



Foreign Affairs & Trade Bulletin

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Green Climate Fund held in Apia, Samoa from 13th – 15th December 2016



L-R GCF Co-chair, Mr. Ewen McDonald (Australia); the Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Lupe-soliai Sailele Malielegaoi; and the GCF Co-chair, Mr. Zaheer Fakir (South Africa) (Source: Government of Samoa)

Samoa hosted the Green Climate Fund Board Meeting held in Apia, Samoa from 13th – 15th December 2016. The Government of Australia was also involved in co-hosting the Board Meeting as the Australia's Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Senator the Hon Concetta Fierravanti-Wells in presenting her remarks on matters concerning climate change in the Oceanic-Pacific region. Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi opened GCF's final Board meeting of 2016 and acknowledged the Green Climate Fund's crucial role in empowering developing countries to deal with climate change.

After welcoming GCF to Samoa, Tuilaepa said that bringing the Board meeting to

the Pacific provides an opportunity for Members to experience the realities, challenges and commitments of Small Island developing states (SIDS) towards addressing development issues and climate change.

Nine new funding proposals, which have a broad geographical sweep and project focus, will be considered by the 15th GCF Board meeting over the three days. Samoa's proposal is on climate-resilience.

The GCF Board meeting comes at a critical time for the Fund that aims to enhance its ability to forge low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways as it nears the end of its first full year of operation.

GCF Board Co-Chairs Zaheer Fakir (South Africa) and Ewen McDonald (Australia) explained on the sidelines of the meeting that the Fund had achieved a lot this year. Both also stressed there is still much to do to match the Fund's ambitious mandate.

It is noted that during 2016, in the run up to the Board meeting, GCF approved over US\$1 billion for climate initiatives and doubled its number of Accredited Entities.

The confidence is there for a scaling-up of proposal considerations for 2017, including the GCF's ability to tap the private sector to leverage the Fund's resources.

Other important business at this GCF Board meeting – the fourth this year – includes consideration of applications by organizations to become Accredited Entities, which help channel GCF resources to projects and proposals, and ways to enable easier access to GCF resources.

These moves follow guidance by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to GCF at this year's UN Climate Change Conference in Marrakech in November.

COP decisions serve as the key blueprint for GCF's future activities as they set out requests from governments that are Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Samoa signals its intention to join the iEPA

Given on-going blockage in the negotiations for a comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the Pacific and the EU, Samoa has decided to trigger the process to formally join the iEPA. To this end, Ambassador Luteru on 6 December 2016 handed over to the Director of Trade, Ms Sandra Gallina, a Note Verbale confirming Samoa's interest to accede to the iEPA arrangement. Whilst recognising the significance of acceding to the iEPA, Samoa will continue to promote and explore alternative market access opportunities for its exporters and entrepreneurs.

In addition, the same notification has been formally submitted to Papua New Guinea and Fiji as the only two Pacific ACP members who have ratified the interim Economic Partnership Agreement. All parties will now work towards developing an accession plan to ensure that Samoa meets all the necessary requirements to allow it to formally join the iEPA arrangement.

ACP Council of Ministers meet to decide future of Group post-2020

The ACP Council of Ministers met from 29-30 November in Brussels to consider amongst other issues the organisation's budget for 2017 and to decide on the Group's future post-2020.

This was a landmark and defining session given the need for Council to take decisions which would guide the Group's work programme and focus post-2020 as well as providing guidelines for negotiations with the EU on a successor agreement to Cotonou.

In brief, Council approved in principle the three strategic pillars to guide the Group's work after 2020 but mandated the Committee of Ambassadors to commence work on the structure, governing organs and institutional arrangements to allow the Group to successfully accomplish its vision, mission and strategic pillars. In addition, Council also directed the Committee of Ambassadors to develop proposals for ensuring greater intra-ACP cooperation, trade and commercial ventures. A review of the Georgetown Agreement in order to modernise it and ensure that the new vision is enshrined therein was also directed by Council.

On ACP-EU relations, Council further mandated the Committee of Ambassadors to undertake a thorough assessment of the Cotonou Agreement and to utilise Article 8 for political dialogue with the EU.

