

7 February 2020

The Honourable 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 2018 to 30th June 2019.

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

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 2018/2019. 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 mandatory functions.

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 strong steerage and guidance by the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi.

I acknowledge also our international development partners represented by both resident and accredited diplomatic missions and intergovernmental organizations for their support and cordial relations with the Ministry during the 2018-2019 financial year. The continued cooperation to strengthen our working relationship based on transparency, mutual accountability and beneficial for all partners involved is appreciated.

We are also grateful to our stakeholders in both the public and private sectors inclusive of civil society, community based groups and the non-governmental organizations for the important continuous constructive feedback and responsiveness 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 all our staff for without their hard work and dedication, our commitments and many priorities for the 2018-19 financial year would not have been accomplished. I sincerely thank also the eager and enthusiastic NUS Foundation Year students who attach to the ministry for work experience – the additional pairs of hands are always welcome. I acknowledge with appreciation also the collaboration of the members of the various Task Forces that we chair – your contributions to our achievements have been immense.

Faafetai tele ma Faamalo.

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 official diplomatic relations with one hundred and one (101) States and is a full member to fifty one (51) 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 including regional strategies
- Represent Samoa’s interest and provision of consular services abroad through the Ministry’s diplomatic Missions based in New Zealand, United States, Australia and Belgium;
- Develop policies for the management of study and training opportunities as part of bilateral relations and advise Government on matters pertaining to scholarship and training schemes available or introduced;
- 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 as well as establish operational guidelines for host country agreements related to international meetings in Samoa and hosting offices of regional and/or international organisations;
 - 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;
 - 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 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.

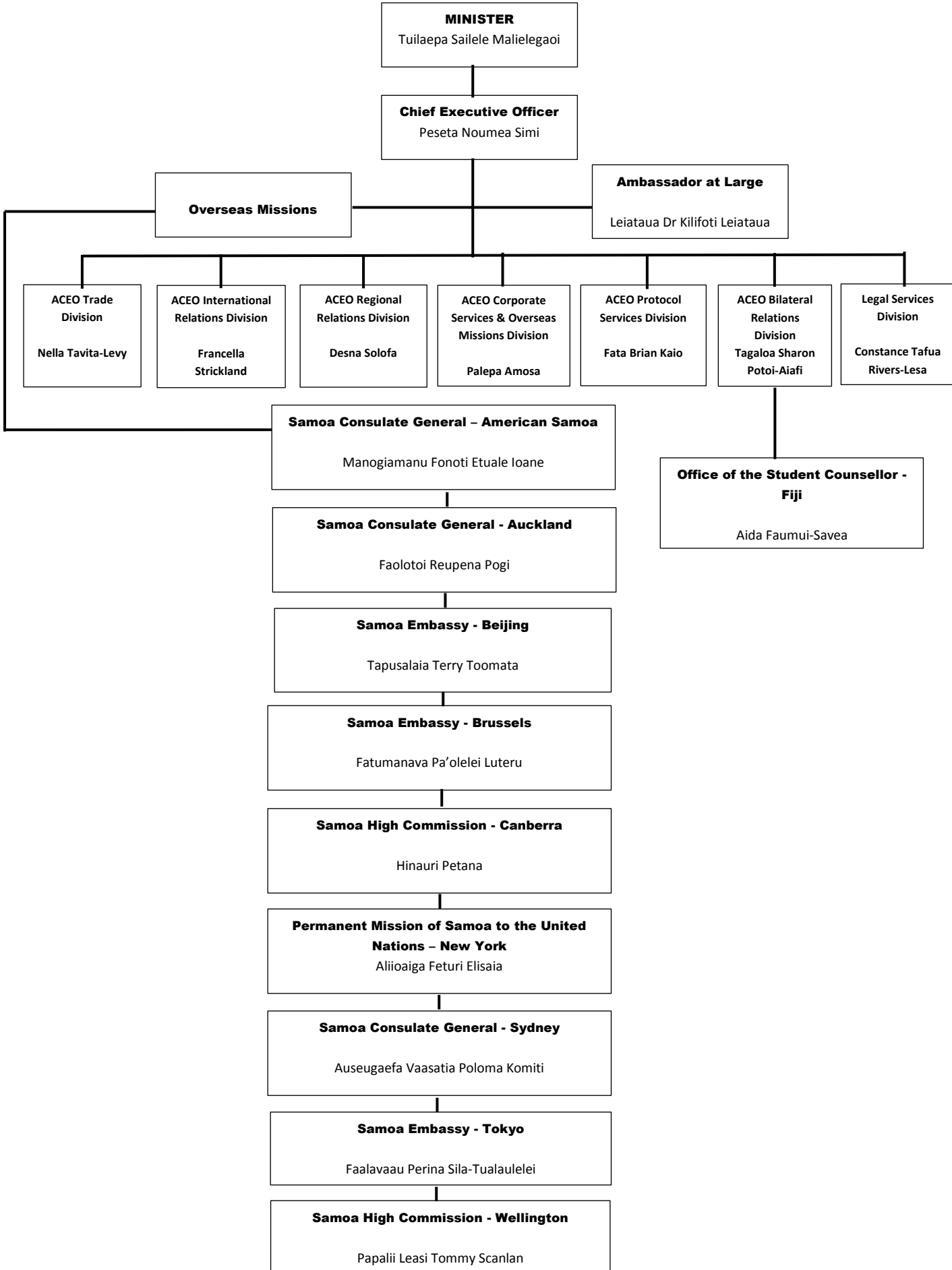
The Ministry has operated diplomatic missions in Wellington, Brussels, New York, Canberra, China and Japan and Consulate General offices in Auckland, Sydney and American Samoa. It also administers the Office of the Student Counselor at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji plus Honorary Consuls in various parts of the world.

For the effective and efficient implementation of the above structure, the Ministry has in place six (6) major objectives in order to realize its vision and achieve its mission. All six (6) core divisions recommended under the Restructure have been established and staffed. The objectives are:

- **Policy Advice to the Minister:** To provide high standard policy advice on foreign affairs and trade development to the Minister and Government.
- **Administration and Conduct of Foreign relations:** To manage Samoa's foreign relations in the most effective and efficient manner, including the management of representation of other States and inter-governmental organizations in Samoa. Also 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.
- **Representation Overseas:** To represent Samoa's interest effectively in other countries and at international fora and also the provision of consular services to Samoans abroad.
- **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.*
- **Trade:** To effectively manage, coordinate and facilitate trade policy issues and trade promotion strategies, and ensure Samoa's participation in regional and international trading arrangements.

- **Regional relations:** To manage Samoa's regional relations as a member of the Pacific Leaders Forum and its membership of all the regional organizations of the Pacific and the extension of this membership as a collective under the Blue Pacific Framework for Regionalism.
- **Corporate Services:** To provide an effective and efficient support structure to service the core work of the Ministry both locally and in our overseas missions.

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) 2018/2019 HIGHLIGHTS

The Ministry continued to provide quality advice to the Minister and other Ministers of Cabinet 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, the United Nations, Asian Development Bank, World Bank and the United States as well as other countries that we have close diplomatic ties with. The key policy issues identified are of utmost importance in the pursuance of the Government's efforts and priorities for the development of Samoa;
- ii) High Level Talks on NZ's Pacific Reset strategy, Australia's Step Up strategy, the conduct of the EU Pacific Dialogue held in Apia at which the site of the signing of the post Cotonou agreement was confirmed to be Samoa. The first Trade Policy Review for Samoa also took place in Geneva and identified some key issues such as the need for Notifications on any tariff changes as well as review of the rates of duty of goods that were above the WTO Board rates
- iii) The invitations to Samoa to host a number of regional and international meetings including the Forum FOC and Foreign Ministers meetings, SIDS preparatory meeting for the Mid Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway, and the Commonwealth Small Islands States meeting.
- iv) Given the changing geopolitical situation in the region, the Prime Minister was invited to present Samoa's perspectives on related issues at the University of the South Pacific, Lowy Institute and Otago University; in particular how Samoa was adapting to the growing foreign interests in the region
- v) Samoa was represented at a number of important regional meetings such as the Nauru Forum Leaders meeting where the Boe Declaration on Security was adopted, the Davos Economic Summit in Beijing, the APEC meeting in

Papua New Guinea where the growing tensions among the major world powers was never more apparent due to the competition for influence in the region

- vi) The negotiations for a post Cotonou agreement came into full swing with the Pacific engaging in the first political dialogue held in Apia; those for Africa and the Caribbean taking place much later in the year. Samoa attended 2 joint ACP-EU Council meetings in Chad and in Brussels to advance the negotiations process
- vii) Only one official visit took place in the year namely to Israel at which a visa waiver arrangement was signed between the two governments.
- viii) The first visit by the current UN Secretary General to the Pacific took place in May 2019. It was a good opportunity for him to have first-hand experience of seeing the impacts of climate change on small islands states.
- ix) We had continued our work on the ratification of human rights conventions such as the Convention Against Torture – the implementation of CAT to be done under the Law and Justice sector.

MINISTRY ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE 2018/19 FINANCIAL YEAR

1. Overseas Ministerial Engagement

i) Lecture series, USP, Lowy Institute, Otago University 26th-30th August 2018

The Prime Minister delivered the keynote address at the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the USP Suva, during research week; presented a perspective on the changing geostrategic landscape in the Pacific and how the Pacific countries are responding to such shifts and a lecture at Otago university on the impacts of climate change on Samoa and adaptation through political stability.

ii) DAVOS Economic Summit Beijing – 18-20 September 2018

The Prime Minister Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi led Samoa's delegation to the Beijing DAVOS meeting together with a 22 member private sector delegation that looked at sustainable tourism partnerships with the Chinese private sector. At the meeting China made a concrete pledge to the country's 1.4 billion citizens that in three years, their skies will be blue again. Air pollution in China is so bad that it darkens skies in the daytime, gives citizens' cancer, and hinders its ability to produce solar power, thanks to the country's coal consumption.

iii) UNGA New York 25th September – 1st October

This year's theme is "Making the United Nations Relevant to All People: Global Leadership and Shared Responsibilities for Peaceful, Equitable and Sustainable Societies". The theme is apt as many member states have questioned the UN's authority in the past year. The US had already pulled the US out of the Human Rights Council, quit the Paris Climate Accord, and boycotted efforts to set global rules on migration. For the Pacific, the UN is the medium through which their collective voice on their priority issues can be channeled for the attention of the international community.

iv) COP 24 Poland 7th-14th December

Some of the key outcomes included: The Paris Agreement Rule Book, which elaborates rules governing the reporting of emissions, regular stocktakes on progress in mitigation, adaptation, financial flows, addressing loss and damage, and a commitment to boost the ambition of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

There was formal acknowledgement of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s Special Report on Pathways to 1.5°C.

The Talanoa Dialogue, the year-long process of sharing stories and experiences that was designed to build trust and confidence in the multilateral approach and encourage ambition came to a conclusion.

A proposal by the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to convene a Climate Summit in September 2019 was also announced there.

v) Joint Ministerial Waitangi Day celebrations 4th-6th February 2019

The fact that the policy dialogue and the Friendship Treaty issues were discussed at Waitangi during the annual Waitangi Treaty commemoration held significance for the NZ-Samoa relations and reflects the special way our two countries base engagement in all aspects of the bilateral relations between the two countries.

vi) Prime Minister's State Visit to Israel 2nd-5th March

The program for the visit included the signing of the visa waiver between the two countries and for subsequent implementation once the elections outcome was known.

vii) ACP-EU Joint Council meeting Chad 2nd-4th April

The presence of the Prime Minister at the meeting confirmed the support given to Samoa to be the host country for the signing of the post Cotonou agreement.

viii) CRGA SPC Conference 20th-27th June

The Conference resulted in the endorsement and approval of the selected candidate for the post of the Director General of the Pacific Community (SPC) Fr Stuart Minchin of Australia.

International Conference/workshop hosted in Apia:

- i) **Forum Meetings:** Forum Trade Officials, Foreign Ministers meeting, Forum Officials Committee meeting and Pacific ACP meeting.
- ii) **EU-Pacific Dialogue** – Finalised the Pacific regional pillar under the new post Cotonou agreement
- iii) **Commonwealth SIS meeting** - Thirty-one of the world's 39 small states are from the Commonwealth. These countries are heavily exposed to an increased risk of extreme weather events such as droughts, cyclones, hurricanes, storms and flooding, which can disrupt their economic growth and financial stability. Disaster risk financing was at the heart of discussions in Samoa in order to equip small states with the resources required to prepare adequately for - and recovery from - a disaster.

2. Ministerial and official Visits:

i) Guangdong Health Mission led by two ministers 6-8 September 2018

The mission was to review the impacts of their provincial assistance on Samoa that is delivered through the Chinese Medical Team changed on a 6 months rotation as well as through Samoan doctor attachments in Guangdong province.

ii) Tonga's Trade mission 8-12 September 2018

Hon. Dr Tevita Tu'i Uata, Minister of Commerce, Consumer, Trade, Innovation & Labour led a five member trade delegation to discuss opportunities for bilateral trade between the two countries. While there was agreement to begin trading with 3 selected products from either country, there has not been much progress on this issue.

iii) Visit by the Mayor of Iwaki City 16th-18th October 2018

Iwaki City in Japan will be the home for Samoan athletes and officials for two major sporting events happening in Tokyo namely the 2019 Rugby World Cup and the 2020 Olympics. A Statement of Mutual Agreement to this effect was signed in Apia by the Samoa Rugby Union Chairman and Prime Minister Tuilaepa Dr. Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi and Iwaki City Mayor Toshio Shimizu.

iv) Visit of ADB President Takahiko Nakao 7-9 January 2019

Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Mr. Takehiko Nakao in his first visit to Samoa examined opportunities for expanded collaboration and signed an agreement establishing a permanent ADB office in Samoa and announced its increased support to Samoa and commitment to help the government continue to improve access to renewable energy, extend ICT connectivity, and strengthen public sector management.

v) Minister led Chinese delegation China Pacific Tourism Year 1 April 2019

Minister of **China Tourism** Luo Shugang and a 200 member delegation visited Samoa for the launch of the China Pacific Tourism year 2019 that was formally announced in Papua New

Guinea at the 2018 APEC meeting. Prime Minister Henry Puna was the only Pacific leader that attended. China-Pacific Tourism Year 2019 provides a huge opportunity for the Pacific countries to display to China what the Pacific Island countries have in store with their striking natural landscapes, sandy beaches, unique culture and friendly people.

vi) Visit by the Prince of Norway 7th-11th April 2019

HRH Haakon Magnus Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Norway arrived in Samoa on the 7th April on his first official visit. Samoa was the final stop on his tour to the Pacific, after spending time in Tonga and Fiji. The regional visit aimed to strengthen Norway's partnership with Pacific island states, with a view to promoting common interests in the United Nations and in areas of international cooperation, like the oceans and climate change as well as peace and security.

vii) Visit of Mr Russell Nelson, President LDS church 18-19th May 2019

The President of the Church of Latter day Saints included Samoa as part of his 9 country Pacific tour and paid a courtesy call on the Hon Prime Minister.

viii) Prime Minister of Tuvalu – 1st – 3rd June 2019

The Tuvaluan Prime Minister, Hon Enele Sopoaga was a special guest of the government during the Independence Day celebrations as well as a guest presenter at the commemoration of 150 years of the London Missionary Society at Malua.

ix) Visit by Special Advisor to Prime Minister Abe Mr Kentaro Sonoura 4th-5th June 2019

The Special advisor to the Prime Minister visited Samoa as part of his tour to NZ, Australia and some Pacific countries to have discussions around the implementation of the free and open Indo-Pacific strategy in connection with its bilateral program.

3. OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MINISTRY

i) Restructure of the Ministry

All 3 ACEO positions were filled for the Regional Relations, Legal Services and Protocol Services Divisions with subordinate staff recruited. Except for 2 new recruits from outside the Ministry, all positions were filled through interdivisional movement of existing staff.

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

At the conclusion of the 12 month attachment for Olive Vaai in New York in January 2019, the decision was made for her to continue as a posted officer as a second First Secretary.

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 for a 3 year term. The decision included an appointment to this position and accreditation to all Pacific countries (Pacific Forum Members) outside Australia and New Zealand. The post was extended by Cabinet to another year and in May 2019 the incumbent was reappointed by Cabinet for another 3 year term as per FK(19) 18 dated 8 May 2019 with the following additional portfolios:

- ◆ The Ambassador at Large to be the Interim Secretary for the Polynesian Leaders Group; and
- ◆ Other duties as may be directed by the Prime Minister.

The Ambassador-at-Large is based in Apia and this position reports to the Honourable Prime Minister.

ENGAGEMENTS

During the period covered in this summary report, the Ambassador-at-Large had a number of regional engagements including the following:

1. Special Visit to Wallis & Futuna : 12 July 2018

The Ambassador at Large was leader of the PIFS special delegation to visit Wallis & Futuna on 10 – 13 July 2018 to assess the eligibility of Wallis & Futuna’s application to become an Associate Member from being an Observer role of the Pacific Islands Forum. The Ambassador at Large was invited to represent Samoa being the Chair of the Forum during the said period. The report from the visit was submitted to the Forum Leaders Meeting in Nauru where the leaders endorsed the proposal for Wallis & Futuna to be an Associate Member of the Forum.

2. Travelled with the Prime Minister and delegation to Fiji, Sydney and Nauru : 26 August – 6 September 2018

The Ambassador at Large also travelled as part of the Prime Minister’s delegation to attend the following:

- i) Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the University of the South Pacific : Suva: 26 – 29 August 2018
- ii) Prime Minister’s address at the Lowy Institute in Sydney, Australia from 29 August to 01 September 2018 and
- iii) Pacific Islands Leaders Forum Meeting in Nauru from 2 – 6 September 2018.

3. Polynesian Leaders Group (PLG) work

As part of the Ambassador's overall work in the Pacific, he has provided information and analytical briefs and advice to the Prime Minister on the PLG since his appointment to this role in 2015. With the PLG being a new sub-regional organisation becoming actively involved in issues of vital importance to its members as well as the other Pacific countries, Samoa offered to provide a PLG Interim Secretariat to be based in the office of the Ambassador-At-Large for the Pacific countries. This offer has been accepted by the PLG Meeting in 2018 and confirmed in 2019. As part of these engagements, the Prime Minister has approved travel by the Ambassador-At-Large to American Samoa (at the request of the American Samoan government) in February 2019 to assist with their preparations to host the PLG's annual meeting tentatively scheduled to be held in American Samoa on 14 April 2019.

Local Engagements:

The Ambassador at Large also attended a number of committee meetings such as the Aid Coordination Committee meetings, CDC meetings etc during the period.

Other Engagements:

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 our island countries.

SUB-OUTPUT 2:2 POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DIVISION (IRD)

PROFILE:

The IRD is charged with the management of Samoa's foreign relations including the management of representation of other states and intergovernmental organisations in Samoa and ensuring accurate implementation of Samoa's foreign policy in all international fora and through conventions or international organisations Samoa is a member of.

1. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL YEAR (FY) 2018/2019 HIGHLIGHTS

1. Successful hosting of key international meetings, national workshops and key visits

Within the reporting period, division supported the Ministry in successfully hosting the SIDS Interregional Meeting for the Review of the Implementation of the SAMOA pathway which finalized the SIDS input into the global review of SAMOA Pathway; the Commonwealth 5th Global Biennial Conference for Commonwealth Small States which focused on building resilience through disaster risk reduction and allowed Samoa to showcase our efforts on building resilience; Forum Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting and the PIF preparatory meetings which adopted the Boe Declaration draft

and approved some of key issues to be raised at the Nauru PIF Forum; and we also hosted the First Round of Political Negotiations for Pacific Post Cotonou Arrangements.

Samoa also hosted the 2nd Pacific Roundtable on International Humanitarian Law which provided an opportunity to highlight Samoa's active role on the issues particularly on disarmament conventions and how to improve compliance with international law.

We coordinated two visits and held workshops as part of implementing the Arms Trade Treaty implementation project to put in place a tool to support monitoring and reporting of small arms. We also supported the organization of the NZ Defence Exercise which included communications training, dental detachment and other capacity building efforts and medical support provided during the exercise.

Two key national workshops were successfully organized, first the maritime Boundaries workshop with SPC and the Maritime Boundaries Programme Consortium Partners. The Workshop was critical in engaging all key stakeholders for Samoa to shape our position and progress our work in negotiating the Maritime Boundaries with Tokelau, Tonga, Wallis and Futuna and American Samoa. The work has moved significantly since some of the first workshops on the issues in the 1980s and since the last negotiations with American Samoa in 2004/2005. Second is the SADATA workshop organized with SPC which helped provide input from all key stakeholders on how to improve this webtool for reporting.

In all the meeting and workshops we hosted Samoa not only ensured we maintain the high standards on delivering on our hosting responsibilities but more importantly that we shape and influence the outcome to reflect our key priorities on the issues discussed, and through these shape also the international agenda on the issues to reflect Samoa's priorities.

