



Foreign Affairs & Trade Bulletin

July to September 2016

71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) – Leaders Week September 20th – 23rd 2016



Prime Minister of Samoa Honorable Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi addresses the United Nations General Assembly during its 71st Session

The Prime Minister of Samoa, *Honorable Tuilaepa Sailele Lupesoli'ai Malielegaoi* led Samoa's delegation to the General Debate of the 71st Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) which was held from the 20th – 23rd September 2016.

The delegation was comprised of Mrs Gillian Malielegaoi, Honorable Associate Minister for the Ministry for Revenue Soalo Mene, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ms Peseta Noumea Simi, Ambassador Ali'ioaiga Feturi Elisaia, ACEO Protocol Ms Tasha Siaosi, Deputy

Permanent Representative of the Samoa Mission in New York Ms Miriama Betham – Malielegaoi, First Secretary Mr Dominic Misiolo Sofe and Second Secretary Ms Pierina Katoanga.

During the 71st Session of the UNGA, there were bilateral meetings that took place between the Government of Samoa and the various groups as well as events that the delegation and PM attended in the margins of the general debate:

- Japan Pacific Island Leaders Luncheon Meeting
- PSIDS (Pacific SIDS) /Russia Annual Ministerial Meeting
- First meeting Italy-PSIDS Forum
- High Level Event- Leading the Way: Renewable Energy & SIDS
- Commonwealth Foreign Ministers meeting
- First Multi-stakeholder SIDS partnership Dialogue (partnerships that were created from the SIDS Conference held in Apia, Samoa 2014)



L:R- First lady Mrs Michelle Obama, Hon Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, First Lady Mrs Gillian Malielegaoi and US President Barack Obama.

The Prime Minister and his First lady then attended the President of the United States, H. E. Mr & Mrs Obama's reception held for leaders of the UNGA 2016.

Samoa Consulate Opens in Mangere on 30th July 2016

A large gathering comprising of members from the Samoan community in Aotearoa, New Zealand, representatives from the Government of New Zealand, Members of Parliament, and dignitaries attended the official opening of the new Samoa Consulate Fale in Mangere Town Centre on Saturday 30th July 2016.



The new Samoa Consulate Fale Building at Mangere

The multi-million-dollar complex was designed to reflect a traditional Samoan fale (meeting house) and includes a retail area, office space, indoor and outdoor meeting areas.

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Japan-Samoa Trade and Investment Mission 28-29 July 2016, Apia, Samoa

Samoa hosted the first official trade and investment mission from Japan on 28 and 29 July 2016. Comprising representatives of 11 companies, the mission visited Samoa with a view to establishing business contacts, developing trade and investment opportunities and information sharing with the Samoa private sector. These are in line with efforts for greater economic interaction between Japan and the Pacific. At his opening remarks on 29 July, the Prime Minister said: "Today is a landmark occasion for our two countries. We are honoured to host the first official trade and investment mission from Japan. We recognized at PALM6 and PALM7 the importance of trade, investment, business exchanges and market access as vehicles of greater economic interaction between Japan and Pacific countries.."

Japan's delegation was led by Honourable Masakazu Hamachi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and comprised senior officials of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan External Trade Organization, JICA, senior officials of the Pacific Island Centre Office and 26 representatives from eleven (11) Japanese companies (hotel management, aromatherapy, cosmetics used car sales and exports, food manufacturing, indoor farming technology, urban development, people exchange, etc) that are interested in doing business with and in Samoa. The delegation also paid a courtesy call on the Samoan Prime Minister, Honourable Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, during their brief visit. While in Samoa, the Parliamentary Vice Minister and the Prime Minister signed the Exchange of Notes for the construction of the Pacific Climate Change Centre to be located at the SPREP compound at Vailima.