On ACP-EU relations, Council further mandate the Committee of Ambassadors to undertake a thorough assessment of the Cotonou Agreement and to utilise Article 8 for political dialogue with the EU. Council also instructed the Committee to immediately commence work on preparing a roadmap in readiness for negotiations with the EU including negotiating briefs, core principles to guide negotiations and the establishment of appropriate negotiating groups/clusters.

Finally Council adopted the 2017 Budget for the ACP Secretariat amounting to 16,013,381 € and approved the guidelines to be followed in the event of a natural disaster in an ACP country.

Samoa was represented by its Ambassador to Belgium and the EU.



Prime Minister's Visit to Wellington,

New Zealand from 12th-

15th December 2016

**Connect Global – Porirua on 14th
December 2016**



The Hon. Prime Minister of Samoa, along with the owners of Connect Global, the High Commissioner of Samoa to New Zealand, representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Samoa High Commission and former CEO of the NZ Institute of Sports.

Connect Global Inc is owned by a Samoan named Siuai Fiso which operates from Porirua. The company has come a long way after achieving recognition as the only Pacific Wellington-based company to win a prestigious supporting award at the Annual Wellington Gold awards held in June of 2016 under the theme "Pacific Gold" amongst its other awards.

Connect Global is a "Call Centre" that operates as an outsource contact centre providing both inbound and outbound services for over 10 years.

This experience enables Connect Global to translate businesses' needs and engage with business's customers in the most effective way possible through services such as customer service, telemarketing, surveys, helpdesk/customer support and training as well as development. Some of their clients include the NZ Red Cross, Drake International and Kiwi On-Line.

The company currently employs over 70 mostly Pacific Islanders. And, with two other outlets established in Ruatoria and recently in Waverley, New Zealand, the Samoa High Commission saw the opportunities that Connect Global could provide to our Samoan community back in the country.

Hence, with the visit by the Prime Minister to Wellington, New Zealand, it was a golden opportunity for Connect Global to present what the company can offer along with its interest of possibly establishing a "Call Centre" in Samoa in the near future. The visit ended on a high note, with the Prime Minister advising that Connect Global works closely with the Samoa High Commission in developing a feasibility study to consider the viability and sustainability of such an establishment back in Samoa.

Honorary Doctorate in Law Conferred to Tuiloma Neroni Slade During Victoria University in Wellington Graduation Ceremony on 14th December 2016

The Honourable Prime Minister of Samoa, Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi accompanied by H.E. Leasi Papalii Tommy Scanlan, High

Commissioner of Samoa to New Zealand, Ms Amorette Posini-Danielson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade along with Ms Belinda Filo-Tafunai and Mr Tiatia Faamaile Tuaau of the Samoa High Commission attended and witnessed the special graduation ceremony held at the Michael Fowler Centre on 14th December 2016 where the "Honorary Doctorate in Law" was awarded by Sir Neville Jordan, Chancellor of Victoria University in Wellington to Tuiloma Neroni Slade.

The Victoria University Chancellor Sir Neville Jordan describes Tuiloma Slade as a very fitting recipient of an honorary doctorate from Victoria during the graduation ceremony. "Tuiloma Slade is a person of great dignity and distinction, admired and respected throughout the world for his pioneering work in new fields of law and his outstanding service in the Pacific.



Hon. Prime Minister, Dr Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi and Tuiloma Neroni Slade at the graduation ceremony – Michael Fowler Centre, Wellington-NZ

OFFICIAL VISIT

The Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hon. Julie Bishop visited Samoa from 7th-8th November 2016 to sign an aid agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Independent State of Samoa.

The Australian Government has committed an additional AUST\$1.4million (T\$2.52m) in financial support to government.

This is on top of the AUST\$13 million set aside for building five bridges damaged during the heavy flooding and cyclonic events, and one of the bridges under the funding announced then was the Leone Bridge.

The additional funding was announced this week by visiting Australia's Deputy Prime and Minister of Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop and her delegation that included; Senator Concetta Fierravanti – Wells, Minister of International Development and the Pacific and their respective Opposition counterparts, Shadow Foreign Minister, Senator Penny Wong; and Shadow Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Senator Claire Moore.

Funding was also announced for the Samoa Family Health Association; and a handover of machinery for producing prosthetics and orthotics at the National Health Service's

Orthotics and Prosthetics Clinic.

