



Foreign Affairs & Trade Bulletin

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Prime Minister Tuilaepa attends the PALM Third Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo



(L-R) Faalavaau Perina Sila-Tualaulelei (Ambassador of Samoa to Japan); Hon. Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi (Prime Minister of Samoa); Hon. Daishiro Yamagiwa (Diet Member, Co-Secretary General of the Japan-Samoa Parliamentary Friendship Association); Hon. Henry Puna (Prime Minister of Cook Islands)

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hon. Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi participated in the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) Third Ministerial Interim Meeting (MIM3) which took place on 17 January 2017 in Tokyo, Japan. The Prime Minister was accompanied by Peseta Noumea Simi, CEO of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Samoa, and Samoa's Ambassador to Japan, H.E. Faalavaau Perina J. Sila-Tualaulelei. The meeting was well attended by Leaders and senior officials of other PIF countries to discuss the progress of pledges made in PALM7 and to exchange views on possible agenda items for PALM 8 to be held in 2018.

This meeting's focus was on the cooperative relationship between Japan and Forum Members working towards self-sufficiency and sustainable development through trade and investment, disaster risk reduction and addressing environmental challenges. The Ministers reiterated their commitment to international frameworks for sustainable development such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, and the SIDS SAMOA Pathway. The Ministers also agreed to develop new areas of cooperation such as disability and sports in light of the upcoming 2019 Rugby World Cup, the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Hon. Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan reported on commitments made at PALM7, highlighting Japan's provision of approximately JPY61 billion in development assistance to PIF countries in the sectors of disaster risk reduction, climate change, environment, trade, investment, tourism and

marine resources, as well as people-to-people exchanges.

The triennial PALM process started in 1997 by Japan to help strengthen its relations with Forum Island Countries and to work cooperatively towards the development of the Pacific region. Prime Minister Tuilaepa has attended every PALM meeting since 1997, the only leader from the Pacific to have done so.

PALM8 will be held on 18-19 May 2018 in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture, Japan. The Prime Minister of Samoa, in his capacity as the Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum at that time, will Co-Chair the PALM8 meeting with the Prime Minister of Japan, Hon Shinzo Abe.

Bahamas Symposium on Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SAMOA Pathway in Small Island Developing States, Bahamas, 21-23 February 2017



Ambassador Aliioaiga Feturi Elisaia participated in the Symposium held in Bahamas on the implementation of the SDG 2030 and the SAMOA Pathway for SIDS. Aliioaiga was a panellist in 3 sessions of the Symposium (i) "Integrated plans and policies for realizing the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway" (ii) "Monitoring, reporting and building statistical capacities on SDGs and SAMOA Pathway implementation" and the (iii) FAO Global Action Programme on Food Security".

Samoa Parliament in Brussels



The ACP Parliamentary Assembly and the ACP-EU Inter-Sessional Meetings of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly were held in Brussels, Belgium from 21st to 24th March 2017. During the 45th session of ACP Parlia-

mentary Assembly issues discussed included amongst others the role of sports as a catalyst for education and poverty eradication, the rights of migrants, strengthening science and technology in ACP countries and improving access to basic health systems. Hon. Gatoloai-faana Amataga Alesana Gidlow (MP) is Samoa's representative to the Parliamentary meetings and is also the ACP Chairperson of the Joint Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment.

Samoa High Commissioner to New Zealand Becomes Dean of the Diplomatic Corps – 12th January 2017



Photo: New Dean of the Diplomatic Corp, H.E. Leasi Papali'i Tommy Scanlan with members of the Diplomatic Corp during the handover ceremony.

His Excellency, Leasi Papali'i Tommy Scanlan has officially taken up his new duties as the Dean of the Diplomatic Corp in New Zealand. The handover of Deanship from Her Excellency, Tauveve O'love Jacobsen, Niue High Commissioner to New Zealand as outgoing Dean was officiated on 12 January 2017 during the Diplomatic Corp's meeting at the Wellington Club.

As Dean, H.E. Leasi becomes the fifth highest ranking official in New Zealand and will now lead as well as represent the Diplomatic Corps in all its official engagements with New Zealand. This is a prestigious role that only the most senior in terms of order of precedence can take up from the Diplomatic Corp. For the High Commissioner of Samoa to be bestowed this role is a proud moment for the Government and whole country of Samoa.

