

30 April 2019

The Honorable Speaker of the House
Legislative Assembly of Samoa
Independent State of Samoa

Dear Mr. Speaker,

In accordance with the reporting requirements of the Public Finance Management Act 2001, I am pleased to submit to you the completed Annual Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for the period of 1st July 2017 to 30th June 2018.

This report documents the activities implemented and achievements by the Ministry within the said financial year, in accordance with its legislations and mandatory functions.

Ma le fa'aaloalo lava.

Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi
PRIME MINISTER and MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE

FOREWORD

I am happy to present the Annual Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) for the financial year 2017/2018. The report outlines the Ministry's achievements, initiatives and the key activities carried out during the period in its efforts to implement and perform its functions prescribed under its mandate.

The Ministry's commitments at all levels to address its priorities would not have been possible without the continuous support and assistance of all stakeholders. I acknowledge in particular the stewardship and guidance by the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi.

I also wish to thank all our international development partners represented by both resident and accredited diplomatic missions and intergovernmental organizations for their support and open relations with the Ministry during the 2017-2018 financial year. Your continued cooperation to strengthen our working relationship based on transparency, mutual benefit and accountability is appreciated.

We are also grateful to our stakeholders in both the public and private sectors inclusive of civil society and the non-governmental organizations for the support and more importantly your feedback in relation to the work of the Ministry especially in the delivery of our services towards the effective conduct of Samoa's foreign relations.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank my Management, Heads of our overseas missions and staff, for without their hard work and dedication, our commitments and many priorities for the 2017-18 financial year would not have been accomplished.

Malo le galulue punoua'i!

Peseta Noumea Simi

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Section 1: THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE

OUR MANDATE:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (hereafter called “*the Ministry*” was officially established on 1 July 2003 under the Ministerial and Departmental Arrangements Act 2003 (hereafter called “*the Act*”).

The Act incorporates the former Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Trade Division of the former Department of Trade, Commerce and Industry.

The Ministry is entrusted with the administration and conduct of Samoa’s foreign relations including trade relations with other nations through its headquarters in Apia, and its Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates abroad. The Ministry is committed to managing Samoa’s international relations to promote Samoa’s national interests and to achieve benefits accruing therefrom for Samoa that are in accordance with the Government’s foreign relations, economic and trade objectives.

Samoa currently has established official diplomatic relations with about ninety-seven (97) States and is a full member to over fifty (50) major international/regional organizations. Samoa is a full contracting party to many international treaties, ranging from international security and disarmament to human rights, the environment and climate change to maritime and fisheries issues, and economic/financial cooperation and trade arrangements.

The Ministry records, facilitates and advises on Samoa’s accession and ratification of treaties, conventions and agreements. It also carries out depository functions for various regional and international agreements, as required under international law. The Ministry administers the Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act 1978.

OUR FUNCTIONS:

In carrying out the above Mandate and Mission Statement the Ministry has the following obligations to:

- Provide policy advice and representation activities towards the management of Samoa’s foreign and trade relations with other countries;
- Provide policy advice and representation activities related to the management of Samoa’s membership of and foreign affairs and trade interests in international and regional organizations;
- Provide policy advice and representation activities towards a regional orientation in the formulation of a common foreign policy for the Blue Pacific – one Continent identity in connection with the Pacific Framework for regionalism
- Represent Samoa’s interest and provision of consular services abroad through the Ministry’s diplomatic Missions based in New Zealand, United States, Australia, Japan, China, American Samoa and Belgium;
- Develop policies for the administration of long and short term study and training opportunities and advise Government on matters pertaining to scholarship and training schemes available;
- Formulate, recommend and develop appropriate policies and strategies in consultation with stakeholders on trade policy and trade promotion strategies;
- Administer Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act 1978, and the effective interpretation of diplomatic and consular privileges under the Vienna Convention:

- Provide legal advice on the scope and breadth of engagement of the Ministry in the different arrangements in which it is a partner/stakeholder in relation to the conduct of foreign relations
- Put in place the requisite guidelines on procedures to be observed and followed in the conduct of foreign relations including processes for accession and ratification of international convention and treaties;
- Put in place appropriate guidelines for the observance of protocols in the conduct of foreign relations inclusive of guidelines for the whole of government on hosting international meetings
- Support services to facilitate the operations of the Ministry both at headquarters and our overseas missions involves the securing of necessary financial and human resources, maintenance of an efficient and effective corporate framework, and responsible use of available resources.

OUR VISION:

Samoa to maintain its role as a regional leader and an active participant in global decision making and to improve trade prospects and opportunities in Samoa.

OUR MISSION:

To continue to provide high quality and professional policy advice to Government on the management of all aspects of Samoa's foreign and trade relations.

OUR VALUES AND PRINCIPLES:

In pursuit of its Mission and Vision, the Ministry is fully committed for its staff to perform with:

- Professionalism
- Discretion
- Honesty
- Integrity
- Confidentiality
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Customer focus
- Gender balance

Section 2: ORGANISATIONAL AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

The Ministry has an established career structure, organized into six (6) core Divisions following the approval from the PSC of the restructure proposal in March 2017. The divisions are the International Relations Division (IRD), Protocol Services Division (PSD)), Regional Relations Division (RRD), Bilateral Relations Division (BRD) Trade Division (TD), and Legal Services Division. There is also a Corporate Services & Overseas Mission Division (CSOMD) which provide support services to the core work of the Ministry both locally and for our overseas missions.

The Ministry has diplomatic missions in Wellington, Brussels, New York, Canberra, Beijing

and Tokyo and Consulate General offices in Auckland, Sydney and American Samoa. It also administers the Office of the Student Counselor at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji plus Honorary Consuls in various parts of the world.

For the effective and efficient implementation of the above structure, the Ministry has identified six (6) major objectives in order to realize its vision and achieve its mission. The Core Divisions have had to share responsibilities as the recruitment of the divisional staff is work in progress. ACEO positions for three new divisions were approved in this financial year. The objectives are:

- 1) **Policy Advice to the Minister:** To provide high standard policy advice on foreign affairs and trade development to the Minister and Government.
- 2) **Administration and Conduct of Foreign relations:** To manage Samoa's foreign relations in the most effective and efficient manner, and providing guidance to the management of representation of other States and inter-governmental organizations in Samoa to ensure alignment to context.
- 3) To provide essential and appropriate **protocol services and government hospitality** to visiting foreign envoys and dignitaries as well as coordination and facilitation of international meetings. As well the Ministry is tasked with setting guidelines for procedures to be followed by the whole of government when hosting international meetings
- 4) **Representation Overseas:** To represent Samoa's interest effectively in other countries and at all international fora as well as the provision of consular services to diasporas abroad.
- 5) **Bilateral Relations:** To manage Samoa's bilateral relations and to oversee the administration of training and scholarship opportunities both overseas and locally in an impartial, transparent and fair manner. *Please note that the administration of training and scholarship opportunities has been approved by Cabinet to be transferred to the PSC following the functional review and this will be implemented once the PSC is ready to take full responsibility for these functions.*
- 6) **Trade:** To effectively manage, coordinate and facilitate trade policy issues and trade promotion strategies, and ensure Samoa's participation in regional and international trade arrangements.
- 7) **Corporate Services:** To provide an effective and efficient support structure to service the core work of the Ministry both locally and in our overseas mission

ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE



Section 3: DIVISIONAL AND OVERSEAS MISSIONS REPORTS

OUTPUT 1: POLICY ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

PROFILE:

The provision of high quality advice on foreign affairs and trade development issues to the Minister and Government

1. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL YEAR (FY) 2017/2018 HIGHLIGHTS

The Ministry continued to provide advice to the Minister on the following:

- i. key policy issues affecting the conduct and management of our relations with major development partners: Australia, China, European Union, Japan, New Zealand, and the United States as well as other countries that we have close diplomatic ties with. These policy issues have revolved around the changing geopolitical landscape in the Pacific region and the introduction of the Indo Pacific strategy, the One Belt One road initiative, and the corresponding Pacific reset and Pacific Step up strategies of NZ and Australia respectively.
- ii. accession to and ratification of key policy instruments at the United Nations such as the Paris Agreement on climate change, the submission of Samoa's first national voluntary report on the SDGs to the High Level Political Forum among the first group of countries to report, the presentation of voluntary commitments to the 2017 UN Oceans conference as well as preparation of the requisite reports for Human Rights conventions that Samoa has ratified and pledged to ratify during the presentation of its Second Universal Periodic Review on human rights;
- iii. Issues around our engagement in the Pacific Framework for Regionalism and the promotion of the Blue Pacific – one continent identity including those related to our membership in a number of regional organizations such as Pacific Islands Forum, Secretariat Pacific Community, the University of the South Pacific, SPREP.
- iv. Trade matters both in the region and international trade bodies such as WTO. The successful conclusion of the PACER Plus negotiations in May 2017 and the signing of the agreement in June 2017 in Nukualofa was a welcomed decision for Samoa from which it has set targets for ratification. Ministry has begun efforts to consider requested free trade agreements with China, Japan and Republic of Korea

- v. Further coordinated advice on a system for rotation of diplomatic staff which led to the decision by Cabinet in early 2018 for extension of all incumbents in posts, changeovers and cross posting and definitive end of term timelines for all posts. A draft policy for the selection of heads of missions was prepared but is still under review.

2. MINISTRY ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE 2017/18 FINANCIAL YEAR

Overseas Ministerial Engagement

- i) **Opening of the Samoa High Commission Chancery and High Commissioner's residence in Yarralumla Canberra 25th July 2017**

The opening of the Samoa High Commission Chancery and the High Commissioner's residence in Yarralumla, Canberra Australia was on the 25th July 2017; it was a milestone achievement for the Government and the Ministry as the project was on time and within budget. The Honourable Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi and the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the Opening with the Prime Minister delivering the keynote address to celebrate this momentous event. The ceremony was well attended by dignitaries from the Australia Government, the diplomatic corps in Canberra and the members of the Samoan community. The project was funded by the Accident Compensation Corporation.

- ii) **70th Anniversary Celebration of the Pacific Community: New Caledonia; 27 July 2017**

As current Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, the Honourable Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi attended and delivered the keynote address at the 70th Anniversary celebrations of the Pacific Community in New Caledonia which also coincided with the visit of President Macron to New Caledonia. The Prime Minister was accompanied by the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Peseta Noumea Simi.

- iii) **United Nations General Assembly 72nd Session – New York – 21 September 2017**

The Prime Minister Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi led Samoa's delegation to the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. He delivered Samoa's national statement on the 21st September which covered areas such as impacts of climate change, the overarching theme of the Pacific Islands Forum meeting – Blue Pacific, refugees and migrants, peacekeeping and the need to put more emphasis on the SAMOA Pathway.

While in New York, the Secretary General of the UN General Assembly met with the leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum under the chairmanship of our Prime Minister, Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi. The meeting was to reaffirm the Pacific support to the UNSG's reform to make the UN fit for purpose and more responsive to member state's needs in an evolving world.

The Prime Minister also signed the Treaty to ban Nuclear Weapons whilst in New York. Samoa is currently a party to the South Pacific Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and Samoa will continue to advocate for a world without nuclear weapons. Samoa also became the 179th state party to deposit its Instrument of the Accession to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Conventions (BTWC) on 21 September 2017 in New York. The BTWC was the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning an entire category of weapons.

iv) **3rd Korea- Pacific Islands Forum Ministerial meeting in Seoul: 4 – 7 December 2017**

The Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi was invited to deliver the keynote address at the opening of the above meeting in Seoul, Korea in which the attention of the RoK was drawn to the fact that engagement of the Forum members in the partnership with RoK was to be inclusive of the new Forum members. The objective of the meeting was to consider a more meaningful way for the Pacific to engage with RoK based on the priorities of the region

v) **Second Climate Change Conference: Victoria University of Wellington: Wellington: 19 – 22 February 2018**

The Prime Minister was invited to deliver the Opening keynote address for the Second Climate Change Conference at Victoria University in his role as Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum on the ‘advocacy for climate change as a priority issue for the Pacific’. Samoa offered to host in conjunction with SPREP and VUW the third conference in 2020. The Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Peseta Noumea Simi accompanied the Prime Minister to this forum.

vi) **Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meeting (CHOGM) in London: 18 – 20 April 2018**

The Prime Minister, Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi led Samoa’s delegation to the Commonwealth Heads of Government in London from 18 – 20 April 2017. The Summit’s theme “Towards a Common Future” emphasizes the importance of the Commonwealth demonstrating its relevance to its 2.4 billion people. At the CHOGM, the announcement was made that a British High Commission office would be opened in Samoa in 2019 as well as the fact that Samoa would host CHOGM 2022.

vii) **Prime Minister’s State Visit to Japan & PALM 8 MEETING: 18 – 19 May 2018**

The Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe invited Prime Minister Tuilaepa on a State Visit to Japan on 14-16 May 2018. This was Prime Minister Tuilaepa’s first State Visit to Japan and was held back to back with the Prime Minister’s attendance and co-chairing of the PALM8 Summit meeting on 17-19 May 2018 in his capacity as the Pacific Islands Forum Chair. The state visit comprised courtesy calls on Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan,

bilateral meetings with Prime Minister Abe and Cabinet Ministers and Parliamentarians, and provided an opportunity for dialogue at the highest level on areas to strengthen cooperation between Japan and Samoa. Whilst in Japan, the Prime Minister Tuilaepa was accorded the *Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun*, the highest award for a non-Japanese national, for his contributions to strengthening the friendly relations between Japan and Samoa at an official ceremony led by Prime Minister Abe on 14 May.

The PALM 8 Summit was a success for the region as Japan had accepted to engage with all members of the Forum including territories French Polynesia and New Caledonia. This was enabled through the active advocacy of Samoa as the co-chair of PALM 8

(viii) Invitation from Otago University for a public lecture - 31 May 2018

The Prime Minister was invited by Otago University for a public lecture to promote the Blue Pacific approach adopted by the leaders of the Pacific to address the challenges faced by Pacific island countries as well as reflect on how inspired leadership can set our journey on course to catch the right wave towards our horizons for a region of stability. The opportunity was also used to discuss the possibility of linking the preliminary courses for medical training to be taken at Otago University and then from course completion at the NUS Faculty of Medicine.

ix) Polynesian Leaders Group (PLG) meeting Tuvalu: 28-29 June 2018

The meeting of the Polynesian Leaders Group was held in Funafuti, Tuvalu from 28 – 29 June 2018. The Prime Minister led Samoa’s delegation to this meeting. The meeting agenda included discussions on issues such as climate change and oceans, regional aviation, connectivity as well as governance issues of the PLG. The Minister of Information, Communication and Technology Afamasaga Rico Tupai also travelled with the delegation to provide an update on the status of the Manatua Submarine cable.

International Conference/workshop hosted in Samoa

i) 48th Pacific Islands Forum Meeting: 4 – 8 September 2017

The Ministry organized and hosted the 48th Pacific Islands Forum Meeting at the Sheraton Samoa Aggie Grey’s Hotel in Apia from 4th-8th September. The meeting brought to Samoa Heads of Governments of the region and over 600 official representatives to our shores. The meeting was chaired by the Honourable Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi as the Chairman of the Forum. The theme of the meeting was “The Blue Pacific- Our Sea of Islands- Our Security through sustainable development, Management and conservation”. The meeting focused on a collective approach to promote Pacific priorities in the global arena through its new Blue Pacific narrative. This approach set the scene for Samoa’s participation and approach at the international meetings identified prior.

ii) 2 Samoa Talks – 30 November 2017

The 2 Samoa Talks was held on 30th November 2017 at the Sheraton Samoa Aggie Grey's hotel, Apia. The meeting attended by senior officials of the two countries focused discussions on outstanding issues for which firm commitments from American Samoa remained outstanding. No progress noted in this regard.

iii) Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) Regional Policy Consultations: 19 – 23 March 2018

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat conducted their regional policy consultations across the Pacific Islands Forum countries to gather the views of Government, officials, civil society, private sector and the broader public on priority issues that can be best addressed regionally. The visit to Samoa was from 28 – 29 June 2018. The meetings were well attended by the various groups and constructive feedback were provided on the issues covered in the discussions. Samoa was able to demonstrate that it had already established an approach for prioritization nationally and at regional level.

Ministerial and official Visits

i) Visit by the Prime Minister of New Zealand – The Right Honourable Jacinda Ardern; 4th – 6th March 2018

The New Zealand Prime Minister, the Rt Hon. Jacinda Adern visited Samoa from the 4th – 6th March 2018, as part of a NZ Pacific Mission to selected Pacific Islands that had suffered from Cyclone Gita. She was accompanied by the Rt Hon Winston Peters, the Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand and a delegation of senior Cabinet Ministers, Parliamentarians and members of the business community and media. The New Zealand Prime Minister had bilateral discussions with our Prime Minister on a number of priority issues between the two countries and also in the region. The announcement of a NZ\$3 million recovery package was made as well as a commitment to finance the Influenza epidemic commemoration initiatives in the health sector.

ii) Visit by Officials on the Convention Against Torture Initiative (CTI): October 2017

The Ministry conducted a workshop on the CTI on the 2nd October 2017 a week ahead of the official high level CTI mission's arrival in Apia. The purpose of the workshop was to raise awareness among Samoan authorities regarding the Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) and UN obligations to open the way for more focused discussions during the CTI official visit in the following week. The official visit by the CTI working group from Geneva on 12 October 2017 was led by H.E. Ambassador Carsten Staur of Denmark to the United Nations.

iii) Visit by the senior official of the Iwaki City 16 – 21 August 2017

A twelve-member delegation from the Government of the Iwaki City in Japan visited Samoa from 16 – 21 August 2017. The City of Iwaki has been assigned the responsibility as host of Samoa's Olympic team 2020 and the Manu Samoa Rugby team for World Cup championship in 2019. The purpose of the visit was for the officials from Iwaki City to meet with the Samoa Rugby Union and to launch an international exchange program between Iwaki City and Samoa to promote friendly relations, cultural awareness and to build momentum for the Rugby World Cup and Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

3. OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MINISTRY

i) Restructure of the Ministry

The Ministry continued to pursue with the PSC and MOF the recruitment of new officers in the new Protocol Services Division, Regional Relations Division and the Legal Services Division as part of the full implementation of the Ministry's restructure proposal that was approved by the Public Service Commission (PSC) on 9th March 2017. At the moment, only the ACEO Protocol Services Division post has been filled and the recruitment of the other two (2) ACEOs are near completion. The Ministry will continue to work closely with the PSC and MOF on the recruitment of staff in these divisions to enable functionality in order to assist with meeting the Ministry's overall strategic functions.

ii) Secondment of Senior Foreign Service officer to our Office in New York for the duration of the PIFs chairmanship period

Ms. Olive Vaai, a Senior Foreign Service Officer in the International Relations Division was seconded as Adviser/First Secretary to assist the Permanent Mission of Samoa in New York during Samoa's twelve months' chairmanship tenure as the Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) as Samoa had roles to fulfill in that capacity at the UN. This opportunity was made possible with the funding assistance from the Government of Australia. Olive commenced her one-year assignment in January 2018 and will complete in January 2019.

OUTPUT 2: CONDUCT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS

SUB-OUTPUT 2:1 AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR THE PACIFIC STATES

PROFILE:

The post of Ambassador-at-Large for the Pacific States was established by Cabinet decision in April, 2015. This decision included an appointment to this position and accreditation to all the Pacific countries (Pacific Forum Members) outside Australia and New Zealand. The Ambassador-at-Large is based in Apia.

ENGAGEMENTS

During the period covered in this summary report, the Ambassador-at-Large travelled and presented his ambassadorial credentials to the Head of State of Tuvalu, the President of Kiribati and the Governor General of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

Other engagements involved the regular provision of reports and briefings to the Prime Minister and the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade on events and developments of importance in the Pacific countries, as well as actions and decisions taken outside the Pacific island countries with significant actual or potential impact on island countries.

SUB-OUTPUT 2:2 POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL DIVISION (PIRPD)

PROFILE:

The former PIRPD now the International Relations Division is charged with the management of Samoa's foreign relations including the management of representation of other states and intergovernmental organizations in Samoa with a particular focus on the UN, EU and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

1. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL YEAR (FY) 2017/2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- i. Supported MFAT team in Samoa's successful hosting of the Pacific Island Forum Leaders meeting and all its preparatory meetings, and also provided support as Chair of the Forum throughout the year. In addition to the four PIF regional meetings hosted within the budget year we also provided support to number of other regional and international meetings such as the Commonwealth Broadband Pacific Forum, 10th Pacific Water and Wastewater Conference and the Pacific Power Association (PPA) 26th Annual Conference.
- ii. Increased number of countries who established diplomatic relations with Samoa. The three new countries Kosovo, Tajikistan and Azerbaijan.
- iii. Supported Samoa's High Level Delegations to a number of meetings particularly to the Pacific Island Forum Leaders and Foreign Ministers meetings; the High Level week of the 72nd Session of the UNGA; the Climate Change COP23 meeting in Bonn and its preparatory meetings in Fiji; the CHOGM in London and the Pacific ACP meetings in Brussels. Actively participated in UN, PIF and other regional and international meetings on key priorities for Samoa including Climate Change, Disarmament, Peace and Security, Human Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals
- iv. Provided briefs and facilitated around 100 High level visits.
- v. Prepared analysis and briefs on around 20 elections for different international organizations which requires analysis for more than 100 different candidates for all the elections.

- vi. More than 800 Note Verbal's were issued to facilitate visas for Samoan delegations travelling for official purposes and an average of 30 nominations a month to be facilitated for the different meetings that Samoan delegations are to participate
- vii. Confirmed two New Honorary Consuls of Samoa to Philippines and Hungary and facilitated around 25 Presentations of Credentials, Farewell Calls or visits by accredited Ambassadors or High Commissioners to Samoa. The UK announced they will open a Mission in Samoa in 2019
- viii. With around 100 High Level visits facilitated, the majority are Ministerial level up to HOS and HOG. For PIF Leaders alone we were looking at 49 VIPs.
- ix. On Human Rights, we submitted our CEDAW report, continued consultation on our Human Rights Common Core Document, the ICCPR report and Samoa's HR Implementation Plan; Launched the SADATA tool to assist with tracking and implementation of HR obligations and hosted the first visit to the Pacific of the UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women in Law and Practice; and also hosted the UN Mission and workshop on Convention Against Torture
- x. Also supported and facilitated Samoa's accession to the Convention against corruption; Convention on the Prohibition, of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons (BWC); the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products; the Postal Payment Services (PPS) Agreement; and signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
- xi. Agreed to host Nauru and Tuvalu officials as part of the Forum peer learning
- xii. We issued close to 1000 Apostilles collecting revenue for this financial year of more than SAT\$110, 000
- xiii. Facilitated and supported Ministry of Police and Samoa New York Mission in the rotation of more than thirty Police Peacekeeping Officers for the Missions in Darfur and South Sudan.
- xiv. Held 4 meetings of the NMRF Taskforce including special meetings on the UN visits and workshop on UNCAT
- xv. Held meetings of the SDG Taskforce and supported workshops on SDG implementation including ESCAP workshop, special workshop for Sector coordinators and School Forum on the Environmental SDGs. Also set out a work plan for SDG implementation, outreach and reporting

2. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FY 2017/2018 FOR THE DIVISION

- Successful hosting of the PIF Leaders meeting and maintained active and effective leadership of the PIF region as chair. Samoa's chairmanship led to the wide acceptance and appreciation of the Blue Pacific narrative Samoa championed. The PIF agenda was very visible at the national, regional and also at the international level.
- Successfully secured the hosting of the SAMOA Pathway review, Commonwealth GBSS meeting and CHOGM 2022.

- Successfully supported the re-election of Judge Vui Clarence into CRC, and also supported many partners in their successful elections to several key UN and other international bodies strengthening relations with growing number of partners.
- Samoa at the forefront of meeting its HR obligations globally with the launch of the SADATA tool to assist with tracking and implementation of HR obligations
- Samoa the first in the Pacific to invite and host the UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women in Law and Practice
- Increased revenue from Apostilles issued compared to previous financial year
- Signed and ratified some of the key disarmament Conventions – TPNW and BWC and submitted funding proposal for project to assist with implementation of the ATT and help put in place proper system for tracing small arms
- Samoa was very visible and active at regional and global meetings to defend not only our country's interests but also the interests of the Pacific on issues of climate change, ocean, security, sustainable development and Human Rights
- Three new countries established diplomatic relations and UK announced the opening of a Mission in Samoa

3. PLANNED COMMITMENTS NOT ACHIEVED DURING THE FY

The only commitments such as the review survey on the VIP services provided by the Ministry are due to the restructuring and now this is under the Protocol Division

4. LINKAGES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO THE SECTOR PLAN/ SDS

The apostille revenue are key to Government Revenue.

The successful hosting of the many international meetings in Samoa and also securing future big meetings are important for the economy.

All the achievements highlighted are linked to the sector plans and deliverables to the SDS that try to address Human Rights, Disarmament, Climate Change, Security, and the Sustainable Development Goals. For example, the ATT project and joining the new disarmament and anti-corruption conventions is crucial to the Law and Justice Sector Plan.

The achievements also increase the respect and confidence foreign governments and investors have in Samoa thus having a positive effect to some of the economic, social or environmental aspirations we have for our SDS or sector plans.

5. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

5.1 Personnel and Gender Distribution

One senior officer was seconded to support the New York Mission for the PIF Chairmanship, this was made possible by the Australian funding

One other Principal Officer was posted during the financial year and one of the Officers resigned to migrate overseas. At the end of the financial year, all the posts were filled with four females and 3 males

5.2 Staff Trainings and Developments

During the course of the financial year all members of the Division took at least one training or attended workshop either locally or overseas, that will help build their capacity in the work they are engaged in.

6. BUDGET PERFORMANCE versus KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Exceeded expectations in terms of the amount earned from Apostilles and outcomes of regional and international meetings attended

Facilitated more visits and meetings than expected while maintaining budget allocation

7. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

7.1 Achievement of Key Performance Targets for the FY

Achieved or acceded most of the key Performance Targets for FY

7.2 Assets Management

Worked within allocated budget

8. CHALLENGES DURING THE PERIOD

The workload required a lot of extra time and odd hours put in by the team to deliver on what is required

Demands for protocol services keep increasing and sometimes lead to members of the team having to sacrifice attending to other important meetings, trainings or tasks

OUTPUT 3: REPRESENTATION OVERSEAS

SUB-OUTPUT 3.1 – SAMOA HIGH COMMISSION – WELLINGTON,

NEW ZEALAND

PROFILE:

The Samoa High Commission in New Zealand is located in Wellington and is supported by the Samoa Consulate office in Auckland. First established in 1977, the High Commission employs a total of six staff, comprising of the High Commissioner; Counsellor, First Secretary; an executive assistant to the High Commissioner; accounts officer and receptionist.

The current High Commissioner is H.E. Mr Leasi Papali'i Tommy Scanlan who will conclude his second term by March 2018.

The Samoa High Commission is responsible to the Government of Samoa through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and was established to promote Samoa's interests in economical, trade, political, tourism and security areas.

CORE FUNCTIONS:

- ensure that Government's interests are well represented and promoted in New Zealand as well as countries accredited to Samoa
- facilitate and coordinate official or state visits from Apia, working closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand
- arrange visas for Government Officials/Nationals travelling to countries which are accredited to Samoa in Wellington
- provide advice to Head Office pertaining to requests from Diplomatic Missions in New Zealand which are accredited to Samoa.
- provide assistance to Samoan scholarship students studying in New Zealand
- provide consular advice on immigration matters, repatriation, deaths and emergencies to Samoa nationals
- provide exemptions as well as passport waiver notes for Samoan and Foreign nationals travelling to Samoa

1. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL YEAR 2017/2018 HIGHLIGHTS

1.1 10th Year Anniversary for the Recognized Seasonal Employer Programme – 4th July 2017

On the 4th July 2017, Immigration New Zealand (INZ) joined with the Pacific leaders, horticulture and viticulture industry leaders to celebrate 10 years of the innovative and world-leading Recognized Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment premises in Wellington, New Zealand.

The RSE scheme was established in 2007 and allows the horticulture and viticulture industries to recruit workers from overseas for seasonal work when there are not enough New Zealand workers to service these industrial sectors. Over the last ten years, the scheme has grown not only in the number of participant employers and workers; but in economic benefits that have gone beyond New Zealand to the wider Pacific.

Through the Strengthening Pacific Partnerships (SPP) programme, INZ, in conjunction with NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), provides tailored assistance to each country to support their people to participate in the scheme. This includes training Pacific Government Officials, developing websites and databases, and providing information to market Pacific workers to employers here in New Zealand.