Bishop is leading the Australian bipartisan visit that will also cover the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu and is accompanied by Labor Senators and portfolio counterparts, the Hon Penny Wong and Claire Moore to emphasize Australia's bipartisan commitment to stability and economic growth in the Pacific.



L-R Australia's Minister for International Development and Pacific Senator, Hon. Concetta Fierravanti-Wells; the Australian Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Julie Bishop; the Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi; the Opposition Foreign Affairs Shadow Minister, Senator Penny Wong; and Opposition Shadow Minister for International Development and Pacific, Senator Claire Moore (Source: Savali Newspaper)

The new United Nations Secretary General: H.E. Antonio Guterres.

The General Assembly appointed by acclamation the former Prime Minister of Portugal, H.E Antonio Guterres as the new Secretary General on the 13th October 2016. He succeeded H.E. Ban Ki moon when he finished his term on 31st December 2016. He will be the eighth Secretary General for the United Nations and he will be serving initially for a term of five years. Before his election, he was serving as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees from 2005 to 2015 based in Geneva, Switzerland.

H.E Antonio Guterres is known for his work as the High Commissioner for Refugees and being in the forefront of armed conflicts and humanitarian suffering ensuring that peace and justice prevails.



Instrument of Accession to the Revised Kyoto Convention – International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonisation of Customs Procedures

In conformity with the provisions of Article 3 of the above convention, the Ambassador of Samoa to Belgium and the EU formally deposited with the Secretary-General of the World Customs Organisation the instrument of accession thereby acceding to the said convention and undertakes to perform and carry out the stipulations contained therein, on 27 October 2016.

The Secretary-General thanked Ambassador Luteru for Samoa's support and confidence in the work and mandate of the organisation and pledged to do all he can to assist Samoa where needed.

Pacific SIDS Farewell Dinner for outgoing UN Secretary General and Spouse - His Excellency Tupua Ban Ki-moon & Mrs Ban Ki-moon

2016 has been a year of change in the United Nations. The most observed change was the end of term for the former Secretary General Tupua Ban Ki-moon in his ten year tenure at the helm of United Nations. Ban Ki-moon was known for his strong advocacy and leadership in fighting against Terrorism, achieving sustainable peace and security, addressing Climate Change issues and his consistent support not only for SIDS nations but the Pacific as well.

Mr. Ban Ki-moon was the first UNSG to visit the Pacific twice, firstly to Solomon Islands and Kiribati on his way to New Zealand as Special guest of the Pacific Leaders Forum meeting in Auckland, and subsequently to Samoa in September 2014 in connection with the Third International Conference on SIDS. Significantly, it was during this visit to Samoa that he was bestowed the honorary chiefly title of Tupua.

The Pacific community held a farewell dinner for Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Mrs Ban on the 22 November 2016 to acknowledge his hard work and to pay respect to all his achievements during his tenure as the United Nations Secretary General. A tanoa was presented to Tupua Ban Ki-moon on behalf of the Pacific as a farewell gift befitting his international status and the recognition accorded him by our region.

Samoa discusses excellent relations with Commonwealth

The High Commissioner of Samoa, His Excellency Fatumanava Dr Pa'olelei Luteru, paid a courtesy call on the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth at Marlborough House in London from his base in Brussels on 15 November 2016.

Secretary-General Patricia Scotland and Ambassador Luteru had a wide ranging discussion about excellent relations between the Commonwealth and Samoa. They spoke warmly about the successful 11th Triennial Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministerial Meeting held in Apia in September, 2016.

The Secretary-General said, "I was delighted that Dr Luteru took the time to visit with me. One of my main priorities is to ensure equality and human rights for women and girls and Samoa has an ombudsman who is able to ensure this happens. I know Samoa is keen to forge ahead and be an exemplar for gender equality and I'm hopeful we can work together to achieve this."

Samoa Youth Ambassadors for World Tsunami Awareness Day

November 22-29, 2016



The Government of Japan organized the High School Students Summit on World Tsunami Awareness Day from 22 to 29 November 2016 in Japan to commemorate the establishment of World Tsunami Awareness Day on 5 November at the UN General Assembly. Students from 30 countries were invited to participate in the Summit as Youth Ambassadors for World Tsunami Awareness Day. The purpose of the program was to enhance

awareness of potential future leaders who will be responsible for mitigating the effects of earthquakes and tsunamis, and building national resilience.