2. Meeting of reporting obligations for Samoa

Participated actively in the Peer reviews of Exchange of Information on Request (EOIR) for Samoa by the OECD Global Forum Peer Review Group, led by the Ministry of Revenue and also contributed to the finalization of the responses to issues raised on Samoa's 6th CEDAW Periodic report. MFAT was one of the delegation that led the presentation of the report . We also assisted in finalizing the Beijing Platform of Action Report and the Review for and by Samoa under the UN Convention Against Corruption.

Confirmed submission of all required annual reports on disarmament conventions such as Arms Trade Treaty and Chemical Weapons Convention and helped facilitate the submission of some of the reports for the Multilateral Environment Agreements.

We also submitted our report on the implementation of SAMOA Pathway to the UN and actively engaged in the shaping of the SIDS input to this review

3. Conventions- Samoa ratifies UN Convention Against Torture and Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Successfully supported the attendance of the Minister of Justice to the Pacific Regional Seminar on the Ratification and Implementation of the UN Convention Against Torture; bringing the number of core Human Rights Conventions that Samoa has signed up to, to five out of nine. The Prime Minister also deposited our instrument of ratification for the TPNW in New York during UNGA.

We also acceded to the Convention of the International Hydrographic Organization and its Protocol of Amendments 2016, allowing for support from the IHO through MWTI.

4. Provided policy advice for around 30 High Level Meetings led by PM or other Ministers

The Division continues to provide support and policy advice on a range of issues particularly on human rights, disarmament, Climate Change, peace and security, ocean, Sustainable development and all multilateral related issues. For the reporting year we have provided support through briefs, statements, position papers and others as requested for around 30 international meetings the Prime Minister and other ministers participated in. Noting that for the UN General Assembly high level week alone the Prime Minister attends to a number of High Level meetings. Some of the key meetings during the reporting periods includes the 73rd session of the UNGA in New York, the Annual PIF meetings and also the UNFCCC COP24 in Poland.

5. Actively represented Samoa's interest in regional or international meetings and workshops

Through direct participation or collaboration with other line ministries or our missions if representation from capital is not possible, we actively engaged in around 100 international meetings or workshops. Of the number of international meetings and workshops the division directly attended around 30 of these international meetings either held overseas or in Samoa.

6. Increase in visits and missions particularly by the UN to Samoa

In the reporting period, we cleared around 45 UN Missions to Samoa which included meeting with a number of them or organizing their meetings with key agencies. This number does not include the division's participation in other missions and visits from regional or other international organisations, or those organized by partners.

7. Increased number of countries who established diplomatic relations with Samoa or requested to establish.

San Marino established relations within the reporting period while Armenia, Mauritius and St Lucia were approved but waiting for date of signature. Togo Ghana and Serbia have also showed interest.

8. Increase in number of briefs for all high level visits organized by Protocol and Ministry as a whole, and provide analysis and briefs on around 20 elections for different international organisations which requires analysis for more than 100 different candidates for all the elections.

9. Continue to facilitate official travels and participation of government officials with an average of 30 officials assisted in a month, including facilitating the rotation of our police peacekeepers to the missions in Darfur and South Sudan.

2. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FY 2018/ 2019 FOR THE DIVISION

- ***Increased recognition of importance of MFAT contribution to national policies and positions***

The division works closely with all other divisions of the Ministry to help deliver its core functions in implementing the Government's foreign policy especially in the administration and conduct of foreign relations. Some of the key roles include the overall monitoring of all international conventions that Samoa has signed and ratified and recommendations on those Samoa wishes to sign. It has a key role to coordinate the reporting and implementation obligations on all conventions. It also serves as secretariat support for key national committees MFAT Chairs such as the SDG Taskforce, National Mechanism for the Reporting and Follow up of Human Rights obligations (NMRF) and the Maritime Boundaries Committee. The Division also reviews and provide advice to the Government on Samoa's position on several issues involving international relations particularly relating to all members of the UN and on issues discussed at the multilateral level and in areas such as peace and security, climate change, disarmament, ocean, sustainable development, human rights and so forth. It also provides analysis and position on resolutions and elections for several regional and multilateral organisations Samoa is a member of.

The overall key highlight for the reporting year is the increase in recognition by the other government ministries of the role of MFAT and importance of foreign policy consideration in shaping or implementing other national policies and in ensuring consistent messaging and positions in terms of representation in international meetings.

- ***Strong outcome for Samoa from the meetings held in Samoa.***

Other than the positive impact meetings had on Samoa's economy and our reputation for being excellent hosts, the outcomes of these meetings were key for us to further shape the priorities and interventions of the regional organisations, the commonwealth and the UN for example to reflect our priorities. The outcome of the SIDS Interregional meeting that was held in Samoa and chaired by Samoa ensured a good SIDS input to the review of the SAMOA Pathway. The meeting also allowed for Samoa to show its continuous leadership on SIDS issues. The meeting included a SIDS Declaration on Climate Change that was used in the Climate Change Bonn Sessions.

Our active engagement continues to see respect for Samoa's position and role on certain issues such as human rights, rule of law, disarmament, SDGs, oceans and peace and security, for example Samoa was invited by Vanuatu through PIFS to be one of the members of the Peer Review team to review Vanuatu's VNR. This is the first ever of this kind of review for the VNRs.

We are also seeing regional and international organisations through flow of projects and also requests for Samoa to host meetings, workshops or lead discussions on key priority issues for Samoa and the region. There continues to be an increase in the number of high level visits from traditional and non-traditional partners, but also from different regional and international organisations. This interest is seeing an increase also in UN presence in Samoa.

3. LINKAGES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO THE SECTOR PLAN/ SDS

How we portray Samoa to the outside world is key to meeting all the outcomes of the SDS. This requires a combined effort of the Ministry to strengthen foreign relations with all partners and to create new partners. It is an important role also of the Ministry to ensure the outside world understands Samoa's position, its priorities and needs. A better understanding and appreciation by the outside world of our priorities is important to ensure we benefit as a people and country from our foreign relations. This ensures the support we need to meet our goal of an Improved Quality of Life for All. As Chair also of the SDG taskforce the Ministry now actively engages in all the sector plans that help implement the SDGs and the SDS

OUTPUT 3: REPRESENTATION OVERSEAS

SUB-OUTPUT 3.1 – SAMOA HIGH COMMISSION - WELLINGTON

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 presented his Credentials to the Governor General of New Zealand, His Excellency, The Right Honourable Sir Jerry Mateparae, on 16th April 2012. H.E Scanlan is now in his second term as Head of Mission for another 3 years which will conclude 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 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 from Samoa
- 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 Meeting between the Minister of Pacific Peoples, Hon. Aupito William Sio and the Pacific Islands Heads of Missions

A meeting between the Minister of Pacific Peoples, Hon. Aupito William Sio and the Pacific Islands Heads of Missions was held at Bowen House, Parliament Building on 26th July 2018. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss pertinent issues in regards to the Recognized Seasonal Employment Scheme, Trades Pilot Program, Climate Change, and Pacific Reset.

In attendance were the High Commissioner and/or their representatives from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu with Niue conveying their apologies.

The Samoa High Commissioner and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, H.E Leasi Papali'i T Scanlan attended the meeting accompanied by the Counsellor, Ms Belinda Filo-Tafunai.

Overall, the Minister of Pacific Peoples, Hon. Aupito William Sio acknowledged the issues raised by the countries through their respective Missions in New Zealand and agreed that the NZ Government is here to listen to the Pacific countries and to be guided by the countries based on areas of priority.

1.2 40th Anniversary of Bilateral Relations between Chile and Samoa

In celebration of the two countries 40 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations on the 24th August 1978, an informal reception co-hosted by the Ambassador of Chile, H.E Mr Rodrigo Espinosa and the Samoa High Commissioner, H.E Mr Leasi Papali'i T Scanlan was held on the 24th August 2018 at the Chilean Ambassador's residence in Belmont Lower Hutt, Wellington.

The program commenced with the exchange of remarks firstly from the Chilean Ambassador then followed by the High Commissioner of Samoa. Both outlining the great, warm cordial relationship between the two countries and ways to further strengthen this partnership.

At the conclusion of the event, the distinguished guests had the opportunity to taste the traditional delicacies from both Chile and Samoa prepared courtesy of the two Diplomatic Missions in Wellington.

1.3 Book Launch of the TATAU: A History of Sāmoan Tattooing by Sean Mallon and Sébastien Galliot

Unity Books Wellington and Te Papa Press launched the book Tatau: A History of Sāmoan Tattooing by Sean Mallon & Sébastien Galliot on the 15th August 2018 at Unity Books, on 57 Willis Street Wellington.

The Sāmoan Islands are virtually unique in that tattooing has been continuously practiced with indigenous techniques. The full male tattoo (the pe' a) has evolved in subtle ways in its design since the nineteenth century, but remains as elaborate, meaningful, and powerful as it ever was. This cultural history is the first publication to examine 3000 years of Sāmoan tatau.

Mr Sean Mallon is of Sāmoan and Irish descent and is Senior Curator Pacific Cultures at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. Whereas, Mr Sébastien Galliot studied ethnology at the University of Provence and EHESS (Paris), France's foremost research school in social sciences. Hon. Carmel Sepuloni, Associate Minister of Arts, Culture & Heritage spoke on behalf of the Government of New Zealand to launch the book "Tatau". The

Counsellor (Ms Belinda Filo-Tafunai) represented the Samoa High Commission at the book launch.

1.4 Foreign Minister Winston Peters attended the Pacific Islands' Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting in Apia, Samoa

The Samoa High Commission, in liaison with the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, worked closely in regards to the Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters visit to Samoa to attend the Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting from the 9th to 11th August 2018.

All the arrangements including logistics of the visit were coordinated through Samoa's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade where a meeting had been held with the Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi; in lieu of key regional issues discussed during the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting in Nauru in September 2018.

The priority focus of the meeting was on the development of a new regional security declaration, as agreed at the Pacific Islands Forum held in 2017 in Samoa. Other key issues include climate change, ocean management and sustainable development. The New Zealand Government is committed to re-setting New Zealand's approach to the region, including deepening partnerships with Pacific neighbours with clear focus on the bilateral relations given the Treaty of Friendship with Samoa over the last 56 years.

1.5 4th Annual Commemoration of the World Alliance of Religions for Peace (WARP) Summit in Seoul, South Korea from 17-19 September 2018

The Samoa High Commissioner, H.E Leasi Papali'i T Scanlan attended (on behalf of the Prime Minister of Samoa) the 4th Annual Commemoration of the World Alliance of Religions for Peace (WARP) Summit in Seoul, South Korea from 17th to 19 September, 2018.

Around 1,000 Leaders and Experts in various fields from around the world gathered in Seoul to participate in the 2018 HWPL World Peace Summit's 4th Anniversary. The Worldwide President of the World Jurist Association, Dr. Franklin Hoet Linares, was among the distinguished guests for this important event.

The main agenda of the meeting was the proposed introduction of the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW) to the United Nations (UN) as a binding resolution and the promotion of international cooperation among individuals from all levels and sectors of society, as well as for the peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula. In addition, plans were discussed and established regarding how to draw support from current Heads of State for the introduction of the DPCW as a UN resolution.

1.6 Pacific Islands Memorial Sculpture Unveiled – Pukeahu National War Memorial Park

A ceremony was held at the Pukeahu National War Memorial Park on the 25 October, 2018 where the Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Associate Arts, Culture & Heritage Minister and His

Excellency Fisa Pihigia, High Commissioner for Niue unveiled a model of the Pacific Islands Memorial which will be installed in 2020.

Named Te Reo Hotunui o Te Moana nui a Kiwa, or ‘the deep sigh of the Pacific’, the memorial will take the form of a bronze conch shell – a symbol used throughout the Pacific in traditional ceremonies, on many national currencies and in the literature of the region.

The design recalls the conch shell left in the Arras Tunnels by Kuki Airani (Cook Island) soldiers of The New Zealand tunneling Company and the New Zealand (Māori) Pioneer Battalion, who were stationed beneath the town of Arras during 1916 to 1918.

Michel Tuffery MNZM, John Melhuish and Herriot Melhuish O’Neil Architects created the design, which was selected by a judging panel chaired by His Excellency Fisa Pihigia.

Prior to the unveiling, a Maori Stones Laying ceremony was carried out. This is a traditional Māori ceremony in which stones from the Pacific Islands and New Zealand were placed beneath what will be the foundations of the Memorial. Also present were Sir Peter Jackson and Hon Aupito William Sio.

The Pacific Islands Memorial is a joint initiative by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, the Ministry for Pacific Peoples and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with support from the New Zealand Institute of Architects.

Due to be unveiled in 2020, the Pacific Islands Memorial will recognise the service and sacrifice of Pacific Islanders who fought for New Zealand in the First World War, the Second World War and subsequent conflicts. It will also signify New Zealand’s close ongoing relationship with the nations of the Pacific.

The conch sculpture will join memorials for Australia, Turkey, the United Kingdom, Belgium and France and a US memorial in Pukeahu.

The High Commissioner of Samoa, H.E Leasi Papali’i T Scanlan accompanied by the Counsellor, Ms Belinda Filo-Tafunai laid a stone signifying the people of Samoa.

1.7 High Level Bilateral Meeting between New Zealand and Samoa

Samoa-New Zealand High Level Consultation and Dialogue were held in Wellington from the 31st January to 1st February 2019. Samoa’s Delegation was led by the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Ms Peseta Noumea Simi accompanied by the Chief Executive Officers of the Ministry of the Prime Minister & Cabinet, Agafili Shem Leo, the Ministry of Finance, Leasiosio Oscar Malielegaoi and the Assistant Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (Bilateral Division), Ms Sharon Potoi-Aiafi.

The Samoa High Commissioner, H.E Leasi Papali’i T Scanlan accompanied by the Counsellor, Ms Belinda Filo-Tafunai attended as part of the delegation. Key issues discussed with the

relevant New Zealand Ministries/Departments included;- Immigration, Global & Regional Priorities, Security, Pacific Reset, Bilateral Relations, Development Budget.

At the conclusion of the high level talks, a Bilateral Partnership Agreement between New Zealand and Samoa was finalized for the Foreign Ministers of the two countries to co-sign at Waitangi in February 2019.

1.8 Official Visit by the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon.Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi at Waitangi Day

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi together with the Minister of Finance, Hon. Sili Epa Tuioti led a Delegation to visit Waitangi from the 4th to 7th February 2019. They met with the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Rt Hon. Jacinda Ardern, the Foreign Minister Rt Hon. Winston Peters, Māori iwi leaders, and members of the Pacific Caucus.

This is the first time that the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi visited Waitangi on an official visit courtesy of the Government of New Zealand.

The Samoan Delegation also attended Waitangi Day Celebrations, including the Samoa High Commissioner, H.E Leasi Papali'i T Scanlan. The highlight of the visit was the signing of the Bilateral Partnership Agreement between New Zealand and Samoa between the two Foreign Ministers of the two countries at Waitangi on 5th February 2019.

1.9 Israel and Samoa Sign Visa Waiver Agreement in Jerusalem

Israel hosted the Prime Minister of Samoa, H.E. Tuilaepa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi on his first official visit to Israel from the 3rd to 7th March 2019. The visit also saw the signing of the Visa Waiver Agreement between Israel and Samoa. The Agreement allows freer travel for Samoans entering Israel for stays of up to 90 days which is similar for Israel nationals visiting Samoa. The initiation of this Visa Waiver Agreement commenced in Wellington, New Zealand through the Diplomatic Missions of the Embassy of Israel and the Samoa High Commission in liaison with their Capitals. According to Article 10 of the Agreement, the prerequisite for entry into force of the Agreement is 90 days from the date of the second notification by which Parties notify each other that the Agreement has been ratified. Unfortunately, due to political uncertainty in Israel, the Agreement is yet to be ratified.

1.10 Head of State Visit to Canterbury to Attend Remembrance Service for Mass Shooting from 28th to 30th March 2019

The terrorist attack in Christchurch on Friday 15 March 2019 left dozens dead and many seriously injured.

A National Remembrance Service was held at Hagley Park, Christchurch, on Friday 29th March 2019 at 10am to remember and honour those who lost their lives in the tragic events.

Dignitaries and Heads of Government attended the National Remembrance Service event held at Hagley Park, Christchurch. His Highness Tuimalealiifano Va'aletoa Sualauvi II, Head of State of Samoa together with Her Highness Faamausili Leinafo Tuimalealiifano, Samoa High Commissioner H.E Leasi Papali'i T Scanlan, Private Secretary Mr Mareko Tulouna and Police Escort Senior Constable Iosefo Tuimaunei attended the event in Friday 29th March 2019.

1.11 Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Fiame Naomi Mata'afa visited New Zealand

The Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Fiame Naomi Mataafa visited New Zealand from 4th to 13th May 2019.

In Wellington, the Deputy Prime Minister held meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Affairs Minister of New Zealand Rt Hon. Winston Peters, Minister for Climate Change Hon. James Shaw, Minister for Women Hon. Julie Anne Genter, Minister of Pacific People Hon Aupito William Sio and Minister of Civil Defence Hon. Kris Faafoi and the members of the Pacific Caucus.

At the conclusion of these meetings, the Deputy Prime Minister then departed Wellington on 8th May for New Plymouth, where she spoke at the 'Just Transition Summit on Climate Change' held from the 9th to 10th May 2019. In attendance was the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern who delivered the keynote address. For the Pacific Session, both the Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Fiame Naomi Mataafa and the Prime Minister of Cook Islands, Hon. Henry Puna delivered statements as Pacific Island nations that are already experiencing the impact of climate change as well as insights into how-Samoa and the Cook Islands are responding to this challenge.

1.12 Victoria University Students Hosted by the Samoa High Commission – 16th March 2019

As customary each year, the Samoa High Commissioner and staff hosted the Samoan students from Victoria University to a welcome luncheon on Saturday 16th March 2019 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 and concluded by saying a prayer to acknowledge the devastating Christchurch mass shootings at the Muslim mosques on Friday 15th March 2019. The High Commissioner 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.

1.13 Church Service for Samoa's 57th Independence Celebration & Samoa Language Week

A church service for the official opening of the Samoan Language Week under the theme 'Lalaga le si'osi'omaga mo se lumana'i manuia' translation in English means - 'Weave an environment for a better future' was held at the Pacific Islanders Presbyterian Church in Porirua on Sunday 26th May 2019. 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 annual event to acknowledge and celebrate the Samoan Language and Culture, especially in the lives of Samoans living in Aotearoa New Zealand. The event was well attended by the Samoan community in Wellington.

On Saturday 1st June 2019, the Samoa High Commission celebrated Samoa's 57th Independence Day during a reception held at the Wharewaka Function Centre. The Reception was well attended by over 150 invited guests from the Diplomatic Corp, 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 which he described as a "marriage", 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 Minister of Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito Su'a William Sio, spoke (on behalf of the Government of New Zealand) to reaffirm the close relationship between NZ and Samoa as manifested in the Treaty of Friendship signed by the two countries in 1962. The Minister went on to highlight the policies promoted by the current Government to enhance this close relationship. He then proposed a toast to His Highness the Head of State, the Prime Minister and all the people of Samoa.

A church service was held on Sunday 2nd June 2019 at the Wellington Methodist Parish to officially close the Samoan Language Week and Independence Day Celebration.

1.14 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 hosted farewell receptions and delivered speeches for the departing Heads of Mission who concluded their terms of duties in the year 2018-2019.

- i. HE Archbishop Martin Krebs – Apostolic Nuncio on 15th August 2018
- ii. HE Mrs Florence Jeanblanc-Risler - Ambassador of France on 15th August 2018
- iii. HE Mr José Translosheros Hernandez – Ambassador of Mexico and Mrs Paulina Reyes Berlanga on 23rd November 2018
- iv. HE Mr Ewen McDonald, High Commissioner of Australia on 6th March 2019
- v. HE Bernard Baker, Singapore High Commissioner and Mrs Susan Baker on 27th June 2019

As customary, after the delivery of his speech, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, H.E Leasi Papali'i T Scanlan, presented the farewell gifts to the departing Heads of Mission and their spouses.