Foreign Minister Gerry Brownlee during his remarks stated that due to its success, the NZ Government approved NZ\$10 million for a five-year period to explore what other sectors of the economy RSE workers might contribute to. He said, in particular, they would be looking at

opportunities for Pacific women and developing prospects in semi-skilled, higher-income occupations. The new funding was in addition to the NZ\$4.9 million for the training of Pacific workers in New Zealand which is part of an arrangement around the PACER Plus trade agreement signed in Tonga on 14th June 2017.

Ministers and officials from Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Tonga and Vanuatu attended the celebration of 10 years of this scheme that has provided work for 10,500 workers. Samoa's Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour Hon. Lautafi Selafi Fio Purcell accompanied by the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour Mr Pulotu Lyndon Chu-Ling, the Samoa High Commissioner H.E Mr Leasi Papali'i T. Scanlan and representative(s) from the Samoa High Commission in Wellington as well as the Samoa Consulate General Office in Auckland along with Samoa's Liaison Officer also attended. The celebration concluded with a two-day meeting in Blenheim.

1.2 Kupe Scholarship Awards Ceremony for Maori and Pacific – 20th July 2017

Education Minister Nikki Kaye congratulated 30 highly-accomplished Māori and Pacific student teachers who have been awarded Kupe Scholarships. The special ceremony was held at the Grand Hall of Parliament House in Wellington, New Zealand on the 20th July 2017.

The prestigious scholarship aims to attract Māori and Pacific high achievers to the teaching profession as well as support them to become inspiring teachers and role models in early childhood, primary and secondary education.

The Kupe Scholarships fund course fees and study allowances, as well as offer mentoring and recruitment support after graduation. More than 90 applications were received for the 30 available scholarships. Alongside the funding, each recipient also receives taonga keepsakes in the form of a stylized paddle 'hoe' or waka / vaka / va'a as a permanent recognition of their achievements. These were presented by Associate Education Minister Tim Macindoe.

The Samoa High Commissioner H.E Leasi Papali'i T. Scanlan was present to witness this special ceremony and to congratulate the Pacific scholars on their important achievement.

1.3 Book Launch of "PALEMIA" by the Prime Minister of Samoa in Wellington and Auckland, New Zealand – 6th to 13th August 2017

The launch of the memoir of Samoa's most successful and longest-serving Prime Minister, Tuila'epa Lupesoliai Sa'ilele Malielegaoi "PALEMIA" was held at the Hunter Council Chamber, Victoria University Wellington on Monday 7th August 2017. The book was co-authored by the University of Victoria's Dr. Peter Swain.

New Zealand's Prime Minister, Leuluai'i'iotumua Bill English and Dr. Mary English joined the Prime Minister Tuila'epa Lupesoliai Sa'ilele Malielegaoi for the launch along with Members of Parliament Chris Finlayson, Alfred Ngaro and Aupito William Sio. The Minister

of Communications & Information Technology, Hon. Afamasaga Lepui'ai Rico Tupai, the Samoa High Commissioner, H.E Leasi Papali'i T. Scanlan, the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of the Prime Minister & Cabinet, Agafili Shem Leo were also present to witness the launch which was well attended by representatives from the Diplomatic Corps, staff of the Samoa High Commission, staff of Victoria University of Wellington, students and the Samoan community.

For the last two years, Dr. Swain during his remarks spoke about how he worked closely with the Prime Minister to capture, in his own words, his life and political reign during which Samoa transitioned from the turbulent times of a newly independent state to one of unprecedented political stability and economic development.

In his humorous manner, Prime Minister Tuila'epa retold how he thought a memoir should be written at the time of one's passing and thanked Dr. Swain for his commitment, timeless energy listening, co-writing and editing the memoir. Pālemia was launched earlier in Samoa in June 2017 with the launch in Auckland on Thursday 10th August 2017 at S.S.A.B's Store at the Samoa Fale in Mangere.

1.4 Visit to the Wellington Chocolate Factory – 20th September 2017

The Samoa High Commissioner, his spouse and the Counsellor represented the Samoa High Commission during a visit to the Wellington Chocolate Factory on Friday 20th September 2017.

The Wellington Chocolate Factory according to its co-owners Gabe Davidson and Rochelle Harrison has been in operation for the last three years. Whilst the business started on a small scale it has gradually built its way to where it is now due to their commitment and love for the pure aroma of the bean to bar of chocolate.

The cocoa beans are all organically sourced from four regions (Peru, Dominican Republic, Samoa and Bougainville) which are then roasted, cracked, conched and tempered using artisan methods to get that rich dark chocolate taste and aroma.

The chocolate bars which come in an assortment of flavours are sold widely throughout New Zealand with exports to Australia. Wellington Chocolate Factory works closely with MAIDEN SAMOA to source these cocoa beans from the village farmers to their shop here in Wellington with the key intention that these supplies from the islands continue to increase going into the future. Further information on the Wellington Chocolate Factory can be found on the following website www.wcf.co.nz.

The Samoa High Commissioner, H.E Leasi Papali'i T. Scanlan conveyed his well wishes to both Mr Gabe Davidson and Ms Rochelle Harrison in their business endeavour and encouraged them to continue importing the Samoan cocoa or "Koko Samoa" as its unique taste sets it above the rest in the world.

1.5 Opening of the New Zealand 52nd Parliament

The 52nd Parliament of New Zealand was formally opened by the Chief Justice, acting as a Royal Commissioner, on Tuesday 7th November 2017 during the Commission Opening. Members of Parliament were officially sworn in and Mr Trevor Mallard was elected as the Speaker of the House. This was followed by the State Opening on Wednesday 8th November 2017 where the Speech from the Throne by the Governor-General, Rt Hon. Dame Patsy Reddy, set out the Labour-led Government's intentions through the leadership of Ms Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand for the next three years.

The 52nd New Zealand Parliament was elected after the general elections held on Saturday 23rd September 2017. The 52nd Parliament consists of 120 members and will serve from its opening on the 7th November 2017, until the next general elections in 2020. The Samoa High Commissioner, Leasi Papali'i T. Scanlan along with members from the Diplomatic Corps were invited to these special events held at Parliament House.

1.6 Diplomatic Reception Hosted by the Governor-General of New Zealand

It was a very happy and informal evening at Government House on the 13th November 2017 as the Governor-General of New Zealand, Rt Hon. Dame Patsy Reddy and Sir David Gascoigne hosted a reception in honour of the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and High Commissioner of Samoa, H.E Leasi Papali'i T. Scanlan along with the members of the Diplomatic Corps. The Dean spoke on behalf of the Diplomatic Corps, to acknowledge their Excellence's warm hospitality. A successful reception that was well attended by members of the Diplomatic Corps with some members from Australia, accredited to New Zealand.

1.7 Farewell Receptions for Departing Heads of Mission

The Samoa High Commissioner and Dean of the Diplomatic Corp, H.E Leasi Papali'i T Scanlan on behalf of the members of the Diplomatic Corps in Wellington, New Zealand attended and spoke at the following receptions for the departing Heads of Mission who concluded their terms of duties towards the end of 2017.

- i. H.E Mr Wang Lutong, Ambassador of China to New Zealand and his spouse Mrs Yang Pengbo hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of China on 8th November 2017 at the Museum of Wellington, New Zealand Te Papa Tongawera

A combined pre-Christmas reception including farewell event was hosted at the residence of the Samoa High Commissioner and Dean of the Diplomatic Corp, H.E Leasi Papali'i T Scanlan on the 27th November 2017 to bid farewell to the departing Heads of Mission: -

- ii. H.E Ms Ntombizodwa (Zodwa) Lallie, High Commissioner of South Africa to New Zealand
- iii. H.E Mr Jonathan Sinclair, British High Commissioner to New Zealand and his spouse Mrs Helen Sinclair

- iv. H.E Afrasiab Hashmi, Pakistan High Commissioner to New Zealand and his spouse Mrs Asia Afrasiah
- v. H.E Mr Manuel Pradas Romani, Ambassador of Spain to New Zealand and his spouse Mrs Elvira Lopez De Quintana Salafranca

Followed by the farewells in 2018 of: -

- vi. H.E Maris Mr Maris Sangiampongsa, Ambassador of Thailand and his spouse Mrs Kokan Sangiampongsa on 9th March 2018
- vii. H.E Mr Viet Dung Nguyen, Ambassador of Vietnam on 14th May 2018
- viii. H.E Mr Valery Tereshchenko, Ambassador of the Russian Federation and Mrs Alexandra Tereshchenko on the 14th June 2018
- ix. H.E Ms Teremoana Yala, Cook Islands High Commission on 27th June 2018
- x. H.E Mr Robert Zaagman, Ambassador of Netherlands and his spouse Mrs Monique Zaagman on the 27th June 2018

As is customary, a speech was delivered by the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, H.E Leasi Papali'i T Scanlan and upon conclusion farewell gifts were presented.

1.8 Cuban Ambassador Hosted the Samoa High Commissioner and Staff to a Reception to commemorate 10 years of diplomatic relations – 18th October 2017

An informal dinner reception was hosted by H.E Mario Alzugaray Rodriguez, Ambassador of Cuba for the High Commissioner of Samoa, H.E Leasi Papali'i T. Scanlan and staff of the Samoa High Commission including their spouses on the 18th October 2017 at the Cuban Ambassador's residence to commemorate ten (10) years of close diplomatic relations between Cuba and Samoa. The High Commissioner on behalf of the staff conveyed his sincere gratitude to the Ambassador of Cuba for the kind gesture in hosting such a special event for him, the staff and their spouses in recognition of the close working diplomatic relations shared between the two countries which he looks forward to further strengthening in the period ahead. The same sentiments were echoed by the Cuban Ambassador.

1.9 Pacific Islands Heads of Mission (PIHOM) Meeting – 27th October 2017

A meeting of the Pacific Islands Heads of Mission was held on Friday 27th October 2017 hosted by the High Commissioner of Samoa, H.E Leasi Papali'i T. Scanlan at the Samoa High Commission's Chancery. The meetings are normally held every year on a quarterly basis and it is rotationally hosted by each of the Pacific Islands Head of Mission. The meeting provides an opportunity for each of the Pacific Heads of Mission to provide a brief report on the key issues from their respective countries including diplomatic matters in relation with the Government of New Zealand. Mr Laulu Mac Leauanae, the recently appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (formerly the Chief Executive Officer of Pacific Cooperation Foundation) was the invited guest speaker during the meeting and he briefly highlighted core activities of the Ministry earmarked for the Pacific region.

1.10 Samoa Airways Official Launch in Auckland – 14th November 2017

A formal welcome ceremony was held at Auckland International Airport for the official landing of Samoa Airways' sole Boeing 737-800 on Tuesday 14th November 2017 at 11am carrying dignitaries and passengers including Samoa's Prime Minister, Honourable Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi. The Airline has been rebranded from the state-owned Polynesian Airlines. The Airline's sole Boeing 737-800 leased from Iceland Air will operate six flights from Apia to Auckland per week and twice-weekly services from Sydney to Apia.

The ceremony was well attended by dignitaries from Samoa which included the Minister for Samoa Airways, Hon. Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell, the Chairman of Samoa Airways, Mr Feesago Siosaia Fepuleai, the Chief Executive Officers from the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Agafili Shem Leo, Papali'i Sonja Hunter of Samoa Tourism Authority and Seiuli Alvin Tuala, General Manager of Samoa Airways. The Associate Minister for Pacific People, Hon. Carmel Sepuloni represented the Government of New Zealand during the welcome ceremony along with the NZ High Commissioner to Samoa H.E David Nicolson, Auckland Mayor Phil Geoff along with the Chief Executive Officer of Auckland Airport, Mr Adrian Little. The High Commissioner of Samoa to New Zealand, Leasi Papali'i T. Scanlan was also in attendance. At the conclusion of the official welcome ceremony, a reception was held at the Fale o Samoa of the Samoa Consulate in Mangere which was well attended by dignitaries, NZ Members of Parliament and the Samoan community where the Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi delivered the keynote address.

1.11 Prime Minister of Samoa attends the Pacific Climate Change Conference in Wellington, New Zealand and other Official Engagements – 20th to 25th February 2018

The Honourable Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa was invited by the Victoria University Wellington and SPREP to deliver the keynote address on the 21st February 2018 at Te Papa to officially open the Pacific Climate Change Conference.

The Honourable Prime Minister in his keynote address highlighted the challenges of climate change across Samoa and the Pacific, and showcasing the action undertaken to address these. "We all have a role to play in seeking the greatest level of ambition from all parties to the Paris Agreement, we understand that there are challenges for all countries but through cooperation, understanding and good faith, we can overcome these," said Prime Minister Tuila'epa.

Samoa has a target of generating 100% of its electricity from renewable energy sources by 2025, taking into account the anticipated increase in electricity demand. In its commitment to climate action, Samoa is also preserving its biodiversity; ensuring mangroves as crucial marine ecosystems are conserved and protected, in turn helping to strengthen resilience against the impacts of climate change. Samoa is also working to keep its waters clean and healthy from land-based pollution with legislation and regulations. Around 80% of marine debris are from land-based sources, all of which present a threat to Samoa's marine wildlife.

The Hon. Prime Minister and delegation (including the Associate Minister of the Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs, the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade and the Samoa High Commissioner) attended the official Opening of New Zealand Festival of Arts Waka Odyssey Te whare waka o Poneke Wellington waterfront on Friday 23rd February 2018. On Saturday 24th February 2018, attended the official Kupe Landing and to welcome Samoa's waka "Gaulofa" during the ceremony held in Petone, Wellington. At the conclusion of his program in Wellington, the Hon. Prime Minister of Samoa and delegation departed on the 25th February 2018 for Auckland and returned to Apia, Samoa on the 27th February 2018.

1.12 Prime Minister of New Zealand, Ms Jacinda Ardern and delegation visit Samoa, Niue, Tonga and Cook Islands

The Prime Minister of New Zealand accompanied by a delegation of 66+ (politicians, representatives from charities and Pacific community leaders) visited Samoa first, from 4th to 6th March 2018 as part of their Pacific Visit including Niue, Tonga and the Cook Islands.

Key issues of bilateral interest on climate change, cyclone recovery, recognized seasonal worker program amongst others were on the agenda of discussions between the Prime Minister of Samoa and Prime Minister of New Zealand during their meetings in Apia, Samoa. The Samoa High Commissioner travelled on the NZAF Flight together with the Prime Minister of New Zealand and her delegation to Apia, Samoa.

1.13 Victoria University Students Hosted by the Samoa High Commission - 17th March 2018

As is customary each year, the Samoa High Commissioner and staff invited the Samoan students from Victoria University to a welcome luncheon held on Saturday 17th March 2018 at the Samoa High Commission Office. The reception was well attended by over 30 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.

1.14 Church Service for Samoa's 56th Independence Celebration & Samoa Language Week

A church service for the opening of the Samoan Language Week under the theme "Alofa atu nei, Alofa mai Taea" translation in English means "Kindness Given, Kindness Gain" was held at the Pacific Islanders Presbyterian Church in Porirua on Sunday 27th May 2018. The programme and procession of the service was put together by Rev. Perema Leasi. The Samoa High Commissioner, H.E Leasi Papali'i T. Scanlan as keynote speaker stressed the importance and the significance of this important event in the lives of Samoans living in Aotearoa New Zealand. The event was well attended by the Samoan community in Wellington.

On the 1st June 2018, the Samoa High Commission celebrated Samoa's 56th Independence Day during a reception held at the Marist St Pat's Rugby Club. This was well attended by 150

invited guests from the Diplomatic Corps, New Zealand Parliament and the Samoan community. The keynote address was delivered by H E Papali'i T Scanlan where he highlighted the strong relationship between Samoa and New Zealand, especially the priority areas where New Zealand continues to provide assistance including the energy sector, tourism sector, private sector development and others for which the Government of Samoa is grateful. Furthermore, the High Commissioner acknowledged the benefits of the existing Recognised Seasonal Employment Scheme. The New Zealand Government representative was the Chief of Protocol from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Michael Swain who responded to the High Commissioner's address by acknowledging the important strong relationship between Samoa and New Zealand.

1.15 Prime Minister of Samoa's Visit to the University of Otago, Dunedin

The Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Lufesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi accompanied by his delegation including the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade along with the High Commissioner of Samoa visited the University of Otago in Dunedin from the 5th to 8th June 2018.

The invitation extended by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Otago, Ms Harlene Hayne was an opportunity for the Prime Minister to be extensively briefed and to witness on hand the programmes on offer to the academic students. The Prime Minister as part of his programme launched his memoir "PALEMIA" during the book launch held at the University of Otago.

1.16 Celebration of 25 years of Diplomatic Relations between Argentina and Samoa – 13th June 2018

In celebration of the two countries 25 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations on the 18th May 1993, an informal reception co-hosted by the Argentine Ambassador, H.E Mr Fausto Lopez Crozet and the Samoa High Commissioner, H.E Mr Leasi Papali'i Tommy Scanlan was held on the 13th June 2018 at the Argentine Ambassador's residence in Karori, Wellington New Zealand.

The program commenced with the exchange of remarks firstly from the High Commissioner of Samoa who spoke on this significant milestone, as it is a testament to our two countries' deep desire to continue working closer together to forge mutually beneficial partnerships. Samoa values greatly its relationship with Argentina to further strengthen and deepen the cooperation and exchanges in all areas, with a special focus on agriculture, culture, tourism, and sports. The same sentiments were echoed by the Ambassador of Argentina who spoke fondly of the two countries close diplomatic relations which counts on the people and their behaviour which is key in further strengthening these bonds.

At the conclusion of their remarks, congratulatory messages from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina, Hon. Jorge Faurie and the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Lufesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi were exchanged between the two Heads of Missions. The reception was well attended by members of the Diplomatic Corps, NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Argentine and Samoan Community. The distinguished guests had the opportunity to taste the traditional delicacies from both Argentina and Samoa prepared courtesy of the two Diplomatic Missions in Wellington, New Zealand.

1.17 Agreements, Credentials, Official and Farewell Visits to Samoa

The Mission through its diplomatic services facilitated requests received from the Diplomatic Missions based in Wellington and accredited to Samoa for: -

Agreements (4)	Credential Visits (4)	Official Visits (9)	Farewell Visits (3)
Chile	H.E Mr Zbiginiew Gniatkowski, Ambassador of Poland to Samoa, 16 th to 18 th July 2017	H.E Mr Maris Sangiampongsa, Ambassador of Thailand and delegation visit 31st July to 3rd August 2017	H.E Mr Jonathan Sinclair, British High Commissioner visit 8 th to 14 th October 2017
United Kingdom	H.E Mr Ahmet Ergin, Ambassador of Turkey to Samoa, 9 th to 12 th October 2017	H.E Mr Djauhari Oratmangun, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and delegation visit 13th to 15th August 2017	H.E Mr Nguyen Viet Dung, Ambassador of Vietnam visit 12 th to 13 th October 2017
South Africa	H.E Mr Rodrigo Espinosa Marty, Ambassador of Chile to Samoa, 11 th to 13 th October 2017	H.E Mr Zbiginiew Gniatkowski, Ambassador of Poland visit 26th to 30th October 2017	H.E Mr Afrasiab Mehdi Hashmi, High Commissioner of Pakistan visit 22 nd to 26 th October 2017
Spain	H.E Ms Laura Clarke, British High Commissioner to Samoa, 11 th to 13 th March 2018	H.E Mr Tantowi Yahya, Ambassador of Indonesia and delegation conducted an Indonesian Culinary Festival from 18th to 19th December 2017	
		H.E Mr Valery Tereshchenko and delegation visit 14th to 16th February 2018	
		Special Envoy of the President H.E Mr Muhammad Lutfi of Indonesia and delegation visit 25th to 27th March 2018	
		H.E Mr Mario Bot, High Commissioner of Canada and delegation visit 10th to 11th April 2018	

		H.E Mr Gerhard Thiedermann, Ambassador of Germany visit 15th to 16th May 2018	
		Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Hon. Mr Jaswantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor visit 21st to 23rd May 2018	

2. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING FINANCIAL YEAR 2017/2018

a. Bilateral

Donations to Samoa: -

- U.S. Ambassador His Excellency Mr Scott Brown and Mrs. Gail Brown celebrated the opening of a new computer lab at Magiagi Primary School in Apia, Samoa, thanks to the donation of five computers and two printers to the school's students and faculty. The donation was made on 2nd February 2018
- The Government of Indonesia through their Embassy in Wellington, New Zealand Ambassador of Indonesia, H.E Mr Tantowi Yahya along with his delegation officially handed over two new ambulances to the Government of Samoa (National Health Services) during a ceremony that took place in Apia, Samoa on the 26th March 2018.

Other Development Assistance:

- Canada Fund for Local Initiatives funding in 2017-2018 for Samoa included: -
 - i. Tiapapata Art Centre at CAD (Canada Dollars) \$31,025 to increase awareness on non-communicable diseases, risks and prevention through a documentary film;
 - ii. METI at CAD of \$15,000 for improving, prevention and reversal of obesity and NCD through promotion of good nutritional practices
 - iii. Independent Water Schemes Associational at CAD of \$43,000 to address rural drinking water quality through water treatment systems and in-field water quality testing
 - iv. Faleu Village Council at CAD\$31,200 to improve adaptation capacity
- Germany small scale project in 2017 funded medical equipment to the value of 12,560.13 (euro) to the National Health Services
- The Government of the Republic of Korea through its ODA for 2017 approved funding assistance of US\$98,996.18 for medical equipment to the National Health Services which has been well received and presently being utilized in Apia, Samoa.

Trainings/Workshops, Scholarships and Meeting/Conferences Opportunities for Samoa:

Country	Trainings/Workshops	Scholarships	Meetings/ Conferences
Brazil			Preparatory meeting of World Water Forum in Paris, France 13-14 December 2017
Canada			2018 G7 Summit Leader's Outreach Session Canada 8-9 June 2018
France			One Planet Summit in Paris, France on 12 December 2017
Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 11th Executive Seminar for Diplomats and Officials from Island States in the Pacific & Indian Ocean Region, 10 Apr– 8 May 2018 		<p>10th Global Forum for Food and Agriculture in Berlin, Germany on 20 January 2018</p> <p>Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue in Berlin, Germany from 17-18 April 2018</p>
India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Course on Audit of Government Receipts 7 Aug – 1 September 2017 - Skill Development and Employment Generation, 4 – 22 September 2017 - Entrepreneurship Development - Auditing in IT Environment, 4 September– 13 October 2017 - Early Warning System for Oceanic Disaster and Mitigation with Special Emphasis on Tsunamis, 20-25 November 2017 - Audit of State Owned Enterprises, 23 October – 17 November 2017 - Project & Risk Management, 6-24 November 2017 - Audit of E-Governance, 8 January – 2 February 2018 - Budgeting, Accounting & Financial Management, 15 January – 2 February 2018 - Environment Audit, 12 February-9 March 2018 		5th Edition of the Global Conference on Cyber Space in New Delhi, India from 23-24 November 2017

	- Integrated Approach to Climate Change Policy Development & Financing for Effective Implementation of SDG Goals, 28 May-9 June 2018		
Indonesia	- International Training on Coconut Product Development, 14-17 November 2017 - International Training on Ecotourism for Pacific Island Countries, 20-26 November 2017 - International Workshop on Disaster Risk Management for Asia Pacific, 6-26 April 2018	- Scholarships for Tourism Studies, 2018	-Senior Officials prep Meeting for Archipelagic and Islands State Indonesia 21-22 November 2017 - Bali Forum X 7-8 December 2017
Israel			-Pacific Tour of Journalists Israel from 16-23 June 2018
Korea	- PIC s Special Training on Climate Change, 17 August – 6 September 2017 - PIC Special Training on Water Resources Development & Management, 7-27 September 2017 - Improving and Specializing Consumer Affairs, 1-21 July 2018		3 rd Korea-Pacific Islands Foreign Ministers Meeting in Seoul, Korea from 4-7 December 2017 - 7th Korea-South Pacific Fisheries Forum, 29 May 2018
Malaysia	-Disaster Risk Management, 23 - 31 July 2017 -IT Management in Public Sector, 7-25 August 2017 - Good Animal Husbandry Practices – Inspection & Certification Services, 31 July-11 August 2017	- Masters & PhD Programs in Sciences & Engineering, Agriculture & Fisheries, IT & Communication etc	
Netherlands			- Preparatory meeting for negotiation of the New Multilateral Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in the Netherlands from 16-19 October 2017
Poland			World Maritime Day Szczecin, Poland from 13-15 June 2018
Russian Federation			- High level meeting on city and transport in Khabarovsk, Russia from 4-5 September 2017

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Ministerial Meeting on National Youth Policies Russia 11-14 October 2017 - 1st Global Ministerial Conference “Ending Tuberculosis in SDG” in Moscow, Russia from 16-17 November 2017
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study visit on Development of Aquaculture and Food Processing for Food Safety based on the Sufficiency of Economy, 3-7 July 2017 - Promoting Community Health Management and Empowerment, 3-21 July 2017 - Sustainable Animal Production and Resource Management for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Safety, 3-28 July 2017 - Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Thailand, 11 – 22 September 2017 - Waste Management and Wastewater Treatment 24 September –15 October 2017 - Diversified Farming Practice Using, Participatory Approach for Food Security and Safety, 24 September –15 October 2017 - Best Available Technique and Best Environmental Practice (UNIDO), 15 Oct – 2 November 2017 - Sufficiency Economy Philosophy- Tool for Sustainable Rural Development, 2-25 November 2017 - Towards Low Carbon Society via Holistic Environmental Engineering Approach, 12-13 March 2018 - Global Warming Mitigation and Adaptation by Balancing Sustainable Energy Management, 14-30 March 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Master of Science Program - Health Consumer Protection and Health Management, 2018/2019 - Master of Science Program – Bioscience for Sustainable, 2018/2019 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest-based Ecotourism Management, 19 February-22 March 2018 - Sufficiency economy philosophy towards sustainable development, 5-16 March 2018 - Management of Antiretroviral Treatment and Long-Term Adherence to ART, 26 March-23 April 2018 - Integration of Sufficiency Economy for Empowerment on Mobilizing Sustainable Development, 7-18 May 2018 - Health Promotion and Health Care Management for Pre-School Children, 4-29 June 2018 - Natural Disaster Management, 18 June-16 July 2018 		
United Kingdom		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chevening Scholarships for Master Programs in various fields. 	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London from 18-20 April 2018 (invitation to the Prime Minister)

b. Mafutaga Faifeau

The High Commission continues to maintain a strong, excellent working relationship with the Mafutaga a Faifeau here in Wellington, as the key connection to the Samoan community not only to support community-led initiatives but also for our activities that would require the support of our communities here in New Zealand.

c. FAGASA (Faalapotopotoga mo le A’oa’oina ole Gagana Samoa i Aotearoa)

FAGASA continues to provide in-depth knowledge of the methods and curriculum being taught and shared in primary and tertiary levels in Samoa that would be beneficial for Samoa-New Zealanders as well. The High Commissioner is a Patron of FAGASA and supports all its activities, including the Samoa Language Week, the Schools’ Samoan Speaking Competitions as well as their Annual Conference.

d. Business Network and Private Sector

The High Commission has been actively engaged in supporting the Business Network and Private Sector initiatives especially for the New Zealand Samoa Trade, Samoa Business Network and other organizations such as Pacific Trade and Invest and Pacific Cooperation Fund which supports the growing Samoan business community here in New Zealand. In return, these groups support the High Commission with its activities.

e. Wellington Samoa Golf Academy

The High Commission has successfully completed another year for its Academy for young Samoan golfers from the age of 4 to 17 years old. The major sponsor for the Academy Apia Concrete Products Mr Norman Wetzell (on behalf of the ACP, PDL and Golden Bay Cement) donated NZ\$15,000 in support of the Academy for its annual program. These funds help cover the annual membership fees, tournament fees, purchase of golf equipment as well as the payment of the costs for professional golfers to train the members of the Academy. With the success of the Academy running for a sixth year, it has produced upcoming young golfers with the intention that they develop and contribute back to their country.

f. Scholarship Students

The High Commission continues to provide support towards Samoa's scholarship students here in Wellington and host an annual get together every year in March which is used as an information session.

g. Pacific Islands Heads of Mission Group Meetings

Quarterly meetings held on a rotational basis between the Pacific Islands Heads of Mission hosted at their Chancery where updates and key issues of interest from each of the countries were presented. There are eight Pacific Missions established in Wellington i.e, Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu early last year.