GOS Fale Samoa in Mangere wins NZ Prestigious Design Award

The Government of Samoa Consulate Fale in Auckland has won a prestigious award in the NZ Woods Resene Timber Design Awards for 2017. The Awards Night was held on 9th March 2017 at the Pullman Hotel in Auckland. This was the 42nd year for the WRSTD Awards and the Fale Samoa joined an elite class of 9 other

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category winners by taking the award for excellence in interior innovation. The commendation for the award on the night read, "Traditional building methods have been scaled-up to make a large community space while maintaining the sense of enclosure and detail. Great richness is derived from the shaped and honed timbers with traditional bound joints (tafa). The large and elegantly curved and lathed Glulam rafters suggest traditional fale construction while demonstrating the use of advanced timber machining technology."

Walker Community Architects made submission on behalf of the Government of Samoa for the Awards. Government of Samoa was represented by the Consul General Faolotoi Reupena Pogi and Trade Commissioner Tofaeono Fonoti Lupatu Fuata'i on the Awards night.



Tofaeono, Faolotoi, Milti Stefadorous (WCA), Chris Bowkett (WCA), WRSTD Representative.

Pacific Partnership for Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Tool Launched in Wellington, New Zealand – 21st March 2017

On Tuesday 21st March 2017, guests from Pacific States and Australia alongside representatives from the NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE) we celebrated the successful launch of a data collection tool for the nine Pacific Island States that participated in the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme.

This project was made possible by MFAT funding to implement the Strengthening Pacific Partnerships (SPP) Project and is a genuine partnership between MBIE, MFAT and the Pacific. It has taken eighteen months for this project to be completed and with the close network and support of the Pacific institutions in the respective capitals has enabled SV8 Consultant Ltd to complete this project in time.

Matt Hoskin, National Manager Skills and Investment, explained the benefits of this data collection tool. "These databases will enable those Pacific countries that take part in RSE to more efficiently and effectively manage their RSE workforce, and into the future, their total workforce as we expand labour mobility into new sectors. "We're now able to collect data on each worker and each potential worker coming to New Zealand. Employers will have good information at their fingertips that helps with the selection of employees."

Fijian High Commissioner, Filimone Waqabaca says there are benefits to Pacific countries too. "People returning from the RSE Programme

bring not only financial support for their communities but new learning as well. This database will help Pacific countries identify where most RSE scheme workers are coming from and encourage people from other parts of the country to participate in the scheme to benefit the economy of their local area."

For NZ MFAT this data collection tool means they can better track the money being sent back to Pacific Countries. Kerry Lang, Development Manager for Pacific labour mobility says, "the database can help us track remittance flows back to the Pacific and get a better picture of the economic impacts of RSE for the workers' families and communities. It could also be an area for collaboration with Australia in future, using this information tool for mutual benefit."

The domain for Samoa's website is www.samoastrong.ws and the responsibility is on the Pacific Government Officials to update their country's database and website of worker's information and registration. The Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is the focal point for the RSE program and the database has already been set-up for the worker's information to be updated on a regular basis by the Ministry.

Misiluki of Samoa impresses visitors at the 83rd Tokyo International Gift Show



(L-R): Mr. Michael Rasmussen (Director, Misiluki Samoa); Mr. Ryuzo Saito (Director of Pacific Islands Centre in Tokyo); H.E. Faalavaau Perina J. Sila-Tualaulelei (Ambassador of Samoa to Japan); Mrs. Lufilufi Rasmussen (Founder & CEO of Misiluki Samoa)

Samoa's luxury skincare range, Misiluki, made its first appearance in Japan at one of the largest gift shows in the world - the 83rd Tokyo International Gift Show. About 300,000 participants and 2500 exhibitors enjoyed the three-day event which was held from 8 to 10 February 2017. The Gift Show provided a platform for manufacturers and agents, retailers, importers etc to meet, establish contacts and do business in the different products on show such as cosmetics, home furnishing, anime and character, cuisine, fashion, design, and many others. Misiluki Founder and CEO, Mrs. Lufilufi Rasmussen said the Japan trade show was part of an international marketing strategy to secure agent representation and high-end chain store contracts. She was happy that Misiluki had received positive feedback from agents and distributors, who gave favourable comments on the packaging and the products and had worked hard to secure follow-up meetings after the Show. Misiluki's participation at the Gift Show was made possible by the Pacific Island Centre

(PIC) in Tokyo with support from the Embassy of Samoa in Tokyo.

Samoa Agri-Industry Contributes to Policy Setting at ACP



Alberta Malielegaoi - Vitale (WIBDI) and Tuilagi James Bartley (Pacific Oil - SAME)

Agriculture industry representatives from Samoa participated in a two day symposium to discuss the new ACP Group Strategy on Support for the Agricultural Commodities Sector in Brussels, Belgium. The objective of the policy document is to provide synergy in approaches and assistance to the ACP Group so that greater impact in the transformation of the agricultural commodities sector in the ACP regions can be made. The Symposium was held on 23rd - 24th February, 2017 at the ACP House.