2.15. 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 (12)	Credential Visits (5)	Official Visits (9)	Farewell Visits (1)
Cuba Ambassador-designate H.E Mr Carlos Manuel Rojas, residence in Suva, Fiji issued on 3 rd July 2018	H.E Ms Mira Simone Woldberg Ambassador of Netherlands to Samoa, 20 th to 25 th October 2018	H.E Dr Itzhak Gerberg, Ambassador of Israel visit 26 th June to 1 st July 2018	H.E Mr Gerard Thiedemann, Ambassador of Germany visit on 31 st May to 4 th June 2019
Russia Ambassador-designate H.E Mr Georgy Zuev issued on 3 rd July 2018	H.E Mr Georgy Zuev, Ambassador of Russia to Samoa, 24 th to 27 th October 2018	H.E Mr Jesus S. Domingo, Ambassador of the Philippines and Mr James M. Donovan, Honorary Consul of Samoa to the Philippines visit 26 th to 29 th August 2018	
Netherlands Ambassador-designate H.E Ms Mira Simone Woldberg issued on 6 th July 2018	H.E Ms Sylvaine Carta-Le Vert, Ambassador of France to Samoa, 8 th February 2019	H.E Ms Laura Clarke, British High Commissioner visit 22 nd to 26 th October 2018	
Vietnam Ambassador-designate H.E Mr Ta Van Thong issued on 11 th July 2018	H.E Dr Abdul Malik, High Commissioner of Pakistan to Samoa, 3 rd to 8 th March 2019	H.E Mr Zbigniew Gniatkowski, Ambassador of Poland visit 2 nd to 6 th November 2018	
France Ambassador-designate H.E Ms Sylvaine Carta-Le Vert issued on 21 st August 2018	H.E Mr Ta Van Thong, Ambassador of Vietnam to Samoa, 5 th to 7 th March 2019	Mr Pier Francesco Zazo, Italian Special Envoy for the Pacific Small Islands Developing States visit on 6 th to 8 th November 2018	
Pakistan High Commissioner-designate H.E Dr Abdul Malik issued on 16 th October 2018		Visit by Members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association of Canada to Samoa 7 th to 9 th March 2019	
Poland Ambassador-		Hon. Ms Isabelle Bérnard, Assistant	

designate H.E Ms Malgorzata Anna Wier- zejska issued on 14 th November 2018		Deputy Minister, Environment and Climate Change visit 27 th to 28 th March 2019	
Malaysia High Commissioner- designate H.E Ms Nur Izzah Wong Mee Choo issued on 15 th February 2019		H.E Mr Seung-bae Yeo, Ambassador of Korea visit 1 st to 3 rd May 2019	
Thailand Ambassador- designate H.E Mr Danai Menabodhi issued on 21 st February 2019		H.E Ms Laura Clarke, British High Commissioner visit 14 th to 17 th May 2019	
Switzerland Ambassador- designate H.E Mr Michael Winzip issued on 15 th March 2019			
Germany Honorary Consul to Samoa Mrs Christa Maria Szeged issued on 1 st April 2019			
United Kingdom Ambassador- designate H.E Mr David Ward issued on 29 th May 2019			

2. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING FINANCIAL YEAR 2018/2019

2.1 Bilateral

Other Development Assistance:

- Canada Fund for Local Initiatives a self administered grants scheme provided assistance to civil society groups for Samoa in 2018-2019 and included:-

- i. Independent Water Schemes Association
- ii. Poutasi Development Trust
- iii. Samoa Victim Support Group
- iv. Faleu Village Council
- v. Women in Business Development Inc

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

Opportunities are not always taken up particularly if there is no funding available, and when people are unavailable.

Country	Trainings/Workshops	Scholarships	Meetings/ Conferences
Argentina			- Second High level Conference of the United Nations for South-South Cooperation in Buenos Aires, Argentina from the 20-22 March 2019.
Canada			- Invitation to the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference - Nairobi, Kenya from the 26-28 November 2018 - Inaugural Meeting of the Commonwealth Action Group on Ocean Observations in Ottawa, Canada from the 29-30 May 2019 - Invitation to Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Fiamē Naomi Mataafa to the Women Deliver 2019 Ministerial Forum in Vancouver, Canada from the 3-6 June 2019
France			- Invitation to the Hon. Lopao’o Natanielu Mua, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries to the Paris International Agricultural Show in Paris, France, 23 February-3 March 2019
Germany			- Invitation to the Prime Minister, Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi to the Fifth Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue “Energiewende” – New Horizons Berlin, Germany from 9-10 April 2019 - Invitation to the Hon. Lopao’o Natanielu Mua, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries to 11 th

			<p>Global Forum for Food and Agriculture 2019 Berlin, Germany, 19 January 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invitation to the International Green Week Berlin, Germany from 18-27 January 2019
India	Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation Programme (20 slots)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance held in New Delhi, India on the 3rd October 2018
Indonesia	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing Countries Partnership Scholarship Programme (70 slots) apply on-line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invitation to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly to the Indonesia-Pacific Parliamentary Partnership on Human Development and Maritime Sustainability in Jakarta, Indonesia, 23-24 July 2018 - Invitation to the Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa to the First Ministerial Meeting of Archipelagic and Island States (AIS) Forum in Manado, Indonesia on 1 November 2018 - Invitation to the Hon. Lautafi Seulafi Fio Purcell, Minister of Commerce, Industry & Labour to the 1st Regional Conference on Industrial Development in Bali, Indonesia from 8- 9 November 2018 - Invitation to the Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa to the 12th Bali Democracy Forum 5-6 December 2019 in Jakarta, Indonesia - Invitation to the Indonesia-South Pacific Forum (ISPF) and the Indonesia-South Pacific Business Forum (ISPBF), 21 March 2019 Jakarta, Indonesia - Invitation to the International South Pacific-Indonesia Entrepreneurship Camp: Sharing Experience to Achieve

			Sustainable Development Goals, 18-22 March 2019 in Jakarta, Indonesia
Ireland			- Invitation to the Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa to Our Ocean Wealth Summit Cork, Ireland, 8-9 June 2019
Israel			- Official State Visit by the Prime Minister of Samoa to Israel from 3-7 March 2019
Korea	Korea International Cooperation Agency (3 slots)		- 5 th Korea-Pacific Islands Senior Officials Meeting on 23 October 2018 - Invitation to the Republic of Korea-Pacific Islands Trade & Tourism Promotion Project in Seoul, Korea on the 13 March 2019
Malaysia	Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (23 slots)		
Pakistan			- Invitation to the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) Standing Committee on Political Affairs and Special Committee for Creation of Asian Parliament Meetings in Gwadar, Pakistan, 29- 31 October 2018
Poland			- Invitation to the Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi to the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24) in Katowice, Poland, 3-4 December 2018
Thailand	Annual International Training Courses (17 slots)		
Turkey			- Invitation to the Minister of Education, Sports & Culture, Hon. Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio to the Third UNWTO/UNESCO World

			Conference on Tourism and Culture in Istanbul, Turkey from 3-5 December 2018
United Kingdom		Chevening Scholarship (2 slots)	- Invitation to the Minister of Education, Sports & Culture, Hon. Loau Solamalealo Keneti Sio to the Fourth Edinburgh International Culture Summit, 22-24 August 2018

2.2 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.

2.3 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 the Patron of FAGASA and supports all its activities, including the Samoa Language Week, the Schools’ Samoan Speaking Competitions as well as their Annual Conference.

2.4 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.

2.5 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 is 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 seventh year, it has produced upcoming young golfers with the intention that they develop and contribute back to their country.

2.6 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 networking session.

2.7 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. These are; Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

2.8 Samoa High Commission Chancery Project

Intensive discussion, consultations and negotiations were undertaken with the neighbours and Wellington City Council from July to October of last year for the construction of a new SHC Chancery. In November 2018, the Wellington City Council finally granted Resource Consent for the Project. However; initial work will need to be undertaken for the preparation of the Building Consent.

Cabinet, in its decision dated 13th March 2019, approved the revised budget for the Chancery building including the construction of the Car Deck and the removal of one whole floor of the proposed Chancery. The funds saved (from the downsizing of the new Building) were earmarked for the renovation works for the High Commissioner's Residence. Agreements with the neighbours and the Wellington City Council for consent were prepared by Morrison Kent Lawyers in liaison with the Samoa High Commission.

The recommendation for the tender of the "Demolition Works" and the "Car Deck" were submitted through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for the Project Management Committee's consideration in April 2019. Contracts for the Demolition Works and Car Deck were then awarded in mid-May 2019.

SHC existing building demolition including the removal of asbestos commenced in June and were expected to be completed by end of July 2019 with the full report and photos being submitted to Government of Samoa for information. The work on the Car Deck commenced in July 2019.

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

- **Robert Louis Stevenson School Visit to attend the Korean Culture (K-POP) Festival from 25th to 30th July 2018** – The Samoa High Commission facilitated and provided liaison support services for 37 members from the Robert Louis Stevenson School including students, teachers and parents in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea. The invitation to participate in the Korea K-POP Festival performance had been extended by H.E Mr Seung-bae Yeo, Ambassador of Korea to

Samoa. The Samoa High Commissioner, H.E Leasi Papali'i T Scanlan hosted a luncheon reception for the students, teachers and parents of Robert Louis Stevenson School.

6. CONSULAR ACTIVITIES

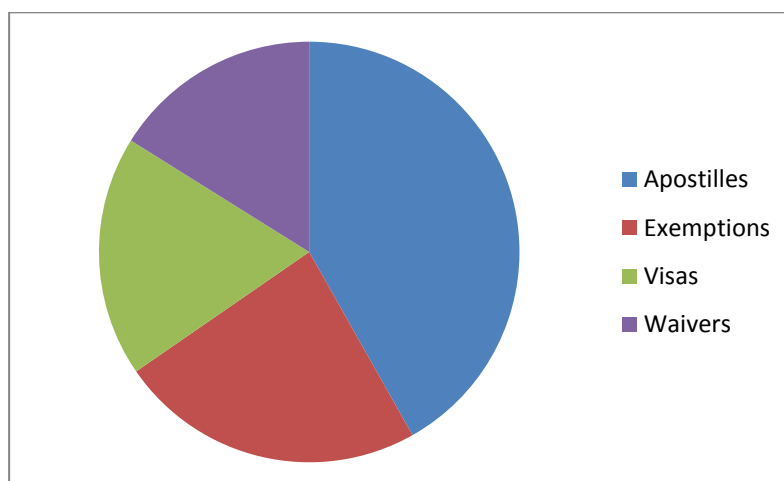
The High Commission in this financial year continues to receive increased requests for consular support services even outside normal working hours which we have been able to facilitate with the contact number being left on the voice machine for such requests. The website provides key information on consular 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: 174

VISAS: 77

WAIVERS: 67

EXEMPTIONS: 98



7. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

a. 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.

b. 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 and kiwisaver 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 2013, 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 - OFFICE OF THE CONSUL GENERAL - AUCKLAND

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) 2018/2019 HIGHLIGHTS

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	
• 786 First/New adult passports issued	\$196,500.00
• 89 Lost/damaged adult passports issued	\$34,800.00
• 157 Emergency First/New adult passports issued	\$47,100.00
• 39 Emergency Lost/Damaged adult passports issued	\$21,450.00
• 125 First/New Child passports issued	\$15,625.00
• 33 Emergency Child passports issued	\$5,775.00
• 762 passport exemptions	\$114,300.00
Sub Total	\$435,550.00
• 628 Passport Waivers	\$12,560.00

• 6 Endorsement of Names	\$360.00
• 1 Documents of Identity	\$150.00
• 59 Certificates of Identity	\$3,540.00
• 244 Birth Certificates	\$3,600.00
• 36 Marriage Certificates	\$540.00
• 5 Name Changes	\$525.00
• 123 Police reports obtained from Samoa	\$3690.00
TOTAL	\$460,515.00

2. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FY 2018/2019 FOR THE MISSION

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

3. PLANNED COMMITMENTS NOT ACHIEVED DURING THE FY

Most of the commitments were achieved.

4. LINKAGES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO THE SECTOR PLAN/ SDS

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

5. CONSULAR ACTIVITIES (if necessary)

Met all the targets on consular work as planned and listed in no.1 above

6. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

a. Human Resource/ Achievements

All staff carried out their duties satisfactorily.

b. Staff Training and Capacity Building

Continued on the job training for staff.

7. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

a. Achievement of Key Performance Targets for the FY

All Key Performance Targets for the year were achieved.

b. Assets Management

All the assets were managed properly.

8. CHALLENGES DURING THE PERIOD

The management of the buildings and extra works for new tenant spaces.

9. RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET

The Office is working closely with MOF on the changes approved by Cabinet on managing the new Samoa Consulate Complex.

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. Capital and Mission attendance to the 2nd ACP Ministerial Central Negotiating Group (CNG) Meeting held in New York in September 2018;
- viii. Facilitated Hon. Faumuina Tiatia Liuga's participation and attendance to the 51st Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly and inter-sessional meetings of the ACP-EU JPA held in Brussels in October 2018;
- ix. Capital and Mission attendance to the ACP Ministerial Trade meeting and the Joint ACP-EU Ministerial Trade Meetings held in Brussels in October 2018;
- x. Minister for Trade Negotiations, Hon. Lautafi Purcell, chaired the 21st Meeting of the ACP Ministerial Trade Committee, and the 16th Joint ACP-EU Ministerial Trade Committee meeting held in Brussels in October 2018;
- xi. Facilitated Hon. Faumuina Tiatia Liuga participation and attendance to the 52nd Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly and the 36th ACP-EU JPA Session held in Cotonou, Benin in November 2018;
- xii. Facilitated Prime Minister and delegation participation and attendance to UNFCCC COP24 in Katowice, Poland in December 2018;
- xiii. Facilitated Capital participation (SUNGO CEO) to the ACP Non-State Actors Consultation Meeting on the Post-Cotonou Agreement Negotiations in Brussels in March 2019;

- xiv. Facilitated Hon. Lautafi Purcell and delegation participation and attendance to the meeting on Samoa's Trade Policy Review at the WTO in Geneva, Switzerland in April 2019;
- xv. Facilitated Prime Minister and delegation participation and attendance to the World Rugby Council meeting in Dublin, Ireland in May 2019;
- xvi. Facilitated and support to Deputy Prime Minister and delegation participation and attendance to the 109th ACP Council of Ministers meeting in Brussels in May 2019. The Council unanimously approved Samoa's bid to host the signing ceremony for the next ACP-EU Treaty;
- xvii. Facilitated High Level attendance as well as Mission attendance to the 41st Session of the Conference of FAO in Rome in June 2019;
- xviii. Mission attendance to the 66th Session of the IMO Technical Cooperation Committee in June 2019 on behalf of MWTI, and;
- xix. Discussion with Members of the European Parliament on Samoa's iEPA Accession including a debate at the EP's International Trade Committee Meeting in October 2018. The EP gave its consent to Samoa's Accession to the iEPA Agreement in November 2018;
- xx. Facilitated and lobbied for support on Samoa's accession to the iEPA with the various EU organs throughout the year culminating in the Council of the EU's consent on 6th December 2018;
- xxi. Embassy donation from office savings were made to the Manu Samoa 15s team in July 2018, the Manu Samoa 7s team in June 2019 as well as to the National Netball team during the 2019 Vitality Netball World Cup in July 2019;
- xxii. 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 2018/2019 FOR THE MISSION

- i. ACP Ministerial confirmation in May 2019 for Samoa to host the signing of the ACP-EU Post-Cotonou Agreement in 2020;
- ii. Support to the Prime Minister and delegation during attendance to the ACP Ministerial Central Negotiating Group and the joint ACP-EU sessions held in N'Djamena, T'chad in April 2019;
- iii. Support to the Prime Minister and delegation during attendance to the first Pacific ACP-EU High Level Political Dialogue on the Post-Cotonou Negotiations held in Apia, Samoa in February 2019;

- iv. Provisional entry into force on 31st December 2019 of Samoa's membership to the Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Pacific States (Fiji, PNG);
- v. Completed internal review of local staff positions and filled all vacancies in line with Belgian employment system by March 2019;

3. OTHER EVENTS AND OFFICIAL VISITS

- i. Facilitated visits for meetings by officials from Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture (January & June 2019), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (October 2018, December 2018 and May 2019), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (December 2018), SUNGO (March 2019), Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (May 2019), Ministry of Works Transport and Infrastructure (June 2019);
- ii. 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;
- iii. Hosted meeting between Pacific Ambassadors and the Secretary-General of PIFS, and
- iv. Elections attended to during the period include the election for the BIE's 2025 World Exposition, the election of the Director-General of the FAO, the election of Directors to the World Customs Organization and the election of the Deputy Director General of the International Organization of Migration.

4. CONSULAR ACTIVITIES

A total of 8 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 and others. 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 First Secretary, Ms Anna Main, finished her term of posting on 3rd July 2018. She was replaced by Ms Maxine Lomialagi Hunter, First Secretary, on 18th November 2018;

- The Head of Mission Secretary/Office Receptionist, Ms Angela Maria Jansen, completed her 1-year contract in November 2018. She did not wish to take up an extension with the Mission due to family relocation;
- The Head of Mission Secretary/Office Receptionist vacancy was filled by Ms Meriem Boughanmi in March 2019 on a 2-year contract;
- The Accounts Officer vacancy was filled by Ms Tessa Dussart in March 2019 on a 2-year contract.

5.2 Staff Training and Developments

- French language classes for the First Secretary commenced in January 2019;
- First Secretary attended a Workshop on Complying with the Belgian labour and social security legislation for foreign Diplomatic Missions on 4th April 2019;
- Counsellor attended a Seminar on Employing Local Staff on 7th May 2019.

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 hireage of VIP room airport costs.

6.2 Assets Management

- Some replacement furniture purchased for the Chancery, Samoa House, and Embassy staff Apartments.
- Office Multivan was replaced on 14th August 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;

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) 2018/2019 HIGHLIGHTS

i. High Level Political Forum (HLPF), July 2018.

The Mission represented Samoa at the HLPF and attended the sessions on the presentation of voluntary national reviews (VNRs) to support the Pacific Island Forum countries that presented theirs for the first time i.e. Australia and Kiribati.

The Ambassador participated as a panelist in the following side events held during the HLPF period, viz:

- PIF side event on “Addressing unbalance and inadequate development to achieve the SDGs.”
- OHRLLS and UNDESA side event: “3rd annual Global Multi-stakeholder Small Island Developing States Partnership Dialogue.”

The Mission registered Samoa's interest to present its second National Voluntary Review in the HLPF in July 2020 and this has now been confirmed.

ii. Hand-over of Chairmanship of the Pacific Islands (PIF), September 2018.

The Mission's report on the activities and events held during Samoa's year-long chairmanship of the PIF-New York group [Sept 2017-Sept 2018] was presented

to PIF Ambassadors at the last group meeting before Nauru's assumption of the chairmanship.

The Mission hosted a Reception in September 2018 to officially conclude its PIF Chairmanship and to hand over same to its successor for the 2018/2019 period.

iii. Samoa represented at High-level week of UN General Assembly 73rd session, 24-28 September 2018.

The Hon. Prime Minister delivered Samoa's national statement during the United Nation's General Assembly's general debate focusing on the Blue Pacific Narrative which covered topical and priority issues like climate change, migration, the 2030 development agenda, Peacekeeping, the Ocean and BBNJ and Samoa's voluntary commitments, the signing of new

Treaties and sustainable tourism and its importance in the development of small island developing state's (SIDS) economies.

Statements were also delivered by the Prime Minister at the:

- Nelson Mandela Peace Summit.
- High Level Meeting on the Fight against Tuberculosis
- High Level meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the "Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons"
- Third High Level Meeting of the UNGA to undertake a comprehensive review of the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).
- Remarks at the High Level Roundtable on SIDS Lighthouse Initiative 2.0: Increasing ambition to accelerate energy transformation in SIDS.
- PIF-UN Secretary-General bilateral meeting (presentation on SDG implementation in our Pacific region.)

Samoa also:

- **Ratified** the "Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons."
- **Endorsed** the "Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN Peacekeeping Operations." Action for Peace (A4P).

iv. Campaign for the candidature of Samoa to be a member of the UN Statistical Commission for 2020-2023.

The Mission was tasked to start a campaign for the nomination of Samoa (CEO, Bureau of Statistics) to serve on the UN Statistical Commission for a 3-year term (2020-2022) at ECOSOC elections in May 2019. Elections to the USC is by the ECOSOC's 54 members only and for regional groupings, and not the 193 full UN membership. Samoa belongs to the Asia Pacific Group (APG).

The request was received after other APG member states had long submitted their candidatures for endorsement as APG's endorsed candidates for the ECOSOC election, which the group did. As a result, Samoa's candidature is now put forward for the 2021-2023 term with election in May 2020.

The Mission is actively engaged in lobbying, via bilateral meetings, Note Verbale to officially request for reciprocal support agreements (RSA) with countries running in other UN elections who are members of the ECOSOC as well as seeking direct support from Samoa's partners and supporters. The Mission's work is on-going until elections in May 2020 and initial responses so far had been positive and encouraging.

UN Statistical Commission: The Mission also attended the UN Statistical Commission Meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of the Samoa Bureau of Statistics which was held at the UNHQ in NY in May 2019.

v. **63rd Conference on the Status of Women (CSW), 11-22 Mar2019**

Samoa was represented by Minister of Women, Honourable Faimalotoa Kika Stowers-Ah Kau, the CEO, MWCSO, 2 ACEOs of the MWCSO, Manager of NOLA and the Ambassador and Mission staff.

Samoa's delegation actively participated through the following activities:

- Delivered National statement
- Statement at the roundtable
- Participated in the negotiation of the Outcome document
- Co-sponsored a side event –Ambassador provided opening and closing remarks for the event. The Mission staff was involved in preparatory meetings with organizations involved, booking of room, registration of attendees to the event; assist with information provided for flyer etc.

vi. **Conference of State Parties for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), 10-14 June, 2019.**

The Mission attended the COSP of the CRPD (second time since ratification in 2017). In addition to the Ambassador and Mission staff, were the Manager of Nuanua OLe Alofa (NOLA) and a representative from the MWCSO project on empowerment of people with disabilities.