3. PLANNED COMMITMENTS NOT ACHIEVED DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR

All activities planned for this financial year have been facilitated and achieved.

4. LINKAGES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO THE SECTOR PLAN/SDS

The Missions core activities and functions are in line with Samoa's Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2020 "Accelerating Sustainable Development and Broadening Opportunities for All"

5. OTHER EVENTS AND OFFICIAL COMMITMENTS ACHIEVED

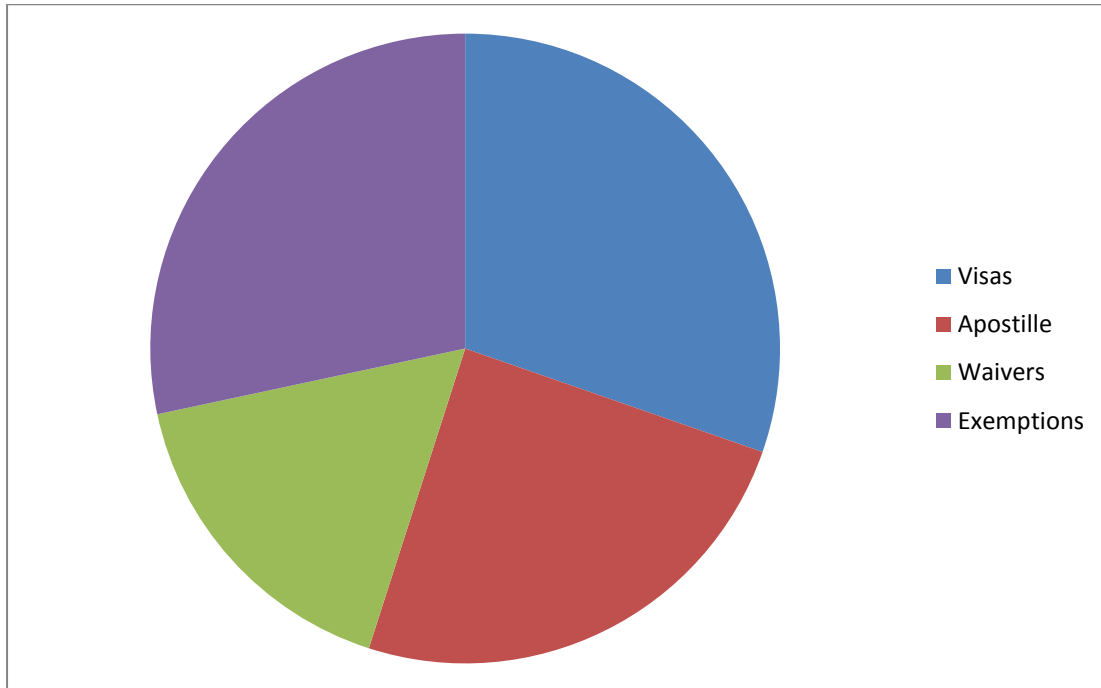
- **Enviro Paints** – donated 10 barrels of 200 litres each of recycled acrylic based (water based); and box of stationery items to the Samoa High Commission. Arrangements were made by the Samoa High Commission to ship these boxes to Apia, Samoa in September last year (2017) to the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture for distribution to schools in need of such resources in Apia, Samoa.

6. CONSULAR ACTIVITIES

The High Commission in this financial year continues to receive increased requests for consular support services even outside normal working hours which we have been able to facilitate with the contact number being left on the voice machine for such requests. The website provides key information on consular matters and the general public has been accessing this link to download the required forms. In terms of this financial year, there has been a decline in the total number of visas due to visa waiver or exemption arrangements now in place with Schengen States and other countries who have entered such arrangements with Samoa

however, there continues to be an increased number of apostilles received and processed during this financial year as reflected by the figures below:

APOSTILLES: 112
VISAS: 138
WAIVERS: 76
EXEMPTIONS: 129



7. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

7.1 Human Resource/Achievement

The staff at the Mission is being managed by the Head of Mission (Samoa High Commissioner) in accordance with the terms and conditions stipulated in their respective contracts as well as in the guideline for Diplomatic Officers in the Samoa Foreign Service.

7.2 Staff Training and Capacity Building

A follow-up workshop was conducted by representatives from the Inland Revenue Department where the staff were shown the process and procedures for calculating, preparing and lodging employee's taxes via on-line.

8. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

8.1 Achievement of Key Performance Targets for the FY

The financial budget and accounts of the Mission are managed in accordance with the requirements of the Public Finance Management Act 2001, Treasury Regulations, Treasury Instructions 1977 and Foreign Affairs Instructions and Regulations.

8.2 Assets Management

The Missions assets are being managed in an effective manner with all the resources registered. The Mission has set a target where the assets registry list is reviewed and updated every six (6) months.

9. CHALLENGES DURING THE PERIOD

The only major challenge to the Mission is not receiving the bi-monthly funds into the accounts on a timely manner especially during the start of the new financial year. With such delays, the Mission has already made arrangements with ANZ Bank where an overdraft has been put in place should there be ever a need to use this to cover the Mission's daily activities whilst waiting for the funds to be received.

SUB-OUTPUT 3.2 – SAMOA CONSULATE GENERAL – AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

PROFILE:

The Samoa Consulate in Auckland is charged with the provision of consular, immigration and passport services to the Samoan Community in New Zealand. It is also responsible for the facilitation of travel by Samoan dignitaries/VIP visiting or transiting New Zealand, promotion of trade and investment, tourism and assisting on a limited basis with the RSE Scheme.

1. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL YEAR (FY) 2017/2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- i. The office financial operation for the year was as per budget and vote items collected. During the year the following revenue collected as per mandate:

Passports (Jun-Sep 2017 – old fee)

<input type="checkbox"/> 220 First/New adult passports issued	\$44,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 37 Lost/damaged adult passports issued	\$14,800.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 60 Emergency First/New adult passports issued	\$15,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 14 Emergency Lost/Damaged adult passports issued	\$6,300.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 29 First/New Child passports issued	\$2,900.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 11 Emergency Child passports issued	\$1,650.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 215 passport exemptions	\$25,100.00

Sub Total **\$109,750.00**

<input type="checkbox"/> 550 First/New adult passports issued	\$137,500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 87 Lost/damaged adult passports issued	\$43,500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 132 Emergency First/New adult passports issued	\$39,600.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 21 Emergency Lost/Damaged adult passports issued	\$11,500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 78 First/New Child passports issued	\$9,750.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 19 Emergency Child passports issued	\$3,325.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 710 passport exemptions	\$106,500.00
Sub Total	\$351,725.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 586 Passport Waivers	\$11,720.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Endorsement of Names	\$120.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Documents of Identity	\$160.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 21 Certificates of Identity	\$1050.00
Sub Total	\$13,050.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 301 P	\$4,515.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 17 Marriage Certificates	\$255.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Name Changes	\$375.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 135 Police reports obtained from Samoa	\$4050.00
	\$9,195.00
TOTAL	\$483,720.00

2. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FY 2017/2018 FOR THE MISSION

The mission was able to fulfil all its obligations as per mission statement.

3. PLANNED COMMITMENTS NOT ACHIEVED DURING THE FY

All commitments were achieved.

4. LINKAGES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO THE SECTOR PLAN/ SDS

The Government commitment to provide Consular services to Samoans living overseas.

5. OTHER EVENTS AND OFFICIAL COMMITMENTS ACHIEVED

The Prime Minister was able to attend the Independence celebrations in Auckland for the first time.

6. CONSULAR ACTIVITIES (if necessary)

6.1 *Budget Performance versus Key Performance Indicators*

All the Key Performance Indicators were achieved within budget allocated.

6.2 *Asset Management / Registration*

All assets are properly managed and registered.

7. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

7.1 *Human Resource/ Achievements*

All staff carried out their duties satisfactorily.

7.2 *Staff Training and Capacity Building*

Continued on the job training for staff.

8. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

8.1 *Achievement of Key Performance Targets for the FY*

All Key Performance Targets for the year were achieved.

8.2 *Assets Management*

All the assets were managed properly.

9. CHALLENGES DURING THE PERIOD

The Office driver who served the Office for almost 30 years died suddenly of a heart attack on October 2017 and finding a suitable replacement is a challenge.

Likewise, there is difficulty in finalizing an arrangement for the management of the buildings and extra works for new tenant spaces.

PROFILE:

The Embassy in Brussels is charged with representing the interest of Samoa to the Kingdom of Belgium and concurrently to the European Union as well as to the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group. The mission is accredited to Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Spain, Switzerland and to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth as the High Commission of Samoa. It also carries out consular responsibilities in connection with the requirements of Samoan citizens living in these countries.

1. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL YEAR (FY) 2017/2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- i) Chairmanship of the Ambassadorial Working Group on ACP Headquarters Building since 2015;
- ii) Chairmanship of the Ambassadorial Working Group on the Revision of the ACP Secretariat Staff Regulations since 2016;
- iii) Chairmanship of the Working Group on Fisheries and Aquaculture;
- iv) Chairmanship and core member of the ACP Pillar 2 Technical Negotiating Team;
- v) Pacific core member of the ACP Central Negotiating Group on Post-Cotonou;
- vi) Coordinator for the Pacific ACP Group of Ambassador's since January 2018;
- vii) Samoa ACP-EU Joint-Parliamentary Assembly representative, Hon. Gatoloaifaana Alesana Gidlow is elected to be on the ACP Parliamentary Working Group on Post-Cotonou;
- viii) Samoa Parliamentarian, Hon. Faumuina Tiatia Liuga is Samoa's representative to the ACP-EU Parliamentary meetings from the 35th Session of the ACP-EU JPA, June 2018;
- ix) Capital and Mission attendance to the 5th ACP Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture meeting held in the Bahamas from 18th – 21st September 2017;
- x) Capital and Mission attendance to the ACP Ministerial Trade meeting and the Joint ACP-EU Ministerial Trade Meetings held in October 2017;
- xi) Facilitated Capital participation to the 1st ACP Non-State Actors Forum in Brussels from 30th – 31st October 2017;
- xii) Facilitated High Level attendance to the 39th Session of the UNESCO General Conference in November 2017;
- xiii) Capital and Mission attendance to the 4th Meeting of the ACP Ministers of Culture in Brussels from 8th – 10th November 2017;
- xiv) Acceptance of Award on behalf of Mr Saena Penaia from the 2017 Cocoa of Excellence Awards Programme in Paris, November 2017;
- xv) Attended the 107th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers and 43rd Meeting of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers held in Lome, Togo from 27 May to 1 June 2018. Delegation was led by Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Fiame Naomi Mataafa;
- xvi) Facilitated High Level attendance to CHOGM2018 in London, UK from 19th –

- 20th April 2018;
- xvii) Official Visit by the Hon. Prime Minister to Brussels and senior officials from 23rd -25th April 2018 following the CHOGM2018 meeting in London, UK; and
 - xviii) Attended several Commonwealth Board of Governors, Executive Meetings (current Pacific representative on the Exco), and other briefing sessions hosted by UK government and Commonwealth Secretary-General.

2. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FY 2017/2018 FOR THE MISSION

- a. Submission of Samoa's bid to host the 6th ACP Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2019. Bid was accepted at the 106th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers from 5th – 6th December 2017;
- b. Entry into force on 1 March 2018 of the EU and the Samoa short-stay visa waiver signed in Brussels on 28 May 2015;
- c. Acceptance of Samoa's bid to host the 3rd Biennial Conference on Small States during CHOGM 2018 in London;
- d. Formal submission in September 2017 of Samoa's bid to host the signing of the ACP-EU Post-Cotonou Agreement in 2020;
- e. TradeCom II Project support in the form a study for Samoa's Pacific iEPA Accession commenced January 2018;
- f. Conclusion of negotiations with the European Commission for the Pacific iEPA on 23rd April 2018;
- g. Recruitment of all local staff positions in line with Belgian employment system;
- h. Official visit by the Hon. Prime Minister to Brussels and senior officials from 23rd -25th April following the CHOGM2018 meeting in London, UK. Meetings of the Hon. Prime Minister in Brussels included a special session of the Committee of Ambassadors, a meeting with Commissioner Vella, a meeting with DG Manservisi and a meeting with the Chairman of World Rugby; and
- i. Formalise appointment of Samoa Hon Consul to Hungary.

3. OTHER EVENTS AND OFFICIAL VISITS

- a. Facilitated visits for meetings by officials from Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture (September 2017), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Ministry of Revenue (October 2017), SUNGO (October 2017), Ministry of Education Sports and Culture (December 2017), MFAT and MPMC (April 2018);
- b. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Monitoring and Evaluation Visit was held 16 – 21 October 2017 and Office of the Audit visit was held on 20 – 25 March 2017;
- c. Attended numerous meetings with representatives of the EU Commission, missions and international organizations as well as attendance to many national day celebrations, missions' and international organizations functions and receptions;
- d. Hosted meeting between Pacific Ambassadors and the Secretary-General of PIFS; and
- e. Elections attended to during the period include the election of members to the

UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), the OPCW Special Session on the UK proposal, the election of the Director-General of the IOM and elections of the Secretary-General of the World Customs Organisation.

4. CONSULAR ACTIVITIES

A total of 15 Temporary Resident permits were issued, mostly for students to undertake their medical elective studies at the Tupua Tamasese Meaole Hospital.

Other consular activities included facilitation of passport applications, requests for Samoan citizenship and renunciation thereof, retrieval of BDM documents, apostille certification. Many enquiries that were received and attended to were related to visa, tourism, business, education, environment etc.

5. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

5.1 Personnel and Gender Distribution

- The Accounts and Administration Officer Vipin Mehra, resigned on October 20th, 2017 after more than 19 years with the Mission due to internal restructure;
- Ms Angela Maria Jansen was recruited to the position of Head of Mission Secretary and Office receptionist on 15th November 2017; and
- Mr Salem Aouadi was recruited to the position of Driver to the Head of Mission and Office Clerk on 2nd April 2018.

5.2 Staff Training and Developments

- Counsellor attended a Seminar on Employing Local Staff on 29th November 2017;
- Counsellor and the First Secretary attended the Seminar on Legislative Changes for Local Staff of Diplomatic Missions in Belgium on 19th April 2018;
- French language classes for Counsellor and First Secretary commenced in March 2018.

6. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

6.1 Achievement of Key Performance Targets for the FY

- Participation in some meetings outside of Brussels was funded by event organizers;
- Some events not budgeted for were undertaken such as the hire of VIP room and airport costs.

6.2 Assets Management

- Some replacement furniture purchased for the Chancery, Samoa House and Counsellor Apartment.
- Head of Mission Vehicle was replaced on 20th June 2018 in line with F.K. (17)30

7. CHALLENGES DURING THE PERIOD

- Managing resources including re-prioritizing activities and payments until the next bimonthly advance is received from Apia;
- Yet to see Audit Report;
- Terrorist attacks in the region continue with latest incident on 17 August 2017 in Barcelona, Spain.

SUB-OUTPUT 3.4 – PERMANENT MISSION OF SAMOA TO THE UNITED NATIONS– NEW YORK

PROFILE

Samoa applied for membership of the United Nations Organization (UNO) on 29 November 1976 as the “Independent State of Western Samoa”. The UN Security Council unanimously endorsed the application on 1 December 1976 and the United Nation’s General Assembly also supported by consensus on 15 December 1976 the Security Council’s decision making Western Samoa the 147th member state of the organization, almost 15 years since the attainment of independence on 1 January 1962.

About 21 years later in July 1997 after joining the UN, the prefix “Western” before Samoa was removed from the name and Samoa was officially known in the UN simply as the “Independent State of Samoa” to recognize the constitutional amendment passed by Parliament in the same month for the same reason.

Samoa’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations was established in 1977. It is based in New York where the Headquarters of the United Nations Organization is located. As the biggest and representative global organization with a current membership of 193 states, the Mission’s primary role is to work with member states within the United Nations framework to help achieve some of Samoa’s foreign policy objectives. The Mission plays an advocacy role to articulate and advance Samoa’s positions on the UN agenda through outreach and by working together collaboratively with like-minded countries and different groups depending on Samoa’s positions, priorities and the nature of the issues, the interests at stake and the dynamics at play at any given point in time.

The Permanent Mission also serves concurrently as Samoa’s Embassy to the United States of America and High Commission to Canada respectively given the proximity of the Mission’s location to these capitals

1. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL YEAR (FY) 2017/2018 HIGHLIGHTS

i) Samoa as Chair of the Pacific Islands (PIF), September 2017.

The Permanent Mission took over the Chairmanship of the PIF NY Group (PIF member states with Permanent Missions to the UN) in September 2017. The Prime Minister chaired the annual PIF Leaders and the United Nations Secretary-General meeting and delivered a statement on the priorities of the Pacific Islands Forum such

as Blue Pacific narrative, Climate Change and Pacific Presidency for COP22, Oceans management and Conservation, Peace and Security in the region – RAMSI and Biketawa as well the Sustainable Development Goals and the Pacific Roadmap, all which are highlighted in the Forum Communiqué of the 48th Pacific Island Forum Leaders meeting in Apia, in August 2017.

ii) **Samoa represented at High-level week of UN General Assembly 72nd session, September 2017.**

The Prime Minister delivered Samoa’s national statement during the Assembly’s general debate focusing on the topical issues of climate change, migration, the 2030 development agenda, Peacekeeping, the Ocean Conference and Samoa’s voluntary commitments, the signing of the Treaty on prohibition of nuclear weapons as well as sustainable tourism and its importance in the development of small island developing state’s (SIDS) economies.

iii) **Samoa as Chair of the Asia Pacific Group (APG) for the month of May 2018.**

The Permanent Mission sent out communications to the APG membership from the UN Secretariat, submitted nominations to various UN elections to the Secretariat, updated the APG voting chart, held monthly meeting at the end of May and delivered a statement on behalf of the APG for the “International Day for Living Together in Peace.”

iv) **Samoa chairs the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), June 2018.**

The Twentieth Meeting of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was held on 7 June 2018.

Ambassador Elisaia (from APG) was elected to chair the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties for CEDAW that was held on 7 June 2018. The purpose of the meeting was to elect 12 individuals to fill the 12 positions on the Committee on CEDAW which will become vacant on 31 December 2018.

v) **Campaign for the candidature of Judge Vui Clarence Nelson for the Committee on the Rights of the Child election, June 2018.**

The Mission was tasked to spearhead the campaign from the months of April to June 2018, for the candidature of Judge Vui Clarence Nelson for the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The engaged in lobbying, sending Note Verbales to officially request support from the 196 members of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, request for support from Regional groups, seeking reciprocal support arrangements as well as conducting bilateral meetings.

Judge Vui C. Nelson was successfully re-elected to serve on the Committee of the Rights of the Child for another 5-year term from 2019-2023.

2. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FY 2017/2018 FOR THE MISSION

i. Membership on UN-related Boards and Bureaus

The Mission continues to represent Samoa on the following Boards during the year under review viz;

- Executive Board of the United Nations Development Fund/UN Population Fund/UN Office for Project Services [UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS],
- Executive Board of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women [UN Women],
- New York Bureau of the International Criminal Court [ICC]
- Ambassador as SIDS representative on the Green Climate Fund Board.
 - ✓ Mission delivered statements in all 3 sessions (the Second Session in September 2017, the First session in January 2017 and the Annual Session in June 2018) of both Executive Boards and actively participated in their executive meetings. Samoa's term on the Executive Boards will come to end by December 2018.
 - ✓ The Mission played an active part in all Bureau meetings of the New York Group on ICC and had been relied upon to be part of the advocacy group to assist in the universalization of the Rome Statute. The Mission has served on the ICC Bureau for the last 11 consecutive years. Samoa's term on the ICC Bureau came to an end on December 2017.
 - ✓ The Ambassador has been involved with the Green Climate Fund as a member of the Transitional Committee that designed the Fund in 2011 and later on served as Alternate GCF Board member for SIDS from 2012-2015 and as Board member for SIDS from 2016 to 2018. Ambassador's term as Alternate GCF Board member for SIDS will come to an end at the Board meeting at the end of October 2018.

ii. PIF Chairmanship, September 2017- September 2018

During the 12 months of Samoa's chairmanship for the PIF NY Group, the Mission actively hosted/ participated in the listed activities:

- Provided/delivered 9 statements on behalf of the PIF NY Group at UN Meetings:

2 Oct 2017: General Debate on 2nd Committee substantive work

9 Oct 2017: Agenda Item 20: Sustainable development (Second Committee)

5 Dec 2017: Agenda Item 77: Oceans and Law of the Sea,

1 Mar 2018: General Debate, ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment,

12 Mar 2018: General Debate, Commission on Status of Women 62nd Session

23 Mar 2018: Adoption of Outcome Document of CSW62

4 June 2018: Consultation on ECOSOC draft resolution on the Report of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP)

5 June 2018: UNDP Executive Board Annual Session 2018,

25 June 2018: UNGA Debate on the Responsibility to Protect (R2P)

- hosted 9 monthly meetings for the Permanent Representatives
- hosted and participated as speaker/panelist in 3 side events at the UN
- facilitated/organized 7 briefings from UN agencies, co-chairs of Security Council reform, chairs of regional groups and the PIF secretariat on topical issues at the UN.
- sent a letter to Deputy Secretary-General on the rejuvenated Resident Coordinator component and the Multi-Country Office in the Pacific.
- Circulated quarterly reports from the PIF Secretariat
- hosted 3 receptions

In addition, there were working group meetings on the negotiation of the CSW outcome document in which Samoa actively led and participated, the PIF inputs for the First intergovernmental meeting for the BNNJ, and other work as directed by Ambassadors.

iii. Elections of the Treaty Body members.

The month of June 2018 was mainly dedicated to election campaign and voting. The Mission attended the meeting of States Parties to the Human Rights Conventions for the election of its new members to take over from those whose term are due to expire. The Five (5) Committees are: Committee on the Rights of the Child, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Samoa's nominated candidate of Justice Vui C. Nelson was successfully re-elected to serve on the Committee on the Rights of the Child for another 5 years.

iv. Committee Work.

The Mission staff participated in the work of the First, Second, Third, Fourth and Sixth Committees and have closely followed the work of the Fifth Committee. The Mission delivered national statements at the opening (general debates) of the First, Second, Third and Fourth Committees on the issues that are of importance to Samoa.

The Mission was actively involved in the negotiations of resolutions especially that pertaining to the SAMOA Pathway and its Mid-term review and the Pacific Island Forum Group and the United Nations.

The Mission attended the voting of the resolutions in the Committees as well as in the General Assembly to reflect Samoa's positions on global issues as guided by previous positions and advise from capital.

v. **Representation at UN-related meeting outside of New York**

Mission staff were either part of Samoa's delegations to some UN-related meetings held outside of New York, or represented Government when no representatives came from Apia. Conferences where staff were part of the delegations included:

- ATT meeting held in Geneva, 2017
- ATT meeting held in New Zealand, April 2018
- Global Forum on Migration and Development, Marrakesh, Morocco, April 2018.
- Regional Meeting for the Mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway, Nukualofa, Tonga, May 2018.
- GCF Board Meetings

vi. **Establishment of Diplomatic Relations.**

The Permanent Mission was able to facilitate and execute at Ambassadorial level the establishment of diplomatic relations with three (3) countries, namely:

- 1) Tajikistan – signed Communiqué on 22 December 2017
- 2) Azerbaijan – Signed Communiqué on 19 January 2018
- 3) El Salvador – signed Communiqué on 13 April 2018.

3. OTHER EVENTS AND OFFICIAL COMMITMENTS ACHIEVED

3.1 Personnel and Gender Distribution

- Due to the increase in work for the Mission as we took over the Chairmanship of the PIF for the New York Mission Group, two (2) staff members were added to assist with the mounting work of the Mission:
 1. Ms Olive Vaai, Senior Foreign Service Officer (MFAT) was seconded to the Mission for a period of one (1) year. Olive started with the Mission on 22nd January 2018 and will complete her secondment by the end of January 2019. This secondment is funded by the Australian Government.
 2. Ms. Taulesulu Yandall, a graduating University student, was attached to the Mission as an Intern. Taulesulu was funded by the New Zealand Government for an internship of one (1) year commencing September 2017 to August 2018. However, due to increase in work load leading up to the UN General Debate and late timing of the PIF meeting in Nauru at the beginning of September 2018, New Zealand agreed to fund an additional month for the Intern to remain with the Mission.

- The number of Staff personnel at the Mission increased due to the above mentioned Secondment. For the period starting September 2017, the staff increased from 6 to 7 personnel with 3 posted staff from Samoa (Ambassador[M], Counsellor[F] and First Secretary[M]) and 4 locally recruited staff (Second Secretary/Consular Officer[F], Accounts Officer[F], Intern [F] and Driver/Messenger[M]). From end of January 2018, the staff number increased to a total of 8, with 4 posted staff from Samoa, with the addition of Ms. Olive Vaai as the second First Secretary [F].
- The gender make-up of staff, i.e. 5 Females and 3 Males.

3.2 Staff Trainings and Developments

Language courses are offered by the United Nations to Permanent Mission staff, both our First Secretaries took the beginners courses for French and Spanish languages. These language courses were taken twice a week for the duration of an hour in the mornings before the start of work at the office.

3.3 Attendance at other events.

- Ambassador and the Mission staff participated in the following events:
 - (i) Meeting of the Pacific Heads of Missions with the World Bank in Washington
 - (ii) panelists at HLPF 2 separate events on NCDs and on Lessons Learnt from countries who have already presented their Voluntary National Reviews [VNRs],
 - (iii) Panelist for 2 separate side events by ECOSOC on Financing for Development.
- The Mission was also able to provide 3 briefing sessions on Samoa's priorities and positions on certain issues discussed at the UN for students from the (1) Dominican Republic, (2) Russian Federation and from the (3) Brigham Young University [BYU] who were representing Samoa at the Model UN session in April 2018 which was held at the UN Headquarters.

4. CONSULAR ACTIVITIES (if necessary)

- The Mission continues to hold bilateral meetings with representatives of the US Government from Washington in connection with the new US Administration's policy on deportation of non-US citizens who had either overstayed their permits or had committed deportable offences. The Mission also conducted interviews with the deportees to ascertain pertinent information that was needed by the Samoa government for their decision before approval of deportation and issuance of CI.
- The Mission worked closely with relevant authorities in Apia to ensure there is a cordial working relationship on both sides as has been shown and demonstrated already by the cooperative nature this issue had been handled by Washington and Apia to date.

During the year under review, the Mission facilitated the issuance from Samoa of the following;

- ✓ 25 Samoan passports;
- ✓ 28 Certificates of Identity [including for deportees]
- ✓ 7 Birth certificates
- ✓ 5 Permits for transportation of deceased Samoan nationals to Samoa
- ✓ 3 Police reports
- ✓ 2 Certifying Notes [Samoan driver's license]
- ✓ 2 Apostille

The above were in addition to the daily inquiries on consular related matters, including occasional requests for requirements for passports, citizenship and the transport to Samoa of deceased nationals.

5. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

5.1 Achievement of Key Performance Targets for the FY

- Overall, the Mission's achieved its key performance indicators and was able to do this within its approved envelope for the 2016-17 Financial year
- The Mission however would like to suggest to MFAT and MoF the possible inclusion of some new key indicators for FYs 2017/18 and FY2018/19 that it feels better reflect the Mission's performance and the quality of its outreach and advocacy. Possible new KPI could include, but not limited to;
- Statements delivered in the UNGA plenary, UN Committees, Executive Boards and during its term as the Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum Group in New York [Sept 2017/Sept 2018]
 - statements or remarks at side-events including number of side-events co-sponsored by the Mission;
 - Number of protocols, new initiatives and Communiqués the Mission signs on to or supports;
 - Number of member states Samoa establishes diplomatic relations with to be a separate indicator etc.

5.2 Assets Management

- The Mission "Assets register" was updated and sent to MFAT to reconcile.

6. CHALLENGES DURING THE PERIOD

The Mission is always faced with shortage of staff members to cover all the meetings and discussions that are held at the UN all through-out the year, therefore the Mission had to prioritize on matters/issues to follow that are of utmost importance to Samoa.

The addition of 2 staff has helped the Mission in attending most if not all the important meetings and follow negotiations at the United Nations.

The up-coming interregional meeting for the mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway will be held in Samoa in October 2018 in preparation for the mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway which will be held in New York in 2019 thus more attention and work will be required of the Mission in this process for logistics and substance work for the meeting. Also there has been added work for the Mission because Samoa's link to the SAMOA Pathway, the Mission had been invited to participate in UN events in various capacities either as (i) presenters, (ii) panelists, (iii) briefers, or (iv) discussants etc.