Samoa's Honorary Consul in Fukushima Prefecture, Mr Naomi Inoue, his wife Mrs Inoue and staff also visited Samoa at the same time as a participating company in the trade mission and to meet Government dignitaries in his role as Samoa's honorary representative in Fukushima Prefecture. During the course of their five day visit, Mrs Yorie Inoue, a qualified instructor, provided two days training on "ikebana" (Japanese art of flower arrangement) at the NUS, which was arranged and coordinated by Seumanutafa Malcolm Hazelman, Secretary of the Federated Farmers Inc. and Coordinator of the Informal Gardeners' Group in partnership with the NUS. Around 100 participants attended the training.



Representatives of Japanese companies and Ambassador Faalavaau during a courtesy call on the Honorable Prime Minister

Samoa Consulate Opens in Mangere on 30th July 2016 continued...

The Honourable TuilaepaLupesoliaiSaileleMalielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa attended the opening of the new Consulate Office, and delivered the opening address stating that “It has taken 20 long years of planning, redesign, cancelled contracts and a turnover of Consul Generals, to get us to where we are all gathered today, to celebrate and to reflect on the hard pathway we had come through. At the end of it, we can only marvel at our perseverance and drive to achieve what we set out to do.

Mayor Taualetoa Len Brown, spoke at the opening along with Local Government Minister Peseta Sam Lotuliga, said it was a proud day for Auckland Samoan Community.

Mangere has the biggest Samoan population in New Zealand and Auckland is the Pacific capital of the world, which is why the location of the new Consulate Office is relevant for servicing our Samoan Community.

The celebrations began with a short service to bless the new project. After the speeches, a plaque was unveiled by Prime Minister of Samoa, and Mangere College pupils sang the Samoan and New Zealand national anthems.

The two countries’ flags were then raised by the High Commissioner for Samoa in New Zealand, H.E.Leasi Papali’i Scanlan and Member of Parliament, Su’a William Sio.

The new building, on the corner of Bader Drive and Mascot Avenue, replaces the Consulate’s previous home on Karangahape Road. The Consulate General of Samoa and staff officially commenced services at their new location on Monday 19th September 2016. In this regard, only the physical address has changed but the telephone details still remains the same.



Honourable Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa and Mayor of Auckland, Mr Taualetoa Len Brown

An evening with the medical students from Europe

The Ambassador of Samoa to Belgium and the European Union, Fatumanava Dr. Pa’olelei Luteru, hosted a small reception in Samoa on Thursday 23 June 2016 for the medical students from Europe who are undertaking internships at the National Hospital of Samoa. A total of 17 students were present at the reception held at the STA Fale.

During the last few years, there has been a significant increase in the number of medical students from Europe choosing Samoa as their destination for their overseas electives. Most of the students are from the United Kingdom and Germany with a few from France and Estonia. The duration of the internships in Samoa is usually of one to two months.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Fatumanava thanked the students for choosing Samoa as the destination for their medical internships. He also reminded them of the importance of cultural understanding and tolerance especially in the present global environment. Ambassador Fatumanava further expressed the hope that the students’ short stay was full of positive experiences and memories they will take back and treasured.

The Ambassador concluded by wishing the students well in their studies and look forward to their next visit to Samoa either with families or friends.

Also present at the reception were Peseta Noumea Simi, CEO of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), the CEO of the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Samoa immigration officials, staff members of MFAT, the National University of Samoa and the National Hospital of Samoa.



Ambassador of Samoa (middle) with the medical students from Europe

Pacific-LEADS Program offers scholarships to 4 Samoans to study in Japan



At PALM7 in May 2015, Prime Minister Abe launched a new, fully-funded Japanese scholarship program called the Pacific Leaders’ Educational Assistance for Development of State

(Pacific-LEADS) for 2015-2018. Geared for government officials as a means to developing future Pacific leaders, the program enables successful applicants from the Pacific to study for two and a half years towards postgraduate degrees in different universities throughout Japan.

In this first batch, 41 students arrived in Japan on 27 August 2016 to begin their studies, four of whom are from Samoa. What is most notable about this new program is the inclusion of a six months internship/practical training with a Japanese company or government agency before returning to their home countries. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and JICA invited Pacific Ambassadors to attend the welcome reception in Okinawa and to mark the successful commencement of the program. Ambassador Faalavaau met with Samoa’s four participants and offered encouragement and support of the Embassy during their stay in Japan.