- Samoa delivered a National statement
- Participated in (2) side events as panelists

vii. **BBNJ:**

The Mission participated actively in the Preparatory Meetings and the Inter-governmental conference (IGC) for the negotiation of an agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and

sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ).

The Mission with delegates from MFAT and MNRE participated in the First Inter-governmental conference (IGC) for the negotiation of a legal agreement for BBNJ which was held in September 2018, the Second IGC held in April, 2019 in which the Mission provided national interventions as well as statements on behalf of the PIF. The Mission also attended the preparatory and coordination meetings (retreat held in New York and workshop in the Federated States of Micronesia) for support in the provision of analysis for national position on the thematic issues to assist with the next IGC for text-based negotiations in August 2019.

viii. Briefing for delegations attending the UN Model Conference.

The Mission hosted and conducted two (2) briefings in April for students from international schools who had decided to represent Samoa as their country of choice in the Model United Nations week:

1. 24 students from schools in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.
2. 10 students from Brigham Young University (BYU) in Hawaii.

The Ambassador and staff members presented briefings on Samoa's policies and stance on specific issues which ranges from Human Rights, Sustainable development, Law and Order, Security, Climate Change, Culture, Indigenous Language/Culture, Oceans as well as the experiences of diplomats from a Small Island Developing State in a multilateral setting and agenda.

This was to assist the students representing Samoa at the discussion on various issues at UN Model conference for schools at the United Nations.

ix. 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:

- SIDS Interregional preparatory meeting for the Mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway, Apia, October-November, 2018.
- GCF Board meeting, Bahrain, October 2018
- UNFCCC COP 24, Poland, December 2018
- 6th Global Environment Outlook, UNEP, Nairobi, January 2019
- High Level conference on High Forest Cover Low Deforestation, Climate Finance Mobilization, Suriname, February 2019.
- BBNJ Preparatory meeting, FSM, February 2019
- UN Environment 4th Assembly, Nairobi, March 2019
- SDG High Level Summit in Copenhagen, Denmark, April 2019.

- High Level Dialogue PIF Leaders and UN Secretary-General, Fiji, May 2019.
- GEF constituency meeting, Palau, May 2019
- BBNJ coordinators meeting, Suva, Fiji, June 2019.
- Abu Dhabi prep meeting for Climate Action Summit, June 2019

x. Representation at meetings/events in Washington DC and outside New York

As Samoa's accredited representative to the United States of America, the Ambassador attended following meetings/events held outside of New York, viz;

- Meeting of Pacific Islands Forum Ambassadors to US and representatives of the US Government, Washington DC, August 2018
- UN Lecture series: Lecture on UN, Climate change and SIDS, Muhlenberg College, Pennsylvania, February 2019
- Meeting between Ambassadors of Pacific SIDS to the United States with representatives of US Government, Washington DC, March 2019
- US Administration Speakers series, Washington DC, April 2019
- Island Resilience Forum, Dallas April 2019
- Presentation by graduate students, Ross School of Business, Michigan University of their project "Youth Employment in Samoa" after their visit to Samoa under UN sponsorship, Michigan, Apr 2019
- Pacific Island Forum Ambassadors to the US engagement with the US Administration and US Congress, Washington DC, June 2019.

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

i. Membership on UN-related Boards and Bureaus

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

- a. Executive Board of the United Nations Development Fund/UN Population Fund/UN Office for Project Services [UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS],
- b. Executive Board of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women [UN Women],
- c. Ambassador as SIDS representative on the Green Climate Fund Board.
 - ✓ Mission delivered statements in the 2 remaining sessions (the Second Session in September 2018, the special session in December 2018) of both Executive Boards and actively participated in their executive meetings. Samoa's term on the Executive Boards came to end in December 2018.
 - ✓ 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. He completed his term on the GCF Board in December 2018.

ii. Committee Work.

The Mission staff participated in the work of the First, Second, Third, Fourth and Sixth Committees and also followed the work of the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budget Committee) as necessary.

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 various UN Committee and UN General Assembly resolutions, but in particular the following resolutions,

- “The Mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway” on 27 September 2019,
- Enhancing UN cooperation with the Pacific Islands Forum.

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 after consultations with MFAT.

iii. Establishment of Diplomatic Relations.

The Permanent Mission was able to facilitate and execute at Ambassadorial level the establishment of diplomatic relations with one (1) country, namely:
1) San Marino – signed Communiqué on 28 February, 2019

Others are in progress to be signed later in the year.

iv. Samoa endorsed the “Safe School Declaration” through submission of Note Verbale to the Mission of Switzerland on 19th July, 2019.

v. The Mission joined the (PSIDS) Signing for the continuation (second phase) of the Joint Committee (Cooperation Programme of the Governments of the PSIDS and the Governments of Italy, Austria, Luxemburg and Spain). Samoa has benefitted previously from funding assistance under this partnership and the Mission will work with capital to submit a new proposal under the new extension.

3. OTHER EVENTS AND OFFICIAL COMMITMENTS ACHIEVED

3.1 Personnel and Gender Distribution

- The expanding UN agenda, its complexities and dynamics and Samoa’s interest to participate meaningfully in the evolving multilateral landscape,

including the added workload anticipated for Samoa's Chairmanship of the Pacific Islands Forum group for one year (Sept 2017/Sept 2018], necessitated the need for additional support staff.

- Fortuitously,
 - ✓ Ms. Olive Vaai, Senior Foreign Service Officer (MFAT) was seconded to the Mission for a period of one (1) year to assist with Samoa's PIF Chairmanship. Her secondment was from 22 January 2018 to the end of January 2019 and funded by the Australian Government.
 - ✓ Ms. Taulesulu Yandall, a Samoan graduate University student, was attached to the Mission as an Intern under the sponsorship of the New Zealand Government and served for fifteen months until the end of December 2018.
 - ✓ After completion of Ms. Vaai's secondment, Government approved for her to continue at the Mission as First Secretary as part of a full diplomatic posting to be completed in January 2021.

- The number of Staff personnel at the Mission increased from 6 to 7 with 4 posted staff from Samoa (Ambassador[M], Counsellor [F], First Secretary[M]) and (second) First Secretary (F) with 4 locally recruited staff (Second Secretary/Consular Officer[F], Accounts Officer[F], Intern [F] (ended in December 2018) and Driver/Messenger[M].

- The gender make-up of staff as of 30 June 2019, i.e. 4 Females and 3 Males.

3.2 Staff Trainings and Developments

Both of the Mission's First Secretaries submitted their applications to participate in the Young Professional Programme (YPP) exam administered by the United Nations Secretariat for the selection and recruitment of interested persons wanting to enter the roster of the workforce for a career at the United Nations.

4. CONSULAR ACTIVITIES (if necessary)

The Mission continues to hold bilateral meetings with representatives of the US Government from Washington (US State Department and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) 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 for the list of Samoan nationals provided by the US authorities.

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. The Embassy has established contact persons with ICE personnel for ease of communication and good working relations.

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

- **14- Total Samoan passports**
 - Urgent passports: 8**
 - Non-urgent passports: 5**
 - Replacement of lost passport: 1**
- **16 - Certificates of Identity [including for deportees]:**
 - CI issued for emergencies: 5**
 - CI issued for deportees: 11**
- **13 - Birth certificates**
- **02 – Death Certificates**
- **03- Permits for transportation of deceased Samoan nationals to Samoa**
- **0 -Police reports**
- **0 -Certifying Notes [Samoan driver’s license]**
- **02 – Apostille**
- **01 -Certificate of Citizenship**

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

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 2018-19 Financial year
- The Mission however would like to suggest to MFAT and MoF the possible inclusion of some new key indicators for FYs 2018/19 and FY2019/20 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] as well as chair of the APG.
- 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. There are various items that were not in useable form that the Mission requested for write offs.
- The Mission has requested for a replacement of its SUV vehicle due to diminishing value of the more than 10 years of purchase/life. The purchase of a

new vehicle to replace the old SUV has been approved by Cabinet and included in the approved budget for the PY 2019/20 and the Mission is awaiting receipt of funds for the procurement of this asset.

6. CHALLENGES DURING THE PERIOD

The Mission is always challenged with its limited staffing to follow and cover all UN related meetings and discussions that are held in New York 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 1 staff (First Secretary) has helped the Mission in attending most of the important meetings and follow negotiations at the United Nations.

The up-coming 74th UNGA in September 2019 has a very congested and demanding agenda with five (5) high level summits proposed for the high level week for the Leaders. The proposed agenda involves 1) Climate Summit by the Secretary-General, 2) A Universal Health Coverage High Level dialogue, 3) Financing for Development high Level Dialogue, 4) High Level political Forum Summit: SDG Summit and 5) the Mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway thus more attention and work is required of the Mission in the preparation phase during the negotiations of the High Level Political Declarations and Outcomes of the five (5) Summits.

Also there has been added work for the Mission because of Samoa's link to the SAMOA Pathway, and the natural expectation by some member states and UN entities of the Mission to have an active role in various capacities either as (i) presenters, (ii) panelists, (iii) briefers, or (iv) discussants or (v) events co-hosts 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 2018-2019) HIGHLIGHTS

- I. The Prime Minister was invited to Lowy Institute in August 2018 to deliver an address on 'Pacific Perspectives on the New Geostrategic Landscape'

- II. High Commissioner met the new Minister for Foreign Affairs for Australia, Senator the Hon. Marisa Payne, after the confirmation of her reappointment following the successful re-election of the Coalition government in the May elections.
- III. Consul General, Afioga Manogiamanu Fonoti Ioane and family were farewelled during the latter part of the year, at a community ceremony that also welcomed his replacement, Afioga Auseugaefa Vaasatia Poloma Komiti and family.
- IV. In October, there was a Pacific Trade Investment (PTI) Business Mission to Samoa which the Vice Consul Trade and the High Commissioner travelled to with the PTI Team from Sydney.
- V. In November the Head of Missions meeting took place in Samoa, and the High Commissioner was in attendance.
- VI. In the same month of November, the Prime Minister and a delegation travelled from Samoa to Brisbane for the official launching of the Samoa Airways direct flights to this new destination.
- VII. The Pacific Island Countries who have Embassies here in Canberra had their first Talanoa Session hosted by the Fiji Mission. All issues concerning the Pacific Island Countries were discussed like Cyber security, Climate Change, Seasonal Workers challenges etc.
- VIII. In April 2019, the High Level Talks between Samoa and Australia took place here in Canberra. The CEOs for MFAT, MOF, MPMC and Commissioner of Police were in attendance together with the High Commission office. The discussions were based on prevailing issues concerning Samoa like regional security, climate change, the 'Step Up' initiative, the Seasonal Workers' Program (SWP), Blue Pacific, and Trade.
- IX. In June there was a church service held in Canberra to commemorate the 57th Independence Day for Samoa. A combined reception was also held in Sydney which was well attended by members of the Samoan Community. The HC also travelled to Brisbane on an invitation from the Samoan Community there to participate in their commemoration service of our Independence.
- X. In the same month, the Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Fiame Naomi visited Canberra with the CEO for Natural Resources and Environment.
- XI. There was also a Pasifika Launch of Samoan and other Pacific small businesses that was held in Melbourne which the High Commissioner attended, followed by one in Sydney.
- XII. The High Commissioner attended the launching of the Samoa Senior Citizens Programme in Melbourne. This programme is a first of its kind for the Samoan community in Australia, and also the Pacific.

2. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FY FOR THE MISSION

The major achievements for the SHC would be:

- The Samoa and Australia High Level Talks which took place in April of this year in Canberra. For these talks the CEOs from the Ministries of Finance, Foreign Affairs and Trade, Police, the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the High

Commissioner here in Canberra and staff had consultations with the Australian Senior Officials, which included the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Federal Police, Australian Defence, and others. Issues that were discussed included, Cyber Security, Regional Security, SWP, Australia's 'Step Up' Initiative, Climate Change, Blue Pacific, Trade Agreement status.

- The conclusion of consultations between the Mission and the Insurance Company that is now covering all properties and assets belonging to the Government here in Canberra (with the exception of the motor vehicles which are covered under a different Insurance Company).
- Our office hosted the Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Fiame Naomi Mataafa and the CEO of Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. The DPM was the keynote speaker at La Trobe University's 'Leadership for Inclusive Development Conference' in Melbourne and later travelled to Canberra to meet with Senior Australian Officials from the Ministry of Environment. During this visit the accompanying CEO was able to hold consultations with his counterparts from the Department of Environment for Australia on issues of Climate Change and Oceans.
- The Mission purchased two new vehicles to replace the existing two office vehicles purchased in 2011 and 2013 respectively. This was proposed to be funded by office savings from the financial year now nearing completion. The two vehicles purchased are the 2019 Toyota Klugger Grande to replace the BMW, and 2019 Toyota Rav 4 Edge to replace the Holden Captiva.
- The Mission hosted Government officials here in Canberra on duty travel and government business during this period. They were:
 - The CEO's MFAT, MOF, MOP, MPMC;
 - A senior lawyer from the Attorney General's office;
 - Officials from SPC;
 - Governor of Central Bank;
 - DPM and CEO Environment;
- On our diplomatic relations:
 - The Pacific Diplomatic Community farewelled one of its longest serving diplomats from the Tonga Mission, Mr Leonatasi Kuni, and welcomed his replacement Mr Curtis Tuihalangingie. The new PNG High Commissioner, H.E. Mr John Kali also took up his appointment, after a lengthy wait of some 12 months.
 - Meetings were held with the Ambassadors of Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, Finland, Iceland, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Croatia, Portugal, and Iran on possible areas of assistance to the Pacific region, and Samoa in particular. They were most interested in the areas of maritime, oceans, and climate change.
 - Our Mission has hosted twice debriefing meetings called by the Secretary General of the Forum Secretariat, with all Pacific heads of mission each time they have policy dialogue with DFAT.
 - We had the usual debriefing meetings with DFAT on policy matters regarding some changes they have lined up for visa processing in particular for domestic workers.

3. PLANNED COMMITMENTS NOT ACHIEVED DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR

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

The Mission has finalised insurance coverage for both the Chancery and the Residence and the O'Malley Property with Resilium Insurance Pty. This is a relief given the long delay after the completion of the new premises due to limited funding. We have also retained a local casual worker to help with the maintenance of the buildings and grounds, as well as duties of a second driver from time to time. These developments added to the pressure on the budget, especially the insurance cover which has increased, now that all assets are under cover.

There is also the issue on land rates that is still ongoing with the Australian Government and the Diplomatic Community. This remains unresolved at the moment, and negotiations are ongoing.

4. LINKAGES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO THE SECTOR PLAN/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 Sector Plan. 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 issues and our social policies. We have used invitations to community events to disseminate information, and have also gone on radio from time to time.

5. OTHER EVENTS AND OFFICIAL COMMITMENTS ACHIEVED

5.1 Personnel and Gender Distribution

There are no changes in staff establishment from the previous year. The Mission comprises of the Head of Mission, Deputy High Commissioner, locally employed staff being an administrative assistant and two drivers, one continuing to work on a part time basis. The second driver to note, is also responsible for the grounds maintenance and the upkeep of the chancery and residence in terms of cleaning. 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 on illegal immigrants (mostly those who have breached visitors' visa conditions, or working visas such as over-stayers).

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 Financial Year.

8. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

8.1 Achievement of Key Performance Targets for the FY

The Mission considers that it has managed to utilise effectively resources allocated to achieve its KPIs despite the restricted financial allocations. This increase is due mainly to increasing utility rates, education/fees, and expenses for the casual worker retained for the continuous upkeep of the new chancery.

8.2 Asset Management

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.

This financial year saw the purchase of two new vehicles to replace the old ones that the office owned for the past 8 years, namely a 2019 Toyota Klugger Grande and a 2019 Rav 4 Edge. Both vehicles have been insured as per the usual process with Government assets.

9. CHALLENGES DURING THE PERIOD

The main challenge was to ensure that all the defects to the new chancery that needed extra work on, were fixed and maintained during the warranty period of 12 months. There were quite a number of problems especially with the security of the

doors, some loose pavement blocks and the general surroundings of the buildings, which we attended to as a matter of urgency with the project manager to resolve.

Another challenge is the continuity of all the different services that were under the warranty of the buildings and to which we were not aware of during the period of construction, as they all came under the purview of the Contractor. However, on completion of construction, all the services engaged are now our responsibility. These include, separate payments for different services for instance, the alarm system, the air conditioning, the waste backflow devices used on the premises etc. All these are services to be paid annually for the ongoing upkeep of the Mission. It is a normal cost as a property owner. These costs have seen a slight rise this year and highly likely for following year as well. They will be a problem if there is inadequate budgetary provision. The services however are essential to the premises.

10. RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET

The new Government premises 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. 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) and extreme cold (-6). As our premises are a combination of concrete with most of the flooring wood, there will be the usual wear and tear, however, there must be adequate preparation for its continual upkeep to ensure this asset remains 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) 2018/2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- I.** Three briefing sessions for new students conducted (1 in Samoa Dec 2018, 2 in Fiji Jan/Feb 2019);
- II.** 22 full Govt of Samoa awardees as of June 2019 + 4 partial Samoan sponsored students at USP;
- III.** 1 new student joined Fiji School of Medicine at FNU in Feb 2019;
- IV.** 8 meetings with students, 6 meetings with sponsors and 8 meetings with various staff of USP, 1 meeting with FNU and 1 sports related activity with USP students.

2. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FY 2018/2019 FOR THE MISSION

- i. 21 students graduated in Dec this FY, 17 from USP (Fiji), and 4 from FNU, Fiji.
- ii. 6 students completed their programmes in semester 1, 2019 and are expected to graduate either in Sept or Dec 2019.
- iii. A total of 28 new students were welcomed to Fiji at the beginning of 2019;
- iv. A survey on student satisfaction was conducted in Oct 2018 with a 51% response rate;
- v. A total of 4 quarterly reports were submitted to MFAT.

3. LINKAGES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO THE SECTOR PLAN/ SDS

SDS 2016/2017 – 2019/20

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

i. Human Resource/ Achievements

The clerical assistant resigned in June 2019 and has yet to be replaced.

5. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

ii. Achievement of Key Performance Targets for the FY

-all targets achieved

iii. Assets Management

-updated asset register submitted to MFAT in July 2019

SUB-OUTPUT 3.7 - OFFICE OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF SAMOA- 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) 2018/2019 - HIGHLIGHTS

Total budget for the Consulate this financial year was USD **\$106,255.00**

Total revenue collection was up for this reporting year to USD **\$320,433.00** compared to

USD \$300,143.00.00 collected for FY 2017/2018 representing an increase of USD \$20, 290.00

Revenue over expenditure for the reporting year totals **\$214,178.00**

Total Revenue comprised:

(i) 369 new Adult Passports: @\$250	= \$92,250.00
(ii) 17 Child Passport@\$125	= \$ 2,125.00
(iii) 35 Passport Extensions:@ \$60.00	= \$ 2,100.00
(iv) 31 Passport Endorsements:@ \$60	= \$ 1,860.00
(v) 5 Documents of Identity: @\$100	= \$ 500.00
(vi) 25 DOI Extensions @\$60	= \$ 1,500.00
(vii) 6 Citizenship by descent/Exemptions @ \$150	= \$ 900.00
(viii) 37 Authorizations to travel without passport: @\$50.00	= \$1,850.00
(ix) 6 Certificates of Identity @\$200.00	= \$1,200.00
(x) 33 Exemptions Transfer: @ \$60.00	= \$1,980.00
(xi) 39 Birth Certificates: @\$20.00	= \$ 780.00
(xii) 1 Marriage Certificates @\$20.00	= \$ 20.00
(xiii) 6 Multiple Entry: @ \$150.00	= \$ 900.00
(xiv) Entry Permits:	
a. 6053 (14days) @\$20	= \$121,060.00
b. 793 (30days) @ \$40.00	= \$31,720.00
c. 73 (60days) @\$60	= \$ 4,380.00
d. 210 (1 Way Transit Permits) @\$20.00	= \$ 4,200.00
532 (2 Way Transit Permits) @ \$40.00	= \$ 21,280.00
(xv) Urgency/Service Fees, Miscellaneous and Others	= \$ 29,828.00
This amount is a combined amount from \$10 urgency fee for all entry permits, \$50 for urgent passport applications, Certificate of Identity, Document of Identity and \$10 for urgent authorizations, and passport endorsements, photo copies, customer's phone calls, service fees for BC/MC requested from the mainland, Hawaii and others.	<u>\$ 320,433.00</u>

2. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FY 2018/2019 FOR THE POST

- (i) Build and consolidate on existing Consulate's entry permit regime of 14 days, 30 days, 60 days, single or one-way travel and, two-way transits.
- (ii) Improve and streamlining existing process of acquiring Passports and DOI by the Post, issuance and air delivery from Headquarters and Immigration Department.
- (iii) Build on and enhance existing interactions with ASG officials, especially from the Governor and Lt Governor and American Samoa Department Directors and General Employees.
- (iv) Maintain land at Tafuna in preparation for New Consulate headquarters.
- (v) Build on and maintain increase in revenue collection as per previous annual reporting periods.
- (v) Invited twice to attend Cabinet Meetings at Tafuna but meetings were cancelled due to Governor Lolo Moliga's unavailability due to health reasons.
- (vi) Guest of Honour at KINGS LEADERSHIP COLLEGE School Graduation 24th May 2019.