SUB OUTPUT 3.5 - SAMOA HIGH COMMISSION – CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

PROFILE:

This office of the Samoa High Commission in Canberra represents Samoa's interests in Australia. The mission is accredited as High Commission of Samoa to Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Timor-Leste. It works largely with the Samoan community in Australia and provides consular and immigration services to Samoans as well as travelers to Samoa.

1. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL YEAR (FY 2017-2018) HIGHLIGHTS

- I. Official Opening of the Chancery and Residence by the Honourable Prime Minister and an opportunity for the invited members of the Samoan community, Australian Government representatives and the Diplomatic Corps in Canberra to view the newly completed Samoa High Commission.
- II. Relocation of the Mission and the HOM's residence from the rental property at O'Malley to the new premises at Yarralumla.
- III. Attendance at Independence celebrations, on the invitation of the communities in Brisbane, Sydney, and Melbourne, being the major cities where most of our Samoan population reside;
- IV. The official launch of the Samoa Airways venture in Sydney with the announcement of two direct flights from Apia to Sydney per week.
- V. A visit by the Honourable Minister of Public Enterprises for the 'Ministerial Visitors Programme' funded and coordinated by the Australian DFAT.
- VI. Our Mission hosted the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum and the Heads of Missions for the Pacific here in Canberra twice. The first meeting was held in August prior to the PIF Meeting that Samoa hosted in 2017, and the second in June 2018 in June. The discussions were mainly on issues of regional security, our Blue Pacific and Pacific Regionalism.
- VII. Work in progress in conjunction with the Australian Pacific Trade and Investment office on enhancing opportunities for trade and investment between our respective countries, Samoa and Australia.
- VIII. The changeover of senior staff and families in December 2017.
- IX. Attended the Commonwealth Games that was held in the Gold Coast, Queensland. A reasonable contingent from Samoa participated, with the country turning in a commendable performance in winning more medals than some of its Pacific neighbours.

- X. Launching of the Samoa Senior Citizens Programme in Melbourne. This programme is a first of its kind for the Samoan community in Australia.

2. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FY FOR THE MISSION

The major achievements for the SHC were:

- The completion of the Chancery and the Head of Mission's residence at their new location, Yarralumla, on schedule and on budget as approved by Cabinet;
- Successful opening of the new premises at Yarralumla, by the Prime Minister on 25 July 2017;
- Our office hosted the Minister of Public Enterprises and his good lady during his official visit under Australia's Ministerial Visit Programme which was funded and coordinated by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The Minister was able to meet with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hon Julie Bishop as well as the Minister for International Development and Trade, well as the Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells under the Turnbull Government. Additional meetings with other members of Parliament and DFAT also took place. During this visit the Minister was able to meet some of the Samoans on the Seasonal Workers Programme at two farms in the New South Wales area. It was an excellent opportunity for an exchange of views with the workers on benefits and challenges of their employment, as well as exchanges with the concerned employers;
- We hosted Government officials here on duty travel and government business during this period. They were:
 - The CEO of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology and the Regulator;
 - A senior lawyer from the Attorney General's office;
 - Officials from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat;
- On our diplomatic relations:
 - The Diplomatic Community farewelled the outgoing Fijian High Commissioner Mr Yogesh Punjas in July 2018 and welcomed his replacement Mr Luke Daunivalu in August 2018, respectively;
 - Meetings were also held with the Swedish Ambassador, Norwegian, Dutch, Finnish, Iceland, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, on possible areas of assistance to the Pacific region, and Samoa in particular, at their invitation. They were most interested in the areas of maritime, oceans, climate change, and e-government in the case of Estonia in particular. We also had a visit from a delegation from Azerbaijan seeking the support of the Samoan Government of their bid for the World Expo 2025;
 - We had usual debriefing meetings with DFAT on policy matters regarding some of their advance preparations for the release of their papers on foreign policy and cybersecurity as well as the many changes they have lined up for visa processing;
 - The High Commissioners of PNG, Fiji and I were invited by the Australia Rugby League and Australian Rugby Union to attend various main matches held here in Australia.

3. PLANNED COMMITMENTS NOT ACHIEVED DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR

The work of the Mission was very much routine as we concentrated on the taking over of ownership and maintenance of the new chancery and residence. Apart from the usual consulate work involving the travelling public to Samoa and back, we also hosted visiting dignitaries and attendance of some community functions and bilateral meetings with some of our development partners such as DFAT, and some of the Nordic countries. We had our usual bi-monthly Heads of Missions meetings to discuss regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The Mission has yet to finalise insurance coverage for both the Chancery and the Residence now that the warranty period has lapsed, and this is mainly due to the limited financial allocation provided for the Mission. Coupled with the additional expenses for the staff changeover, it has been a challenge to achieve this commitment. It is vital to note however that this is mandatory to ensure adequate protection of our assets.

4. LINKAGES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO THE SECTOR PLANS/SDS

The work of the Mission is guided by the direction of policy regarding our relations with our development partners and the global community. Specific linkage would be through our aid program with Australia and its linkage to the government's Strategy for Development of Samoa (SDS). In this financial year, the onus has been on the establishment of the chancery, collaboration on the Seasonal Workers' Program, strengthening our relationship with the community, including information dissemination on government policy and sectoral priorities associated with specific interest of our community in Australia relating to agriculture, education, customary land legislation reform and our social policies.

5. OTHER EVENTS AND OFFICAL COMMITMENTS ACHIEVED

5.1 Personnel and Gender Distribution

There was a slight change in staff establishment from the previous year, with the Mission comprising of the Head of Mission, Deputy High Commissioner, locally employed staff being an administrative assistant and two drivers, one working on a part time basis. The second driver to note is also responsible for the grounds maintenance and the cleaning of the chancery and residence. Gender distribution is relatively even with three females and two males.

5.2 Staff Trainings and Development

None required and none were carried out.

6. CONSULAR ACTIVITIES

The Mission discharged consular activities relating to facilitating travel of the general public, both Samoan and non-Samoan from within Canberra, Melbourne and Brisbane. Our Consulate in Sydney deals mostly with Sydney, Brisbane and other north-western states such as Western Australia and the Northern Territories. We continue to work closely intermittently with border control authorities of Australia, especially illegal immigrants (mostly those who have breached visitors' visa conditions, or working visas such as over-stayers).

6.1 Budget Performance vs Key Performance Indicators

The Mission considers that it has managed to utilise effectively resources allocated to achieve its KPIs;

6.2 Asset Management/Registration

The Mission retains an asset register which is up to date on all purchased assets, and those that have yet to be disposed of, given their condition and non-utilitarian value.

7. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

7.1 Human Resource/Achievements

Given the small size of the office, there is close cooperation to service the visiting public, consultations and meetings with the diplomatic community, consular duties, workshops on specific areas of diplomatic service, and representation at regional meetings when the Mission is asked to participate.

7.2 Staff Training and Capacity Building

None was carried out during the FY, with all our focus on the construction of the chancery.

8. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

8.1 Achievement of Key Performance Targets for the FY

The Mission achieved its key performance targets for the FY despite the restricted financial allocations. This is despite the substantial increase to education fees and related commencement for the new senior staff's two teenage children; and increase in utility charges by ACT, and insurance costs.

8.2 Asset Management

There were no new purchases of any new assets during the year, aside from the fittings that came with the new premises. All of the old assets were sighted by the Controller & Chief Auditor in his audit review of the Mission in April 2017. The new assets have been recorded and can be viewed at any time when required.

9. CHALLENGES DURING THE PERIOD

A meeting was called with the Project Manager and the Contractor prior to the end of the warranty period for defective works in early July.

The main focus was to ensure that we were able to pinpoint defective work involving both the new chancery and the residence before the warranty period for the building terminated in the month of July. There had been a number of problems especially with the security of the doors, as the locks had not been properly drilled in, as well as early chipping of some of the pavement blocks in the front path at the main entrance because of insufficient reinforcement beneath the pavement blocks. These were attended to by the Contractor with just one of two jobs to be completed that they have accepted as their responsibility.

Another challenge is the continuity of all the different services that were under the warranty of the building, including the period we had been a lessee on rental property. The change to being an owner of all material assets come with it responsibility for all costs

upfront for different services we are mandated to manage and be responsible for. For instance, maintenance of the alarm system, the air conditioning, the waste backflow devices used on the premises etc. All these are separate services requiring annual certification of compliance with ACT safety regulations. They portend a substantial cost other than the cost of utilities.

The Mission has two vehicles, one purchased in 2011 and the other in 2012. Both are in need of replacement. Their maintenance, especially the BMW purchased in 2011, has become very costly and almost uneconomical to run and maintain. Its saleable value last year was \$24,000. At current market value, it has come in under \$15,000. The second vehicle is not as expensive to maintain but as it is a cheaper model, its value on the market will yield a lower return. For safety of the staff and especially our visiting dignitaries and officials, it is imperative that due consideration be made to replace these vehicles, even if a start is made to replace one at a time in the near future.

10. RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET

The magnificent Government premises after 40 years since we formalised diplomatic relations with Australia, are an iconic feature in the Yarralumla area, where most of the major countries have their embassies. Papua New Guinea and Samoa are the only ones that are in this area. There has been a lot of favourable comment, and it is essential that there is a maintenance program in place. Australia continues to face inclement weather, ranging from extreme hot (temperatures rising to around 42 degrees) to extreme cold (-6). As our premises are a combination of concrete and wood, there will be the usual wear and tear, however, there must be adequate preparation for its continual upkeep to ensure these assets remain well looked after in the years to come and beyond.

SUB-OUTPUT 3.6 - OFFICE OF THE STUDENT COUNSELOR – FIJI.

PROFILE:

Provision of counseling services to all scholarship students to enhance their academic performance and welfare while on study in Fijian based institutions such as USP and FNU as well as all scholarship students studying Law at Emalus campus in Vanuatu. In addition, reports/advice/feedback are provided to MFAT on issues affecting students' performance and welfare.

1) SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL YEAR (FY) 2017/2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- i. Four briefing sessions for new students conducted (3 in Samoa Dec 17, 1 in Fiji 2018). Separate briefings for different sponsors;
- ii. One visit to Emalus students in Vanuatu (Sept 2017);

- iii. 15 full awardees + 3 partial Samoan sponsored students at USP;
- iv. 1 full awardee at Emalus sponsored by Govt of Samoa (completed Dec 2017);
- v. 11 meetings with students, sponsors and institutions and 2 sports related activities with students.

2) MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FY 2017/2018

- vi. 23 students graduated this FY, 13 from USP (Fiji), 1 from Emalus and 8 from FNU, Fiji.
- vii. 6 students completed their programmes in semester 1, 2018 and expected to graduate either in Sept or Dec 2018.
- viii. A total of 27 new students were welcomed to Fiji at the beginning of 2018, 1 student joined in July 2017;
- ix. A survey on student satisfaction was conducted in Oct 2017;
- x. A total of 4 quarterly reports were submitted to MFAT.

3) LINKAGES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO THE SECTOR PLAN/ SDS

SDS 2016/2017 – 2019/2020

Priority Area 2 - Social

Key outcome 6, strategic outcome 3 relates to an increase in health professionals

Key outcome 7, Strategic outcomes 1 & 3 relating to people graduating with nationally and internationally recognized qualification and education aligned to national human resource development priorities.

4) HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

4.1 Human Resource/ Achievements

Renewed contract for Assistant for another year (July 17 – June 18)

5) FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

5.1 Achievement of Key Performance Targets for the FY

-all targets achieved

5.2 Assets Management

-updated asset register submitted to MFAT in June 2018

SUB-OUTPUT 3.7 – SAMOA CONSULATE GENERAL – AMERICAN SAMOA

PROFILE:

The Consulate-General was established in March 2006 to:

- Provide consular service to Samoan citizens' resident in American Samoa. Over the years, this service was extended to Samoan citizens living in the US mainland and Hawaii who sought the Consulate's assistance.
- Represent Government of Samoa (GOS) at official/State functions of the American Samoa Government (ASG).
- Liaison/conduit for contacts between GOS and ASG at the highest official levels.

1. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL YEAR (FY) 2017/2018 - HIGHLIGHTS

Total budget for the Consulate this financial year was USD **\$104,314.00**

Total revenue collection was up for this reporting year to USD **\$300,143.00**, compared to USD \$234,522.00 collected for FY 2016/2017 representing an increase of USD \$65, 621.00

Revenue over expenditure for the reporting year totals **\$195,829.00**

Total Revenue comprised:

- (i) 424 new Adult Passports: 127 @ \$200 = \$25,400.00, 297 @ \$250 = \$74,250.00 (Total of \$99,650.00)
- (ii) 35 Child Passports: 6 @ \$100.00 = \$600.00: 29 @ \$125 = \$3625.00 Total of \$4225.00
- (iii) 70 Passport Extensions: 25 @ \$50.00 = \$1250.00: 45 @ \$60.00 = \$2700.00 Total of \$3950.00
- (iv) 51 Passport Endorsements: 17 @ \$50.00 = \$850.00: 34 @ \$60 = \$2040.00 Total of \$2890.00
- (v) 6 new Documents of Identity 2 @ \$80.00 = \$160.00: 4 @ \$100 = \$400.00 Total of \$560.00
- (vi) 26 DOI Extensions 7 @ \$50.00 = \$350.00: 19 @ \$60 = \$1140.00 (Total \$1490.00)
- (vii) 18 Citizenship by descent/Exemptions 9 @ \$100 = \$900.00: 9 @ \$150 = \$1350 (Total of \$2250.00)
- (viii) 56 Authorizations to travel without passports 13 @ \$30 = \$390.00: 43 @ \$50.00 = \$2150.00 (Total of \$2540.00)
- (ix) 2 Certificates of Identity 1 @ \$150.00 = \$150.00: 1 @ \$200.00 = \$200.00 (Total of \$350.00)
- (x) 11 Exemptions Transfer 5 @ \$50.00 = \$250.00: 6 @ \$60.00 = \$360.00 (**Total of \$610.00**)
- (xi) 52 Birth Certificates: 52 @ \$20.00:- **\$1040.00**
- (xii) 2 Marriage Certificates 2 @ \$20.00:- **\$40.00**
- (xiii) 2 Multiple Entry: 2 @ \$100.00 = **\$200.00**
- (xiv) Entry Permits:
 - a. 6052 (14days) 2158 @ \$10.00 = \$21,580.00: 3894 @ \$20 = \$77,880.00 (**Total of \$99,460.00**)

- b. 800 (30days) 240@\$30.00 = \$7200.00: 560@ \$40.00 = \$22,400.00
(\$29,600.00)
 - c. 54 (60days) 19@\$50.00 = \$950.00: 35@\$60 = \$2100.00 **(Total of \$3050.00)**
 - d. 580 (Transit Permits) 104@\$30.00:- \$3120.00: 476@\$40 = \$19040.00
(Total of \$22160.00)
- (xv) Urgency/Service Fees, Miscellaneous and Others: - **\$26,078.00**

2. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FY 2017/2018 FOR THE POST

- (i) Consolidation of Consulate’s entry permit regime i.e. 2 weeks; 30 days; 60 days; single and two-way transits.
- (ii) Improved streamlining of Passports and DOIs processing by the Post and issuance from Headquarters.
- (iii) Increased interactions with ASG officials from the Governor and Lt Governor and Directors of Departments
- (iv) Maintenance of leased land at Tafuna earmarked for construction of Government building. This is under temporary “lease” to TOA (Taxi Owners Association) as per directives from Headquarters. Lease is rent-free in exchange for TOA maintaining land.
- (v) Increased revenue collection over previous annual reporting periods.
- (vi) Invited by Governor Lolo to ASG’s Cabinet Meetings.
- (vi) Guest of Honor at Governor’s End of Year Celebration Ceremony for Pensioners Am. Samoa, the majority of whom are originally from Samoa.

3. PLANNED COMMITMENTS NOT ACHIEVED DURING THE FY

Construction of Government building on land leased from ASG did not materialize due to prioritization of other overseas construction projects as established by HQ.

4. LINKAGES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO THE SECTOR PLAN/ SDS

Samoa interests have been well represented by the Post.

5. OTHER EVENTS AND OFFICIAL COMMITMENTS ACHIEVED

- (i) Increased engagement with ASG officials and events.
- (ii) Increased Liaison duties pertaining to visits to the Territory by Head of State, Prime Minister, Members of the Council of Deputies, Cabinet Ministers and senior GoS officials increased during this reporting period, especially with the new HOS and Masiofo.
- (iii) Consul to attend invitation from the Governor in various events including the event for old people in December 2017. These people are citizens of Samoa who have lived in American Samoa for a long time;

- (iv) Continuous follow up on Immigration related issues like Samoan passports misplaced by ASG officials.
- (v) Public relations events e.g. hosting of dinners and luncheons for visiting GoS VIPs and ASG officials also increased.

6. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

6.1 Personnel and Gender Distribution

Three staff maintained. No change.

6.2 Staff Trainings and Developments

On the job coaching and development is continuous and ongoing.

7. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (if necessary)

7.1 Budget Performance Verses Key Performance Indicators

Highest revenue collected in this annual reporting period of any other year.

7.2 Asset Management / Registration

Assets register is up to date. Audit completed in 2016. To date the audit report has yet to be sighted by the Post.

8. CHALLENGES DURING THE PERIOD

New Offices are quite an improvement when we moved to these offices previously occupied by the Administrative Law Judge(ALJ). These offices are more spacious, catering better for the Post's clientele. Access for disabled is still a challenge, as we are still on the second floor of the Iupeli Siliva Building.

After the two Samoa Talks in Apia last December, Governor Lolo directed his Chief of Staff and other concerned ASG officials to allocate appropriate office spaces to our Consulate. This however has not eventuated, as there are no ready-made office facilities available. The dilapidated buildings around the Government Complex in Tafuna would require substantial funding to renovate.

Relations with American Samoan Government: Very few Departments communicate officially in writing which makes it challenging to record discussions and commitments made in response to issues such as the illegal withholding of Samoan passports by ASG Immigration officials. Issues such as these had been escalated formally to the Office of the Governor.

PROFILE:

The Embassy of Samoa in Tokyo, Japan is charged with representing, advocating and promoting Samoa's interests and friendly relations with Japan and with countries it is accredited to, which are the Russian Federation, the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates, India and in the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in UAE. This involves the conduct of official business with government leaders and officials, with business communities and non-government stakeholders as appropriate on key bilateral and multilateral issues; seeking and assessing viable opportunities for trade, economic, tourism, cultural, educational and sports relations; and representational duties at diplomatic events and official engagements.

As well, the Embassy provides consular services to Samoan students and nationals living or travelling through Japan and to provide information to those visiting Samoa for business or tourism. The Embassy works closely with the Samoan community in Japan for cultural and tourism promotion through cultural performances when needed. The Embassy is staffed with the Ambassador/Head of Mission, one Counselor seconded from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and assisted by three locally engaged staff (driver, secretary and interpreter/assistant).

1. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL YEAR 2017/2018 HIGHLIGHTS

1.1 Diplomatic Representation

The Embassy continued to be engaged in maintaining consistent high-level and effective diplomatic representations in Japan and in other accredited jurisdictions. The Head of Mission/Ambassador H.E. Mrs Faalavaau Perina Jacqueline Sila-Tualualelei and Counselor Mr. Justin Lima engaged in several meetings during this period with the Prime Minister of Japan, Cabinet Ministers, States Ministers, senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, JICA, JETRO and other government agencies, as well as representatives of the private sector businesses and organizations to nurture and consolidate relationships critical to achieving the goals and mandate of the Embassy.

The Ambassador also had high level engagements and meetings notably with Honourable Yoshiro Mori, former Prime Minister of Japan and President of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organizing Committee; Honourable Toshiaki Endo, Chairman of the Japan-Samoa Parliamentary Friendship Association and Chairman of the Parliamentary Rugby World Cup Organizing Committee; Honourable Dr. Daishiro Yamagiwa, Secretary-General of the Japan-Samoa Parliamentary Friendship Committee, especially in relation to advocating for the facilitation of an official invitation from the Prime Minister of Japan for the Prime Minister of Samoa to visit Japan as a State Guest. Ambassador also met with Governors of Tokyo, Yokohama, Fukushima, Yamagata, Kochi, Shizuoka and other prefectural heads of government.

High level visits occurred between Samoa and Japan with Prime Minister Tuilaepa visiting Japan on his inaugural State Visit in May 2018. The Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Mayor of Yamagata City took official visits to Samoa in August 2017 and January

2018, respectively. During this period, Samoa's Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure visited Japan and the President of JICA visited Samoa.

The Embassy's interaction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) and JICA were higher than normal given the number of high level events scheduled to take place in the latter 6 months of the financial year (such as the Prime Minister Tuilaepa's State Visit, PALM8, international exchange program, JICA President visit to Samoa, Vaisigano project, etc).

The Embassy attended a large number of official/diplomatic functions important for networking, in renewing working relations and making new ones with the Japanese government, with some of the 160 diplomatic representations in Tokyo and, with businesses and universities. Attending and hosting official/diplomatic functions is very important in Japan and the Samoa Embassy remained fully engaged in these activities.

The 7 Pacific Island Country diplomatic representations in Japan, through the Pacific Ambassadors Group and its Officials' Working Group meet often to discuss pertinent issues or of concern to the Pacific region. The two groups had been very active during this period given preparations for and during the PALM8 summit meeting in May 2018.

The Ambassador visited UAE for courtesy calls with UAE government officials and to attend meetings of the IRENA Assembly and Council and was elected the Vice Chair of the IRENA Council. The Ambassador was also enabled to finally present Credentials to the President of the Republic of India as Samoa's High Commissioner to the Republic of India during this financial year period.

1.2 Promoting Samoa as a Tourist Destination, Trading Partner & Investment Haven

The promotion of Samoa as a tourist destination and as a reliable partner for trade and investment is another priority area of work for the Embassy. There was continued dialogue between the Embassy and relevant businesses, organizations especially the Pacific Island Centre office and JETRO, government ministries and prefectural offices in exploring potential trading opportunities for local Samoan businesses and products as well as provide advice to strengthen trade facilitation between Samoa and Japan. Participation in trade, tourism and investment seminars and meetings continued to be an integral part of the Embassy's work in the period under review.

The Embassy will continue to look for opportunities where Samoan products may enter the Japanese market including relevant aid program platforms like PALM7. As well, the Embassy will continue to look for small to medium sized enterprises for possible investment/setting up business in Samoa, bringing employment and other benefits to the economy.

1.3 Promoting people-to-people and exchange programs

The promotion of people-to-people and exchange programs form a significant part of the work undertaken by the Embassy in the promotion of friendly bilateral relations between Samoa and Japan including at the community level. Consistent commitment and collaboration in the spirit of partnership with prefectural, local governments are vital for the delivery of sports and cultural exchange programs which, by and large, are implemented at regional government level. Meetings

and visits were often held either in Tokyo or at prefectural offices with Governors, Mayors and their senior officials in the promotion and consolidation of Samoa's international exchange programs currently in place (with Iwaki and Yamagata cities). As such, Samoa and the Embassy's interpersonal relations with these cities continue to grow. Given positive outcomes experienced so far, work to extend coverage to other prefectures will continue into the next financial year.

JICA programs for training and study in Japan continued including through such programs as the Pacific Leaders Educational Assistance for Development of State (Pacific LEADS), Sakura Science Plan, MEXT scholarships and others, which were sent through and facilitated by the Samoa Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, for any interested Samoan nationals to apply.

1.4 2019 Rugby World Cup and the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games

In preparations for the looming Rugby World Cup in 2019, work progressed swiftly to secure appropriate facilities with the host cities for our national rugby team in 2019 and for our delegations participating in the Olympic Games in 2020.

As reported in the previous FY2016-2017 annual report, Samoa and Iwaki City signed the Memorandum of Understanding of arrangements for Iwaki City to host the Manu Samoa during the pre-camp training period of the RWC2019. During this FY2017-2018, Samoa and Yamagata City signed the Memorandum of Understanding of arrangements for Yamagata City to accommodate Samoa's Olympic delegations for the 2020 Games. The 2 MOUs stipulate the hosting arrangements to be borne by the respective cities with lesser or no cost to Samoa. With the successful conclusion of these MOUs, the Embassy has ably facilitated Samoa's participation in these international sporting events held in Japan in 2019 and 2020 with lesser or no cost implications to the government or sporting bodies involved.

In tandem with these host city MOUs in the spirit of partnership and goodwill are related sports and cultural promotional activities advocated meticulously by the Embassy to foster sustainable Samoa-Japan bilateral relations that will continue beyond these two international sporting events.

1.5 Consular services

The Embassy continued to provide information to Samoan nationals living in Japan enquiring about passports, birth certificates, marriage documentation and further facilitate the translation of such documents from Japanese to English or vice versa. The Embassy also provided general information to potential travelers from Japan to Samoa and through the Samoa tourism brochures on hand. The Embassy facilitated applications for Samoan passports in consultation with MFAT and Samoa Immigration for Samoan nationals residing in Japan.

2. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING FY 2017/2018 FOR THE MISSION

2.1 Diplomatic Representation

- Symbolic of the strong bilateral relations between Japan and Samoa, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe invited Prime Minister Tuilaepa on a State Visit to Japan on 14-16 May 2018. This was Prime Minister Tuilaepa's first State Visit to Japan and was held back to back with the Prime

Minister's attendance and chairing of the PALM8 Summit meeting on 17-19 May 2018 in his capacity as the Pacific Islands Forum Chair.

- The State Visit comprised courtesy calls on Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan, bilateral meetings with Prime Minister Abe and Cabinet Ministers and Parliamentarians, and provided an opportunity for dialogue at the highest level on areas to strengthen cooperation with Japan. Prime Minister Tuilaepa was accorded the *Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun*, the highest award for a non-Japanese national, for his contributions to strengthening the friendly relations between Japan and Samoa at an official ceremony led by Prime Minister Abe on 14 May. Prime Minister Tuilaepa was accompanied by his wife, Minister of Education, Sports and Culture and MFAT CEO. The Embassy organized and paid for an official reception, which was attended by 90 people, in honour of the Prime Minister's visit and his role as Forum Chair.
- The Honourable Prime Minister, as Forum Chair, co-chaired the PALM8 Summit meeting held in Tokyo and Iwaki cities from 17-19 May 2018. The resultant PALM8 Declaration highlights key areas of cooperation between Japan and the Pacific such as sustainable development, climate change and environment, people-to-people and sports exchange, human resource development, oceans management and cooperation on international issues. This Declaration is the framework for Japan's aid delivery to the Pacific and provides guidance on areas of technical cooperation between Samoa and Japan.
- The Ambassador played an integral role in the coordination and establishment of the PIC-Governors' Network that was officially launched during the PALM8. This association of Governors and PIC provides a platform for networking and cooperation with regional/prefectural governments for international exchange programs in sports, culture, trade and commerce, education and people-to-people exchanges.
- Prior to PALM8, MFAT CEO, Ambassador and Counselor attended the PALM8 Senior Officials Meeting chaired by Samoa and held in Tokyo on 15 March 2018 to discuss preparations for the PALM8 Summit and work towards finalizing the draft Declaration with a view to completing this as much as possible ahead of the Summit itself.
- The Ambassador and Counselor were invited and participated in the Pacific-Japan Symposium on the PALM8 Summit organized by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, a notable think-tank non-profit organization in Tokyo, from 30-31 January 2018. The Symposium provided a platform for Pacific Embassies and government representatives from capital to dialogue on their expectations of PALM8. The Ambassador participated in a Facilitator role for areas on Climate Change and Environment presenting on key issues for discussion. Other areas discussed included labour mobility, sustainable tourism, trade and investment promotion and market access.
- The Embassy participated in the pre-PALM8 event in March 2018 in Iwaki City as the host city for the PALM meeting. The Ambassador delivered opening remarks together with other Pacific Ambassadors and a booth display was set up to showcase different products from

Samoa (Mailelani products, apparel from Eveni Pacific, Nonu juice, handicrafts) in our efforts for trade, tourism and awareness promotion. The Samoa booth was very popular with many visitors from Iwaki City. During this event, the Ambassador also held meetings with Iwaki city officials and Japan Rugby Football Union senior representatives to discuss the upcoming Rugby World Cup 2019 preparations and opportunities for rugby scholarships and placements.