The Embassy of Japan in Apia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade coordinated Samoa's participation at the Summit. The students were selected from a High School that was directly affected by the 2009 earthquake and tsunami, given the focus of the Summit. With the assistance of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, the Principal of Aleipata College, Mrs Saniie Matamu, nominated the following: Mr Alisa Itamua (Year 13), Miss Terimellisa Falefatu (Year 13), Miss Malavai Lapaalii (Year 13), Miss Faaau Fora Maoama (Year 12), Miss Serafina Alataua (Year 12) and Mr Fatai Fatai (Year 12). Ms Ida-Tifitifi Fuimaono of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade led the group of Youth Ambassadors as Supervisor.

As part of the preparation for the Summit, MFAT made arrangements for the students to meet with representatives from the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) to provide a briefing about what Samoa is currently doing with regards to disaster risk reduction and overall preparedness.

The Summit was held over two days in Kuroshio-town, Kochi Prefecture - a city projected to be at risk by a tsunami likely to reach 34.4 meters if an earthquake hits the region. The town has launched a variety of initiatives such as infrastructure development, education regarding disaster risk reduction in order to mitigate the risks involved. The Summit consisted of presentations, workshops and group discussions around ways in which high school students can raise awareness about Tsunamis and disaster risk reduction. Samoa's youth Ambassadors delivered a presentation on the theme of Preparedness entitled, "Preparing for Natural Disasters through our Tsunami Experience" as well as an Action Plan for the implementation of their response strategies. The presentation was also an opportunity for some students to provide real life experiences which touched the hearts of the audience from the 30 countries represented. The Summit outcome was in the form of the *Kuroshio Declaration* to encourage the students to commit to action as World Tsunami Awareness Day Youth Ambassadors.

The Youth Ambassadors of Samoa visited various sites damaged by the Great Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of 2011 which included the Higashimatsushima Omagari Temporary Housing and Okawa Primary School where over 80 students and staff died during the disaster. Each country planted a tree during a special tree planting ceremony to commemorate their participation in the Summit and the action they will take to continue to raise awareness and implement Disaster risk reduction plans as high school students. The Samoan group performed the faataupati and taualuga as the finale for the farewell reception in Tokyo. The Ambassador of Samoa to Japan, HE Faalavaau Perina Sila-Tualalelei and Counsellor, attended the farewell reception and met with the students.

The Government of Samoa extends its sincere appreciation to the Government of Japan, through Ambassador Kazumasa Shibuta and the Embassy of Japan for the invitation and facilitating arrangements for Samoa's participation in the Summit.

For the Summit live recording and further information, please visit the following web links: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCcvjiSjvX8> & http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_001366.html.

Permanent Delegate of Samoa to UNESCO

The Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) received on Wednesday 26 October 2016 His Excellency Fatumanava III Dr Pa'olelei Luteru, Ambassador, who presented her with the letters accrediting him as Permanent Delegate of Samoa to UNESCO.

Ambassador Luteru thanked the Director-General for the support and assistance channelled through the Apia Office for the benefits of communities in the Pacific region and Samoa in particular. He reiterated Samoa's continued support of the mandate of UNESCO and highlighted in particular the need for UNESCO to focus on science education as one of the top priority areas for attention. The possible appointment of science Ambassadors for the Pacific was also mooted by the Ambassador. Finally, Ambassador Luteru highlighted the urgent need for Pacific SIDS to be part of the decision making process through their being represented on the Governing Board of the organisation and in particular UNESCO's strategic role in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

Secretary-General of UNWTO meets Ambassador Luteru

The Secretary-General of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), visited Brussels for meetings with senior officials of the European Commission and took the opportunity to also meet with Samoa's Ambassador to the EU, H.E. Fatumanava Dr Pa'olelei Luteru.

The Secretary-General reiterated UNWTO's appreciation of Samoa's strategic role in declaring 2017 as the UN International Year Sustainable Tourism Development. He also invited Samoa's presence at the official launch in January 2017. Ambassador Luteru raised the challenge of UNWTO doing all it can to ensure that elements of the SAMOA Pathway within the organisation's mandate are implemented in a timely and effective manner.