3. PLANNED COMMITMENTS NOT ACHIEVED DURING THE FY

None

4. LINKAGES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO THE SECTOR PLAN/ SDS

The Office serves to provide the traveling public with efficient turnaround time for new passport applications and issuance of permits. There is good collaboration with all ministries involved and headquarters. Interational travel between the two Samoas continues to increase as reflected in the number of permits issued.

The Consulate is also involved in processing permits for MEDICAID funded patients particularly if they transit through Apia onward to Australia and/or New Zealand and adds to revenue collection

5. OTHER EVENTS AND OFFICIAL COMMITMENTS ACHIEVED

- (i) Engage and communicate with ASG officials in various events.
- (ii) Liase with Immigration Department on immigration issues with the view of discouraging authorities in Pago from holding passports for travelling public as they often lead to Samoan passports either misplaced or lost by ASG officials.
- (iii) Build on liaison duties pertaining to visits to the Territory by Samoa Head of State, Prime Minister, Members of the Council of Deputies, Cabinet Ministers and senior Government Officials.
- (iv) Public relations events like attending and hosting of dinners or luncheons for visiting VIPs from Samoa and ASG officials.

6. CONSULAR ACTIVITIES (if necessary)

i. Budget Performance Verses Key Performance Indicators

High revenue collected during this Financial period. There was a 6.7% increase compared to the previous financial year.

ii. Asset Management / Registration

Assets register had been updated after new assets were purchased. Audit had apparently been completed in 2016.

7. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

a. Personnel and Gender Distribution

Three staff members inclusive of the Consul General. However, it is recommended that where ever possible an additional staff member is recommended. The amount and volume of work is immense and the revenue collected is the testimony for this aspect.

b. Staff Trainings and Developments

On the job training, coaching is continuous. Self-development is encouraged and ongoing.

8. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

I. Achievement of Key Performance Targets for the FY

The office managed to meet all its Key performance indicators except a few which are based on demand such as requests for passports and permits.

II. Assets Management

A new list of all assets to date is available depicting old and new assets purchased lately to improve Consulate services to the public and to ensure staff welfare is maintained whilst at work.

9. CHALLENGES DURING THE PERIOD

As depicted in previous Consul General's report, a few Departments communicated officially in writing with the Consulate General's Office. It makes relationship building very challenging as it provides no record of discussions. The office will continue to improve on its official engagement with all stakeholders.

SUB-OUTPUT 3.8 – EMBASSY OF SAMOA– TOKYO, JAPAN

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 concurrently accredited to, which are the Russian Federation, the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates(UAE), India and with 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-Tualaulelei and Counsellor Mr. Justin Lima engaged in several meetings and events 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, PIC 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.

Japan entered a historically significant era with the ascension of Crown Prince Naruhito to Japan's Chrysanthemum Throne commencing the new Reira era on 1st May 2019, succeeding his father Emperor Akihito who became the first emperor to abdicate since 1817. Thus, the Imperial Palace events for this period were more significant in that they were considered the final events before Emperor Akihito's abdication from the Throne. The Ambassador, Spouse and Counsellor attended all the annual events hosted by or in honor of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress throughout this period. Notably, Their Majesties hosted the Ambassador and Spouse and two other long-serving Ambassadors to lunch a day before his abdication.

The Ambassador also had high level engagements and audiences with Honourable Yoshiro Mori, former Prime Minister of Japan and President of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organizing Committee; Honourable Mr. Taro Kono, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Ms. Tosiko Abe, State Minister of Foreign Affairs; 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 and Honourable Shinji Oguma, Co-Secretary-Generals of the Japan-Samoa Parliamentary Friendship Committee; and Honourable Furuya, Chairman of the Japan-Pacific Islands Friendship League.

The Ambassador also met with Governors, Assembly and Council members of Fukushima, Kochi, Saitama, Yamagata and Shizuoka prefectures, as well as with Mayors and senior officials of Iwaki, Kumagaya, Yamagata and Tendo cities, to expand engagement at the local level in the implementation of sports diplomacy.

Regular meetings were held with officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and JICA to explore trade and labour opportunities and receiving updates on the ongoing and future projects being implemented and in the pipeline under the Japanese bilateral development assistance program for Samoa. Coordination meetings for the Emperor's Enthronement Ceremony also started.

The Ambassador held bilateral meetings with Ambassadors of other regions. In particular, meetings with the Indian and Philippine Ambassadors were to discuss bilateral relations between Samoa and Philippines and India respectively, in areas of health care, capacity building in maritime and agriculture, and information technology.

There are 7 Pacific Island Country diplomatic representations in Japan, which meet often to confer on pertinent issues relevant to the Pacific through its Pacific Island Countries Ambassadors' Group, its Officials' Working Group, and networking receptions and events. The Ambassador and Counsellor attended all such events whenever they occurred to deliberate in particular the follow-up work relating to the PALM8 Leader's Declaration and the roll out of its bilateral and regional implementation framework.

The Embassy attended a number of official/diplomatic functions important for networking, in renewing work relations and developing new ones with the Japanese government, with some of the 160 diplomatic representations in Tokyo and, with prefectural and city leaders, educational institutions and non- government organizations. Attending and hosting official/diplomatic functions is very important in Japan and the Samoa Embassy remained fully engaged in these activities.

The Ambassador visited UAE and met with UAE government officials where possible and attended meetings of the IRENA Council as Chair of the IRENA Council. The Ambassador also attended the 9th Session of the IRENA Assembly with Hon. Fiame Naomi Mataafa, Deputy Prime Minister, as well the 87th Interpol General Assembly meeting in Dubai. There is ongoing engagement between the Embassy and its other mandated jurisdictions of Russia, India and Philippines.

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. Maintaining regular dialogue between the Embassy and relevant businesses, organizations, the Pacific Island Centre, JETRO, Government Ministries and prefectural offices and participation in trade seminars,

expos and tourism promotion events was an integral part of the Embassy's work in the period under review.

The contribution of Samoa's Honorary Consul Mr. Naomi Inoue and his wife in the promotion of exports to Japan and tourism was significant, through his company Joban Kosan. The Embassy with the advice of the Honorary Consul 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 Samoan 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 Embassy's work towards strengthening the warm relations between Samoa and Japan. This work is implemented at the prefectural and city level. Therefore, nurturing the close partnerships and relations with prefectural, local governments through regular Ambassadorial official visits and meetings remain vital in driving and in the delivery of people to people exchange initiatives through culture and sports and student exchange programs

Working under the banner of sports diplomacy, successful exchange programs exists with Iwaki City and new ones being developed with Yamagata City that sees Samoan students and/or athletes travel to Japan and Japanese students travel to Samoa, to sample and experience the two cultures, food, traditions and sports training/friendly games. Such exchange programs foster intercultural understanding, exposure and appreciation especially in these future leaders of Samoa. The Embassy shall remain seized in continuing these relationships with cities and prefectures.

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 interested Samoan nationals to apply.

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

The Embassy engaged heavily in work towards securing appropriate support for Samoa's national rugby team in the lead up to the Rugby World Cup in September-November 2019. Particular focus was on finalizing the various remaining elements of arrangements that Samoa's host cities had agreed to provide for Manu Samoa in its 2019 RWC campaign. At the same time, the Embassy continued to follow up on the support provided by Samoa's host cities for its delegations to the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2020.

The MOUs, negotiated and facilitated by the Embassy that were signed between Samoa and Iwaki City in 2017 and with Yamagata City in 2018, detailed the level of commitment these two cities had prepared to give to Samoa, which included hosting Samoa's national rugby team and Samoa's Olympian athletes and their respective delegations, at no cost to Samoa.

The Ambassador also successfully secured a handsome sponsorship from a law firm in Japan towards Manu Samoa's RWC2019 campaign.

1.5 Consular services

The Embassy continued to provide information to local Samoan nationals living in Japan enquiring about passports, birth certificates, marriage documentation and 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 passports and birth certificates in consultation with MFAT and MPMC for Samoan nationals residing in Japan.

1.6 Outreach program

The Embassy strives to expand its outreach programs in Tokyo and other prefectures as part of its promotional work in partnership with prefectures, cities, schools and organizations in Japan. The Embassy utilized the platform provided by the Rugby World Cup and Olympic Games to roll out some of its promotional work through presentations, lectures, public seminars, school visits in Tokyo, Iwaki, Yamagata and others to promote understanding and awareness about Samoa, its food, culture, traditions and the Embassy's work in Japan. Many schools also visited the Embassy for information on the same.

2. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING FY 2018/2019 FOR THE MISSION

2.1 Diplomatic Representation

H.E Mr. Toshio Shimizu, Mayor of Iwaki City undertook an official visit to Samoa in October 2018. This is a result of frequent visits and well-maintained relations between Iwaki City and the Embassy as the Embassy pushes through sports diplomacy that manifests in sports exchanges and training, host city support for RWC 2019 and the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and official visits. The Mayor and delegation had meetings with Hon. Prime Minister, government officials, and the Samoa Rugby Union and were honoured to a dinner reception hosted by the Prime Minister.

The Ambassador attended the IRENA Council meetings in UAE and participated as the Chair of the Council, which sessions amongst other matters, established the modalities for the recruitment and selection of the new and future Director General of IRENA, and the shortlisting the final two candidates for the position. This role involved extensive engagement along with scheduled additional related meetings for this reporting period between the Ambassador and IRENA member countries and with the Secretariat.

Samoa's election as the Chair of the Council is the first time a SIDS has held this role in IRENA and it adds to our Government's efforts in raising Samoa's profile including in such intergovernmental organizations.

In January 2019, the Ambassador attended with Hon. Fiame Naomi Mataafa, Deputy Prime Minister the 9th Session of the IRENA Assembly in Abu Dhabi in January 2019. Samoa served prominent roles in this session: Hon. Fiame was one of the key speakers of the SIDS High Level Meeting, the Rapporteur of that Meeting and a Panelist in the High Level Event on Women and Energy, and Ambassador Faalavaau the Rapporteur to the Assembly in her role as Council Chair. Hon. Fiame also delivered the country statement.

For the first time, the State Minister of Foreign Affairs Ms Toshiko Abe, hosted Lady Ambassadors to a study visit of Fukushima Prefecture that is still recovering from the Great East Earthquake of 2011, and to a meeting discussing women empowerment and sharing experiences on affirmative action being undertaken in our respective countries to promote the socio-economic and political involvement of women.

The Ambassador and Spouse and Counsellor were invited attended all functions and events that were hosted by Their Majesties and members of the Imperial family and by Prime Minister Abe. While some imperial events were cancelled/postponed because of the imminent abdication of the Emperor and his advanced age, some annual traditions remained, providing memorable moments with Their Majesties. These included Their Majesties Imperial Garden Party (November 2018), Emperor's Birthday Reception (23 December 2018), Their Majesties New Year Reception (1 January 2019), Commemoration Reception of the 30th Anniversary of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne, the Cherry Blossom Party hosted by the Prime Minister, 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

The Japanese consumers' positive response to the Eveni Pacific brand since its launch in Japan in February 2018 through the Honorary Consul's company Joban Kosan was encouraging for the Embassy to explore other Samoan products and for Samoan local businesses to be a part of the established trade pathway that is now being utilized by Eveni Pacific. As such, in the pipeline is work to connect local companies as Pacific Jewell, Bartley's, Rimani's and Janet's and others with Japanese companies that are interested to import Samoan handicrafts, accessories and apparel.

The Embassy attended the Food Expo held in Chiba prefecture. Organized by the Pacific Island Countries office, Samoa's representation was Natural Foods International Ltd. The expo provided them an opportunity to showcase their locally made products (breadfruit flour and chips, lau esi tea, Samoan koko products) and to establish network and contacts with key importers in Japan.

The Embassy received updates from the Pacific Island Centre on their work program each year which includes facilitating participation to Expo's in Japan and also promoting trade

for Samoa. 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 tourism promotion programs throughout the year and also sent out promotional brochures and videos for display and screening at other PR events.

2.3 Promoting people-to-people and international exchange programs

The Embassy aimed to continue the successful exchange programs with Iwaki City and worked diligently with the Mayor and senior officials of Iwaki City to that end. Best practices were shared with Yamagata City which quickly adopted the success stories from Iwaki City in its exchange programs with Samoa targeting young people and sports athletes. Substantial leg work on securing these opportunities were undertaken in this period.

A key result in this period was Yamagata City's agreement to establish an international exchange program with Samoa. It would start with hosting four judo athletes from Samoa to take place in July/August 2019, where they will experience Japanese culture and conduct judo training with Yamagata judo experts. All the costs of bringing the four Samoan athletes and their stay in Japan would be borne by the City.

Iwaki City also agreed to dispatch the second group of Iwaki City officials and students to Samoa to be undertaken in July/August 2019, with all costs to be borne by the City. The program aims at promoting understanding and respect about Samoa, our culture and traditions including through homestays and site visits. The group would also meet briefly with government officials and, as the host of the Manu Samoa pre-RWC preparation camp, would also meet with the Samoa Rugby Union management.

The Pacific LEADS scholarship program brought three students from Samoa for studies in universities around Japan. This fully-funded scholarship was established by Japan under PALM7 to support the development of PIC governments. Four students are currently studying under the MEXT Scholarship award program.

The Embassy facilitated the participation of five high school students from Samoa to the annual Sakura Science High School Program in July 2018 organized by the Japanese Science and Technology Agency (JST). Another group of three students from Samoa attended the program in May 2019. This exchange program is an opportunity for students to experience Japan's culture and also experience and learn about Japan's science and technology regime.

Mrs. Yorie Inoue, the wife of Samoa's Honorary Consul in Fukushima, again visited Samoa for 3 months (July-September 2018) to conduct ikebana (art of Japanese floral arrangement). This goodwill/charity project was coordinated and organized by the Ambassador and the Honorary Consul and his wife, continues with members of Samoa's Informal Gardeners' Group

2.4. RWC 2019 and the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games

The Hon. Prime Minister/Chairman of SRU and the Mayor signed the Statement of Mutual Understanding in October 2018 during the Iwaki City Mayor's trip to Samoa. The Statement provided the specific areas of support Iwaki City would provide to host the Manu Samoa for conditioning, training and acclimatization in early September before the Rugby World Cup. The City will provide accommodation, meals, training facilities, transportation and hospitality, at no cost to Samoa/SRU.

The Ambassador, through a personal friendship, obtained a sponsorship for the Manu Samoa with a top Tokyo law firm (Morrison and Foerster). The contract was signed in March 2019 and the sponsorship will be a significant financial support to the Manu Samoa's RWC campaign.

The Embassy also intensified its engagements with RWC venue cities where the Manu Samoa will play such as Saitama, Aichi and Fukuoka, utilizing the RWC and Olympic Games as platforms to expand its outreach and promotional activities and meet local government officials to discuss possible areas of cooperation with Samoa. The Ambassador and Counsellor delivered many seminars, presentations with local community organizations, universities and schools during this period.

Mr. Fepuleai Patrick Fepuleai, President of SASNOC, visited Yamagata prefecture in November 2018. Facilitated by the Embassy, the President met with the Mayors of Yamagata and Tendo cities of Yamagata prefecture which are host towns of Samoa's Olympic teams in 2020. He was accompanied by the Ambassador and Counsellor and also paid a call on Governor of Yamagata prefecture, conducted public seminars, school visits and 'meet the public' events.

The Embassy designed and facilitated a visit by the Samoa Rugby Union representatives, Mr. Va'aelua Aloia Alesana, Manager and Mr. Vaeluagaomatagi Steve Jackson, Head Coach, to Iwaki City in February 2019, in order to conduct site inspections and assess training facilities, fields and hotel for the Manu Samoa and to finalize other required details directly with their hosts.

2.5 Bilateral aid program

The Embassy dialogued regularly with MOFA and JICA officials to receive and exchange information on the delivery of Japan's bilateral and regional cooperation programs with Samoa and the Pacific. The Ambassador met and hosted several senior officials to continue to advocate for Samoa's projects, both ongoing and new, such as a replacement vessel for MV Lady Naomi, and other commitments Japan pledged under the PALM8 Declaration. In May 2019, MOFA advised that Samoa's request for a replacement vessel for MV Lady Naomi has been approved. The new vessel costs US\$23.6million and will be funded under Japan's grant aid program.

2.6 Outreach Program

This period saw a higher number of outreach programs conducted by the Embassy to promote public awareness about Samoa in regional and local communities and in educational institutions, utilizing the opportunity of sports diplomacy and sports initiatives promoted by the Japanese government to reach more constituents.

School visits to the Embassy also increased, partly as a direct result of the Embassy's visits to prefectures, and partly because of increased local Japanese awareness of the RWC and Olympic Games.

Specifically, outreach programs were completed in Sagamihara Junior High School; Fuji City High School; Akashi Elementary School; Yamagata Central High School; Shinjo Gakuen Jr. High School; Eizan Elementary School; and Iwaki Koyo High School. These outreach initiatives continues.

3. PLANNED COMMITMENTS NOT ACHIEVED DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR

The Ambassador's proposed travel to Russia, Philippines and India to follow up on technical cooperation opportunities were put on hold because of competing work schedules at post including preparations with Samoa's host cities for the Rugby World Cup and the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, budget implications, and rather heavy commitments as the Chair of IRENA Council and Rapporteur to the IRENA Assembly.

Plans to establish new honorary consulates took a back seat as a result, with such work to be picked up rapidly in the next financial year. Honorary Consuls are vital partners in the roll out of the Embassy's mandate in Japan and the Ambassador will be fully engaged in the research, review and assessment of potential candidates in collaboration with MFAT.

Plans to study options for a possible relocation of the Embassy did not eventuate due to pressing work commitments. This will be carried out with haste in the next financial year.

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 sports diplomacy, cultural and sports exchange programs that is inclusive of regional and community levels.

5. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT 8.1 Human Resource/Achievements

The Embassy is well balanced with 2 females and 3 male staff (both posted and local staff). The Embassy in this period recruited a new driver and Admin Assistant/Interpreter.

5.1 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 consultation with the MFAT CSU Division, the Embassy achieved all its key performance targets in this FY. However, the Embassy's work has gone beyond these targets as it continues to be positively influenced and impacted by global and local events in Japan and the opportunities they entail, the implementation of the latest PALM Summit outcomes, and the results of its consistent and effective engagement and the nurturing of relationships with the Japanese government officials, prefectural and local communities.

6.2 Assets Management

The Embassy maintained and updated when needed, its assets register. All the assets of the Embassy were properly maintained within existing budget levels to ensure staff productivity and avoid repair costs. Any written off items, due to age, wear and tear, were disposed off with the approval of MFAT and Treasury instructions.

7, CHALLENGES DURING THE PERIOD

The Ambassador was not able to undertake visits to other jurisdictions except for UAE due to budget implications. With sufficient savings in the next financial year, these visits could be undertaken as they are critical in order to renew and reconnect with contacts and discuss options and avenues for technical cooperation with Samoa.

The allowances for the Embassy's posted staff are very low compared to the cost of living in Tokyo. The Embassy again respectfully request that a review be undertaken, in line with present policy, of the current allowance rate and an appropriate adjustment made that is commensurate with the increased UNDSA rate that is being used to calculate the allowances, Tokyo's high cost of living and Japan's four distinctive seasons. This UNDSA rate increased year by year from three years ago. In addition, the Japanese government will raise the Japan's GST tax by another 2% in October 2019.

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

MISSION 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.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL YEAR (FY) July 2018/ June 2019

Mission Budget:

The total approved budget for the mission for the financial year 2018-2019 was **Y3,531,032** (US\$498,032) an increase of Y58,353 from the previous year budget.

The budget increase items were in the rent, insurance and relocation of staff. Travel fares to meetings, exhibitions continue to be underfunded or overspent for events where there was no funding provided by the host or for unforeseen events/meetings such as China Pacific Tourism Year launch/Pacific Leaders Meeting in PNG, hence the reliance of the mission on sponsored trips from the Chinese government and private sources to attend promotions and marketing activities outside Beijing.

Mission Staff:

One staff change took place during the period with Ms Amorette Posini Danielson replacing Helen Tanuvasa as Deputy Head of Mission (DHOM) in January 2019 for a four-year term. The embassy staff consists of 3 diplomatic staff (Ambassador, Deputy Head of Mission, 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 senior ambassador from the Pacific and 4th senior Ambassador amongst the diplomatic corps in Beijing which consists of 170 diplomatic missions and international organizations.