GREEN CLIMATE FUND BOARD MEETING: 13th Green Climate Fund Board (GCFB) Meeting, Songdo, Republic of Korea, 28 – 30 June 2016

Samoa’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, *Alii’oaiga Feturi Elisaia* currently represents the Small island Developing States (SIDS) on the Green Climate Fund Board for the term 2016 – 2018.

The October 2016 Board meeting will consider, inter alia, a simplified approval process for micro (up to USD 10 million) and small scale (up to USD 50 million) funding proposals. This will be a great pull factor for the developing countries who face capacity constraints and gaps in data availability.

The GCF meeting in Suva in August allowed the Pacific SIDS to provide their input to the GCF Secretariat on the simplified approval process amongst other issues.

The 15th Board Meeting of the GCF will be hosted in Samoa in December 2016.

Permanent Mission of Samoa to the UN – End of Posting and New Beginnings with the UN

Former First Secretary of the Samoa Mission to the UN in New York *Ms Ida T Fuimaono* completed her four year posting in June 2016 and has returned to MFAT. She has been replaced by *Mr Dominic Misiolo Sofe* as the new First Secretary for a period of four years. Similarly, former Counsellor/Deputy Permanent Representative *Ms Francella Strickland – Simmonet* completed her posting with the Mission and was succeeded by *Mrs Miriama Betham – Malielegaoi* in the same capacity for the next four years. **Continued Pg 3**

Samoan Company Showcases at the New Zealand Chocolate Festival in Wellington, NZ from 13 to 14 August 2016



Ola Pacifica products and H.E Leasi Papali'i Scanlan, Nia, Phil and Isaac Belcher owners of Ola Pacifica Ltd

The Chocolate Festival New Zealand held at the Te Papa Museum in Wellington from 13th to 14th August 2016 brought together the chocolate makers and chocolatiers from around the country to showcase their skills through demonstrations on how chocolates are made as well as their various products on offer. The general public was given the opportunity to indulge on these chocolates treats, chocolate fountains etc. The event attracted hundreds of keen chocolate lovers and other spectators. Some of the branded chocolate companies that attended included the Chocolate Factory, Makana Confectionary and Hogarth Craft Chocolate. And, among these big names is our very own Samoa chocolate company "Ola Pacifica".

Ola Pacifica is a Samoa-New Zealand owned company operated by Nia and her husband, Phil Belcher, based in Havelock North,

Hawkes Bay. The company imports cacao beans and manufacture as well as distribute their own cacao products to their clientele such as supermarket greets like Moore Wilson. Ola Pacifica commenced operations in November 2011 and within five years, it has progressed from cacao beans and nibs to making quality pure and dark chocolates. What makes the cacao beans unique is that they are all imported from Samoa. Nia's family in Samoa works closely with the farmers from both Upolu and Savaii to obtain only the finest "koko Samoa beans" which are shipped to New Zealand for the final process.

The Samoa High Commissioner, H.E Leasi Papali'i Scanlan, and his Family attended the Festival and met with the owners of Ola Pacifica. The High Commissioner congratulated Nia and Phil Belcher on their courage and passion in the development of the various chocolate products as well as the opportunity to generate much needed income for our Samoan families back in the islands through the imports of cacao beans only from Samoa. Given the growing prospects of the company and its intention to eye export markets in the future, the High Commissioner advised that Ola Pacifica works closely with Pacific Trade and Invest on this aspect. On this note, the High Commissioner encouraged the owners to call into the Samoa High Commission as the Office is always willing to assist in any way possible. For further information on Ola Pacifica please visit their website: www.olapacifica.com

Ambassador of Samoa pays a courtesy call on the newly appointed Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs



Ambassador Faalavaau and Hon. Odawara

Ambassador Faalavaau paid a courtesy call on the newly appointed Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Honourable Kiyoshi Odawara on 31 August 2016. At the meeting, amongst other issues, Ambassador Faalavaau conveyed the Government of Samoa's appreciation for the assistance of the Government of Japan and the Pacific Island Centre in particular for facilitating the first Japan-Samoa Trade and Investment Mission that visited Samoa in July 2016 and hoped that the 11 participating companies successfully made business contacts and arrangements with Samoan companies for mutually beneficial trade and investments in future. Honourable Odawara conveyed his Government's appreciation for Samoa's continued cooperation and support of Japan.