- The Ambassador was invited and participated as a panelist and to make remarks alongside the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Director-General of IRENA, the President of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and others at the International Symposium on “*The Age of Renewable Energy Diplomacy and Japan’s Course*” held in Tokyo on 4 April 2018. The event was organized by the Government of Japan and IRENA.
- As provided in the previous annual report, at the 7th meeting of the IRENA Assembly in January 2017, Samoa was elected to the IRENA Council representing the Pacific in IRENA’s Asia-Pacific Group. As Samoa’s representative on the Council, the Ambassador attended meetings of the Council in November 2017 and, during the May 2018 session was elected the Vice-Chair. As well, the Ambassador attended the 8th IRENA Assembly in January 2018 together with a delegation from Samoa. The Embassy continued to pursue the important work of IRENA building networks and visibility of Samoa and SIDS in general in that intergovernmental organization especially in the Ambassador’s capacity as Vice-Chair of the IRENA Council. To date IRENA has 159 member countries.
- The Ambassador presented her Letters of Credence to the President of India in May 2018 in New Delhi accrediting her as Samoa’s High Commissioner to India. This is Samoa’s first appointment of an accredited official to India. While in New Delhi, she had meetings with India’s Minister of Health, senior officials of the Ministry of External Affairs to discuss technical cooperation including ODA matters between India and Samoa. It was noted there is ample room to nurture a meaningful relationship with India that would have a positive impact on Samoa’s development goals.
- The Hon Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure of Samoa and delegation visited Japan from 26 February to 8 March 2018 to participate with JICA in the Tender Evaluation and awarding process for the Vaisigano bridge rehabilitation project. The grant aid for the project from the Japanese government is 1.806 billion yen (USD\$15.8million), with project commencement in April 2018. The Honourable Minister also had a courtesy call the Vice-President of JICA to discuss current and future ODA projects of relevance to his ministerial portfolios
- At the Ambassador’s invitation, H.E. Mr Shinichi Kitaoka, President of JICA, made his first official visit to Samoa on 7-11 April 2018 and took part in the ground-breaking ceremony for the Vaisigano Bridge rehabilitation project funded by Japan under grant aid of US\$15.8million. Ambassador Kitaoka met with the Honourable Prime Minister and senior officials in Samoa.

- The Hon Minister of Communication and Information Technology of Samoa and CEO of MCIT visited Japan on 5-12 November 2017 on an invitation by the non-profit organization APIC. The Minister had a courtesy call with the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs on 8 November 2017.
- The Ambassador and spouse and Counselor were invited also attended all functions and events that were hosted by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress as well as by members of the imperial family. These includes Their Majesties Imperial Garden Party (November 2017), Emperor's Birthday Reception (December 2017), Their Majesties New Year Reception (January 2018), Their Majesties Spring Garden Party (April 2018), the Crown Prince's Tea Party (October 2017), Imperial Stock Farm visit (November 2017), and many others. Attendance at these and all receptions hosted by members of the imperial family, Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers are critical in the maintenance of Samoa-Japan relations in Japan.

2.2 Promoting Samoa as a Tourist Destination, Trading Partner & Investment Haven

1. A key outcome for this period is the official opening and launch of the 'Eveni Pacific' apparel brand in Japan based at the Spa Resort Hawaiian Hotel in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture on 3rd February 2018. A direct offshoot of the first Trade Mission of business companies from Japan to Samoa in July 2016, the successful breakthrough for Eveni followed almost two years of negotiations and facilitation to ensure that all regulations and standards are met by Eveni in terms of quality, quantity and local laws. The Ambassador delivered the opening address for this key milestone for Samoan businesses' efforts to export to Japan. This activity was robustly facilitated by the personal involvement of the Ambassador and Samoa's Honorary Consul in Fukushima, Mr Naomi Inoue and his studious staff throughout the entire time.
2. As well, the Embassy facilitated the import of nonu juice from Nonu Samoa Enterprises Ltd to enter Japan. The Samoan company started exporting to Japan from August 2017.
3. The Embassy worked closely with the PIC Office in determining ways to strengthen the facilitation of trade through the availability of accurate information for local exporters both online and in English. The PIC website is currently being restructured to accommodate this information as it is an important tool for exporting goods from Samoa to Japan.
4. As part of tourism promotion through cultural exchange, the Embassy continued to advocate for Samoa as a tourist destination through its participation in a series of cultural exchange programmes with other cities and schools.

2.3 Promoting people-to-people and international exchange programs

- A key outcome for the Embassy in this area of work was the successful negotiation and implementation of the first college-level rugby exchange program between Samoa and Japan. In the spirit of goodwill and partnership, the Iwaki City government paid all the costs of bringing 8 players of Samoa's Under-20 7s rugby team and management to Japan. Samoa's team had matches with Japan's Under-20 7s and with Fukushima selected Under-20 7s teams. They won all their games.
- In coordination with Iwaki City, the program was timed to take place during PALM8 to showcase Samoa and Japan's friendly relations and to provide a 'Samoa' input and flavour to the local festivities in hosting Japan and Pacific Leaders during PALM8 in Iwaki. The team performed various siva during PALM8. In addition to the exposure to Japanese rugby technical skills, Samoa's Under-20 players experienced Japanese culture, customs and food and made many friends during their tour. The assistance and technical advice of the Samoa Rugby Union CEO and Chairman were invaluable and instrumental in this program's colossal success.
- The Ambassador and Counselor undertook several visits to other prefectures to foster new and consolidate current relationships and met with the Governors, Mayors and senior officials of Fukushima, Yamagata and Osaka and expect to flesh out these discussions into the next financial year. The objective is to explore opportunities for exchange programs in sports, culture, education including at the college/high school level.
- On the Ambassador's invitation, the Mayor of Yamagata City, His Excellency Mr Takahiro Sato with a delegation assumed an official visit to Samoa on 28-30 January 2018. The purpose of the visit was to make the acquaintance of Samoan government dignitaries, to meet with SASNOC and to experience Samoan culture and hospitality. The Embassy currently enjoys a close relationship with the cities and senior officials of Yamagata and Iwaki – relationships that have been nurtured for at least three years and intends to continue in the future.
- Tupa'i Leta Tualaulelei, the Ambassador's spouse, on behalf of the Embassy to promote goodwill and cooperation, conducted a 'rugby training session' on 23 March 2018 in Iwaki City. A total of 40 students plus teachers and trainers attended. The Japan Rugby Union was also in attendance. The Ambassador and Mayor of Iwaki City made opening and closing remarks.
- Mrs. Yorie Inoue, the wife of Samoa's Honorary Consul in Fukushima, again visited Samoa for 3 months (July-September 2017) to conduct ikebana (art of Japanese floral arrangement). This was a goodwill/charity project coordinated and organized by Ambassador Faalavaau and the Honorary Consul and his wife, members of Samoa's Informal Gardeners' Group and friends in Samoa, with the support of the National University of Samoa, at no cost to Samoa. All expenses were paid by the Honorary Consul and his wife and friends and families of

people involved. This activity was another byproduct of the Trade Mission in 2016 through networks and contacts established.

- The Pacific LEADS scholarship program continued with 4 students from Samoa undertaking studies in universities around Japan. This fully-funded scholarship was established by Japan under PALM7 to support the development of PIC governments.
- 5 college students from Samoa participated in the Sakura Science Plan from 23-29 August 2017. This exchange program enabled college students to learn of the latest scientific and technological advances in Japan and experience first-hand Japanese culture and cuisine.

2.4 Rugby World Cup 2019 and the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games

- A key outcome for the Embassy under this work to prepare Samoa's participation in these two international sporting events in Japan, was the successful conclusion of 2 years of negotiation with Yamagata City to host Samoa's delegations participating in the 2020 Olympic Games. The City agreed to meet all domestic costs of hosting Samoa's delegations (accommodation, meals, facilities, transport) during their training camp in 2020 with Samoa to pay the international airfares. The MOU detailing these arrangements by the City was signed by the Ambassador, Mayor and President of SASNOC in January 2018.
- It will be recalled as mentioned in the annual report of FY2016/2017 that the MOU with Iwaki City for that City to host the Manu Samoa for the Rugby World Cup 2019 was eventually concluded and was signed between the Chairman of Samoa Rugby Union, Ambassador and the Mayor of Iwaki City in January 2017. The City agreed to bear all costs of domestic hospitality (accommodation, meals, training facilities, recovery therapies, transport) for the Manu Samoa and management (up to 49 people) with SRU organizing the international airfares.
- With these two MOUs, the Embassy of Samoa in Tokyo has ably and sufficiently facilitated the participation of Samoa's teams for pre-camp trainings for the Rugby World Cup in 2019 and the 2020 Olympic Games, at lesser or no cost to Samoa.

2.5 Bilateral aid program

- The Embassy continued to keep abreast with developments on the delivery of technical assistance from Japan to Samoa including through regular updates with the JICA headquarters in Tokyo. The Ambassador held several meetings with senior Japanese government officials in the Embassy's advocacy role to facilitate a positive outcome for Samoa's projects, including the Vaisigano Bridge rehabilitation works. The project was approved for ODA funding at US\$15.8million in October 2017 with works starting in April 2018. New projects were also submitted for Japan's consideration.

2.6 Outreach Program

- This period saw a higher number of outreach programs conducted by the Embassy in and around Tokyo as well as in Iwaki. The outreach programs are seminars conducted at the Embassy during local school visits to the Embassy, and the Embassy's visits to local schools, to promote awareness and understanding of Samoan culture, customs, food etc. These schools were Fuji High School, Kawabe Elementary and High School in Iwaki, Akashi Elementary School, Nakano Minami Junior High School, Chuo Elementary School, Ishikawadai Junior High School and Nijima Gakuen High School. These awareness and promotional programs will continue.

3. PLANNED COMMITMENTS NOT ACHIEVED DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR

The expansion of sports and cultural exchange programs to other prefectures as considered could not take place owing to the Embassy's larger than normal work load because of the many events that were organized and successfully implemented during these twelve months. The Embassy intends to progress this work in the next financial year.

Similarly, the Head of Mission's proposed travel to Russia and Philippines to follow up on technical cooperation opportunities were put on hold because of heavy work schedules at post, commitments as representative on IRENA Council and the need to set aside funds in preparation for the Honourable Prime Minister's official visit in May 2018 for some costs will not be covered by Japan, as well as an official reception.

4. LINKAGES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO THE SECTOR PLAN/SDS

The Embassy's achievements and work to efficiently and effectively advocate for Samoa and its interests in Japan and in other areas of jurisdiction are linked to and resonate with the SDS, national budget statement, the SAMOA Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals. For in the conduct of the Embassy's work, the vision, goals and targets are income generation through increased exports from Samoa; sports development and opportunities for overseas employment; implementation of national energy and climate change targets through renewable energy transition; development assistance through quality infrastructural and waste management projects; capacity building, training and human resource development in general; promoting closer cooperation and sustainable partnership between Samoa and Japan including through cultural and sports exchange programs that is inclusive of regional and community levels.

5. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

5.1 Human Resource/Achievements

The Embassy is well balanced with 3 females and 2 male staff (both posted and local staff). The changeover in posted staff took place between August-October 2018 with the secondment of Mr Justin Lima to replace Mr Rapture Pagaialii for a period of 4 years (2017-2021). The spouse and family of Mr Lima are expected to join him at post sometime in the next financial year.

5.2 Staff Training and Capacity building

The Embassy continued to utilize well its budget provision for Japanese language training for its two posted staff. This is very important in the conduct of the posted staff's engagement with officials and communities throughout Japan.

6. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

6.1 Achievement of Key Performance Targets for the FY

Through sound and strategic financial management and in regular consultation with the CSU Division, its ACEO and Manager of the Overseas Support Manager and team, the Embassy achieved all its key performance targets in an outstanding manner in this FY. Of significance, the Embassy was able to backstop and provide some of the logistical support for the Prime Minister's State Visit, the hosting of an official reception and support for ministerial visits to Japan despite the absence of a budgeted provision for these necessary activities.

6.2 Assets Management

The Embassy maintained and updated when needed, its assets register. The acquisition of a new official vehicle in the last FY helped to reduce maintenance costs and thus a cost saving. All the assets of the Embassy were properly maintained within existing budget levels to ensure staff productivity and avoid repair costs.

7. CHALLENGES DURING THE PERIOD

- Despite repeated requests, both by the Ministry and by the Embassy through its budget submissions, a budget to provide for logistics and arrangements for the Prime Minister's State Visit did not materialize. The challenge therefore was the balancing act to provide for such necessities from within existing funds and ensuring the Embassy's operations were not excessively impacted.
- In this same vein, the Ambassador was not able to undertake a follow up visit to Russia and Philippines in view of the budget situation. It is respectfully proposed that in order to make meaningful traction into our relations with these countries that our presence be felt at the capitals by at least a visit every 18 months.
- The allowances for the Embassy's posted staff are very low compared to the cost of living in Tokyo. It is respectfully requested that a review be made of the current allowance rate and the indices used for the scale of allowances with a view for an increase that is appropriate and commensurate with Tokyo's high cost of living and Japan's distinctive four seasons.

SUB-OUTPUT: 3.9 EMBASSY OF SAMOA IN CHINA (BEIJING)

PROFILE:

The Embassy of Samoa in Beijing is responsible for representing Samoa's interests to the People's Republic of China. It looks after Samoan citizens working, studying or visiting China. An ongoing key objective of the mission is the promotion of Samoa's profile throughout China, whenever possible and subject to available resources. This is crucial to the Embassy's work in promoting trade, investment and tourism in China given the size of China, the language barrier, and a very large population of over 1.3 billion people.

1. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL YEAR (FY) June 2017/ July 2018 -

Mission Budget:

The total approved budget for the mission for the financial year 2017-2018 was **Y3,472,679** (US\$501,689) an increase of Y24,167 from the previous year (2016-2017), and on par with the 2015-2016 budget.

The bulk of the increase in the budget was in the catering output but the majority of the outputs however remained the same although the mission requested an increase in funding in areas such as insurance and travel fares based on actual costs from the previous year's budget which were over spent due to the increase in the number of tourism related promotions and marketing activities.

Whilst available resources limited the scope of the mission's work with respect to trade investment and tourism promotion, the mission managed overall, through seeking either full or partial funding from local and provincial sponsors /governments for trade tourism and cultural related events.

Mission Staff:

No staff changes took place during the period. The embassy staff consists of 3 diplomatic staff (Ambassador, Counselor, First Secretary) and 4 local staff, the Receptionist, driver/admin assistant, the Ambassador's personal assistant/translator and the part time cleaner. The Ambassador is currently the Dean of the Pacific Ambassadors Group and one of the senior Ambassadors in Beijing which currently hosts over 170 diplomatic missions, the second largest number of embassies in one post after Washington DC.

Events Highlights:

1. Ministerial Visits and Meetings
2. China's assistance (Grant Aid /Concessional loans and projects)
3. Belt and Road China-Pacific Trade Tourism Forum in Samoa, September 2017
4. Scholarships/ Trainings/Seminars offered by the Chinese government
5. Facilitating trade investment tourism promotion

The most important political highlight for the year in China's political calendar was the election of President Xi Jinping for another 5-year term in March 2018 during the Communist Party's Annual Congress.

Ministerial Level and Senior Officials Visits to China

5 Ministers plus 9 MPs visited China for meetings/seminars during the July 2017/ June 2018 FY year. (China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs initially informed the Ambassador of the Prime Minister's proposed official visit to China to take place in September 2018 during the Economic Global Forum (Summer Davos) in Tianjin, China).

1. Faumuina Wayne Fong MP and Faaulusau Rosa Duffy-Stowers attended a visitors programme which included other MPs from the Pacific. The group was hosted by the CPC in Beijing from 24-26 September 2017.
2. Samoa Minister of Commerce and Labour Hon. Lautafi Purcell and two senior officials from MCIL visited Huizhou, Guangzhou and Shenzhen cities in Guangdong Province from 1-8 November 2017 at the invitation of the Huizhou municipal government which has sister city relations with Apia. The Ambassador and the Counselor joined the delegation which visited a number of industries and tourism sites including the Skyline Nonu factory and Head Office in Shenzhen as well as the Hunan Liaocheng Overseas Fisheries Company in Shenzhen. Both companies have businesses in Samoa. Shenzhen and Huizhou Cities have sister city relations with Apia with Huizhou implementing two projects in Apia under the Belt and Road Initiative, the Friendship Park and the Culture Center.
3. Minister for Women Community & Social Development Hon. Faimalotoa Kika Stowers plus three officials from MWCSO attended an International Women's Conference hosted by China in Beijing from 27 November-1 December 2017.
4. Minister of Works (Hon. Papalii Lee Hang), Transport CEO and the Airport Authority CEO attended the first Asia Pacific Aviation Ministerial Meeting which was hosted by China in Beijing from 31 January to 1 February 2018. The Samoa Minister of Transport was Vice Chair. The Ambassador attended the meeting with the delegation.
5. Minister of Customs and Revenue Hon. Tialavea S. Hunt plus Customs CEO attended the Belt and Road International Customs Forum on Border Control hosted by China from 11-14 February 2018 in Beijing. The meeting discussed a number of border control issues and emerging challenges as well as sharing ideas and technologies deployed to combat border crimes and smuggling.
6. 7 Members of Parliament led by the Associate Minister of Health (Hon. Gatoloifaana A. Gidlow), 2 officials from Samoa Parliament and the Savali Editor visited Beijing and Xiamen in late April 2018 under the annual visitors programme organized by the CPC (China Communist Party) for Members of Parliament from the Pacific.

Chinas Grants and Concessional Loan Assistance

Meetings with the Ministry of Commerce's two divisions which coordinate ODA for Samoa and oversees commercial/trade issues are held as necessary for briefings and to follow up on proposals submitted to MOFCOM through the Chinese Embassy in Apia. A major challenge has been the delay in submitting complete project proposals (or replies to follow up) to the Chinese side through the Chinese Embassy in Apia.

During the 2017-2018 period, 8 meetings were held with the Ministry of Commerce ODA Division and the Commerce Division. The end of the year saw the restructuring of the Ministry of Commerce in line with new government reforms which resulted in the setting up of a **new Agency** to coordinate and administer Overseas Aid.

Discussions on China's ODA to Samoa for most of the year focused mainly on ongoing proposals: Vaiusu Port proposal, Maritime school equipment, Police Academy feasibility study and design and the 3 primary schools, St Teresa, Lepea and Apia Primary Schools. The government reforms and structure at the MOFCOM played a part in the delay in the some of the projects that had been approved already, including the Vaiusu Port study.

In September 2017 China despatched a technical team from Guangzhou to do a PRE- feasibility study for the Vaiusu Port which was completed in two weeks. A report was completed and submitted to the Samoa government which was subsequently endorsed with a request for a full feasibility study to be undertaken by the Chinese government.

There have been no new projects for the China Pacific concessional loan scheme since 2014. The only project under concessional loan, the new Faleolo Airport Terminal project built by Shanghai Construction Company was officially opened in May 2018.

Scholarships and Training Seminars in China

The intake for Samoan scholarship students for the Academic year 2017-2018 in China saw the number of students decrease from **29** in the previous year to **22** for the year in review. Of the **22**, **6** took up post graduate studies. In addition, **2** students from the Samoa Audit Office took up direct awards with the Nanjing Audit University for post graduate studies. **10** students successfully completed their studies at the end of the FY compared to **6** for the previous year.

The Mission serves as the main point of contact for Samoan students in China. It communicates directly with Chinese Scholarship Council (CSC) and Chinese Universities on scholarship matters and other issues affecting the students' studies in China. Other main responsibilities:

- ❖ Disburse students Government supplementary allowance in September for new students only. Other students were no longer entitled to supplementary allowances from government given the increase in the student allowances.
- ❖ Visit Universities where Samoan students study and liaise with CSC and students on academic performance reports and related issues
- ❖ Assist with other requests from the Scholarship Division (MFAT) including travel for students to Samoa for family matters (compassionate travel).

Trainings/Seminars

Every year, the Chinese government sponsors government and private sector representatives from Samoa and other developing countries to participate in training seminars in China. This includes familiarization tours and seminars for MPs from Samoa and Pacific island countries.

For the year, **107** people from Samoa travelled to China for meetings, training seminars which included **5** cabinet ministers, (Environment; Commerce; MWCSD; Transport; Revenue) and **6** MPs. The majority of participants were government officials from ministries and from SOEs. This year some private sector representatives from the hotel and hospitality industry were included in the Culinary training in Shandong province. For this year the mission recorded only **14** training groups compared to **36** for previous year and total of **107** compared to **244** participants in previous year, a dramatic decrease either due to the decrease in trainings or under-reporting by the PSC since the overseas training coordination including those for China was moved from MFAT to PSC.

Trade Investment & Tourism Promotion

Horticulture Expo

In June 2018 the Mission and other Pacific delegates attended the Horticulture Expo Forum in Beijing to discuss plans and key issues for the Horticulture Expo to be hosted by China in Beijing from April to October 2019. This would be a major horticulture and tourism event for 2019 in China to coincide with Chinas 70th Anniversary.

Pacific-China Belt and Road Trade Tourism Forum, Apia

The Embassy initiated and coordinated with the Forum Secretariat and SPTO the Belt and Road Trade and Tourism Seminar for Pacific Island Countries and China which was held at the Sheraton in Apia as one of the side events for the Pacific Leaders Forum in September 2017 and attended by 60 Chinese business and government representatives and speakers from Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and other cities and Pacific Forum delegates and NGOs.

The Forum discussed opportunities and challenges related to trade investment and tourism between China and the Pacific Island countries under the Belt and Road Initiative announced by President Xi in 2013 and formally launched at the One Belt and Road Forum Beijing in April 2017 which was attended by Samoa Minister of Transport, Prime Minister Bainimarama of Fiji and other Transport and Finance Ministers from the Pacific and overseas.

The Belt and Road Initiative is one of the most significant and far reaching plan that China has ever put forward which the Chinese government believes will increase interconnectivity and improve cooperation among countries along the route (Asia/Northern Africa/Europe) which also includes the Pacific region. The plan emphasizes economic development above anything else, but will have an equally strong impact on development overall.

REGIONAL

Pacific Islands Ambassadors Group (PIAG) – Fiji, FSM, PNG, Samoa, Tonga & Vanuatu

Samoa is one of the 6 members of the Pacific Islands Ambassadors Group (PIAG) in Beijing. The group meets at least once every three months. The meetings discuss issues of common interest

and concern to members. The Samoan Ambassador is currently the Dean of Pacific Islands Ambassadors.

During the FY period the most important meeting for the group was the meeting in Guangzhou in November 2017 organized by the Foreign Ministry with the Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Zeguang, Guangdong Party Secretary and all the municipal Foreign Affairs offices in Guangdong Province to discuss trade investment, cultural and tourism engagement with the Pacific Island countries. The visit also included a visit to the main Guangzhou Port and Motor companies. Guangdong is a key province under the Belt and Road Initiative and which has been tasked to oversee relations with Oceania.

Pacific Ambassadors and senior officers also participated in the business trip to Dalian city organized by the Ministry of Commerce from 25 October 2017.

Pacific Ambassadors also participated in the Diplomatic Cultural/Tourism Tour of Yunnan Province in mid May 2018 and the BLCU Culture Day.

Commonwealth Society of Beijing (CSB)

The CSB is a non-profit society founded in 1993. The members are spouses of Ambassadors and female diplomats from Commonwealth countries in China. The main objective of the CSB is to raise funds to help Chinese people especially children and women that are less fortunate and in need. The society's main fund raising event and annual gala coincided with its 25th Anniversary in 2018 which was held in June 2018 in Beijing celebrated by cultural performances including Samoa.

The Spouse of the Samoan Ambassador is President of the CSB Executive that meets regularly to organize the CSB's yearly activities.

2. OTHER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Listed are some of the main functions or events hosted/supported by the Mission in China during the FY2017/2018 period:

1. Dinners/Luncheons for visiting Samoa Government officials: The Ambassador was invited to the Graduating ceremony for the Training Course on Culinary skills for a group of Chefs and café owners (19) from Samoa held in Qingdao on 21 May 2018.
2. Work luncheon for Pacific Island Ambassadors Group (PIAG) during Samoa's chairmanship
3. BBQ function for Samoan graduating students (July 2018)

Other regular meetings/events the Mission attends during the course of the year:

1. Functions hosted by the Chinese Government (National Day/ New Year's/
2. Functions hosted by foreign diplomatic missions (National Day receptions/Bilateral relations commemorations)
3. Functions hosted by Chinese companies/associations (Cultural events/tours)
4. Meetings with Chinese companies/investors
5. Hong Kong IRB Rugby Sevens

3. CONSULAR ACTIVITIES

The Mission deals with consular enquiries from Chinese and other foreigners seeking information on travel to Samoa for tourism purposes as well as requirements for work/study permits and permanent citizenship. The number of enquiries varies from 6-7 per month (on average). This has been minimized by information on visa requirements for Samoa provided on the embassy's

website. The mission however does not offer services such as visas (no visa required for entry into Samoa for up to 90 days stay), voting during national elections, registration of births of Samoan citizens abroad.

The Mission also provides assistance to Samoans living/travelling or studying in China.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The Samoa Embassy in Beijing is also accredited to the Republic of Korea. Over 20 Ambassadors are accredited to Korea from Beijing.

Korea Pacific Foreign Ministers Meeting – Seoul, Korea

The 3rd Korea-Pacific Is Foreign Ministers Meeting was held on 3-6 December 2017 in Seoul Korea, attended by the Prime Minister, the President of Nauru, Foreign Ministers from FSM, PNG, Marshall Is and senior officials from the Forum Island countries. The Ambassador who is accredited to Korea attended including the MFAT CEO and Assistant CEO from Samoa MoF.

The meeting focused mainly on the Korean Peninsula crisis as well as the priorities of the Pacific region reiterated at the September Forum including climate change, oceans governance and effective management of marine resources issues in the region for Korea to align its assistance to particularly through regional programs delivered through regional organizations such as FFA and SPREP.

The meeting also agreed to strengthen efforts to address these issues through support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) which Korea contributes to.

Korean Peninsula

A major breakthrough and historic event took place in Korea on 27 April 2018 with the summit between the Presidents of the two Koreas de escalating tensions and hostilities which had been building up between the two sides and between the US and North Korea prior to the Summit.

A summit in mid-June between US President Trump and North Korean leader Kim in Singapore whilst it did not produce a clear picture and future roadmap for the Korean peninsula especially on de nuclearisation of the North, it helped to lower the threat of war in the region and opened the door for ongoing and future dialogue between the US and North Korea.

Sports

The Ambassador attended the IRB Hong Kong Sevens Tournament in April 2017 at the invitation of the Hong Kong Rugby Union. Again like in the previous year, the Samoa Sevens team performed poorly.

Following a previous meeting in June 2017 between the Ambassador and the Secretary of the *China Rugby Union*, Jack Lau, a delegation from the Samoa Rugby Union led by the Vice Chairman and SRU CEO visited Beijing in early December 2017 and met with the China Rugby to explore future potential cooperation between Samoa and the China Rugby Union including coach/player exchanges and participation in rugby tournaments in Samoa.

SUB-OUTPUT: 3.10 – SAMOA CONSULATE GENERAL - SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

PROFILE:

The Consulate General's Office was opened in October 2012 to provide consular and immigration services to Samoan living in Australia and in particular New South Wales and for those travelling to Samoa. In addition, another part of the role of the Consulate is to assist in the implementation of Samoa's foreign and trade relations with Australia. This is carried out to date, and even more crucial now with the setup of the Vice Consul-Trade portfolio where the need to communicate with Australian officials and counterpart is growing.

1. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL YEAR (FY) HIGHLIGHTS

There is a growth in the number of enquiries about matters in general relating to Samoa. This ranges from questions regarding adoption lawyers in Samoa, to where and how to buy land, and also questions relating to work permits for volunteers.

The Vice Consul Trade began work in October 2017 and was tasked to engage and coordinate trade promotion strategies and facilitate trade related activities in the interests of Samoa in Australia, aligned with the SDS and trade policy priorities of government.

The engagement with the local business community in Australia that support Samoan businesses export their products into Australia as well as non-Samoan entrepreneurs that sell 'made in Samoa' products is on the rise as a result of this new role.

There is an in house database for SWP workers. There is also a data base in house for known shops/outlets that stock Samoan exported goods and food.

2. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FY 2017/2018 FOR THE MISSION

- The Consulate has dealt with a number of enquiries about duration of stay in Samoa as well as relevant ministries to contact in relation to issues such as environment impact assessment for building a home, how to send consignments to families in Samoa and others.
- In the FY under review, the Consulate has assisted with facilitating visa enquiries as well as processing visas for Samoans using relevant Diplomatic and Consulates here in Sydney.
- In October 2017, the Vice Consul Trade post began within the Consulate looking at trade related work, specifically helping facilitate investment opportunities, markets for exports as well as increased trade from Samoa to Australia, and vice versa.
- The Consulate has assisted with Samoan exporters with issues about consignments at the Australian border, assisted with directing Samoans that visit the Consulate to locations to buy Samoan exported products, as well as start an in house database on where shops are located, and the Samoan merchandise they have.
- While government through MCIL is looking at the recruitment of a liaison officer for the Seasonal Workers Program (SWP) in Australia, the trade post has been updated to look out for these workers, and help with issues they face with employers, pastoral care and

others. In the reporting period, three (3) such cases were handled by the Consulate with the engagement of the High Commissioners office in Canberra.

- The Consulate has re-established and strengthened ties with regional organizations working with Pacific Trade & Invest Australia (PTI) to ensure there is collaboration of efforts aimed to improve Samoa's private sector.
- To that effect, a joint mission travelled to Samoa in June 2018 to look at the scope of assistance that could be targeted for Samoan exporters, as well as businesses looking at impact investment from Australian buyers and investors. Through MFAT, efforts were coordinated with private sector agencies such as Samoa Chamber, Samoa Association of Manufacturers and Exporters, Small Business Enterprises Centre and Women in Business to streamline relevant businesses for the mission to visit, including development partners and government Ministries. The mission is planned for October 2018.

3. PLANNED COMMITMENTS NOT ACHIEVED DURING THE FY

In April 2018 Cabinet approved the purchase of a second office vehicle to assist with the work of the Consulate namely the visits and work program for Trade. This was not achieved by the end of the FY under review.

The active promotion of export ready businesses and finding them markets and buyers is hard to do when there are little to no resources available. Visits to the Western parts of Sydney, NSW and other states to scope 'made in Samoa' products, talk about feedback and demand patterns is difficult to carry out without a vehicle.

4. LINKAGES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO THE SECTOR PLAN/ SDS

The overall vision of the SDS from past years to now has been "An improved quality of life for all" through government's commitment to a more solid economic growth as well as employment opportunities and further development for Samoa. Accelerating Sustainable Development and broadening opportunities for all is the 2016--2020 SDS theme, with the same objective, of an improved quality of life for Samoans.

The work that the Consulate has done, and through the trade post will continue to be done; be it through facilitating a delayed container of matured coconuts stuck at the Sydney border, or finding an Australian buyer in Brisbane for elei shirts and ie faitaga's from Eveni. All these small steps will add to achieving that overall goal because the increase in demand from Australia for Samoan coconuts and eleis means those exporters will have to increase their supplies from farms around Samoa that supply them, and will generate employment.

The trade policy statements have articulated product diversification, improved exports as well as value addition to be key areas for intervention in trade related work. The facilitation role the Consulate has begun to play and will build eventually will help to start that much needed bridge at least in Australia. The value addition can be helped through the Consulates engagement and work with agencies like PTI Australia to get Samoan businesses to attend expos of the likes of Fine Foods Fair and other premium events and expose them to seeing other options available to consider.

Through working with agencies such as Samoa Chamber and SAME, the Consulate hopes to continue to provide feedback of Samoa's products on the shelves in Australia to help exporters and manufacturers perfect their processes and better meet issues such as product and market requirements. There have already been enquiries on labeling requirements for products into Australia such as jams and preservatives, including siamu popo which have been provided by the Consulate to exporters in Samoa.

5. OTHER EVENTS AND OFFICIAL COMMITMENTS ACHIEVED

- 5.1** *Visits to Australian buyers* – visits to Cabramatta, Liverpool, Campbelltown and parts of Parramatta to visit stores that sell Samoan products exported from Samoa. The same visit has also been done in parts of Canberra while there for DFAT work and the Logan area (Brisbane) while attending a DFAT step-up program talk.

A report was formulated to capture feedback from store owners, as well as given feedback based on the look and feel of products in general was sent to Chamber and SAME.

- 5.2** *Welcome luncheon for Scholarship students* – Samoan students who are on scholarship in Sydney (NSW) were invited by the Consul General to a small reception held at the office followed by a light lunch. The event was organized to allow the students to be familiar with the Consulate should help be needed during their time away from home.
- 5.3** *Networking Event with businesses* – the Samoan business community in Sydney (NSW) was invited to a networking event while Minister Lautafi was in Australia for a trip to Canberra. This allowed for both introductions to the Samoans that have businesses here, but also those that buy 'made in Samoa' products and sell them in their businesses in Australia.
- 5.4** *Samoa Airways Samoan Community network* – this was organized based on a request from Samoa Airways to assist with logistics for their Sydney launch late 2017. This was a result of collaboration between the Consulate and High Commissions office in Canberra inviting the Samoan community, working on the program, catering and coordinating the movements of the Minister and business delegation from the corporate launch in the Sydney CBD to Liverpool and to the hotel.
- 5.5** *Visits to SWP Farms* – Two farms in NSW that employ Samoan seasonal workers were visited as well as a farm in Mildura Melbourne. With funding assistance from DFAT, the Consulate was able to visit and introduce the workers to the Samoan offices in Australia and provide them with contact details should there be a

need. On these visits, the Consulate provided the workers with some groceries to help with their food.

6. **CONSULAR ACTIVITIES (if necessary)**

6.1 *Budget Performance Verses Key Performance Indicators*

Performance Measure/Indicator	Baseline (Base Year)	Budget Standard or Target	Result
Number of Official Diplomatic Functions attended	20-25	30-50	Completed/Achieved
Number of Speaking Engagements with Samoan Communities	20-25	40-60	Completed/Achieved
Number of visits facilitated for Samoa Government dignitaries	100	30-50	Not achieved
Number of Passports processed	100	20-30	Completed/Achieved
Number of Birth Certificates/Police Reports obtained from Samoa	100-150	20-30	Completed/Achieved
Number of passport waivers issued	100-150	10-30	Completed/Achieved
Number of trade/tourism enquiries(including RSE project)	70-80	30-50	Completed/Achieved
Number of enquiries processed on behalf of other government ministries	50-60	50-60	Not achieved
Number of Foreign Passport Endorsement of Exemption processed	300-500	300-500	Completed/Achieved

The Consulate achieved most of its key performance indicators. There are two KPIs not achieved but need reconsideration.

The number of visits facilitated for dignitaries needs to be amended in line with the Australian DFAT policy for facilitation accorded to only the Head of State and Head of Government (PM).

In terms of enquiries on behalf of other government ministries, that is being dealt with on a case by case basis. Occasionally we will get enquiries about issues from other ministries, or persons wanting help with visa facilitation.

6.2 Asset Management / Registration – the Consulate acquired new assets of the value of A\$7,556.00. This was mainly for furnishing the Vice Consul Trade apartment and office equipment per FK (17)14.

7. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

7.1 Personnel and Gender Distribution

The Consulate had six personnel by the end of FY 30th June 2018. These are the Consul General, Vice Consul Trade, Vice Consul Tourism, Accounts and Administration Officer, Receptionist/Driver and Part Time Accounts for Samoa Tourism Authority.

There are 4 males and 2 females in the office.

7.2 Staff Trainings and Developments

7.2.1 Internal staff trainings – This includes and is not limited to familiarizing staff to TPNs and their purpose as well as writing one.

Starting and encouraging the use of a filing system for the Consulate is another development in-house for the staff.

8. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

8.1 Achievement of Key Performance Targets for the FY

	ACTUALS	BUDGET	SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)
	FY2017/2018	FY2017/2018	FY2017/2018
	\$AUD	\$AUD	\$AUD
TOTAL	\$ 389,456	\$ 330,368	-\$59,088

The Consulate achieved most of its key performance indicators as mentioned above, and experienced a deficit balance of A\$59,088.00 for the FY ended 30 June 2018.

Nearly all line items exceeded budgeted amounts. The major variance was from **Rent** (A\$30,770) as not only did the office rent increase in the period of review, rent for VC Trade was added as there was no provision.

9. CHALLENGES DURING THE PERIOD

- The distance is a real issue for being able to get to and around the areas of Sydney and NSW that sell Samoan products. Because there is one office vehicle, this is a problem beyond our control. We have also identified that most of these areas where shops are that sell Samoan exports are not easily accessible by public transport.
- Budget restricts the activities under the work program. There is no budget allocation to allow to visit other states of Australia to determine the needs and demand of the Samoans (and people in general) of Samoan products.
- This is also the same restriction that prohibits visits to the farms which have Samoan seasonal workers working on them. The visits to the three (3) farms out of some 6 or so have been made possible by DFAT funds that all other Forum countries compete for.
- Budget implications also are an issue for when the Consulate is asked to step in to deal with a matter that otherwise time and finances may prohibit MCIL to intervene. The past issues we have dealt with regarding seasonal workers, our local budget has taken a hit because we have not put into effect a system of getting these costs covered by MCIL, or reimbursed.
- Communication is still an issue from our side of work. A huge issue for us in terms of communication is that often we are overlooked in discussions that have to do with biosecurity or border issues here in Australia, and often are asked to assist only when there is a problem with a consignment etc. An illustration would be the chasing up of the progress of testing to allow Samoan fresh taro to again enter Australia which is being done between SROS, MAF and ACIAR (Australian research institute). The exporters enquire to the office about the progress of these tests and negotiation and we have no knowledge of it.
- The onus of the information shared from the Consulate is on Samoa's private sector. Whether they choose to use the information sent from the office is their decision. So far, agencies such as SAME and Chamber have been slow to respond to issues and concerns raised from the Consulate pertaining to information on some products sold here in Australia, including not responding very much on feedback sent to them regarding how their members' products are doing on the shelf in Australia. The same response has been consistent when dealing with them about updating the stock in the SAME display cabinets in the reception area of the Consulate.
- **EFTPOS Machine** – This matter has been raised several times. The update cost to a customer when lodging an application is almost A\$15.00 which includes getting a money order from the Post Office, the car park fee and that does not include the waiting and travel time of the person to process all this. The issue of EFTPOS was discussed in detail with MOF/MFAT whilst here last time. MOF welcomed the idea as it entails immediate record

of transaction. It requires no daily banking as all deposits goes straight into account once entered during transaction.

- There are also quite a number of people that enquire to the Consulate for new passports. In the reporting period, 22 applications were processed for new passports through the Consulate, that does not account for those that opted to apply in Samoa through families because of the extended lead times to apply for it in Sydney.

OUTPUT 4: BILATERAL RELATIONS DIVISION
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE SCHOLARSHIPS, TRAINING AND BILATERAL
DIVISION(STBD))

PROFILE:

- To manage and coordinate the conduct of Samoa's bilateral relations and policy dialogues with key bilateral and development partners including resident missions on development and technical cooperation programmes to enhance national economic and social development efforts
- To administer and manage long and short term study and training opportunities in an impartial and transparent manner

1. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL YEAR (FY) 2017/2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- Bilateral Policy dialogue forums on development assistance and technical cooperation programmes in line with Samoa's SDS and national development objectives
- Signing of Exchange of notes / Exchange of Letters and MOUs for bilateral Agreements between GOS and key development partners for nationally implemented projects funded by Japan, China, NZ, Australia, India and other bilateral partners
 - Signing of Economic & Technical Cooperation agreements between Samoa and China on grant aid and development assistance programmes to support national development projects in the area of sports, agriculture, education, health and infrastructure.
 - Signing of Economic & Social Development Assistance between Samoa and Japan on grant aid for development assistance programs to support national development projects in the area of education, health and infrastructure.
- Promoting People to People Links and Exchange Programs
- Administration and management of Long Term Scholarship Awards and short term training/ seminars /workshops
- High Level / Ministerial visits & Meetings

2. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FY 2017- 2018

2.1 Bilateral Policy Dialogues on Development Cooperation assistance programmes

- Bilateral policy dialogues with Australia and New Zealand on key areas of development and reaffirm commitment by development partners to Samoa's SDS and HRD priority needs.

Australia- Samoa Aid Partnership Arrangement 2016-2019

- Australia- Samoa Security Talks Feb 2017
 - Samoa-Australia Senior Officials Talks 30 Oct 2017
 - Step up arrangement and mutual cooperation between Australia and Samoa
 - Clearer position on priorities
 - Samoa – NZ High Level Talks (02 Nov 2017)
- Facilitate Exchange of Notes / Letters, Agreements & MOUs for bilateral agreements between GOS and bilateral partners for national projects/ technical cooperation programmes funded by Japan, China, India and other development partners.

China

- Exchange of Notes / Letters for the Technical Cooperation Project for the Aquatic Centre and Apia Park Sports Complex. 22 May 2017
- Vaiusu Port Project Feasibility study 03 Nov 2017 RMB 250,000,000.00
 - Pre-feasibility study has been completed for the new proposed wharf at Vaiusu to include costs associated with this new infrastructural development. Feedback on findings of prefeasibility study have been provided with a request for a full feasibility study.
- Framework Agreement for the Arts & Culture centre & Friendship Park Signed 20 July 2018 by the Hon PM & Ambassador Wang Zuefeng
- Agreement between GOS & GPRC for the Chinese Medical team to work in Samoa. signed by MOH Minister on 18 May 2018
 - Conditions have been revised for the Chinese medical teams which involves, not just a clinical role, but also a focus on exchange of experiences through medical practice training and capacity building., The 6 member specialized Chinese Medical Team arrived 01 July for period of 6 months with rotation with another 6 doctors thereafter etc. Areas of specialization of the first batch of doctors are in the fields of neurosurgery, urology, cardiology, ophthalmology, orthopedic, endocrinology & metabolism.
- Minutes of Discussion for the PG 2019. Signed by CEO MFAT on 08th June 2018
- Minutes of Discussion for the 3 x Primary schools (Lepea, St Therese & Apia Primary)
Signed by MFAT CEO on 12 June 2018.
 - Chinese Technical Feasibility teams have visited and have agreed to the plans for the three Schools. Currently awaiting approval by the International Development Cooperation Agency (IDCA) before construction commences before end 2018
- Implementation Agreement for the Police Academy Signed by MFAT CEO on 26 June 2018.

- Design specifications to be agreed upon, with construction to commence as soon as the Tafaigata prison relocates to its new premises at Tanumalala. Tafaigata should be cleared and ready for construction in May 2019.
- EoN for Reconstruction of PG 2019 sports facilities. Signed by the Hon PM on 30th July 2018
 - Rehabilitation and upgrade of the Sports facilities for the Pacific Games hosted by Samoa in 2019. Work has commenced with completion of feasibility study. Works include renovations to the stadium, the tennis courts in Apia Park, Aquatic Center, construct a new multipurpose gym at Tuanaimato (netball, badminton, table tennis etc), rehabilitation and maintenance of current sports facilities (swimming pool and Apia park) . Also included under its assistance towards the Pacific games is donation of sports equipment, transportation, fireworks and training of coaches including the provision of technical support and maintenance of operation of the facilities and equipment at the Apia Park sports complex and aquatic centre
- 4th Term (Phase 4) of Agriculture Cooperation (MAF)
 - Project first started in 2009 as an agricultural training and demonstration project (and construction of greenhouses) and expected to be completed by March 2020. Phase 4 is for three years.

JAPAN

- EoN: Economic & Social Development Assistance (2.8 million USD\$). Signed by PM on 09th Feb 2018
 - for Heavy Duty Printery equipment for MESC for curriculum materials, exam papers, teaching and learning materials etc
- NV on JICA technical training. Signed by the Hon Pm on 24 July 2018.
- Facilitate Paperwork for signing of Exchange of Notes between Government of Japan and the Government of Samoa to revise /update the EON of Sept 3rd 1971 concerning the dispatch of volunteers under the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Programme
 - To date, approximately 670 volunteers to Samoa have actively contributed to the economic and social development in more than 85 fields and at more than 100 receiving agencies.
 - Currently, 26 volunteers are in Samoa and engaged in: Primary education (10), Science education (2), Disability assistance (2), Physical education (2), Computer instruction (1), Swimming (1), Judo (1), Physiotherapy (1), Nutrition instruction (1), Public health (1), Electric engineering (1), Japanese-language (1), Curation (1) and Veterinary medicine (1).
- High level /Ministerial visits and Meetings
 - Consultations are continuously held with visiting high level dignitaries from development partners Samoa has bilateral relations with. The objective of such visits revolve around strengthening the bilateral ties and enhancing cooperation. Discussions revolve around the current status of the partners' development aid

program to Samoa with a focus on priority initiatives including person to person exchanges for capacity building and other key initiatives that contribute to meeting Samoa's development objectives & aspirations.

- 48th PIF Meeting and Forum Leaders Meeting 4-7th Sept 2017
 - Pacific mission 2018 led by the Right Honourable Jacinda Ardern Prime Minister of New Zealand & the Right Honourable Winston Peters, DPM NZ, 4-9 March 2018
 - Visit by the Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Australia, 21-23 May 2018. The purpose of the visit was to further develop closer bilateral relations and explore ways to enhance the engagement with Samoa
 - Representatives from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), visited in March 2018 to discuss with NUS implementation of the Centre for Excellence in IT project including set up of the IT infrastructure and the way forward. CEIT – housed at NUS should become operational before the end of 2018.
 - Visit by Ambassador Lutfi and delegation from Indonesia from 25th to 27th March 2018 to discuss bilateral related matters including meetings with the Minister of MCIT and the CEO of Samoa Tourism Authority to discuss several capacity building programs for ecotourism and ICT related matters
 - Included handover ceremony of the two ambulances for MOH
- 10th Conference of the Pacific Community and 70^h Anniversary Celebrations since the establishment of SPC
- Facilitate People to People Links, exchange programmes and Capacity Building through Short term training

Student and teacher exchange programmes

- Japan - Sakura Science and technology Student /Teacher exchanges
- 2018 is the third year the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) has invited Samoan students to participate in the Sakura Exchange Program in Science Technology. Five college students from Tuasivi, Palauli I Sisifo, Lepa/Lotofaga, Pesega & Leifiifi and a Supervisor from MESC were able to attend the programme from the 1st – 7th July 2018. Other schools who took part in the 1st Sakura programme in 2016 included St Marys, Robert Louis Stevenson, Leulumoega, Itu o Tane & LDS. For 2017 students were selected from Avele, LDS, St Josephs, Samoa College & Faatuatua.
- Japan High School Students Summit on World Tsunami Awareness Day (Annual) Student / teacher exchange
- 2018 is the 3rd year this exchange programme is offered. The Tsunami Summit was established to create awareness on tsunami with focus on

students who will become active future leaders in creating prevention and reliance measures against tsunamis and other natural disasters.

- 2016 Summit: 5 students from Aleipata College (& 1 Supervisor) represented Samoa as Youth Ambassadors
- 2017: 5 students from Leulumoega College & 1 x teacher. Leulumoega College is the first Secondary School to have adopted its own Disaster Management Plan.
- 2018: 5 students and 1 teacher from St Marys College

➤ **China**

- Student/Teacher exchange under the Sister School MOU between Huizhou Hualuogeng Secondary School and Samoa College

➤ **Indonesia**

- December 2017 – visit by the Ambassador Indonesia to meet High level dignitaries and partly to host an “Indonesia Culinary Festival” at Sheraton Samoa Aggie Grey’s Hotel & Bungalows from the 18th to 19th December 2017. Main objective of the visit was to showcase Indonesian cultural performances and Indonesian culinary promote their culture, cuisine and network with the Samoan Government and Private sector.
- Indonesia has granted visa exemption for Samoan citizens for max of 30 days
- Indonesian Arts & Culture Scholarships (IACS)

Volunteer Schemes

- Administer technical cooperation assistance needs and volunteer personnel programmes in close collaboration with PSC and MOF namely:
 - Australia Volunteer International Development(AVID)
 - Australia Youth Ambassadors Programme
 - New Zealand Volunteer Services Abroad
 - Chinese Volunteers
 - JOCV & Japanese Senior Volunteers and Expert scheme
 - Peace Corps
 - UN volunteers
- Visits by technical and feasibility study missions for implementation of Development assistance/ Technical Cooperation programmes and for consultations with stakeholders
 - Sister relationship between TTM Hospital and Main Hospital in Guangdong including arrangements for Resident doctors
 - Guangdong Reps – Vice Chair, Guangdong People’s Congress & medical team
 - Guangdong Friendship Delegation (and Guangdong Medical Delegation (July 2017))

- Vice Chair & official delegation, Standing Committee of Guangdong People's Congress (July 2017)
- Huizhou, Guangdong visits for deliberations on the design and concept plan for the Arts & Culture center and Friendship park
- Chinese Technical Team - Feasibility Study for 1) Samoa Sports Facilities Project & 2) Three Primary Schools May 2018
- Chairman Board of Supervisors, Bank of China & 9-member delegation (08-10TH May 2017)
- Chinese CCC-FHDI Prefeasibility Study – for Vaiusu Port project
- Chinese Technical mission/admin officials for numerous Chinese feasibility studies
- Foreign Affairs Committee of China, National People's Congress – Samoa Parliament

Other Achievements

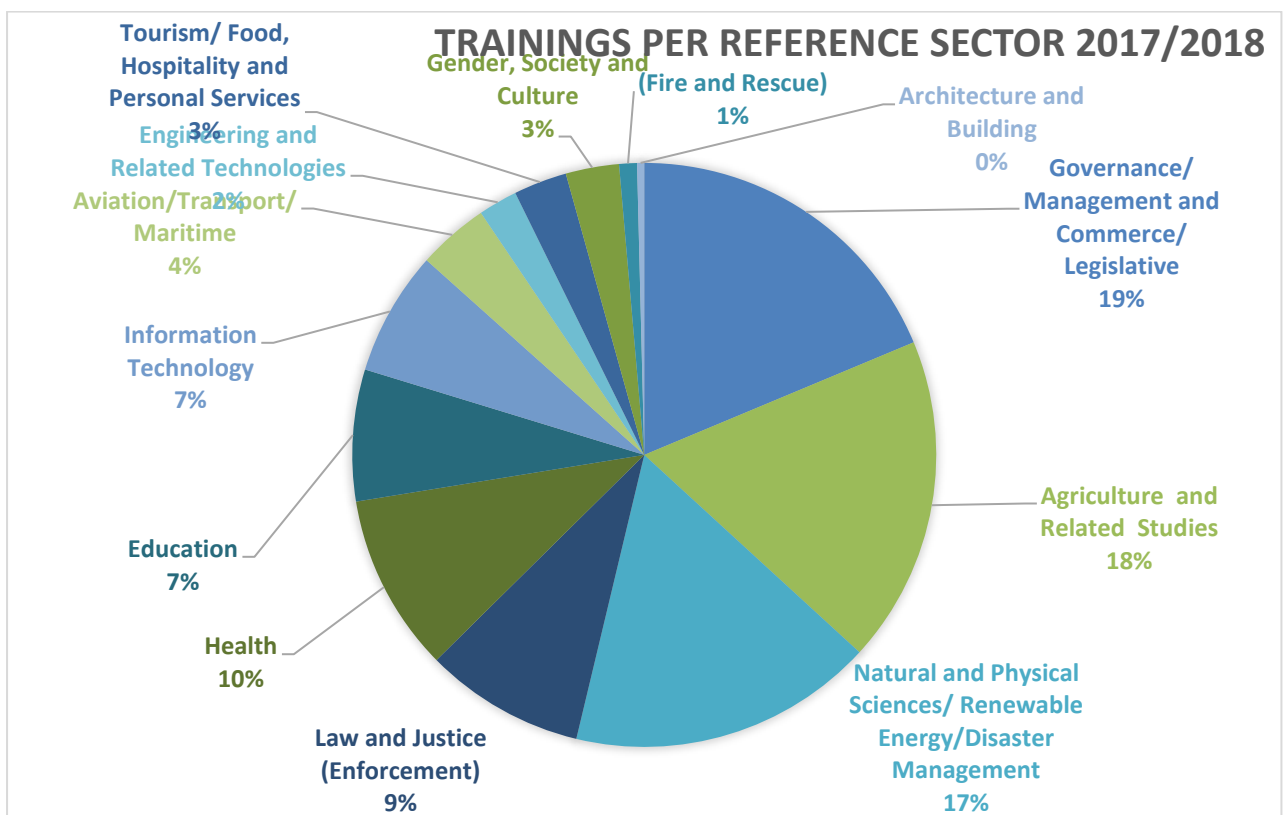
- Timely Government mission clearance of technical and advisory consultative teams, including implementation support missions for national and regionally implemented projects, incoming project personnel / diplomatic missions and duty concession arrangements for project equipment and personnel - UNDP, FAO, WHO, UNICEF, SPC, FFA, SPREP, UNESCO, China, Japan, NZ, Australia etc
- Meet with specific Missions/Envoys to discuss relevant avenues for development in terms of both short term and long term capacity building opportunities as well as other areas of development priorities including promoting new academic programmes and addressing measures to enhance student academic success.
- Facilitate government financial contributions/ membership obligations through line ministries for regional and international organisations
- Provision of Ministerial Briefs on policy issues as required, bilateral development assistance scholarships and trainings.
- Preparation of national statements/speeches for National Days and special events.

3. SCHOLARSHIPS & TRAINING

- Provision of quality advisory and secretariat support to the Scholarship Committee, a Sub-Committee of Cabinet that resolves on scholarship matters and sets policies for the administration of long and short term training scholarship opportunities.
- Successful administration and completion of all scholarship related documentation for timely placements, bond arrangements and final departure of scholarship awardees tenable for studies at overseas institutions under the different scholarship schemes

funded through the various development partners (Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, Regional USP & FNU, WHO, Commonwealth)

- Successful Science Teachers Accelerated Programme (STAP) An effective study programme to promote quality of teachers in the Science discipline by providing opportunity to undertake Bachelor OF Science (teaching) degrees at USP Alafua through online and face to face mode of study.
- Management and administration of short term capacity building training programmes offered on an annual basis through development partners namely China, Japan, Singapore, Philippine, India, Indonesia, Australia, Malaysia, Thailand, Korea and New Zealand.
- Manage a variety of training opportunities provided by regional and CROP agencies, intergovernmental organizations eg/ WHO, FFA, SPC, WMO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCAP, IMIDHR, UNDP, SPREP, FAO, PIFS,
- Close to 100% of training programs fully utilized and available to those in the public, private, civil society and NGOs to enhance their capabilities and skill sets to improve performance in the work place and contribute to national development efforts.
- Up to 380 participants capitalizing on short term training programmes in a range of key sectors ICT, agriculture, health, education, fisheries, tourism 7 hospitality, water sanitation and border control, food security, small business enterprises, financial management, renewable energy, climate and disaster resilience, animal & livestock, gender mainstreaming etc.



4. PLANNED COMMITMENTS NOT ACHIEVED DURING THE FY

- Staffing numbers to match the magnitude and extent of responsibilities in line with the Divisions mandate and targeted outcomes
- PSC National Workforce Plan – still outstanding
- Transfer of scholarships & trainings functions to PSC (gradual process)

5. LINKAGES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO THE SECTOR PLAN/ SDS

- The SDS is a national strategy plan which identifies Governments national priority outcomes and strategically guides Government’s direction to achieve national development goals and aspirations to ensure that
 - ✓ there continues to be improved quality of life for all Samoans
 - ✓ there is Accelerated sustainable development and broader opportunities for allBilateral development assistance programmes are closely aligned to SDS strategic objectives and sectoral programming which provide a clear definition of the context upon which we need to operate and set priorities. Effective engagement at all levels with development partners and Government Ministries/ agencies is necessary to enhance mutual understanding and greater development cooperation and coordination for sustainable impact, prioritization and resource allocation decisions whilst contributing to sound economic, social and environmental growth.

To be able to effectively contribute to national development efforts to enhance social, economic and environment growth, an upskilling of skills sets, technical knowhow and qualifications is necessary through provision of scholarship and relevant training opportunities.

Achievements through effective bilateral policy dialogues with development partners and resident missions essentially link to and cut across all dimensions of the 4 priority areas outlined in the SDS – economic, social, infrastructure and environment. The SDS while primarily oriented towards achieving national priorities, captures the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) global targets which therefore provides an important link allowing key partners to commit resources to progress the SDS strategic outcomes.