During the workshop Samoa's representatives shared the challenges of farming in a Pacific Small Island Developing State which includes the loss of crops and markets due to erratic weather conditions; uncompetitive prices in the global market due to geographical isolation and distance from major markets and sustaining the labour supply for farming by engaging the interest of youth in the agriculture sector.

The representatives called for greater investments to support the integration of ICT into agribusiness initiatives particularly those which can help map out and improve data collection and communication with rural farmers, as highlighted by the experience of Women in Business Development Incorporated (WIBDI) and their Farm Wallet app. Secondly, they emphasized the need for financing support that focuses on productive capacities to help farmers progress along the value chain. Thirdly, they called for the accessibility of finance to be made less restrictive for private sector companies in the agribusiness to tap into.

The outcomes of the discussions will inform the review of the ACP Group Strategy draft for subsequent endorsement by the Committee of Ambassadors.

Samoa was represented by Mr. Tuilagi James Bartley, General Manager of Pacific Oil and member of the Samoa Association Manufacturers and Exporters, Mrs. Alberta Malielegaoi - Vitale, Associate Director of WIBDI and staff of the Samoa Embassy in Brussels.

Hon. Murray McCully, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade NZ and Delegation

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade for NZ who holds a Chiefly Title from Savai'i visited Samoa on a farewell call as he ends his calling as the Minister for MFAT NZ. A reception was hosted at the NZ High Commis-

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sioner's residence in Letava, on the night of the 16th of March where the formal announcement was made. In his last remarks, he reflected on the great friendship between the two countries and the importance of 55 years of relationship when Samoa and NZ signed the Treaty of Friendship. Hon. McCully emphasized the importance of Samoan people to the NZ community in which they play a huge role in influencing economy; sports and cultural life for both countries. Hon. McCully proudly served for eight and a half (8 ½) years as New Zealand's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Samoa Mission in New York co-hosted a side event on "Building ocean science, technology and related capacities towards achieving sustainable development of the oceans and seas"

Samoa co-hosted with the Mission of Norway, UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Flanders Marine Institute a side event "Building ocean science, technology and related capacities towards achieving sustainable development of the oceans and seas" in the margins of the preparatory meeting in New York for the UN Oceans Conference in June 2017. Samoa and Norway jointly moderated the side event which drew most of its audience from the scientific community on fisheries and ocean matters.

UNFF Working Group and Special Session Meetings 16-20 January 2017

The Assistant CEO, Forestry Division of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Mr Moafanua Tolusina Pouli attended the meeting of the Working Group to discuss the strategic plan for the period 2017-2030 of the UN Forum on Forests. Mr Pouli has been a regular participant of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and will be representing Samoa again at the UNFF12th session in New York from 1 – 5 May 2017.

Forty Eighth Session of the UN Statistical Commission 7 - 10 March 2017

Government Statistician Muagututia Sefuiva Reupena attended the 48th Session of the UN Statistical Commission in New York where the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators on a global indicator framework for the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was considered. Muagututia is one of two Pacific representatives on the IAEG on SDG indicators.

Sixty-First Session of the Commission on the Status of Women 13 to 24 March 2017 in New York

The theme for CSW61 was "Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work" with a strong emphasis on achieving gender equality, reducing the pay gap and empowering indigenous women. Two Samoa NGO's representatives, Ms Fusi Masina Tietie from the Young Women's Christian Associa-

tion (YWCA) and Mrs Isadora Ah Kiau-Betham from Anglican Church of Aotearoa, NZ and Polynesia were part of Samoa's official delegation. Samoa delivered a national statement at the High level plenary segment.

Meeting in support of SIDS' preparations for the Oceans Conference on SDG 14, Republic of Korea.

Mission First Secretary Dominic Misiolo SOFE will attend the meeting organized by the UN SIDS Unit to support SIDS in their preparation for the Oceans Conference on SDG14 in June. The 3 sub-regions of SIDS (Pacific, Caribbean and AIMS) hope to utilise the meeting to agree on their positions before the next round of negotiations on the Outcome of the Oceans conference.