Community awareness program: Visit to the Akashi Elementary School by the Samoa Embassy and Samoan Community in Japan

Counsellor Rapture Pagaialii and members of the Samoan community in Tokyo visited the Akashi Elementary School on 10 September 2016 to give a presentation on Samoa's culture, people, location, food, sports, entertainment, etc.

The Samoan community members in Tokyo also performed various cultural dances and taught the students how to do the sasa dance which they thoroughly enjoyed.

This is an annual activity by Samoa's Embassy with the Akashi elementary school and is important in promoting Samoa to the Japanese community. The event was widely enjoyed by close to 200 participants which consisted of Year 1 students, their parents and the teachers of Akashi Elementary School.



High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development: "follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals" United Nations Headquarters, New York 11 – 20 July 2016

The adoption of the resolution 70/1 by the General Assembly namely; *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* in 2015 noted the importance of carrying out a high level political forum that will follow up and review the progress of the agenda after a year of adoption through national voluntary reviews, thematic reviews and an adoption of a Ministerial Declaration that is expected to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations on the 2030 Agenda implementation.

From the 22 member states that volunteered to present their national reviews since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Samoa was the only Small Island Developing State (SIDS) and Pacific Nation that volunteered. The Honorable Minister of Finance, Mr Sili Epa Tuioti delivered Samoa's national review which summarized the succinct mapping of the SDG's towards the latest Strategy for the development of Samoa (SDS) 2016 – 2020.



L:R – Ambassador Ali'ioaiga Feturi Elisaia, MFAT CEO Peseta Noumea Simi, H.E. Minister of Finance Afioga Sili Epa Tuioti, CEO MOF Tupuimatuna Iulai Lavea, Government Statistician Sefuiva Reupena Muagututia, First Secretary Dominic Misiolo Sofe

Permanent Mission of Samoa to the UN – End of Posting and New Beginnings with the UN continued...

Mrs Francella Simmonet has been seconded from Government to the Office of the President of the General Assembly of the 71st Session as the Senior Adviser of the Sustainable Development Goals implementation Team for the duration of the 71st Session from September 2016 to September 2017.

**Sakura Exchange Program in Science,
Tokyo, 18-22 July 2016**



High School students from five Secondary Schools in Samoa were fortunate enough to travel to Tokyo, Japan to participate in the Asia-Pacific Youth Exchange Program in Science (Sakura Exchange Program in Science) which was held over 5 days from 18 to 22 July 2016. The program was organized by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and included visits to universities and well-known research institutes, cultural tours of Tokyo as well as a hands-on chemistry experiment with famous Professor Hideki Shirakawa, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry. Other Pacific Island countries who participated were the Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tonga.

The students were selected in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, based on their academic performance from the previous Semester with particular focus on their Science scores. The students selected were Miss Fiona Maria Sapatu (St. Mary's College), Mr Vensel Margraff (RLS Secondary School), Miss Sisavaii Faafeu (Leulumoega Fou College), Miss Noel Fulumua (LDS College) and Mr Malofua Manase (Itu-o-Tane College). The group was Supervised by LDS College teacher Mrs Laura Jahнке.

The Sakura Science Plan is a short-term program targeting High School students in the Asia-Pacific region. The Program aims to promote innovation by deepening participant's knowledge of science and technology and encouraging the active exchange of ideas and opinions in a multilateral environment. The goal of the program is to nurture aspiring young scientists in the region. The Program was launched in 2014.