OTHER EVENTS AND OFFICIAL COMMITMENTS ACHIEVED

- Scholarship Pre departure Briefings for all Scholarship awardees (and parents) prior to departure of students to take up studies abroad (New Zealand, Australia and the region, plus China)
- End of year Scholarship Reception hosted by the Hon. Prime Minister /Chair STSC committee for all NUS Foundation Scholars & Open category awardees and parents
- Operational and Strategic level meetings on Scholarship Harmonization Arrangements with NZ & Australia

- Active participation in Sectoral and Project Review meetings

6. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Personnel and Gender Distribution

- At present the Division operates with 6 professional staff plus 1 x ACEO
 - 2 x Principal Foreign Service Officers (2 x Females)
 - 2 x Senior Foreign Service Officers (1 x F and 1 x M)
 - 1 x Foreign Service Officer (1 x M)
- Currently in the process of advertisement of 1 x FSO
- Current restructure approved by Cabinet allows for 3 Principal level staff and 3 Seniors so the Division is still short of staff.

6.1 Staff Trainings and Developments

- Close staff monitoring and evaluation of performances (Complete Staff PAS)
- Mentoring of staff
- Frequent Division meetings
- Staff rotated with responsibilities/roles to get a general feel and appreciation of different aspects of the work.
- Short term Training - both locally and overseas when the opportunity arises.
- Capacity building and opportunity to network when the opportunity arises through exposure at international/regional fora

7. CHALLENGES DURING THE PERIOD

- Staffing issues – shortage of staff / staff required to work long hours given the Magnitude of scholarship administration work.
- New scholarship related policies imposed by Development partners (online system for open category, study link)
- Ensuring that projects are nationally derived and driven by national priority needs and not pre-determined nor dictated by donor partners
- Transfer of scholarship functions to PSC under the PSC functional analysis

OUTPUT 5: TRADE DIVISION

PROFILE:

The Division is responsible for the provision of high standard policy advice on trade development to the Minister and Government and to effectively manage, coordinate and facilitate trade policy issues and trade promotion strategies, and ensure Samoa's active participation in regional and international trade arrangements.

1. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FY 2017/2018

International / Multilateral Trade

The World Bank Group (WBG) undertook a mission to Samoa in November 2017 as part of their World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) implementation support program. The WBG conducted two workshops (i) National Single Window; and (ii) Development of a Harmonised Publication Procedure for Border Agencies. Samoa submitted to the WTO on 29th June 2018 its notification confirming Categories B and C designations under the TFA; indicative implementation dates thereof and Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Needs required to implement Category C designations. The notification was later amended to include definitive implementation dates of Category B designations and was finally circulated by the WTO to Members via communication of 28th August 2018.

The Hon Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell led Samoa's delegation to the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 10th to the 13th December 2017. Although Ministers did not arrive at a Ministerial Declaration, four Ministerial Decisions were made relating to Fisheries Subsidies; Electronic Commerce; Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (non-violation and situation complaints); and the work programme on Small Economies. Hon Lautafi spoke at the plenary including on behalf of the Pacific Islands Group emphasizing the significance of the Blue Pacific narrative and urged the WTO to support the overarching recognition of development needs particular to Small Island Developing States. Samoa also endorsed, with 117 other WTO Members, the Buenos Aires Declaration on Women and Trade which outlines actions to empower women in trade. endorsed

Samoa received the official communication from the WTO Secretariat in February 2018 informing of Samoa's first Trade Policy Review (TPR) scheduled to take place in April 2019. The objective of the review mechanism is to facilitate the smooth functioning of the multilateral trading system by enhancing the transparency of Members' trade policies. The review will consider two reports – one compiled by the WTO TPR team (WTO Secretariat) and the other compiled by the Government of Samoa. In January 2018, a WTO questionnaire was circulated to relevant government bodies seeking information required by the WTO Secretariat for their report. The first WTO Secretariat mission to Samoa took place in April 2018 and included a half-day workshop on the TPR process organized by the Ministry; followed by individual consultations between the WTO TPR team and various Ministries/Agencies to gather information required by the Secretariat.

In October 2017, Samoa engaged in a bilateral meeting with the EU in Brussels on the Interim Economic Partnership Agreement (IEPA) accession; and participated as an observer in the IEPA Trade Committee Meeting. Samoa submitted its draft Market Access Offer (MAO) to the EU in June 2017 for consideration. In February 2018 Samoa formally submitted the request to accede to the IEPA to the EU Council, Papua New Guinea and Fiji. Following discussions on the MAO, the European Commission formally conveyed acceptance of the MAO in April 2018. Samoa offered to liberalise 82.5% of total tariff lines or 80% of total trade value with the EU. Samoa secured support for the IEPA accession under the ACP TradeCom II Programme. A - Z

Information Jamaica Limited was selected to provide this support for Samoa from 5 February to 22 May 2018 and also enabled a joint Private Sector trade mission to the EU with businesses from the Solomon Islands. The Fuatino Coconut Oil and the Women in Business Development Inc were selected from Samoa who are also current exporters to the EU. The mission visited a number of trade fairs in Europe including a training on requirements and compliance to export cosmetic products to the EU. The project also undertook a (i) legislative and policy review; (ii) fiscal and economic analysis; and (iii) private sector engagement analysis for Samoa.

The Ministry represented Samoa at the Commonwealth Trade Officials Meeting in London at the end of June 2018 which concluded that Members will move towards implementing the Declaration on the Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda for Trade and Investment as adopted by the Commonwealth Heads of Governments at their meeting in April 2018 to achieve the target of US\$2 trillion intra-commonwealth trade by 2030.

Regional Trade:

The Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting (PLMAM) was established under the PACER Plus Labour Mobility Arrangement. Samoa was represented at the PLMAM in November 2017 in Brisbane by the Ministry and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour. The PLMAM aims to provide a regular forum to discuss regional labour mobility priorities and it is expected to advance cooperation in labour mobility opportunities for Forum Island Countries (FICs).

As part of the activities under the PACER Plus Readiness support, the New Zealand law firm Chapman Tripp conducted legislative reviews for PACER Plus signatories including Samoa. Two missions to Samoa by the consultants were undertaken in January and April 2018. Upon request, Samoa received AUD\$40,000 in April 2018 to help raise awareness of national stakeholders on PACER Plus. The Ministry will organise awareness programs on PACER Plus.

PACP Leaders endorsed in August 2017 the review of the PICTA ROO to be undertaken.

In April 2018, the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) conducted a 2 weeks' mission in Samoa to assist Samoa customs with the work on updating from HS2012 to HS2017.

Bilateral Trade:

The 10th Two-Samoa Executive Talks was convened in Apia from 29th – 30th November 2017. Discussions included American Samoa's taro import restrictions; Samoa's proposal of a 3-free day business travel permit, (removal of) American Samoa's inspection fees; the late clearance of the MV Lady Naomi.

The Ministry was also actively engaged with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) in the case concerning import restrictions of taro imposed by American Samoa on Samoa by providing support through policy advice; and liaising with the US Embassy in Apia as well as the American Samoa Office of the Governor on the matter.

Trade Promotion:

The Ministry hosted the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Supervision Mission for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Projects in October 2017. This was followed by an EIF Supervision Mission in January to oversee closure of Tier 1 projects and implementation of Tier 2 projects (WIBDI, SCCI, STEC, SBS and SROS). The latter mission also saw the handing over of Trust Fund Manager duties to a new manager, Ms Sun Ae Kim, who will now oversee remaining support under the programme for Samoa.

The Ministry was a Committee Member of the revived National Export Awards jointly organised by the Samoa Association of Manufacturers and Exporters (SAME) and MCIL (Secretariat) held in June 2018. The Ministry was also part of the Evaluation Committee (which assessed information of all applications received) including judging two of the seven awards categories.

The EU-funded Coconut Industry Development Project (CIDP) approved applications for support for three Samoan coconut value-added producers (Serendi Coco; WIBDI; Mailelani Samoa Bodycare) in August 2017. The support includes procurement of machinery/equipment and technical services to improve production and marketing.

In January 2018, Samoa accepted an invitation to participate in the First China Import Expo to be held in Shanghai China on the 5th – 10th November 2018. The Ministry, in collaboration with the Embassy of Samoa to China, facilitated the participation of the Government in the Expo by liaising with local participants as well as with the Ministry of Commerce of China. The Samoa Chamber of Commerce was nominated by the Ministry to facilitate private sector participation at the Expo.

The Ministry supported the hosting of the Second New Zealand Samoa Trade & Investment Commission (NZSTIC) Mission to Apia, Samoa on the 5th June 2018 through funding (under the EIF) of the venue and refreshments.

2. PLANNED COMMITMENTS NOT ACHIEVED DURING THE FY

- More awareness activities for PACER Plus
- A complete update of trade information on the Ministry's website; and assessment of the relevance of the Ministry's quarterly Bulletin as part of the Ministry's communications

3. LINKAGES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO THE SECTOR PLAN/ SDS

The Ministry's contribution to trade policy development and promotion directly relates to the SDS Key Outcomes 2, 3 & 5 and as integrated in Pillar Objectives of the Trade, Commerce and Manufacturing Sector Plan 17/18 – 20/21:

- (i) Improve industrial supply and productivity;
- (ii) Increase processing activities and value-addition; and
- (iii) Enhance market access and visibility of goods and services.

Samoa's accession to the IEPA, signatory of the PACER Plus and continued consideration of participation in other international trade arrangements; facilitation of business missions to Samoa and private sector participation in international expos; and provision of trade related policy advice are in line with the strategic priorities of government.

CORPORATE SERVICES & OVERSEAS MISSIONS DIVISION (CSOMD)

PROFILE:

The Corporate Services & Overseas Missions Division (CSOMD) is responsible for ensuring that the proper support and services are provided to the professional staff of the Ministry including those at our overseas missions in a timely and efficient manner. The support services provided by the CSOMD in all aspects of its work towards the fulfillment of the mandated functions of the Ministry are very important. The following are the CSOMD's main areas of responsibilities within the Ministry which the division had effectively managed and closely monitored during the FY17/18 review:

- i. Accounts and Administration support services;
- ii. Support services to Samoa's nine (9) overseas diplomatic missions/consular posts and the office of the Student Counselor in Suva, Fiji;
- iii. Human Resource and Staff Professional Development;
- iv. Information Technology Services;
- v. Transport Services;
- vi. Secretarial/Front office services
- vii. Records Management

1. FY2017/18 ACHIEVEMENTS

The following are the Ministry's other achievements in the support services areas for the FY2017/18:

i) *Monitoring Visit to Offices in Brussels, Wellington and Auckland 13 – 29 October 2017*

The ACEO – Corporate Services & Overseas Missions Division, Palepa Amosa and a senior officer in the Overseas Missions Unit Temukisa Eapeisi undertook a monitoring visit to our offices in Brussels, Wellington and Auckland during the above period. The purpose of these monitoring visits is to check the operations of the missions to ensure compliance to current Government policies and processes as well as those outlined in the "Guideline on the Terms and Conditions for Diplomatic Staff in the Samoan Foreign Service 2014" and the "Accounting Manual for Overseas Missions 2014". The visits are also a way for the staff in the Overseas Missions unit to get familiarised with the current operations of the missions in line with local regulations and policies of the countries of

posts. These visits are important part of the Ministry's monitoring role to ensure our compliance as the sending state as per the requirements of the Vienna Convention.

ii) *Infrastructural Projects – Overseas Missions*

The work on the new Samoa High Commission Chancery project in Wellington commenced in late 2017 and the preliminary works commenced in January 2018 with the approval by the Tenders Board to award the contract for supervision services to the CCM Architects as Project Manager and Architect, Aurecon NZ Ltd as Structural & Services Engineers and Rider Levette Bucknall as Quantity Surveyor and Cost Management. The Tenders Board also approved the sum of NZ\$180,000 to carry out the geotechnical survey for the land on which the New High Commission Chancery will be built on. The next phase of the project will be determined once the results of the geotechnical survey is known. The project is expected to be completed in October 2020 if everything goes as planned.

iii) *Changeover of posted staff at our offices in Japan and Canberra & Sydney*

Three (3) Principal Foreign Service Officers (FSO) were selected to take overseas postings for the next four (4) years during the 2017/18 FY. The Principal FSO, Justin Lima from the Trade Division was selected to replace Rapture Pagaialii who had since completed his term as Counselor at the Embassy of Samoa in Tokyo, Japan. Principal FSO Henry Tunupopo was appointed to be the new Vice Consul General – Trade at the Samoa Consulate General's office in Sydney. This is a new position. Ms Rona Meleisea-Chewlitt, Principal FSO in the Political, International Relations & Protocol Services Division was appointed to replace Fata Brian Kaio as Deputy High Commissioner at the Samoa High Commission in Canberra, Australia.

iv) *Fullbright Public Policy Fellowship Program – Mr Rohit Sudarshan (Fellow)*

The Ministry had accepted the attachment of Mr Rohit Sudarshan a Fullbright scholar from the United States under the abovementioned program at the Trade Division. The attachment/internship was for a period of twelve (12) months. Rohit was tasked with assisting the ACEO – Trade with the provision of quality advice on trade matters as well as all other aspects of the division's area of responsibility.

v) *Performance Management*

Performance appraisal of employees is an important component of the Ministry's human resource strategy in line with the PSC's human resource development framework. The Divisional Heads are tasked with the assessment of their staff performances every June for the past twelve (12) months or previous financial year. Despite the fact there has not been any salary adjustments for the service in the last few years, the performance appraisal system nevertheless is considered a crucial Human Resource Development instrument which aims at providing employees with a clear understanding of their role and what is

expected of them and also to identify personal training and development needs for improvement of service delivery.

vi) Contract with Internet Services Provider – Bluesky

A two (2) year agreement with Bluesky as an Internet Service Provider (ISP) commenced in July 2017 to provide internet services for the Ministry. The Ministry's last ISP was Digicel. The Ministry hopes that there will be improved connectivity and services from Bluesky to enable the Ministry to carry out its work responsibilities effectively given that the majority of its stakeholders are based overseas and most of the communications are through the internet.

vii) eGovernance in Samoa Workshop

With Government emphasis now placed on connectivity and eGovernance, a number of workshops organised by the Ministry of Communications, and Information Technology (MCIT) were held locally where our Principal IT officer and Senior IT officer attended. The purpose of these workshops was to bring together the technical ICT experts of government ministries and state-owned enterprises, to discuss eGovernance transformations from a technical perspective and also to build the capacity, knowledge and skills of ICT officers and focal points so that the national led eGovernance transformations can be delivered effectively throughout the Government of Samoa.

viii) Polycom Group Video Conferencing

The Ministry with financial assistance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China took delivery of its new Polycom Group Video Conferencing facility. The main reason for purchasing such expensive equipment is to enable the Ministry to be connected to our offices overseas, our donor partners and international organisations whenever we need to instead of having to travel overseas for short discussions with officials from these different bodies. The Ministry also has a tele-conferencing facility which is commonly used for interviews and meeting discussions with the officials from the various CROP agencies and the other international organisations.

SECTION 4: MFAT COMPARISON DATA

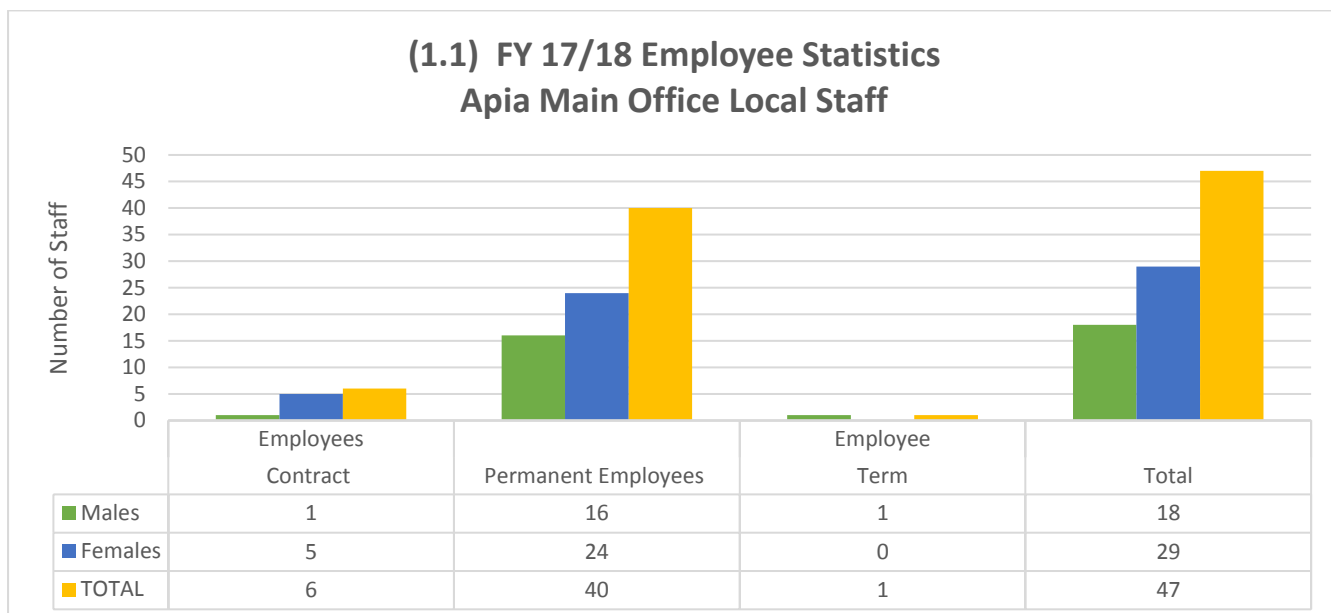
1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018

1. Employee Statistics

By the end of the financial year the overall number of staff was sixty-eight (68). The Apia Office comprised of forty-seven (47) staff and Overseas Missions Offices comprised of twenty-two (22) staff. (refer tables/graphs 1.1 - 1.3) virtual

1.1 Apia Main Office – Local staff

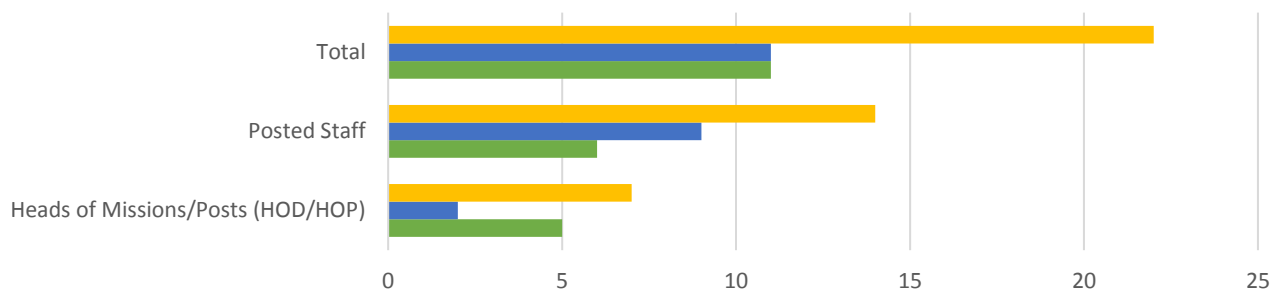
	Contract Employees	Permanent Employees	Term Employee	
Males	1	16	1	18
Females	5	24	0	29
TOTAL	6	40	1	47



1.2 Overseas Missions Offices – Posted Staff

	Heads of Missions/Posts (HOD/HOP)	Posted Staff	
Males	5	6	11
Females	2	9	11
TOTAL	7	14	22

(1.2) FY 17/18 Employee Statistics Overseas Missions Posted Staff



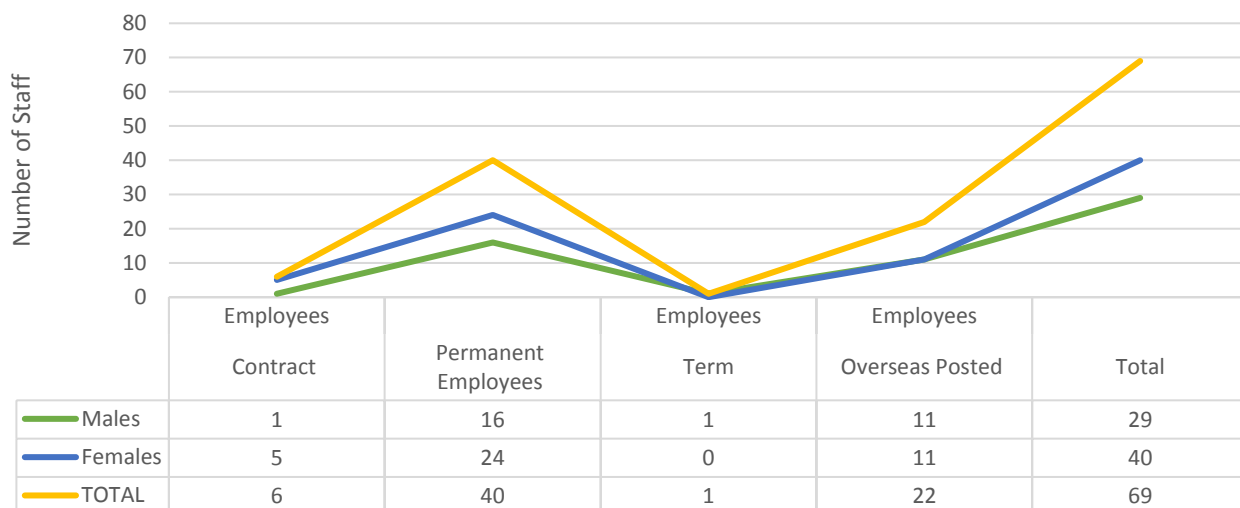
	Heads of Missions/Posts (HOD/HOP)	Posted Staff	Total
■ TOTAL	7	14	22
■ Females	2	9	11
■ Males	5	6	11

1.3 Overall (Apia and Overseas Missions Staff)

	Contract Employees	Permanent Employees	Term Employees	Overseas Posted Employees	
Males	1	16	1	11	29
Females	5	24	0	11	40
TOTAL	6	40	1	22	69

The overall gender scale of the Ministry including both Local and Overseas Offices was numbered by females at 58.8% and males at 41.2%. Refer table/graph 1.3

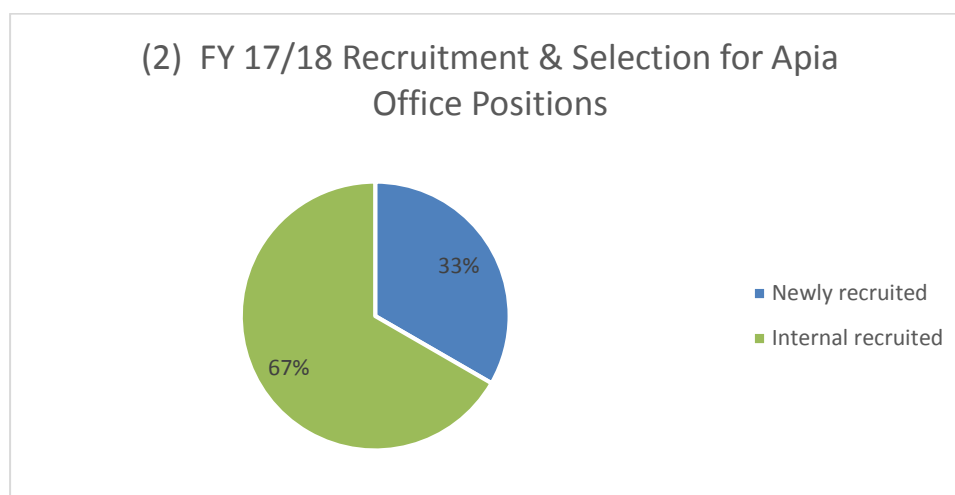
1.3 FY 17/18 Overall (Apia & Overseas Missions Staff)



2. Recruitment & Selection Statistics

Type of Recruitment & Selection	Gender	Designation	Salary Grade
Internal	F	PFSO	A16
Internal	F	PFSO	A16
Internal	M	PFSO	A16
Internal	M	PFSO	A16
Newly recruited	F	PHRM	A16
Newly recruited	M	FSO	A10

During the financial year, there were six (6) vacant positions in the Ministry which were advertised. The Recruitment and Selection processes for the six (6) positions resulted in the recruitment of two (2) new Officers and the internal Officers were selected to the other four (4) higher positions within the Ministry.

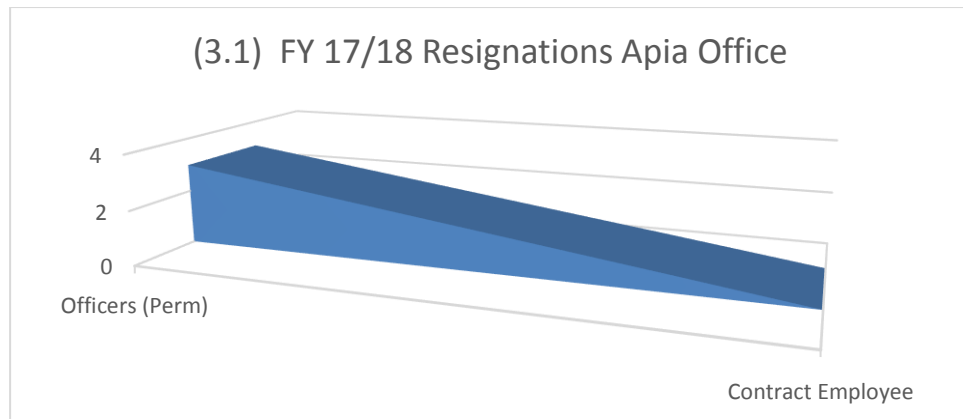


3. Resignations

3.1 Financial Year 2017/2018

Employee Category	Gender	Designation	Salary Grade
O	F	PHRM	A16
O	F	SFSO	A12
O	F	FSO	A10

Staff turnover was due to promotion and professional development opportunities in other agencies as well as personal preferences.

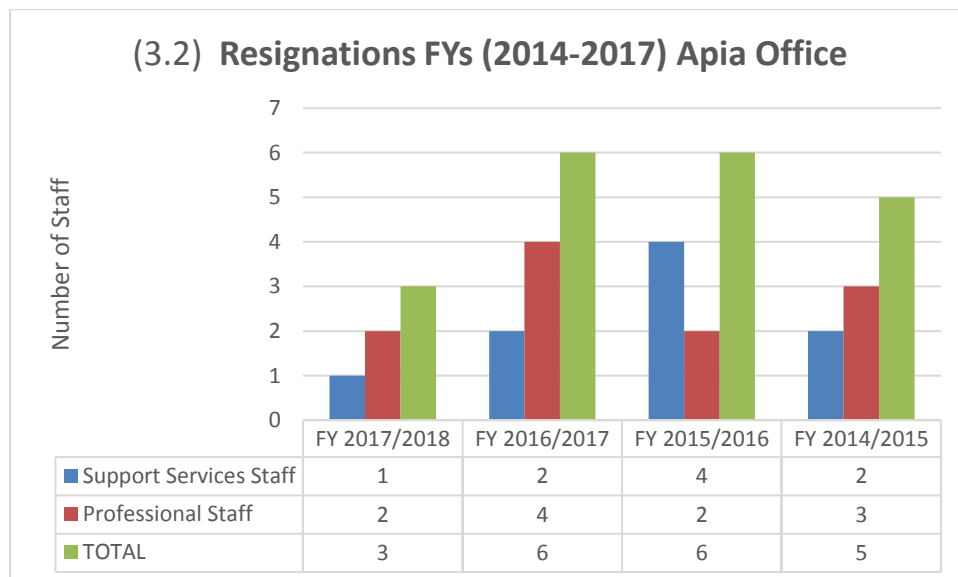


3.2 Resignations per FY (2014-2017) Apia Office

	FY 2017/2018	FY 2016/2017	FY 2015/2016	FY 2014/2015
Support Services Staff	1	2	4	2
Professional Staff	2	4	2	3
TOTAL	3	6	6	5

Support Staff – staff within the Corporate Services Overseas Missions Division

Professional Staff – staff classified as Foreign Service Officers within Core Divisions



4. Organizational Structure (Apia Office)

The three (3) Contract positions (i.e. ACEO Protocol Services Division, ACEO Regional Relations Division and Legal Services Division) approved by PSC have been

implemented with the recruitment of the ACEO Protocol Services Division in the current FY and for the other two posts to be recruited in the next financial year.

	Occupied	Vacant	
Contract Positions	6	0	6
Permanent Positions	40	4	44
Term Position	1	0	1
Newly Established/Approved Positions***	0	2***	2***
TOTAL	47	6	53

5. Training and Professional Development

The Ministry was fortunate to take advantage of the several training and development opportunities offered overseas and locally for its staff to gain skills and knowledge for professional development and capacity building. (Refer 5.1 and 5.2)

Not limited to the above, there were also, other on-the job trainings and other meetings / workshops organized by other Ministeries and stakeholders that were attended by staff in various areas for the purpose of professional learning and development opportunities. Overall, in the 2017-18 FY, there were over 58 courses, seminars, workshops and meetings/conferences attended by the staff of the Ministry.