Events Highlights for the Year:

1. Prime Minister's official visit to China
2. Pacific Leaders Meeting with President Xi during APEC
3. China's assistance (Grant Aid /Concessional loans and projects
4. Scholarships/ Trainings/Seminars offered by the Chinese government
5. Facilitating Trade Investment Tourism Promotion: China International Import Expo, Shanghai, 2nd Belt and Road Forum, China Pacific Tourism Year 2019; Beijing Horticulture Expo.

Prime Minister and VIP Visits to China

The Prime Minister, 3 Ministers, 1 Member of Parliament and the Chief Justice visited China for meetings/seminars during the July 2018/ June 2019 FY year.

1. The main VIP visit during the year was the Prime Minister's official visit to China which took place from 16-22 September 2018 where he met with President Xi Jinping in Beijing. He also attended the World Economic Forum in Tianjin where a bilateral meeting was held with China's Premier Li Keqiang. The two countries signed the Belt and Road MOU during the meeting. Following the visit to Beijing and the World Economic Forum in Tianjin, the Prime Minister visited the southern cities of Guangzhou and Huizhou, one of Samoa's sister cities in Guangdong province where he met with provincial and business leaders there.
2. Minister of Commerce and Labour (Hon. Lautafi Purcell) and two senior officials from MCIL and SROS attended the first China Import and Export Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai from the 4-7 November 2018. A group of government and private sector reps also attended the CIIE.
3. Minister of Agriculture Hon. Lopao Natanielu Mua and CEO of MAF visited Guangdong and Agriculture Fair in Changsha in November 2018.
4. Minister of Customs and Revenue Hon. Tialavea S. Hunt plus Customs CEO and Senior Official attend the BRITACOF- Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation which was held in Wuzhen from the 17-23 April 2019.
5. Chief Justice Patu F Sapolu and District Court Judge Ameperosa Roma attended a legal Forum in Shanghai in January 2019.

China-Pacific Leaders Meeting

Pacific Island Leaders with diplomatic relations with China met with President Xi Jinping on the side of the APEC meeting in Port Moresby PNG in November 2018. Regional security, sustainable development, climate change, scholarships and training, and economic development cooperation were some of the main issues discussed. President Xi also announced 2019 as the Year of China Pacific Tourism. This was launched in Samoa on 1 April 2019. He also announced the 3rd China Pacific Economic Forum to be held in 2019. Bilateral meetings were also held between President Xi and Pacific leaders.

China's Grants and Concessional Loan Assistance

Meetings with the Ministry of Commerce's divisions which coordinate grant aid for Samoa and oversee commercial/trade issues are held as necessary to follow up on proposals submitted to MOFCOM through the Chinese Embassy in Apia.

No major infrastructure projects were done during the period other than the gymnasium for the Pacific Games and related renovations of sports facilities for the games. The delay in the relocation and opening of the new Prison pushed back the start of the Police Academy project to be located at the old prison site at Tafaigata.

Discussions on China's grant assistance to Samoa for most of the year focused mainly on the following:

1. The Rehabilitation of the China funded Samoa Sports Facilities Project (Tuanaimato and Apia Park) for the 2019 Pacific Games including the new gymnasium.

2. Samoa Police Academy Project: during the period the contractor bidding process was completed and a Xian based construction company was selected with construction scheduled to start in May 2019. However, commencement of the project was delayed to the end of 2019 due to the late relocation of the prison to its new site to make way for the Police Academy.
3. The 4th phase of the Agriculture Technical Cooperation Project was discussed and finalized.
4. The Sports Technical Cooperation Project was finalized and signed for the training of Samoan athletes in China from February to June 2019.

The Prime Minister also raised the Vaiusu Port proposal with President Xi in November during a bilateral meeting between the two leaders in Port Moresby for a feasibility study and consideration of funding for the project from China's grant aid.

A prefeasibility study of Vaiusu Bay was done in November 2017 but nothing further had been done since then.

There were no new projects submitted under China's concessional loan scheme during the year. Samoa's last concessional loan project, the Faleolo Airport Terminal was completed and opened in May 2018.

Scholarships and Training Seminars in China

The intake for Samoan scholarship students for the Academic year 2018-2019 in China saw the number of students decreased from 22 in the previous year to 17 for the year in review. 5 awards were taken up for scholarship extensions for students that required a further year to complete their degrees. In addition, 2 students from the Samoa Audit Office took up awards offered by the Nanjing Audit University for post graduate studies. 9 students (3 masters and 6 undergraduates) successfully completed their studies at the end of the FY. 2 Audit staff also completed master's degrees in Auditing.

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

- ❖ Disburse students Government supplementary allowance in September for new students only.
- ❖ 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. These include familiarization tours and seminars for MPs from Samoa and Pacific island countries.

For the year, **500 government and private sector representatives** from Samoa travelled to China for meetings, training seminars which included **1 Member of Parliament, Mrs. Faaulusau Rosa Duffy-Stowers**. The majority of participants were the Samoan athletes who came to China for from February to June 2019 to train for the Pacific Games in Apia in July 2019. A total of 290 athletes trained in Kunming city and Hunan province together with 31 Chefs and 38 teachers/choreographers for the Pacific Games preparations.

	Training/Seminar	# of participants
1	Seminar on Medical Equipment & technician cooperation Developing Countries	3
2	Seminar on the Development of Finance and Economic	19
3	Seminar on Information Communication technology for Samoa	20
4	Seminar of Trade Promotion and CIIE Expo 2018	15
5	Seminar on Economic Diplomacy	2
6	Seminar on Tropical Food and Vegetable Production for South Pacific Countries in China	2
7	Training Course on Vocational Education of Architecture under Belt & Road Initiative	2
8	Beijing Horticulture Expo 2019	6
9	Training Course on Law-Enforcement Cooperation for the South Pacific Countries	5
10	Course on Biogas Technology, Rural Energies and Environmental Protection for Developing Countries	2
11	Women's Work Study Trip	2
12	Diplomatic training	2

Trade Investment/Tourism Promotion

Exports to China

The Zero Tariff Treatment Scheme with China which started in 2010 officially ended in February 2017.

Following the end of the zero tariff scheme for Samoan exports to China, our main export to China nonu juice, as from February 2017 was subject to 22 % duty and 17% tax putting pressure on exporters from Samoa. The duty has now been reduced to 5%.

The year in review also saw an increase in nonu exports from Samoa to China, spearheaded by Skyline Nonu company at Vaitele which acts as the main wholesaler for nonu exports to China.

1st China International Import Expo, (CIIE) 5-11 November 2018

The CIIE was one of the major initiatives of the year and the world first import themed national level Expo first announced by President Xi in 2013 and launched by the Chinese government in November 2018 to firmly support open trade and market liberalization by opening its market to the outside world. The purpose was to promote and strengthen trade exchanges and economic growth. Over 200 countries and organizations participated including 2000 companies from all over the world and China. Samoa and Pacific Is countries took part with assistance from the Chinese government. The Expo provided a good platform for Samoa and other PICs to showcase their unique export products to buyers who visited the 6-day event. Samoa Minister of Commerce and a 15-member group from Samoa Chamber attended the Expo through funding from the China Ministry of Commerce.

As announced by President Xi at his meeting with Pacific Leaders in November 2018, **the China Pacific Tourism Year 2019** was launched in Samoa on 1 April 2019 by China's Minister of Culture and Tourism Luo Shugang and his Pacific counterparts. The China Pacific Tourism Year 2019 involved the launching of promotion activities in China and offering training opportunities in tourism for relevant representatives from the Pacific.

Beijing Horticulture Expo 28 April-8 October 2019

The Chinese government hosted the Beijing International Horticulture Expo with its theme "Live Green Live Better" in Beijing from the end of April 2019 to early October. Over 115 countries and international organizations participated with the event which promoted sustainable living in harmony with nature. Whilst horticulture is not a strong industry in the Pacific, the event provided an important platform for the Embassy to showcase Samoa tourism and some of Samoa's health products such as noni juice and other popular products produced in Samoa, coconut cream, oil lotions, taro whiskey, and cocoa. Representatives from MAF, Samoa Farmers and Flower Industry, and Hotel representatives visited the Expo.

Samoa signs Belt and Road MOU

On 20 September 2018, Samoa signed the Belt and Road MOU with China in Tianjin during the Prime Minister's meeting with China's Premier Li.

The Belt and Road Initiative was announced by President Xi in 2013 and formally launched at the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing in April 2017 which was attended by Samoa Minister of Transport Papalii Niko Lee Hang and other Transport and Finance Ministers from the Pacific and overseas. The 2nd Belt and Road Forum was held in Beijing in April which was attended by Ambassador Toomata. Commerce Minister Lautafi Purcell did not attend as scheduled due to work commitments.

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 trade investment cooperation among countries along the route (Asia/Northern Africa/Europe) which also includes the Pacific region.

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 group discuss issues of common interest and concern to members. The Samoan Ambassador is currently the Dean of Pacific Islands Ambassadors.

Main issues which the group focused on during the year include the China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai in November 2018, the Beijing Horticulture Expo from April to October 2019, and the Pacific Leaders meeting with President Xi during APEC in PNG in November 2018 which was attended by most of the Pacific Ambassadors.

China Oceania Legal Forum, Guangzhou

The first China Oceania legal Forum relating to the Belt and Road initiative was held in Guangzhou in October 2018 attended by legal representatives from the Pacific and China. Ambassador Toomata attended the Forum whose aim was to share experience and strengthen cooperation between regulatory agencies and legal personnel administering trade/commercial/ business services between China and Oceania countries, much of which occurs in Australia and New Zealand. This is in anticipation in the growth of trade investment in the Pacific under the Belt and Road Initiative. Legal representatives from Australia, NZ, Fiji, and FSM were invited.

China Pacific Agriculture Minister’s Meeting, Nadi 28-29 March 2019.

The meeting’s goal was to strengthen the ongoing dialogue and engagement between Chinas Agriculture Ministry and their counterparts in the Pacific and to provide a future outlook for development cooperation on potential areas for partnership such as aqua farming and commercial high tech farming. China also announced its candidature for the post of Director General of FAO seeking support of the Pacific Island countries. Samoa’s Minister of Agriculture attended the meeting.

OTHER EVENTS

Some of the main events which involved the Head of Mission during the FY2018/2019 period:

1. Led the diplomatic delegation to Yunnan province, sponsored by Beijing Diplomatic Bureau.
2. Main speaker at the 2018 Night of Diplomats Gala in September 2018 hosted by the Beijing Diplomatic Bureau.

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 8-10 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 visa services (no visa required for entry into Samoa for up to 90 days stay), voting during national elections, and registration of births of Samoan citizens abroad.

The Mission 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 Senior Officials (SOM) Seoul, Korea

The 3rd Korea-Pacific SOM was held on 23-25 November 2017 in Seoul Korea, attended by the Ambassador, ACEO MoF and Snr FAO from MFAT.

The meeting focused on the usual sustainable development agenda: climate change issues, fisheries and HRD where Korea is helping out especially with assistance to regional organizations such FFA for fisheries surveillance and SPREP for climate change.

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

Korean Peninsula

The June 2018 summit between the Presidents Kim of North Korea and US President Trump whilst it did not produce any meaningful outcome or roadmap for future steps towards denuclearization, it nevertheless helped to deescalate the tensions and hostilities in the Korean peninsula.

Sports

The Ambassador attended the IRB Hong Kong Sevens Tournament in April 2017 at the invitation of the Hong Kong Rugby Union. Manu 7s performance this year was a huge improvement from previous years when they made the semifinal in the Cup competition.

SUB-OUTPUT: 3.10 - OFFICE OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF SAMOA IN 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 administer 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.

The Office also housed the office of the Samoa Tourism Authority since 2015, and the office of the Samoa Airways since 2019.

1. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL YEAR (FY) HIGHLIGHTS

The changeover of the Consuls General took place in October 2018 covered in this reporting period. After six years at the Sydney post, the Office bid farewell to Fonoti Etuale Ioane and welcomed Auseugaefa Vaasatia Poloma Komiti.

The new Consul General settled quickly and successfully at Post establishing networks with Consular Corps, Heads and representatives of states and local authorities and relevant DFAT contacts. The CG engaged quickly and actively to lead visits to SWP farms in conjunction with the Vice Consul and restored confidence of employers in Samoa's supply side arrangements. He established networks with Samoan communities and representatives of various Advisory Councils in NSW and Victoria and met with established groupings of church leaders.

The Vice Consul's role with labour mobility has significantly enhanced Samoa government's responsiveness to issues arising under the SWP and provided employers and workers alike with a point of contact in Australia.

The Consulate has been able to assist the public by providing requirements for adoption in Samoa, direct queries to STA about tours and group travels to Samoa, as well as providing information on foreign investment legislation.

We continue to update our in-house databases for businesses that stock Made in Samoa/Samoan products. The list is building gradually with the introduction of new businesses in Canberra and Queensland.

The Consulate completed all its key performance indicators.

2. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FY 2018/2019 FOR THE MISSION

Prime Minister's visit to Lowry Institute – the Consulate worked with our High Commission, Canberra to facilitate the visit by the Prime Minister, CEO MFAT and delegation to Sydney to speak at the Lowry Institute. The preparations included airport courtesies, on the ground transportation needs as well as arranging security through AFP and DFAT.

Independence Day Celebrations – This was the first year that the Consulate has hosted an Independence function. The cocktail event was co-hosted by the High Commissioner and Consul General. Special Guests included Consular representative of Japan and the Mayor of Liverpool. Members of the Samoan community in Sydney (NSW) including Church leaders, business owners and community leaders were also invited to celebrate 57 years of Samoa's independence. The Event was used to also promote exports into Australia, with guests taking home a promotional bag containing Savai'i Popo Pe'epe'e, Savai'i Popo Palusami, chocolate made of beans from Samoa by Living Koko (Melbourne) and Beautiful Samoa t-shirts and bags from STA.

Strengthening networks and relationships: In the period Consuls General (before and post change over) attended Diplomatic functions in and around NSW covered by this report, the over 30 official Consular &

Marked efficiency gains in the processing of travel documents: An increased number of enquiries and applications were able to be processed and decided at the Consulate without the need to refer such to Apia.

Facilitation of travel of Samoan citizens to other countries: In this reporting year, the Consulate assisted with facilitating visa enquiries and processing for our citizens through the respective Consulates in Sydney and Embassies/High Commissions in Canberra.

Establishment of Samoa Airways Office: May of 2019 saw the official commencement of Samoa Airways operations out of the Consulate office.

Government of Samoa and PTI Australia Joint Export Investment and Labour Mobility Mission to Samoa, 8th-12th October 2018:

- 1) *The objective was to forge business partnerships between Australian buyers and SMEs in Samoa, supplying impact investment to investor ready businesses. In addition, interviews were conducted with Samoan workers under the Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS) in the Hospitality and Tourism sector.*
- 2) *The Mission achieved its objectives with some businesses connecting to 40 Australian buyers and markets for their products. Workers for Hayman Island resorts were recruited, and 3 Samoan businesses were selected for intermediary work on impact investment.*

3. PLANNED COMMITMENTS NOT ACHIEVED DURING THE FY

In April 2018, Cabinet through FK (18)14 approved the purchase of a second Office vehicle as per Guidelines on Terms and Conditions for Diplomatic Officers in the Foreign Service. This vehicle is to assist with transport requirements/normal work of the Consulate, including that for Trade. This was not achieved by the end of the FY under review, due to lack of funding.

4. LINKAGES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO THE SECTOR PLAN/ SDS

Accelerating Sustainable Development and broadening opportunities for all is the 2016-2019 SDS theme that looks to ensure strong economic growth and development that generates employment and opportunities for Samoan citizens to achieve an improved quality of life. The work of the Consulate through its Trade function is linked to Priority Area 1 (Economic) mainly Key Outcome 2 (Agriculture and Fisheries Productivity Increased), Outcome 3 (Exports Products Increased) and through its Tourism function under Outcome 4 of improving Tourism Development and Performance.

Improved participation of private sector in development, Outcome 5 is another key connection. This will be achieved through working with agencies such as Samoa Chamber, SAME, SBEC and WIBDI.

5. OTHER EVENTS AND OFFICIAL COMMITMENTS ACHIEVED

5.1 Personnel and Gender Distribution – The Consulate had seven personnel as at 30th June 2019. These are the Consul General, Vice Consul Trade, Vice Consul Tourism, Accounts / Administration Officer, Receptionist/Driver and Part Time Accountant for STA. The Australian Sales Manager for Samoa Airways joined the team in early 2019, making it 4 males and 3 females.

5.2 Staff Training and Development - Internal staff training – The new Consul General brings with him a wealth of experience especially in immigration / consular matters and Governance. He has shared these extensively with staff.

5.3 Trade Work Program, Achievements & Issues:

5.3.1 Visits to Australian Buyers

Three visits had were undertaken in the reporting period, two in Sydney and one in Canberra. Visits were coordinated with other events and agencies such as PTI Australia due to resource limitations. The purposes ranged from familiarization and managing relations with diaspora and business community selling Samoan products. Introductions were made between Australian businesses and those in Samoa with probable products of interest.

Two reports were sent to MFAT for distribution to the private sector on information relating to product placement in Australia, consumer feedback on current product as well as market information on products to look out for. No feedback had been received from any of these private sector organizations.

Some visits had been undertaken for the Western Sydney area of Blacktown and Mt. Druitt where some of the warehouses are located. Distance and the absence of the second Office car has been a constraint (refer 4 above).

5.3.2 Visits to SWP Farms –

Three (3) visits were undertaken during the reporting period.

The visits were primarily to meet with MADEC (biggest SWP employer) officials regarding recurring alcohol-related incidents involving our workers; and endeavoring to allay concerns and fears of farmers/approved employers under the Scheme.

The visits were to Nangiloc Colignan Farm (Plant Grow Pick) in Mildura, Collins Farms (MADEC) in Mareeba and Lakeland in Far North Queensland and to MacKays Banana Plantations (MADEC) in Tully, Cairns in May this year.

5.3.3 Trade Expos – Funding from PTI Australia for Samoa's private sector participation at Trade Expos and Exhibitions had been redirected. To gather intel for Samoa's private sector, we registered to attend the 2019 Naturally Good Expo, an annual gathering of Australia's organic foods and products in Sydney. A file note was sent to the private sector for their information.

We did not attend the Foodservice Australia Expo held in Melbourne from 23rd to 25th June due to financial constraints.

- 5.3.4 Market Introductions** – facilitated introductions to Australian buyers:
- Fuatino's Oils to a Natural Beauty & Cosmetics company with Pacific fusion in Australia. Truly Natural Products is a manufacturer of bath and body care products seeking a fetau oil supplier from Samoa.
 - Samoa Tradition (frozen taro, breadfruit & bananas) to Abbeys Island shop in Canberra.
 - Ma'oi Jams reached out for an introduction into the Australian jam & spreads market via PTIA. Following the mission to Samoa, a discussion led to an introduction for them to Pacific Way Gift Shop.
 - An Australian buyer was interested in a Samoan supplier of coconuts and was introduced to two suppliers, Natural Foods and STEC.
 - Organic Siamupopo by Heavenly Water sought introductions to buyers/sellers. Her business was introduced to three buyers in Sydney and two in Canberra, three of which now carry her product.

6. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

6.1 Budget Performance versus Key Performance Indicators

Number of Official Diplomatic Functions attended	20-25	30-50	Completed / Achieved	CGs attended 20-25 official/diplomatic functions for the period July to June 2019. CG's changed over in October 2018
Number of Speaking Engagements with Samoan Communities	20-25	40-60	Completed / Achieved	CGs attended at least 20-25 community events for the period July to June 2019. CGs changed over in October 2018
Number of visits facilitated for Samoa Government dignitaries	100	30-50	Completed / Achieved	The Consulate facilitated 4 visits during the period July to June 2019. Prime Minister and delegation, Minister of MCIT and delegation, Minister of Women and delegation and the Samoa Air Brisbane launching. The number of visits facilitated for dignitaries needs to be amended - DFAT policy for airport courtesies accorded only to Head of State / Head of Government (PM).

Number of Passports processed	100	20-30	Completed / Achieved	The Consulate received 54 passport applications and 4 passport extension applications for the period July 2018 to June 2019
Number of Birth Certificates/Police Reports obtained from Samoa	100-150	20-30	Completed / Achieved	The Consulate received 65 BCs, 4 MCs, 1 MC, 9 Police reports and 133 License confirmation letters for the period July 2018 to June 2019
Number of passport waivers issued	100-150	10-30	Completed / Achieved	The Consulate received 48 Applications for waive letters for passports below 6 months and one way tickets and 14 CIs for the period July 2018 to June 2019
Number of trade/tourism enquiries(including RSE project)	70-80	30-50	Completed / Achieved	Tourism enquiries are estimated at 160-200 and Trade at 80-120 for the period July 2018 to June 2019
Number of enquiries processed on behalf of other government ministries	50-60	10-30	Completed / Achieved	The Consulate received at least 10 enquiries from other government Ministries for the period July to June 2019. Enquiries for government ministries - is dealt with on a case by case basis. Common issues are on adoption, business licenses, duties, GST and investment.
Number of Foreign Passport Endorsement of Exemption processed	300-500	300-500	Completed / Achieved	The Consulate received and processed 835 applications for the period July 2018 to June 2019

The number of visits facilitated for dignitaries needs to be amended - new DFAT policy for airport courtesies accorded only to Head of State / Head of Government (PM).