SIDS Capacity Development Aspects in the BBNJ Process 7 - 9 March 2017, Oostende/Brussels, Belgium



(L-R) Ms. Sunema Simati (First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Tuvalu to the United Nations), Mrs. Lilian Leuelu (First Secretary, Embassy of Tuvalu to Belgium and the EU), Ms. Anna Main (First Secretary, Embassy of Samoa to Belgium and the EU), Mrs. Miriama Betham-Malielegaoi (Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Samoa to the United Nations)

The Government of Belgium together with UNESCO-IOC co-organized a workshop as part of the third Preparatory Committee on marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (BBNJ) held from March to April 2017.

The workshop was held in Oostende and Brussels from 7th to 9th of March and was attended by representatives of SIDS with a special interest and expertise in the BBNJ process. The theme of the workshop was aptly titled "Healthy Oceans, Resilient Islands" and was focused on capacity development and technology transfer related to various areas of BBNJ such as environmental impact assessments, marine genetic resources and marine protected areas. Participants had the opportunity to discuss at length capacity building needs and priorities of SIDS related to biodiversity and oceans. In addition to discussing BBNJ, participants also exchanged views and lessons learned on the challenges that the SIDS are currently facing because of climate change.

Samoa was represented at the workshop by Mrs. Miriama Betham-Malielegaoi, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Samoa to the

United Nations and Ms. Anna Main, First Secretary of the Embassy of Samoa to Belgium and the EU .

Diplomatic Corps Reception in Honour of the NZ Prime Minister, Rt Hon Bill English and The First Lady – 17th March 2017



Photo: Rt Hon Bill English, Prime Minister of New Zealand, First Lady Dr Mary English, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, H.E Leasi Papali'i T. Scanlan, Mrs Joyce Scanlan, Heads of Missions and their Spouses

The Samoa High Commissioner and Dean of the Diplomatic Corp along with members of the Diplomatic Corps hosted a reception in honour of the 39th New Zealand Prime Minister, Rt Hon. Bill English and the First Lady, Dr Mary English at the InterContinental Hotel in Wellington on Friday 17th March 2017.

This reception was well attended by the invited dignitaries including representatives from the NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

H.E Leasi Papali'i T. Scanlan made a brief speech on behalf of the Diplomatic Corp to officially welcome the Prime Minister and First Lady. The Rt Hon. Bill English responded to the Dean of the Diplomatic Corp to express his appreciation for the reception being organised in his honour and wished the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and members of the Diplomatic Corps the very best in their respective endeavours.

Samoa and Iwaki City sign Host Town Memorandum of Understanding



(L-R): H.E. Faalavaau Perina J. Sila-Tualaulelei (Ambassador of Samoa to Japan); Mr. Naomi Inoue (Samoa's Honorary Consul in Fukushima); Mr. Toshio Shimizu (Mayor of Iwaki City), flanked by the entertainment staff members of the Spa Resort Hawaiians Hawaiian attired in uniforms procured in Samoa.

Following months of negotiations and site visits, a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Samoa and Iwaki City of Fukushima Prefecture, Japan, for the City to be the host town for the Manu Samoa

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during the team's preparations for the Rugby World Cup in 2019 and the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2020.

Hon Prime Minister Tuilaepa Lufesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, as the Chairman of the Samoa Rugby Union, signed the MOU in Apia in December 2016, while H.E. Faalavaau Perina J. Sila-Tualaulelei, Samoa's Ambassador to Japan, H.E. Mr. Toshio Shimizu, Mayor of Iwaki City and Mr. Naomi Inoue, Samoa's Honorary Consul in Fukushima Prefecture signed the MOU at a ceremony that was held on 26 January 2017 in Iwaki City.

The MOU is a broad agreement between the parties on the different arrangements that Iwaki City will provide to host the Manu Samoa during the preliminary training camps for the 2019 Rugby World Cup and the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. The Agreement also includes cultural and sports exchange activities to promote understanding and appreciation of each other's cultures and deepening bilateral relations between Samoa and Japan.

In addition, the Ambassador and Mayor agreed on a range of activities to promote friendly relations and cultural awareness that include high school students exchange programs between Samoa and Iwaki City and the Ambassador's school visits to Iwaki colleges to be implemented throughout 2017 and 2018.

Samoa Talks Empowerment at the ACP Group International Women's

Investing in women's economic empowerment to achieve transformative and sustainable results in the lives of women and girls worldwide was the focus of discussions at the ACP-CTA-UN joint workshop held on the 27th - 28th of February, 2017 at the ACP House in Brussels, Belgium.