5.1 – Trainings (Overseas / Local**) 27

Training Course Title	Training Provider	Duration of Training (in working days)	Location of Training	Staff attended
One year Secondment New York	PIF	One year	New York	Olive Vaai
WTO Regional Coordinator Internship Programme	WTO	10/07-22/07/2017	Switzerland	Dorothy Anetone
6 th Global Review Aid of Trade & Trade Facilitation	World Bank Group	11/07-14/07/2017	Switzerland	Henry Tunupopo
Pacific Coconut Sector Value Chain Workshop	European Union	11/07-13/07/2017	Fiji	Lonnie Tuatagaloa
Public Sector Policy Research Development and Analysis Training	SICT	18-22/09/2017	PSC Conference Room	Maketa Peteru

Skills to be an Effective Team Leader	SICT	30/10-3/11/2017	PSC Conference Room	Sulesa Samasoni Aivale
Workforce Planning	PSC	15-18/08/2017	PSC Conference Room	Theresa Luaao
Project Management Training	PSC	31/07-04/08/2017	PSC Conference Room	Maxine Hunter & Tau Kappus
Basic Public Policy Development	PSC	17-21/07/2017	PSC Conference Room	Palolo Seumanutafa
Pacific Island Roundtable on International Humanitarian Law	International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	24-25/10/2017	Fiji	Robert Aiono
Regional Workshop on Emerging Priorities in the LDC on Trade Development	UNESCAP	2-3/11/2017	Thailand	Fiona Lene
Regional Trade Mainstreaming Workshop	WTO/PIFS	30/10-03/11/2017	Fiji	Maxine Hunter
WTO Regional Advanced Trade Negotiations Simulation Skills (TNS) Course	WTO	6-10/11/2017	Vietnam	Tau Kappus
Regional Workshop on economic, social and cultural rights and human rights indicators	UNHR	27-30/11/2017	Fiji	Olive Vaai
Women and Leadership Programme	MFAT	4-6/11/2017	Singapore	Sharon P Aiafi
WTO Regional Trade Policy Course	WTO	2/10-24/11/2017	Thailand	Lonnie Tuatagaloa
2017 Program for Civil Servants from Pacific Islands Countries	UN	16/10-3/11/2017	China	Malaeoletalu Ulia
Fisheries Policy investment appraisal and international Commerce	PIFS	08/01-19/01/2018	Nadi, Fiji	Fiona J Lene
2018 Young Leaders Program	Government of Japan	22/01-30/01/2018	Tokyo, Japan	Rodney Lavea
Executive Regional Meeting EU	Pacific Island Forum Secretariat	09/02/2018	Fiji	Peseta Noumea Simi
World Trade Organisation Advanced Trade Policy Course	WTO	02/02-29/03/2018	Geneva, Switzerland	Isaia Lautasi

Seminar on Public Administration and Human Resource management for Samoan Official Joint Private Sector Mission to the Official International Exchange Program between Samoa and Iwaki City Pacific Regional Workshop for SIDS on Effective Fish Trade and Sustainable Development WTO Regional Advanced Course on Trade Negotiations Skills (TNS) for Asia Pacific Economics Regional Workshop on Biketawa Plus and the Australian Pacific Security College	Kunming University	8-21/05/2018	Kunming, China	Elineofeira Tigaina
	Manchester	1-09/05/2018	Manchester, Germany	Fiona Lene
	Iwaki	16-22/05/2018	Iwaki City, Japan	Dorothy J Anetone
	FAO	28-30/06/2018	Auckland, NZ	Tau Jurgen Kappus
	WTO	25-29/06/2018	Manila, Philippines	Dorothy Anetone
	PIFS	18-21/06/2018	Nadi, Fiji	Francella Strickland

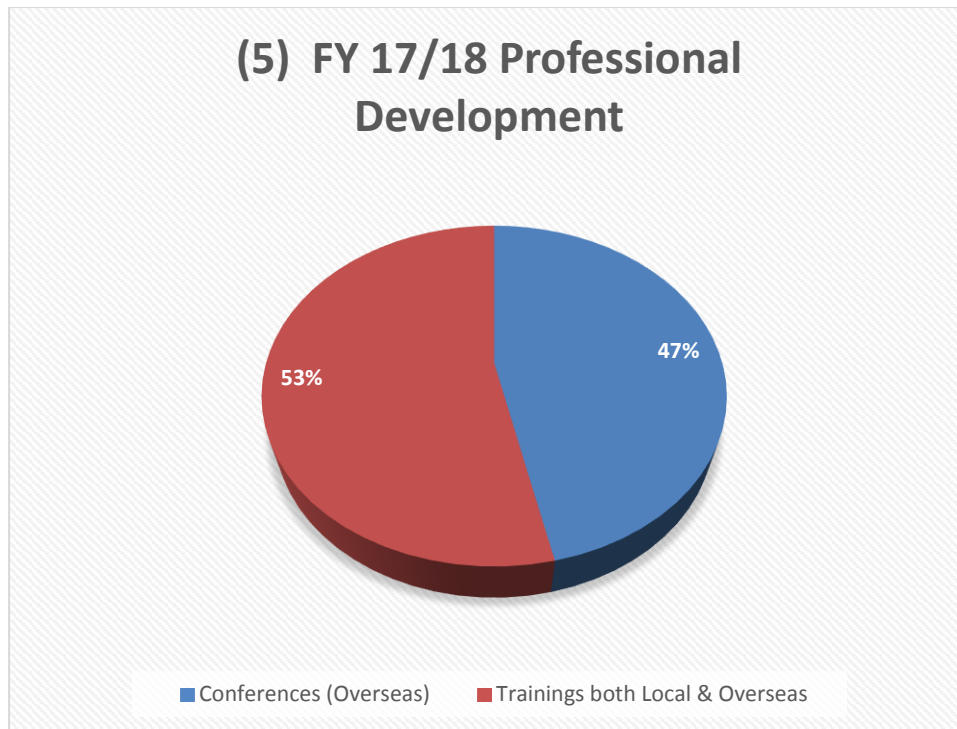
5.2 Conferences/Meetings (Overseas) 31

Conference Title	Training Provider	Duration of Training (in working days)	Location of Conference	Staff attended
SPC Meeting	SPC	25/01-26/01/2018	Vanuatu	Nella Tavita – Levy
Executive Regional Meeting EU	Pacific Island Forum Secretariat	09/02-09/02/2018	Fiji	Peseta Noumea Simi
Pacific Conference on Conventional Weapons	NZMFAT	12/02-14/02/2018	Geneva, Switzerland	Isaia Lautasi
SDG7 – Energy Goal	UN-DESA	21/02-23/02/2018	Bangkok, Thailand	Francella Strickland
2 nd Pacific Climate Change Conference	University of Victoria	21/02-23/02/2018	Wellington, NZ	Peseta Noumea Simi
Arms Trade Working Groups and first informal Preparatory for 4 th Conference of the States Parties	UNDP	6-09/03/2018	Geneva, Switzerland	Robert Niko Aiono

8 th PALM Meeting	Japan	15/03/2018	Tokyo, Japan	Peseta Noumea Simi
Asia Pacific High Level on Sustainable Development	UNESCAP	28/03-30/03/2018	Bangkok, Thailand	Peseta Noumea Simi
SPC Meeting	SPC	24/07-26/07/2017	New Caledonia	Sharon P Aiafi
Presenting Credentials for the Government of Papua New Guinea	MFAT	24/07-28/07/2017	Papua New Guinea	Leiataua Kilifoti Eteuati
Opening Samoa High Commission Office at Yarralumla in Canberra	MFAT	25/07/2017	Australia	Peseta Noumea Simi
10 th Ministerial SPC Meeting	SPC	27/07-28/07/2017	New Caledonia	Sharon P Aiafi
Celebrating of SPC 70 th Anniversary at New Caledonia	MFAT	28/07/2017	New Caledonia	Peseta Noumea Simi
Forum Leaders Meeting	MFAT	07/08-12/08/2017	Fiji	Peseta Noumea Simi
SPC Meeting	SPC	24/08/2017	Fiji	Nella Levy
72 nd United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)	MFAT	16/09-23/09/2017	New York, America	Peseta Noumea Simi & Francella Strickland
Expo 2020 International meeting	Expo 2020 Dubai	18-21/10/2017	Dubai	Fiona Lene
Stakeholders Forum for States Parties in Asia Pacific on the adoption of National Implementation Legislation on the Chemical Weapons Convention	OPCW	13-15/11/2017	Netherlands	Rapture Pagaialii
US Invitation to engage – Maritime Boundaries Technical meeting	US	15/12/2017	US	Matilda Bartley
Sustainable Development for 2030 Agenda International Conference on SDGs Statistics	UNDP	2-6/10/2017	Phillipines	Peseta Noumea Simi
Meeting on the Acceleration the raising Tobacco taxes and the Ratification of the Protocol to eliminate illicit Trade..	WTO	27-29/11/2017	Phillipines	Isaia Lautasi

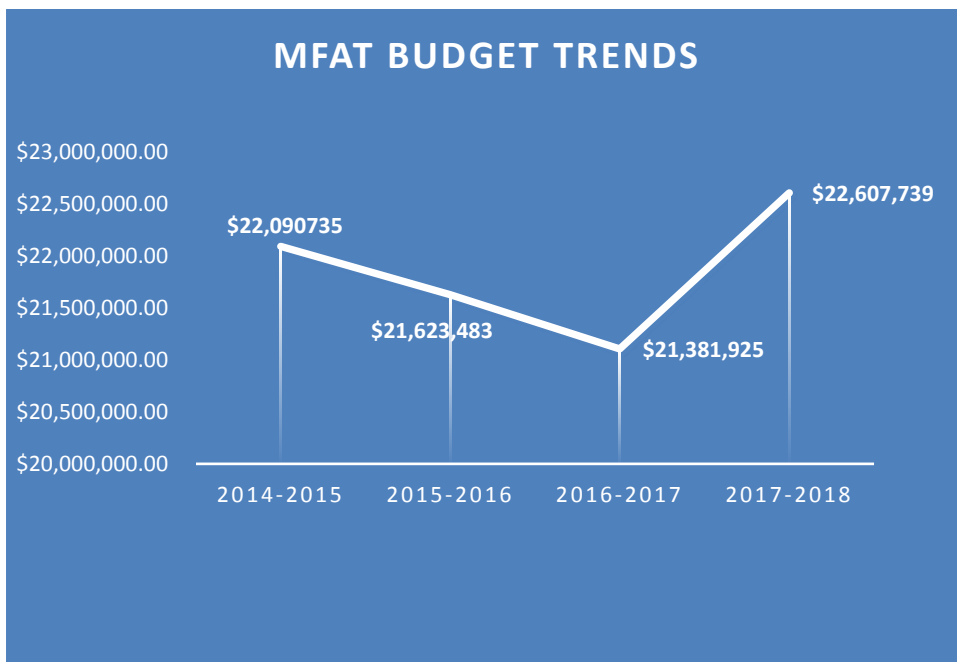
FFA Management Options Consultation & Special Officials FFC104 Meeting	FFA	24/10-3/11/2017	Solomon Island	Amorette Posini
UNFCCC Ministerial Pre Conference of the Parties	UNFCCC	16-18/11/2017	Fiji	Francella Strickland
SIDS Meeting	Aust Govt	14-17/11/2017	Australia	Nella Tavita – Levy
ACP 20 th Ministerial Meeting and EPA (Interim)	ACP/Trade Comm	16-20/11/2017	Geneva	Nella Tavita & Isaia Lautasi
Conference of the Parties 23 rd UNFCCC	UNFCCC	30/10-17/11/2017	Germany	Peseta Noumea Simi & Francella Strickland
WTO Geneva Week	Geneva	27/11-1/12/2017	Geneva	Nella Tavita – Levy
11 th Meeting for World Trade Organisation	WTO	10-13/12/2017	Argentina	Peseta Noumea Simi & Nella T Levy
3 rd Meeting of the Committee of Foreign Affairs for Pacific	Korea Govt	4-7/12/2017	Korea	Peseta Noumea Simi
14 th Meeting of the Committee of Fisheries & Oceans	FFA	3-7/12/2017	Philippines	Sharon P Aiafi
Forum Officials Committee Budget and Work Programme Session	MFAT	12-13/12/2017	Fiji	Francella Strickland

(5) FY 17/18 Professional Development



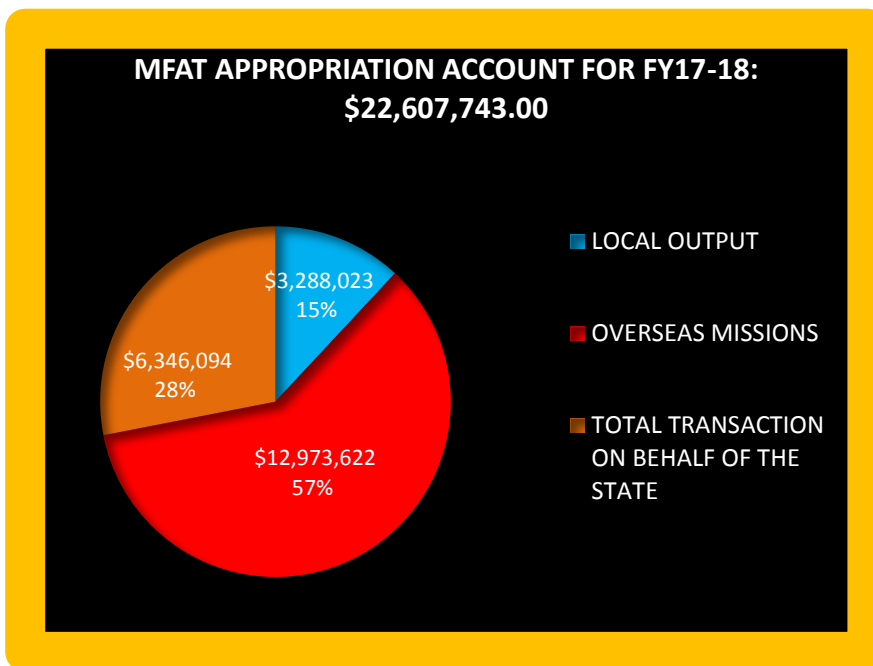
SECTION 5 : Financial Performance : 2017-2018 Financial year

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW MFAT BUDGET TRENDS



The total budget for the 2017 – 2018 financial year was SAT\$22,607,739 which was about \$1,225,814 more than the previous financial year budget of \$21,381,925 due to the increase in Missions Operational Activities and the Below Line provision for the Forum Island Leaders Meeting that Samoa hosted in August 2017.

MFAT APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT



The Ministry strives to ensure that the financial budgets proposal given in each financial year are realistic and appropriate to meet the personnel and operational needs of the overall Ministry in performing its mandated obligations and responsibilities.

The graph on the side illustrates three (3) core outputs of the MFAT's Appropriation Account, 1) Local Output, 2) Overseas Missions and 3) Transaction on behalf of the State.

SCH: 2.10**STATEMENT OF MINISTRY RECEIPTS BY REPORTING CATEGORY****AND EXPENDITURE BY OUTPUT****APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT***for the financial year ended 30 June 2018*

	2018	Final Estimate	(Over)/Under
	\$	\$	\$
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE			
RECEIPTS			
Ordinary Receipts			
Income from Investments	228,798	0	(228,798)
Income from Investments			
Other Revenues	112,254	72,000	(40,254)
Fees & Other Charges			
TOTAL RECEIPTS	341,052	72,000	(269,052)
PAYMENTS			
Outputs			
1.0 Policy Advice to the Responsible Minister & Cabinet	970,794	993,326	22,532
2.1 Ambassador at large for the Pacific (Newly Created Output)	180,216	189,210	8,994
2.2 Political and International Relations and Protocol Services (Formerly Output 2)	480,999	498,068	17,069
3.0 Representation Overseas			
3.1 High Commission, Wellington	1,334,795	1,540,213	205,418
3.2 Consulate General, Auckland	950,094	1,094,130	144,037
3.3 Embassy, Brussels	1,850,093	1,969,503	119,410
3.4 Embassy, New York	2,215,579	2,296,126	80,547
3.5 High Commission, Canberra	1,336,661	1,402,274	65,613
3.6 Student Counsellor, Fiji	341,273	372,502	31,230
3.7 Consulate General, American Samoa	454,326	464,965	10,638
3.8 Embassy, Japan	1,826,607	1,913,551	86,944
3.9 Embassy, China	1,456,269	1,448,460	(7,809)
3.10 Consulate General, Sydney	408,462	471,898	63,436
	12,174,157	12,973,622	799,465
4.0 Scholarship, Training & Bilateral	550,838	585,912	35,074
5.0 Trade Development & Promotion	936,268	1,021,507	85,240
Total Outputs	15,293,271	16,261,645	968,374
Transactions on Behalf of State (BL)			
Membership Fees			
United Nations	65,266	65,266	(0)
Pacific Community	222,308	222,317	9
Forum Secretariat	107,584	107,584	(0)
Commonwealth Secretariat	104,230	127,727	23,497

United Nations Development Programme - Apia	545,203	760,569	215,366
United Nations Development Programme - Headquarters	14,000	14,085	85
Commonwealth Fund Technical Cooperation (CFTC)	115,935	160,800	44,865
UN Disengagement Observer Force(UNIDOF)	282	1,174	892
UN Interim Forces in Lebanon	232	2,348	2,116
Miscellaneous for Other United Nation Assessments	27,660	28,170	510
Pacific Island Centre	10,302	10,817	515
International Red Cross FK (96)40	1,731	4,695	2,964
Chemical Weapons Convention1992 ORPCW	1,223	3,173	1,950
Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism 2001	2,485	3,173	688
Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty 1996	285	1,793	1,508
World Trade Organisation	75,300	75,351	51
International Tribunal for Law of the Sea	2,470	2,470	(0)
Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	2,144	3,173	1,029
World Trade Organisation Office Geneva	38,596	45,447	6,851
International Criminal Court	5,263	5,264	1
International Seabed Authority	0	2,348	2,348
International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons	1,122	2,348	1,226
Commonwealth (Joint Office in New York)	25,000	25,000	(0)
Group of 77 ECDC (USD\$2,000)	0	4,806	4,806
International Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia	159	2,012	1,853
International Tribunal for Former Rwanda	831	1,573	742
	<u>1,369,612</u>	<u>1,683,483</u>	<u>313,872</u>
Hosting of Regional Meetings/Conferences			
Samoa Trade Talks	0	15,000	15,000
Pacific Island Forum Leaders Meeting	336,283	400,000	63,717
Office of the Chief Trade Advisor (OCTA) Meeting	26,748	30,000	3,252
	<u>363,031</u>	<u>445,000</u>	<u>81,969</u>
Government Policies / Initiatives			
Government Scholarship Scheme	2,893,498	3,200,000	306,502
	<u>2,893,498</u>	<u>3,200,000</u>	<u>306,502</u>
Rents & Leases - Government Building	343,350	343,350	0
Rents & Leases - Auckland Residences	418,407	428,602	10,195
VAGST Output Tax	211,011	245,659	34,648
	<u>5,598,909</u>	<u>6,346,094</u>	<u>747,185</u>
Total Transactions on Behalf of State			
	<u>20,892,180</u>	<u>22,607,739</u>	<u>1,715,559</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS - FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE			
	<u>(20,551,128)</u>	<u>(22,535,739)</u>	<u>(1,984,612)</u>

GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

	2018	Receipts	Payments
	\$	\$	\$
Grants - GDP			
NZAID/AusAID-Harmonised Gov't Scholarship (Other)	2,642	0	7,572
Secondment of Samoa UN-Mission DRP(SAT) (NZ Aid)	8,686	0	4,804
Supporting the Pacific Voice on Climate Change and Renewable Energy Solutions (Other)	14,769	12,466	42,277

Financial Assistance for the Facilitation of the Pacific Islands Fourm (Other)	92,164	962,196	870,032
PACER Plus Readiness (Australian Aid)	77,196	77,196	0
National Report on Human Rights (Other)	1,156	0	0
Small Island Developing States Conference Multi Donor Activities (Other)	784,219	0	0
Secondment of Samoa UN Mission DRP(USD Acct) (NZ Aid)	8,757	0	0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS	989,589	1,051,858	924,685

The Local Output utilised about fifteen percent (15%) of the MFAT Appropriation account over this particular period. This budget allocation covers all divisional operating budgets as well as all the Prime Minister’s related travel and Daily Subsistence Allowances and all other related expenses for his participation at the various regional and international meetings. The local salaries for all staff including those going on diplomatic postings are also included under this provision.

The ‘Transaction on Behalf of the State’ output utilized 28 percent (28%) of the Ministry’s Appropriation over the period being reported. Appropriations under the Transactions on Behalf of the State (TBS) are mainly incorporated for specific one off purposes relating to hosting local and regional meetings in Apia such as hosting the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting in August 2017. Additional to this are payments of Government’s contributions to regional and international bodies in each given year depending on our membership fees and pledges. The provision for the Samoan Government Scholarship Scheme is also included under this heading together with other Government Policies/Initiatives.

The Overseas Missions’ Outputs utilised 57 percent (57%) of the MFAT Appropriation. Payments of overseas allowances and wages for locally engaged staff, missions’ operational budgets and Head of Missions travel for accreditation purposes to other countries are all catered for under this output. The regular minimal increase in the Missions budgets also took into account the fluctuation in foreign exchange rates for each location as expenses are normally paid in the foreign currency of the country of post.

The Statement (Schedule 2.10) above by the Ministry of Finance represented the final financial position report generated by the Finance One system for the Ministry during the FY 2017-18. It highlighted the Ministry’s overall spending and revenues collected during the financial year at the time of the report. Overall, the Ministry managed to save a total of ST\$1,984,612 which shows cost savings measures employed by the Ministry and also some reimbursements for airfares for the Hon. Prime Minister and delegations which were received very late after MOF had closed off the financial year processes.

REVENUES/COST RECOVERIES

Management of the .ws Domain Name

The total amount of funds received from the Government contract with the Computer Services Limited (CSL) for the 2017-2018 financial year was ST\$228,798. The management of the contract with CSL was transferred to the Ministry of Finance since 2015 by way of a Cabinet directive.

Cost Recoveries

The actual amount collected for “Apostilles” referred to as Sales, fees and Other Charges of ST\$112,254 exceeded the expected target of ST\$72,000. The collection from this service depends solely on the demand for Apostilles.

EXPENDITURE

Below are some explanations in relation to the over-expenditure and under-expenditure in some outputs:

- a) It is important to note that the low spending in Output 1 was due to some of the Prime Minister and CEO’s official trips which were fully funded from donor partners and overseas sponsors. In addition, the reimbursement of return airfares from the Japanese Government for the Hon. Prime Minister and spouse and the CEO – MFAT for the official visit to Japan was receipted on 25 June 2018 and by which time the financial year processes had already been closed.
- b) Low spending in some outputs were due to funds remaining under Personnel budgets for some vacant positions not yet filled towards the end of the financial year.

TRANSACTION ON BEHALF OF THE STATE

A) Membership fees

The underutilisation of funds identified under the budget allocation for some contributions are due to the following reasons:

- i) United Nations Development Programme, Apia – Reduction in our contribution for the 2017/18 financial year when the UN and agencies moved to the One UN House provided for by Government at Tuanaimato;
- ii) Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) – Samoa’s pledge has been reduced to GBP10,000 per financial year instead of the GBP44,000 in previous years
- iii) late receipt of invoices/advices from some organisations of our contribution payments.

B) Other Payments

- i) The underutilization of funds for the Samoa Trade Talks were due to most expenses being paid for under the MPMC BL budget for the same Talks.
- ii) The underutilization of the Samoan Government Scholarship Scheme budget was due to the late receipt of invoices from institutions for payment of scholarship students’ tuition fees and services.

SECTION 6: ACROYMNS

ACP – African Caribbean and the Pacific
ALFS – Asia Ladies Friendship Society
ANZ – Australia and New Zealand
APTC – Australia Pacific Technical Program
AusAID – Australia Aid Program
BTL – Below The Line
BRD – Bilateral Relations Division
CEO – Chief Executive Officer
CHOGM – Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
CPs – Customs Procedures
CROP – Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific
CSL – Computer Services Limited
CSOMD – Corporate Services & Overseas Missions Division
DFAT – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DFL – Distance Flexible Learning
DTIS – Diagnostic Trade Integrated Study
EC – European Union
EIF – Enhanced Integrated Framework
EPA – Economic Partnership Agreement
EU – European Union
FAO – Food Agriculture Organisation
FEMM – Forum Economic Ministers Meeting
FFA – Forum Fisheries Agency
FFCMIN7 – 7th Annual Forum Fisheries Committee Meeting
FICs – Forum Island Countries
FICTOMPP+ - Forum Island Countries Trade Official Meeting Pacer Plus
FTMM - Forum Trade Ministers Meeting
GATS – General Agreement Trade Services
GATT – General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GOS – Government of Samoa
H.E – His / Her Excellency
HRC – Human Resource Coordinator
HRD – Human Resource Development
IFAD – International Fund for Agriculture Development
ILO – International Labour Organization
IOT – Institute of Technology
IP – Intellectual Property
IRD – International relations Division, MFAT
IT – Information Technology
ITC – International Trade Centre
ITEC – Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation
ITTC – Institute for Technical and Training Centre
ITTC – Institute for Training & Technical Cooperation
JICA – Japan International cooperation Agency
JOCV – Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers
JTWG – Joint Technical Working Group
KOICA – Korea International Cooperation Agency
LDC – Less Developing Country

LSD – Legal Services Division - MFAT
 LM – Labour Mobility
 MCIL – Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labour
 MESCS – Ministry of Education Sports and Culture
 MFAT – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
 MFN – Most Favourable Nation
 MJCA – Ministry of Justice Courts and Administration
 MOF – Ministry of Finance
 MOU – Memorandum of Understanding
 MPMC – Ministry of Prime and Cabinet
 MTCP – Malaysia Technical Cooperation Programme
 NGO – Non Governmental Organization
 NSAs – Non State Actors
 NUS – National University of Samoa
 NWCTA – National Working Committee on Trade Arrangement
 NzAID – New Zealand Aid Program
 OCO – Oceania Customs Organisations
 OCTA – Office of the Trade Advisor
 PACER plus – Pacific Agreement for Closer Economic Relations
 PACPs – Pacific African, Caribbean & Pacific States
 PACPTOM- Pacific African Caribbean Partnership Trade Meeting
 PICTA – Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement
 PICTA TIS – Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement Trade
 PIFS – Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
 PIRPD – Political International Relations and Protocol Division
 PLG – Polynesian Leaders Group
 POC – Point of Contact
 PSC – Public Service Commission
 PSD – Protocol Services Division - MFAT
 RC – Reference Centre
 RoO – Rules of Origin
 RRD – Regional Relations Division - MFAT
 RSE – Regional Seasonal Employment
 SAT – Samoan Tala
 SDS – Strategy for the Development of Samoa
 SIA – Social Impact Assessment
 SIDSTEC – Small Island Developing States Technical Cooperation
 SIFA – Samoa International Finance Authority
 SIS – Small Island States
 SNES – Samoa National Export Strategy
 SPARTECA – South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Agreement
 SPBEA – Secretariat of the Pacific Board of Educational Assessment
 SPC – Secretariat of the Pacific Community
 SPREP – South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
 SQA - Samoa Qualification Authority
 SSS – Samoa Government Scholarship Scheme
 STBD – Scholarship Training Bilateral Division
 STSC – Staff Training and Scholarships Committee
 STTA – Short Term Training Awards
 SWP – Seasonal Worker Programme

TBT – Technical Business to Trade
TCDC – Technical Cooperation for Developing Countries
TCM – Trade Commerce Manufacturing
TD - Trade Division - MFAT
TECA – Trade Economic Cooperation Agreement
TIEAS – Tax Information and Exchange Agreements
TiS – Trade in Service
TMNP – Temporary Movement of Natural Persons
UK – United Kingdom
UN – United Nations
UNCTAD – United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP – United Nations Development Program
UNDRO – United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific Cultural Organisation
UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund
UNGA – United Nations General Assembly
UNIDO – United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UNOPS – United Nations Office for Project Services
USA – United States of America
WHO – World Health Organization
WIPO – World Intellectual Property Organisation
WTO – World Trade Organisation