Opening of the Fagasa Samoa Speech Competition for Years 5 to 13 in Auckland 4th to 5th August 2016

The Fagasa, a non-profit organisation in New Zealand with the aim to nurture and preserve the Samoan language as part of its annual event, conducted a Samoan speech competition for students in Years 5 to 8 on 4th and Years 9 to 13 on 5th August at the Malaola Community Centre in Mangere. This event compliments the "Vaiaso o le Gagana Samoa/Samoan Language Week" which is a time to celebrate and reflect upon the rich Samoan culture here in New Zealand. This year's Samoan Language Week

ran from the 29th May – 4th June 2016 and was part of the program for Samoa's 54th Independence Celebration. The Fagasa also organised a similar Speech competition for students in the Years 5 to 13 on the 24th June 2016 at the Mungavin Community Hall in Porirua.

The theme for 2016 is "*E feleleimanu ae ma'au i o latouofaga: Birds migrate to environments where they survive and thrive.*" The Samoa High Commissioner, H.E Leasi Papali'i Scanlan, delivered the Keynote Address and spoke on the importance of this theme to our Samoan community especially the young generation whilst growing up in a foreign land, Aotearoa, New Zealand. He concluded by wishing all the speakers the very best in the competition and urged everyone, that wherever you may be, you will always know you're a Samoan by the way you speak, you walk and how you present yourself.

The event was well attended by students, their parents and supporters from throughout New Zealand as well as members of the Samoan Community in Auckland. The Member of Parliament for Mangere, Susuga Su'a William Sio, spoke to welcome the students and everyone to Auckland and also congratulated the Fagasa on this very important annual initiative.



Samoa High Commissioner, H.E Leasi Papali'i Scanlan speaking to officially open the speech competition in Auckland.

Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations, Geneva 16th – 19th August 2016

First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Samoa in New York; Mr Dominic Misiolo Sofe attended the aforementioned working group which adopted the report through a vote to hold a conference in 2017 in UNHQ New York to discuss a legally binding instrument to ban Nuclear Weapons. Samoa was one of the few pacific islands present at the working group.



The Pacific Island present at the Open Ended Working Group in Geneva discussing a report to hold a conference in 2017 in New York to ban Nuclear Weapons.

Four awarded Scholarships under the Pacific-LEADS Programme in Japan

At the 2015 PALM7 Meeting in Japan, Hon. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe under the sustainable development item, announced the launch of a new program entitled the Pacific Leaders' Educational Assistance for Development of State (Pacific-LEADS) in recognition of the importance of fostering upcoming generations, who will play a key role in their country's sustainable development.

The program offers fully-funded scholarships for Masters level study in Japan to 14 Pacific Island countries over a five and a half year period.

Applications for the first cohort of the Program opened in February 2015 and applicants went through a competitive examination process under the guise of the Scholarships Division and JICA. The following four applicants were successful under the first batch of the Pacific-LEADS program:

Mr Asera Wayne Asera – Masters Degree in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, Kumamoto University

Mr James Taylor Fakaua – Masters Degree in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, Kumamoto University

Mr Joseph Tuunasoli Pisi – Masters in Environmental Science – Environmental Risk Control, Hokkaido University

Mr John Paul Anapapa Leauanae – Masters in Education, Naruto University of Education

The Ambassador of Japan to Samoa, H.E. Mr Shibuta Kazumasa, hosted a celebratory dinner for the students before they departed Samoa.

The students departed on 18 August 2016 and will commence their programmes in October 2016. Applications are now being accepted for the second batch of awards under the Program.

The full application process can be found at <http://www.mfat.gov.ws/2016/01/29/2016-pacific-leads-masters-program-japan/>. The deadline for applications to be received by MFAT is **21 October 2016**.



Students with Ambassador Shibuta Kazumasa, Mr Hideyuki Suzuki-JICA, Mrs Tagaloa Sharon Potoi-Aiafi & Ms Ida Fuimaono – MFAT