Enquiries for government ministries - is dealt with on a case by case basis. Common issues are on adoption, business licenses, duties, GST and investment.

6.2 Asset Management / Registration – the Consulate acquired new assets to the value of A\$12,115. These were mainly for replacement furnishing of the CG’s Residence and the Office.

7 HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

7.1 Human Resource/ Achievements –The Consulate had seven personnel as at 30th June 2019. These are the Consul General, Vice Consul Trade, Vice Consul Tourism, Accounts Administration Officer, Receptionist/Driver and Part Time Accountant for STA. The Australian Sales Manager for Samoa Airways joined the team in early 2019, making it 4 males and 3 females.

7.2 Staff Training and Capacity Building- - Internal staff training – The new Consul General brings with him a wealth of experience especially in immigration /consular matters and Governance. He has shared these extensively with staff.

8. CHALLENGES DURING THE PERIOD

Inadequate budget provision significantly compromises the achievement of KPI’s for the Post.

There has been very limited resourcing for the Trade post in the FY reported and since the incumbent VC took up office. The Post funded a number of the VC’s visits (travel and DSA) while MCIL and DFAT funded the balance. Trade mission costs were mainly covered by PTIA with some input from MFAT budget: and utilization of MCIL office vehicles.

Communication and coordination between Samoa Government Ministries and the Post needs to improve, particularly where issues arise between those Ministries and their Australian counterparts.

Clients requesting consular services can only pay using Money Orders. The additional cost to a customer when lodging an application requiring money order is around A\$10.00 plus significant time and inconvenience.

9. RECOMMENDATION

Increase Budget Allocation -Increase budget to:

1. Fully cover fixed costs for office and residential rents and medical insurance for posted staff
2. Provide adequate operating budget for the Vice Consul Trade.

EFTPOS Machine – This matter has been raised several times. I strongly recommend the installation of an EFTPOS Machine in the Consulate Office. MOF was receptive to the proposal to install an EFTPOS machine when the matter was raised at the 2018 Heads of Mission meeting.

OUTPUT 4: BILATERAL RELATIONS DIVISION

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, Aust, 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, health, agriculture, education and infrastructure.
 - Signing of Economic & Social Development Assistance Agreements 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
- High Level / Ministerial visits & Meetings
- Aid Coordination Committee Meetings
- Transfer of Short term training functions to HRD , PSC

2. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FY 2018- 2019

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.
 - Samoa-Australia Senior Official Talks April 2019
 - Pacific Step up : Stepping up engagement and mutual cooperation between Australia and Samoa
 - Clearer position on global, regional and bilateral priorities
 - Partnership moving to a new level in terms of economic cooperation and integration, people to people links and security initiatives
 - Samoa – NZ Senior Officials and High Level Consultations (31 Jan -02 Feb 2019)
 - Joint Ministerial Forum (04-07th Feb 2019)

- Donor Roundtable meeting including development partners namely Japan, JICA, NZ, Australia DFAT, UN agencies, ADB, US Embassy & World Bank
- Aid Coordination Meetings
 - Provide Secretariat services
 - Update on high level talks
 - Update on Project Implementation by Sector
 - Pipeline projects
- Facilitate Exchange of Notes / Letters, Agreements & MOUs for bilateral agreements between GOS and bilateral partners for national projects/ technical cooperation programmes funded by China, Japan, India and other development partners.
 - China
 - Minutes of Discussion for the SPG 2019. Signed 08th June 2018
 - Minutes of Discussion for the 3 x Primary schools (Lepea, St Therese & Apia Primary). Signed 12 June 2018.
 - Implementation Agreement for the Police Academy Signed on 26 June 2018.
 - Framework Agreement for the Huizhou funded projects Arts & Culture Centre & Friendship Park Signed 20 July 2018
 - Minute of Meetings of Site Investigation on the Feasibility Study of China Aid Samoa for the 2019 Pacific Games on Technical Assistance Project, Sept 2018
 - EoN for Rehabilitation and upgrade of the sports facilities for the Pacific Games 2019
 - Exchange of Notes for the sports equipment and dispatch of Chinese technical personnel for the preparations leading up to the 2019 Pacific Games. 19 Sept 2018
 - MOU on the Belt & Road Initiative, 19 Sept 2018
 - MOU ON Cooperation in Human Resources Development, signed 19th Sept 2018
 - MOU between MFAT & Ministry of Commerce on establishing the Joint Economic & Trade Commission signed 06th Nov 2018
 - China-Samoa Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation with a grant amount of RMB¥300,000,000.00, signed 06th Nov 2018
 - Exchange of letters for the provision of training for athletes, coaches, chefs & gymnastics for the 2019 Pacific Games. Signed 06th Nov 2018
 - Exchange of letters on providing material assistance for the fireworks display for the 2019 Pacific Games. Signed 06th Nov 2018

JAPAN

- NV on JICA technical training. Signed by the Hon Pm on 24 July 2018.
- i) EoN : Economic & Social Development Assistance (200million JPY) (1.89 million USD\$) signed 16 Aug 2018
- ii) Medical Equipment for MoH/NHS (August 2018 – August 2019)
 - EoN was signed by the Prime Minister and Ambassador Aoki on 16 August 2018 for the grant valued at USD\$1.89 million (200M JPY) to procure medical equipment to enhance medical and health services.
 - 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 Programme was signed and exchanged on the 22nd August 2018 between Japanese Ambassador Mugaoleatuolo Shinya Aoki and the Hon. Prime Minister
- People to People linkages
 - Volunteer personnel to assist to address the immediate HR capacity shortfalls particularly in specialized and highly technical fields including in the areas of Primary/ Science/Math/ Physical education, agriculture and fishery, environment, public health (Physiotherapy/ Nutrition/ Disability), Veterinary, sports and community development.
 - 24 JICA volunteers are in Samoa with the recent additions of two engineers with the Samoa Shipping Corporation and EPC for generator maintenance. The Japanese volunteer based at SROS is also working with STEC to assess the export potential of vanilla, orchids and other fresh flowers together with a company in Hokkaido that is interested in this business.
- High level /Ministerial visits and Meetings

Consultations are continuously held with visiting high level dignitaries from bilateral development partners. The objective of such visits revolve around strengthening the bilateral ties and enhancing development 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.

 - Visit by Australian Minister for International Development and Pacific, Hon Anne Ruston
 - PM NZ Hon Jacinda Adern visit (enroute to Tokelau)– Bilateral talks
 - Visit by Australia's Foreign Minister Hon Julie Bishop to discuss Australia's Step-Up Strategy in the Pacific highlighting security, development and economic cooperation (August 2018)

- Facilitate People to People Links, exchange programmes and Capacity Building through Short term training.
 - Student and teacher exchange programmes
 - i) 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.
 - 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 tsunami and other natural disasters.
 - 2018 : 5 students and 1 teacher from St Mary's College
 - MESC Teacher training
 - Japan has provided retired teachers from Japan to assist with the shortage of qualified Science and Math teachers – working with 32 schools (secondary) 22 Upolu and 12 Savaii – Assist with curriculum development
 - JICA Knowledge and Co-creation Technical Trainings
 - The JICA Knowledge and Co-Creation Program is implemented as part of Japan's Official Development Assistance to Samoa and provides annual technical trainings in various sectors relevant to the development of Samoa. On average, 34-39 trainings are offered every year to Samoa with 3-4 trainings specifically targeted at Young leaders.
 - 39 JICA Knowledge and Co-creation trainings were allocated to Samoa for 2018, addressing 15 sectors which include health, education, governance, social security, environmental management. Others cover those specific sectors that JICA has on-going projects in namely water, transportation (bridge and port development), disaster management and meteorology.
 - China
 - Student/Teacher exchange under the Sister School MOU between Huizhou Hualuogeng Secondary School and Samoa College, August 2018
 - Volunteer Schemes

Many Samoans have benefited through the various avenues for capacity building through scholarship and training programs as well as the deployment of technical expertise through the different Volunteer schemes. The volunteer

schemes not only provide technical expertise and technology transfer in many areas, but is also important in fostering people to people links between Samoa and the sending country

Administer technical cooperation assistance needs and volunteer personnel programmes in close collaboration with PSC and MOF namely:

- Australia Volunteer International Development(AVID) and Australia's technical Assistance Facility
 - Australia Youth Ambassadors Programme
 - New Zealand Volunteer Services Abroad
 - Chinese Volunteers
 - JOCV
 - Japanese Senior Volunteers and Expert scheme
 - Peace Corps
 - UN volunteers
- Facilitate Round table meetings with visiting technical and feasibility study teams pertaining to Development assistance/ Technical Cooperation including arranging programmes and consultations with key stakeholders
 - Huizhou,Guandong visits for deliberations on the design and concept plan for the Arts& Culture center and Friendship park
 - Guangdong Friendship Delegation & Guangdong Health Delegation, 6 September - 8 September 2018
 - Visit by 9 member Feasibility study team in August 2018 for technical assistance project in preparation for the Pacific Games 2019 in Samoa, including the donation of sport equipment, transportation and training of coaches and chefs.
 - Despatch of the 1st group of Chinese medical team involving 4 batches of 6 medical personnel over the course of 2 years in the areas of urology, pathology, cardiology, orthopedics. Dermatology, neurosurgery, ophthalmology etc July 2018
 - Chinese CCC-FHDI Prep 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
 - Huizhou representatives to inspect and assess the progress of the Friendship Park and Arts & Culture Centre. May 2019
 - China-Samoa Joint Economic and Trade Commission, June 2019 to discuss:
 - the Rehabilitation of China Aid Samoa Sports Facilities Project for 2019 Pacific Games(the new Multi-Purpose Sports Gymnasium
 - Three Primary School Project

- Teaching & Research equipment of School of Maritime Training
- Meeting with MOFCOM team for discussions on economic trade issues and preps for the October 2019 3rd Pacific China Economic Cooperation Forum

Other Achievements

- Timely Government mission clearance of
 - technical and advisory consultative teams,
 - implementation support missions for national and regionally implemented projects,
 - incoming project personnel
 - diplomatic missions and
 - Duty Concession arrangements for project equipment and personnel - NZ, Australia, UNDP, FAO, WHO, UNICEF, SPC, SPREP, UNESCO, China, Japan, 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 .
- Process application submission requests through Resident Missions for ODA for national projects
- 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.
- As required preparation of national statements/speeches for National Days and special events.
- facilitation of government representation/ govt positions at regional and international meetings hosted by a wide range of organisations or foreign governments such as: SPC, Forum Secretariat, FFA, WCPFC, UNESCAP, IMO, WHO, ACP, FAO, UNESCO, FFA, China, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Singapore, Korea, India, Thailand, Commonwealth Secretariat, and the United Nations.

SCHOLARSHIPS

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.
- Assist with the 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/ KOICA, JICA, ITEC, WHO, WMO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCAP, IMIDHR, UNDP, FAO ,
- Manage and administer technical assistance, advisory & consultancy services provided by regional , UN and intergovernmental agencies eg/ SPC, SPREP, FFA, USP, FAO, WHO, UNICEF, CEDAW, UNFCCC, UNCCD, GEF, CRC, UNFPA, ESCAP, WMO, UNESCO, UNDP, UNEP, UPU; Commonwealth and under the different Conventions and International Conventions/ Agreements Samoa is party to eg/ CBD, UNFCCC, ICAO, IMO, UNCLOS etc,
- 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.

3. 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 scholarship functions to PSC (gradual process)

4. 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 all

Bilateral 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

- Assisting with the hosting obligations of Government
 - Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting August 2019
 - Comsec Global Biennial Conference on Small States (March 2019)
 - Visit by the HRH Crown Prince Haakon, Kingdom of Norway
 - Pacific ACP EU High Level Political Dialogue on Post Cotonou Negotiations February 2019
- 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 & Aust
- Active participation in Sectoral and Project Review meetings
- Effective representation at regional and international fora to promote Samoa's position and areas of national interest to Samoa / enhance technical cooperation and gauge development assistance

a. 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 F)
- Currently In the process of advertisement of 1 x FSO

b. Staff Trainings and Development

- 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

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 2018/2019

Multilateral Trade

Samoa's **first WTO Trade Policy Review (TPR)** took place at the WTO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, on 10-12 April 2019. The TPR process included the production of two reports (i) WTO Secretariat Report; and (ii) the Government of Samoa Report in the form of a Trade Policy Statement. These documents were used as a basis for Members' consideration of Samoa's trade performance, compliance with WTO obligations and wider economic and developmental needs, policies and objectives, and Samoa's external trade environment.

The WTO Secretariat undertook two missions to Samoa in April and November 2018 to collect information and consult various stakeholders for the compilation of their report including the conduct of a national workshop.

At the request of the Ministry for support, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat commissioned the technical services of Mr Andras Lakatos of the International Economics Ltd Consultancy, to draft Samoa's Trade Policy Statement. The Hon. Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour led Samoa's delegation to the TPR.

The key outcomes of the Review require Samoa to consider addressing the following:

- i. Duty of goods above the WTO bound rates (includes chicken, lamb cuts); and
- ii. Improve notifications of changes in trade policies and laws.

Samoa acceded to the Interim Economic Partnership Agreement (IEPA) on the 31 December 2018 joining Papua New Guinea, Fiji and the European Union. Samoa's membership has ensured the continued duty free access of Samoa exports to the EU following the expiration on 31 December 2018 of the EU extension of preferences for Samoa under the Everything But Arms (EBA) initiative for LDCs.

The process of accession included the submission of Samoa's formal request to accede in February 2018 including a Market Access Offer, the EU Council approval received on 6 December 2018; and the submission of Samoa's instrument of accession on 20 December 2018 which allowed for the provisional application of the agreement from 1 January 2019.

The Ministry will now look at the development of Samoa's IEPA Implementation Action Plan.

Other multilateral related work includes:

i. WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

The World Bank Group mission to Apia in May 2019 as part of their Pacific trade facilitation work conducted consultations to identify Samoa's technical assistance needs relating to the implementation of the TFA including consideration of customs and quarantine processes at the border.

ii. Global Aid for Trade Review

Samoa was represented at the Ministerial level at the seventh biennial Global Aid for Trade Review (GAFTR) in Geneva in July 2019. The GAFTR exchanges on how Aid for Trade supports economic diversification and empowerment, with emphasis on eliminating extreme poverty, through the participation of micro, small and medium enterprises, women and youth. Samoa was also able to share Samoa's perspective at the Australia event "Stepping up in the Pacific: Australian approaches to Aid for Trade"; and on fisheries subsidies negotiations as part of the Pacific visibility engagements at the WTO.

iii. WTO Notifications

The primary instrument for ensuring transparency in the multilateral trading system is through the notifications of changes in trade-related measures including policy and legislation. The Ministry, in collaboration with line Ministries, notified the following seven legislation and policy instruments during the period under review:

1. Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement: Notification of Energy Efficiency Regulation 2018 as a Technical Regulation
2. The Agreement on Trade related Investment Measures: Article 5.1
3. The Agreement on Trade related Investment Measures: Article 6.2
4. Agreement of Agriculture: Article 18.2- Domestic Support & Export Subsidies (submitted data for 2014/2015/2016/2017)
5. Trade related Intellectual Property Rights Agreement: Article 63.2- All laws and regulations which relate to TRIPS.
6. Trade related Intellectual Property Rights Agreement: Article 69- Contact point and details.
7. General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) 1994: Article XXVII- Samoa does not maintain any State trading enterprises in accordance with the working definition stated in the Understanding on Article XXVII.

Regional Trade

One of the key regional milestones achieved is the **ratification by Samoa of the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus** through notification to the Depository (Tonga) on 28 June 2019. Samoa is the first Forum Island Country to ratify the agreement. The ratification followed Cabinet Directive (FK (19) 17 dated 8 May 2019 and the parliamentary passage of related customs legislation. PACER Plus will only enter into force 60 days after eight signatories deposit their instruments of ratification. Only three signatories (Australia, New Zealand and Samoa) have ratified the agreement.

Samoa was represented at the PACER Plus Signatories meeting held on 10 May 2019 in Suva, Fiji. Discussions focused on the status of preparation for ratification, support received and challenges facing members with the implementation of the Readiness Package and the set-up of the PACER Plus implementation unit. Samoa has expressed interest to host the PACER Plus Implementation Unit.

Part of the PACER Plus work includes the development of Samoa's Trade Information Portal (TIP) which is work in progress. This portal aim to address Samoa's transparency obligations under various trade agreements including PACER Plus and beyond.

Samoa hosted the series of Pacific Regional Trade Officials' meetings at the Tanoa Tusitala Hotel in July 2018 including the (i) PICTA Rules of Origin Committee (ROC); (ii) PICTA Trade Officials Meeting; (iii) Forum Trade Officials Meeting; and (iv) the 1st PACER Plus Signatories meetings.

One of the key outcomes of the meetings was the Review of the PICTA Rules of Origin to be commissioned by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

Bilateral Trade

The Minister of Commerce of Tonga led a trade mission to Samoa on 8 – 12 September 2018 to explore the possibility of setting up a Tonga multi-purpose facility at their property in Samoa (Sogi) (to sell watermelons and other fresh produce from Tonga); and to meet with relevant stakeholders in Samoa's petroleum sector relating to direct sourcing of fuel from Singapore. Tonga's interest is to establish a bilateral trade arrangement with Samoa. However, Samoa's interest is for Tonga to ratify existing regional arrangements such as PICTA to facilitate their exports to Samoa.

In May 2019, the Ministry conveyed to the Governments of Korea and China, Samoa's interest to engage in dialogue opportunities to expand trade particularly preferential access of Samoa nonu exports to Korea and China. This was based on the requests of the private sector for the Government to consider free trade agreements with these two countries.

Bilateral trade profiles have been developed for Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Korea, America, Cook Islands, Fiji and New Caledonia during the period under review.

Trade Promotion

The Ministry facilitated Samoa's participation at the first China International Import Expo (CIIE) held in Shanghai on 5 – 10 November 2018. Samoa's delegation consisted of 26 members from the government and private sector and was led by the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour, Afioga Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell. The private sector utilized the government / country booth to display an array of Samoan-made products organized by the Samoa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI). The CIIE provides opportunities for countries around the world to expand exports to China; and create a platform for countries to engage in international trade and share business opportunities with each other.

The Ministry facilitated the mission to Samoa of the Samoa Business Network (SBN) in November 2018. The mission included a business forum and B2B meetings which provided an

opportunity for SBN to engage with the Samoa business community and relevant government agencies on the Samoa's business environment.

National Working Committee on Trade Arrangements (NWCTA)

Two (2) meetings of the National Working Committee on Trade Arrangements (NWCTA) were held during the period under review in January and June 2019. The meetings provided updates to the membership and sought input relating to:

- Samoa's WTO Trade Policy Review
- Preparation for PACER Plus ratification and work in progress under the PACER Plus Readiness Package
- Status of Samoa's participation in the IEPA
- Bilateral trade interests from Tonga; status of Two Samoa Economic Talks

Trade – related Capacity Building

The Ministry facilitated Samoa's participation in trade related capacity building activities abroad which benefitted not only trade officials but also officials from line ministries:

- Global Forum on Inclusive Trade for Least Developed Countries, Geneva Switzerland, 13 - 14 June 2018
- WTO Advanced Regional TNS Course, Manila, Philippines, 25 – 29 June 2018
- Regional Workshop on the Notification of Subsidies for Government Officials from Asia and the Pacific, Singapore, 3 – 5 July 2018
- WTO 36th Geneva Week, Geneva, Switzerland, 16 – 20 July 2018
- Meeting on the Committee of Trade Facilitation, Geneva, 7 - 15 October 2018
- IEPA Trade Committee Meeting; ACP Trade Officials Meeting; Brussels, Belgium, 22 – 25 October 2018
- Regional Trade Policy Course, Bangkok, Thailand, 22 October– 14 December 2018
- WTO 37th Geneva Week, Geneva, Switzerland, 10 – 14 December 2018

- MSME Participation & Upgrading in Plantation Crop Value Chains, Port Vila, Vanuatu, 10 – 11 April 2019
- WTO Trade Policy Review for Samoa, Switzerland, Geneva, 10 – 12 April 2019
- Geneva Week, Switzerland, Geneva, 6 – 10 May 2019
- Regional Coordinator Internship Programme 2019, Pacific Islands Forum Office, Geneva, 14 January – 28 June 2019

2. PLANNED COMMITMENTS NOT ACHIEVED DURING THE FY

- PACER Plus awareness programs and activities
- Samoa PICTA review to consider benefits for Samoa
- Update trade information on the Ministry’s website

3. LINKAGES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO THE SECTOR PLAN/ SDS

The Ministry’s trade policy and trade promotion work contributes to the objectives set out in the Trade, Commerce and Manufacturing Sector Plan 17/18 – 20/21:

1. Improve industrial supply and productivity;
2. Increase processing activities and value-addition;
3. Enhance market access and visibility of goods and services; and
4. Strengthen sector coordination

The above responds to the SDS Key Outcomes 2, 3 & 5 relating to enhancing agricultural production, markets, exports and tourism; as well as improving private sector participation in policy development.

