:

China: Ms Helen Chou Lee Tanuvasa

New Zealand: Ms Terozita Uitime

Belgium: Ms Anna Main

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