Samoa's Ambassador to Europe and Chairperson of the ACP subcommittee on Investment and Private Sector, H.E. Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Dr. Pa'olelei Luteru, chaired the opening and closing sessions of the forum. He emphasized the need for an integrated approach towards improving women's economic empowerment given that despite global efforts in the area, women are still unable to access at least one percent of financing available for economic activity due to factors such as the lack of skills, proper support networks and ownership of productive assets. "This forum provides an opportunity to address these issues under the pillars of the new Private Sector Development Strategy of the ACP Group, particularly in relation to improving the business climate and improving access to finance," he said.

Samoa's representative to the programme, Mrs. Alberta Malielegaoi - Vitale, Associate Director of the Women in Business Development Inc. shared their experience and agribusiness initiatives that focus on engaging women and communities to connect to markets and improve their livelihoods.

Speakers of the event included the Secretary General of the ACP Group, EU officials, representatives from regional and multilateral organizations, and women entrepreneurs from ACP Member States.

The forum concluded with the signing of a Commitment to Action between the ACP Group of States and UN Women to support women's economic empowerment initiatives. The workshop was organized as part of the ACP Group's celebrations of International Women's Day.

Norwegian Delegation in Samoa

A delegation from Norway visited Samoa on a two-day diplomatic mission. The delegation comprises H.E. Ms Tone Skogen, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs; H.E. Ms Unni Klovstad, Norwegian Ambassador to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands; Mr Morten Hoglund, State Secretary, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Professor Edvard Hviriding, Pacific adviser to the delegation.

Norway being a coastal and maritime state, the Deputy Minister stated that they would deepen ties of friendship with Samoa in the future due to their interest in environmental issues in the Pacific Islands particularly oceans and the impacts of climate change. There were also talks on the future establishment of diplomatic relations between Samoa and Norway.

Victoria University Students Hosted by the Samoa High Commission – 18th March 2017



Samoa High Commissioner, H.E Leasi Papali'i T. Scanlan with students and staff of Victoria University

As customary each year, the Samoa High Commissioner and staff invited the Samoan students from Victoria University to a welcome luncheon on Saturday 18th March 2017 at the Samoa High Commission Office. This reception was well attended by over 40 new, current, scholarship, private and postgraduate students. During his remarks, the High Commissioner H.E. Leasi Papali'i T. Scanlan welcomed the students to the Samoa High Commission Office and to Wellington. He went on to encourage the students to be vigilant in their school work, always thinking of their families support and to call into the Samoa High Commission should they ever require any assistance.

Presentation of Credentials

- ♦ H.E. Mr. Mario Bot, High Commissioner of Canada to Samoa
- ♦ H.E. Mr. Jose Gerrado Traslosheros Hernandez, Ambassador of Mexico to Samoa
- ♦ H.E. Mr. Fabrizio Marcelli, Ambassador of Italy to Samoa
- ♦ H.E. Mr. Laszlo Zsolt Szabo, Ambassador

of Hungary to Samoa

Ambassador Sila-Tualaulelei presents Letters of Credence to the United Arab Emirates



H.E. Faalavaau Perina J. Sila-Tualaulelei presented her Letters of Credence to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai that appoints her as Samoa's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, at an auspicious ceremony on 23 November 2016 at the Al Mushref Palace in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

At the ceremony, His Highness spoke of the United Arab Emirates' continuing desire to forge closer relations and to promote technical cooperation with many countries especially on important issues as economic development, investment and trade and renewable energy.

While in Abu Dhabi, Ambassador Sila-Tualaulelei had meetings with senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to discuss and develop areas of technical cooperation between UAE and Samoa. Ambassador Sila-Tualaulelei is Samoa's inaugural Ambassador of Samoa to the United Arab Emirates with residence in Tokyo.

Ambassador Sila-Tualaulelei presents Letters of Credence to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

H.E. Faalavaau Perina J. Sila-Tualaulelei presented her Letters of Credence to H.E. Mr Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) that appoints her as Samoa's Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Samoa to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). The Credentials Ceremony was held on 3rd November 2016 at the IRENA Headquarters in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. This is Samoa's inaugural Permanent Representation on the IRENA.

Following the ceremony, Ambassador Sila-Tualaulelei had a short meeting with Director-General Amin to exchange views on the work program of the Agency, its future strategic direction and Samoa's contribution to the Agency through the Council and Assembly. The Ambassador also took the opportunity to pay courtesy calls on other key Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives to IRENA based in Abu Dhabi. While in Abu Dhabi, Ambassador Sila-Tualaulelei also participated in the 12th Council meeting of IRENA (30 October to 2 November) to follow through on Samoa's bid for membership in the Council for the period 2017-2018.