Samoa chairs 2nd Steering Committee meeting of the World Tourism Organisation

In preparation for the official launch of the International Year for Sustainable Tourism Development (IYSTD2017) on 18 January 2017, the second meeting of the Steering Committee took place at UNWTO headquarters on 21 November 2016. The main purpose of the meeting was to share and exchange information as well as to take stock of progress in preparations for the launch and planned activities through 2017.

Selection of recommended activities fall under four main categories: advocacy and awareness raising; knowledge creation and dissemination; policy making; and capacity building and education.

To ensure maximum outreach a number of special Ambassadors have been appointed with the possibility of others being considered by the Secretariat. Samoa's Ambassador to the EU chaired the committee. The 3rd meeting is scheduled in Madrid on 10 May 2017.



Pacific Parliamentary Forum—Auckland and Wellington 14th—19th November 2016



Pacific Leaders being welcomed with a powhiri by Ngati Whatua at Orakei Marae in Auckland

The Pacific Cooperation Foundation (PCF) along with the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee hosted approximately 40 Leaders from Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia during the visit to New Zealand from 14th to 19th November 2016.

This is the second follow-on Forum from the inaugural Forum held in 2013 and as part of the New Zealand government's commitment to the Pacific, these provide an opportunity to promote debates and discussions in order to increase the understanding of the issues and opportunities within the region, enhance parliamentary democracy in the Pacific, and to deepen understanding of one another in cooperating together as Pacific nations.

The Leaders spent two days in Auckland where they were introduced to key Pasifika

stakeholders from business, academia, and the community such as Healthy Families, Pacific Homecare, Vaka Tautua, Pasifika Futures, Pacific Trade and Invest, VECTOR and Water care. A tour to the Auckland War Memorial Museum and Art Gallery along with a visit to the various Auckland-based Pacific Members of Parliament at their constituencies included Jenny Salea (Manukau East), Su'a William Sio (Mangere), Carmel Sepuloni (Kelston) and Alfred Ngaro (TeAtatu).

In Wellington, the Leaders visited NZ's Parliament House and were part of many debates around pressing Pacific issues, as well as participating in various networking events. The leaders were divided into four debating topics which included i) Climate change, ii) Pacific resources – fisheries and labour, iii) security and governance and iv) Parliament and community.

The Forum is an opportunity for Pacific Leaders to engage with, and learn from their fellow Pacific and NZ leaders. It is also an opportunity for NZ leaders to hear about issues and concerns in the region, and to look at ways that New Zealand might be able to assist its Pacific neighbours.

Samoa's delegation was led by the Honourable Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio - Minister of Education, Sports & Culture (MESOC), Alaiasa Moefaau Sepulona - Associate Minister of MESOC, Amituanai Fagaivaalu K. Samu - Associate Minister of Police & Prisons and Aliimalemanu Alofa Tuu'au – Member of Parliament.

International Maritime Officers Course



The Yorktown International Maritime Officers School –U.S Coast Guard held a 15 weeks class for international participants comprising officers serving in the marine corp, customs offices and maritime police. The class was held from September to November 2016 and consisted of field visits, theoretical and practical training including rescue missions, border patrol, and environmental protection.

Senior Sergeant Tai Tapu from Samoa's Ministry of Police's Maritime Division was amongst the IMOC Class of 56 which included officers from Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Tonga. Diplomatic Missions to the United States with officers in the course were invited to officially hand the awards to their fellow representatives. Samoa was represented at the graduation ceremony on 1 December 2016 by the Embassy's First Secretary Dominic Misiolo Sofe who was on hand to officially present the award to Senior Sergeant Tai Tapu.

Presentation of Credentials

- ♦ H.E. Mr. Jesus S. Domingo, Ambassador of Philippines to Samoa
- ♦ H.E. Mr. Sanjiv Kohli, High Commissioner of India to Samoa
- ♦ H.E. Litia Mawi, Roving Ambassador of Fiji
- ♦ H.E. Mr. Afrasiab Mehdi Hashmi, High Commissioner of Pakistan to Samoa
- ♦ H.E. Dr. Obaid Al Hairi Salem Al Ketbi, Ambassador of UAE to Samoa