OUTPUT 6: PROTOCOL SERVICES DIVISION

PROFILE:

Protocol Division activities for the financial year 2018-2019 reflect the rationale behind the need for the Ministry’s restructure as Samoa takes a lead in the region as a small island developing state and a preferred host for international meetings due to good governance, ability to implement international agreements and refinement of roles in the conduct of foreign relations. The scope of work undertaken by the Division under the guidance of the CEO is represented through statistics which sees a significant increase in regularity and numbers compared to the previous financial year.

1. Organization of State and Official Visits

Protocol Division organized and coordinated 16 High Level Official visits from 13 different countries to Samoa to discuss a variety of issues like trade, development, telecommunications, climate change and environment and elections. The total number of High Level VIPs totalled 14 and included royal, state ministers and a church president. Notable ones included Crown Prince Haargon of Norway who was welcomed with a Guard of Honour at Faleolo Airport, a first for a visiting foreign royal.

During the course of hosting 10 high level regional and international meetings for this financial year, the division engaged in arranging programmes and logistics for 4 Heads of States, 8 Heads of Governments, 6 Deputy State Leaders and 29 Ministers of States. The number of Ambassadors that served as Heads of Delegations was 27 aside from Foreign Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Regional Organizations. The Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting in August 2018, ACP Pacific – EU High Level Dialogue February 2019 and China Pacific Tourism Year April 2019 are some of the main events that contributed to high level representations. A total of 900 foreign delegates from 70 different countries travelled to Samoa to attend these meetings.

The Division provided advice to the CEO who is the Chairperson for the National Taskforce which includes all responsible service Ministries such as Airport Authority, Police, Health, Works and line authorities pertinent to purpose of visit, on protocols, programmes and briefs to ensure coordination.

2. Presentation of Credentials & Official Visits by Ambassadors/High Commissioners

Twelve Credential Ceremonies were organized for visiting Ambassadors and High Commissioners. Ambassadors from Estonia, HE Anders Unga and Romania, HE Nineta Barbulescu are the first Head of Missions of its countries to Samoa. The resident High Commissioner of New Zealand, HE Trevor Matheson and Ambassador of China, HE Ciao Xiaoliang presented its Letters of Credence within this period. The Division arranged for 32 courtesy calls and appointments including courtesy calls to the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and Members of the diplomatic corps. Prior to Credentials, Protocol provides a brief to CEO on new nominations of Ambassadors and recommendations for an Agreement by the Prime Minister.

Official visits vary on purpose from farewell visits, bilateral discussions including lobbying for election candidates at international organizations to matters that have been directed from capitals of these Heads of Missions. The visit by the former High Commissioner of United Kingdom to Samoa, HE Laura Clarke marked the beginning of a new era with discussions to establish a resident UK diplomatic mission in Apia following announcement by its incumbent Prime Minister, Hon. Boris Johnson who served as Foreign Minister at the time. On all occasions, airport courtesies and protocols are undertaken by the Protocol Division and the Ministry staff for arrival and departure.

3. Diplomatic clearance for Aircrafts, Vessels and Military Visits

The Ministry granted Diplomatic Clearances to 59 foreign aircrafts and 16 foreign vessels who have requested to enter Samoa's national airspace and water either for the purpose of performing monitoring and patrolling, search and rescue, humanitarian relief and emergency or transit and overfly en route to their final destinations. Only two military visits were conducted within this period which were the French on a Pacific Mission and US sending a medical team as Samoa prepared for the Pacific Games in July 2019. There is an emergent trend in increasing numbers of military visits evident of the growing geopolitical interests in the region.

4. Diplomatic Registration for Diplomatic Vehicles

As part of immunities and privileges accorded to our partners, the Division provided clearance and requested diplomatic registration/plates for 54 Diplomatic Vehicles. Twelve are new vehicles and forty two are renewals of licenses of existing vehicles.

5. Consular Services

i. General Consular Assistance

Ten cases were recorded that included divorce, immigration breaches, death in countries without our diplomatic representation such as Cook Islands and in regions where our diaspora is growing namely Australia, New Zealand and China. Protocol assisted with obtaining travel documents and informing families for repatriation. The same was accorded to two foreign nationals (Indonesian and NZ) who passed away while working in Samoa. Our connection to our overseas missions for these types of incidents and respective foreign missions is vital in delivering our consular support in a timely manner and when needed.

Court documents from overseas jurisdiction and legal proceedings have been dealt with by the Division for onward transmittal to the Ministry of Justice to solicit legal advice.

The Division continues to process requests from our overseas missions regarding passports, birth certificates, marriage and death certificates requested.

Visa Applications for Government

Protocols issued 344 diplomatic notes to assist visas processed for our Ministerial and Government officials on duty travel abroad for this financial year. 211 of these visas have been for the New Zealand High Commission, 78 for the Australian High Commission, 48 for the Embassy of the United States of America, 4 visas for the Japanese Embassy with 3 visas for the Chinese Embassy. The majority were transit country visas with the remaining 117 of entry visas into host country. Division staff on most occasions reconfirmed requirements with the respective foreign missions and also through our overseas representations to avoid delays.

ii. Airport Courtesies and Protocols Overseas

The Division also provides advice and requests airport courtesies in foreign country airports that are visited or transited by our leaders (HOS, COD, PM, DPM and Cabinet Ministers). Forty five (45) requests have been made through our overseas missions or directly to foreign ministries of countries visited.

iii. Temporary Resident Permits

Samoa's growing expatriate community resulted in 170 temporary resident permits being processed for different diplomatic and international organizations in Samoa. These include new permits, ministerial permits for Ambassadors and High Commissioners; extension, renewal, and transfer for diplomats, dependents or project personnel.

iv. Legalizations

The Ministry continues to work with the Samoan International Finance Authority on the legalization of documents for foreign companies registered with the authority. A total of 805 apostilles was processed which are passed onto the CEO of the Ministry for endorsement. There have been several certifications and apostilles issued as part of consular services to Samoans desiring for this seal in order to validate authenticity of personal documents for use in their country of residence.

6. National Events/Speeches and Country Statements

Protocol arranged the programme of the National Memorial Service commemorating the 100 years anniversary of the 1918 Influenza Epidemic in Samoa. This important milestone in our history was held at Vaimoso Burial ground on Wednesday 7th November 2019 and was declared a public holiday. The Division was tasked with consultations with the Village Council of Vaimoso and officials from MOH and MPMC. For the 57th Independence June 2019, we played host to the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Ulu o Tokelau, Lieutenant Governor of American Samoa, Congresswoman Amata and Robert Kennedy. The coordination of movements, security, liaison officers and appointments were arranged by the Division.

As directed by the CEO, the Division have assisted in drafting remarks and statements for the PM for national days of resident foreign missions, congratulatory and sympathy notes on occasions impacting close bilateral partners overseas such as elections, changeover in government or natural disaster.

7. Protocol Training

For all international meetings and regional meetings, protocol conducted trainings for liaison officers recruited from within the Ministry staff or the Public Service. Site visits to the airport, information booklets and briefings are always undertaken two weeks before the actual event.

The Division presented for Police during its induction training in June 2019 for new recruits on protocols for visiting VIP's and Close Protection Personnel.

8. Databases

The Division has been working on data entry for electronic records of services provided to the diplomatic corps such as DC Vehicles, Permits, Diplomatic Visas, Official Visits and high level meetings. The financial year 2018-2019 has been completed and 97% of verification of data through hard copy reconciliations, matrix and registry of delegations, master files and email communications. All these records were manually recorded.

9. Protocol Guideline for Diplomatic Corps and Honorary Consul

Research and review continues in compiling the Protocol Guideline for diplomatic corps and Honorary consul guide. Areas such as Tax Exemptions and Immunities are quite an extensive exercise because it requires research into entitlements, agreements and previously agreed concessions and these are to be considered in a consistent manner across the full diplomatic corps. Individual aspects like Credentials Procedures and Diplomatic Clearance of Aircrafts have been drafted and improved on based on lessons learned from recent application on prior occasions.

10. Staff, Challenges and Opportunities

The Division in 2018 started with the appointment of ACEO only. Due to budget constraints and delayed PSC approval, the first staff of Principal level was recruited in May 2019 followed by a Senior Officer in September 2019 and later in November an Officer.

The restructure given the expansion of roles and responsibilities of the Ministry calls for 2 Principals, 2 seniors and 2 Officers who will adequately serve the functions of the division at all times.

Protocol is indebted to the ACEO and staff of the International Relations Division in carrying out its functions since 2018 while also heavily occupied with its own core functions.

As a new Division, the guidance of CEO is duly acknowledged on leadership, interventions and directives given that 2018 – 2019 had its own unique challenges and expectations. The contribution of staff from other divisions and support of ACEOs is highly commended.

OUTPUT 7: REGIONAL RELATIONS DIVISION

PROFILE:

The Regional Relations Division is a new division created under the organisational restructuring of the Ministry that was approved by the Public Service Commission on the 9th March 2017.

The Division is responsible for the provision of high quality advice and support to the Minister and Government on regional relations as well as on the progression of regional priorities to promote and advance deeper regionalism. The Division also facilitates and ensures Samoa's active participation in regional work in line with Samoa's national sustainable development priorities and commitments.

1. SUMMARY OF FY 2018/2019 HIGHLIGHTS

i. Political/Economic Relations

In its role as the Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum and in the lead up to the 49th Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) in Nauru in September 2018, Samoa hosted the meetings of the Smaller Islands States (SIS) Officials, the Pacific ACP Officials (PACP), the Pre-Forum Forum Officials Committee (FOC) as well as the Forum Foreign Ministers (FFMM) in August 2018. The FFMM was attended by various Foreign Ministers and other ministerial representatives from the Forum's 18 members. The key outcomes of these meetings formed the basis of advice and recommendations on regional priorities and actions that the SIS Leaders, PACP Leaders and Forum Leaders considered and agreed to at their respective meetings in Nauru.

As the outgoing Forum Chair, the Hon. Prime Minister delivered a speech at the opening of USP's Research Week to celebrate its 50th anniversary in late August. The Hon. Prime Minister also met with Samoan students at the USP and other learning institutions in Suva. Relatedly, the Government of Fiji officially hosted the Hon. Prime Minister and his delegation in Fiji, and held official bilateral talks to discuss issues of common interest to further strengthen relations between the two countries. The visit to Fiji was followed closely by a visit to the Lowy Institute in Sydney where the Hon. Prime Minister delivered the key address on "Pacific perspectives on the new geostrategic landscape".

At the Forum Leaders' meeting in Nauru, the Hon. Prime Minister provided an overview of work undertaken during Samoa's chairmanship of the Forum from September 2017 to September 2018. This included the reaffirmation of the *Framework for Pacific Regionalism* (FPR) and promotion of the *Blue Pacific identity* as the core driver of the Pacific's collective action to achieve regionalism. Forum Leaders also endorsed the first Quadrennial Pacific Sustainable Development Report as the Pacific's Sustainable Development Report on the 2030 Agenda, SAMOA Pathway and other global commitments; directed a review the guidelines and format of PIF Meetings in close consultation with the Forum Troika (Samoa, Nauru and Tuvalu); and agreed to the following regional priorities to inform the work of the Pacific region for 2018/2019: the *Boe Declaration* on Regional Security; Climate Change and Disaster Resilience; ensuring long-term sustainability and viability of the region's fisheries resources; securing the region's maritime boundaries; and commitment to a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach at the national level to address NCDs, childhood obesity and early

childhood development. Forum Leaders also endorsed the CROP Charter to strengthen cooperation, coordination and collaboration of regional agencies under the oversight of the CROP Chair.

The Hon. Prime Minister was well supported by the Ministry, in close collaboration with Forum Secretariat, in continuous efforts to advocate for enhanced strategic engagement amongst Forum members to inspire stronger Pacific regionalism, including during key meetings with both Samoa's and the Forum's development partners on the region's agenda during the FY2018/2019. The annual FOC Budget Session held in November 2018 endorsed the budget of the PIFS to assist in the implementation of the Leaders' directives.

Samoa hosted a PACP Leaders meeting back-to-back with the EU-ACP Dialogue on Post-Cotonou Negotiations in late February 2019. All 15 PACP members as well as the representatives of the EU and ACP Group were represented at high level. Discussions focused on the second phase of negotiations for a post-2020 Treaty between the EU and the 79-member ACP States, guided by the principles and values jointly agreed to in the foundation agreement. Discussions also focused on how to broaden and deepen Pacific-EU relations. Samoa will host the signing ceremony for the next ACP-EU Treaty in 2020.

ii. Social Relations

The Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Natural Resources and Environment led Samoa's delegation to the 49th meeting of the SPC's Committee of Representatives of Government and Administrations (CRGA49) and the 11th Conference of the SPC held in New Caledonia in June 2019. Convened under the theme of 'Ocean Science – A sustainable future for our Blue Pacific', SPC members considered the work of the SPC during 2018, which included *inter alia*, improvement of education quality; and enhancing public health surveillance; mainstreaming human rights and promoting gender, youth and culture in development programmes. A new SPC Director-General (Dr Stuart Minchin, Australia) was appointed to replace Dr Colin Tukuitonga (Niue) whose term ends in December 2019. The CRGA50 will be held in Noumea in 2020, and Vanuatu will host the 12th Conference of the Pacific Community in 2021.

iii. Environmental, including climate change and disaster risk reduction

Samoa was well represented at the 110th Pre-Forum Fisheries Commission (FFC) meeting in April/May 2019, which informed the substantive preparations for the 16th Meeting of FFC Ministers and the Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting in June 2019. Climate change and its impact on Pacific fisheries was discussed, as was the need for adaptive and robust management responses; agreement was reached on a Regional Longline Strategy; coastal fisheries and aquaculture issues were considered as well as emerging environmental issues and their impact on fisheries, including marine litter, mercury levels in fish and ingestion of plastic. Engagement in negotiations to ban harmful fisheries

subsidies to deliver on SDG14.6 was encouraged to ensure that the ability of SIDS to develop their domestic fisheries was not constrained.

The SPC's CRGA49 also considered activities undertaken by the SPC in the coordination of climate science work; initiatives in the agriculture, forestry and land use sectors; improving research and data on tuna and other species; developing critical data, applied science, and technical solutions in the areas of disaster and community resilience, water and sanitation and energy, and oceans and maritime (transport).

The first Executive Board meeting of SPREP was held in September 2018 in Apia and was officially opened by the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. As the incoming chair of the SPREP Meeting for 2019, Samoa was invited to participate in the SPREP Troika and Trilateral meetings with Australia and New Zealand to discuss key priority issues in the lead up to the 29th SPREP Meeting and SPREP Environmental Ministers session in September 2019, including developments relating to the Pacific Climate Change Centre located at SPREP.

2. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING FY2018/2019

- i) Preparation for and provision of **quality advice/briefs/reports** to inform/support Samoa's policy positions at key regional and global meetings, as well as inform discussions at national level on key priority issues. Key regional meetings held in FY2018/2019 include:
 - a) Pre-Forum FOC and FFMM (Aug.2018); annual PACP and Forum Leaders' meetings (Sept.2018); Budget FOC & related Forum policy meetings (Nov.2018); FEMM (May2019);
 - b) SPREP Executive Board meeting (Sept.2018); SPREP Troika and Trilateral meetings (Apr.2019);
 - c) CRGA49 and 11th Conference of the SPC (Jun.2019); and
 - d) Forum Fisheries Officials and Ministerial meetings (May & June 2019).
- ii) Commencement of work to create a **database** of:
 - a) Samoa's regional membership and engagements and funding levels by institution;
 - b) regional assistance by development partners and by sector to assess alignment to and support to national priorities and policies at all levels; and
- iii) Development of an **assessment** of regional performance of organisations towards regional platforms, roadmaps, frameworks and pathways.

3. PLANNED COMMITMENTS NOT ACHIEVED DURING FY2018/2019

- i) Completion of a **database** of:

- a). Samoa's regional membership and engagements and funding levels by institution;
- b). regional assistance by development partners and by sector to assess alignment to national priorities at all levels; and
- ii) Completion of an **assessment** of regional performance of organisations towards regional platforms, roadmaps, frameworks and pathways.

4. LINKAGES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO THE SECTOR PLAN/SDS

The Ministry's proactive approach and contribution to policy work relating to peace and security, human rights, promotion of the rule of law, sustainable economic development, and promotion of close cooperation contributes to the scope of the SDS focusing on the three pillars of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental. Specifically, the Ministry's regional work supports the SDS Key Outcomes 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13 and 14.

5. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

5.1 Human Resource/ Achievements

The Division will be staffed by three (3) officers and an ACEO despite the proposal by the Ministry for six(6) . Budget was approved for the recruitment of a Principal Officer at the end of June 2018 (FY2018/2019). Other staff will be recruited accordingly over the course of the next two financial years.

OUTPUT 8: LEGAL SERVICES DIVISION

PROFILE:

The Legal Services Division is a new division created under the organisational restructuring of the Ministry that was approved by Cabinet in 2017/2018 and commenced with the appointment of its Divisional Head in July 2019. The Division is responsible for overall strategic legal policy advice and planning in respect to Samoa's foreign policy, trade policy, foreign representation, relations with regional and international organizations, protocol services and support to resident and non-resident diplomatic missions including international organizations based in Apia and implementation policy framework in relation to all areas under the Ministry's jurisdiction. In particular to:

- Review and provide quality legal advice to Government on Samoa's position on issues involving international and regional relations with other states;
- Provide legal guidance and advice on Samoa's obligations and position in international and regional conventions, treaties and declarations and trade negotiations;
- Identify critical legal concerns for policy development focusing on the preparation of guidelines and platforms on global and regional issues of importance to Samoa

- Provide legal advice and support on all aspects of the Ministry's work and operations including the overseas missions work responsibilities
- Provide legal advice on areas of contract management the Ministry is involved in
- Provide legal advice on the application of the Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act 1978.

1. SUMMARY OF FY 2018/2019 HIGHLIGHTS

The foundational year for the Legal Division has been eventful and informative through coordination and collaboration with all other divisions of the Ministry to help deliver the core function of the Ministry in implementing Government foreign policy.

The Division is staffed by the Assistant Chief Executive Officer, who during the financial period took 5 months maternity leave. Despite this leave of absence, the Division has effectively contributed to all aspects of Ministry work ranging from contract management to international treaty making. The highlights are as follows.

i. Division Establishment Arrangements

As a newly established Legal Division for the Ministry, it was essential to outline and build awareness on the Attorney General Directives to Lawyers in Ministries and the Rules for the Conduct of Government Legal Business made pursuant to the Attorney General's Office Act 2013, which apply to any consultation or legal advice required by the Ministry, from In House Counsel. The Directives and Rules encompass the drafting of any legal advice, contract clearance, civil legal proceedings and any legislative drafting required. Dissemination and awareness was completed through consultation with respective Divisional Heads and further discussion or clarification with respective team members as needed.

A separate Filing system was also developed to cater specifically for recordkeeping of legal documents which continues to be updated and revised according to needs.

ii. Contracts/Agreement/MOUs Review and Clearance

The Division has supported the Ministry in successfully reviewing and clearing contracts, Agreements and MOUs entered into by the Ministry on behalf of Government. Major Agreements cleared included the Framework Agreements signed with the People's Republic of China on: 1) Assistance in Constructing the Friendship Park; and 2) the Constructing the Arts and Culture Centre.

Employment Contract templates were also developed and finalized for Locally Engaged Staff working in overseas missions – in particular for missions in New Zealand (Auckland and Wellington), Japan and Australia (Canberra).

The usual legal assistance and support was also provided for procurement needs of the Ministry (for clearance of tender documents and contracts) and legal advice where there were issues in procured services or goods. This was particularly important when procurement was expedited for international meetings hosted in Samoa such as the

SIDS Interregional Meeting for the Review of the Implementation of the SAMOA pathway.

iii. International Treaty Making and Reporting Obligations

International treaty making refers to the act of signature, ratification, accession, acceptance, definitive signature, consent to be bound, withdrawal from or termination of all international treaties and arrangements.

The Division has provided legal advice and support in relation to all aspects of the treaty making process for Samoa, by conducting legislative compliance reviews, advising on reservations to accession or the accession process, preparing instruments of ratification, advising on legislative amendments and legislative drafting procedures etc. Some of the treaties worked on include the United Nations Convention Against Torture, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the Genocide Convention, the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, PACER Plus and the Interim Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union, the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement concerning the International Registration of Marks, Framework Agreement on the Establishment of the International Solar Alliance, and the Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education.

The Division has also contributed to compliance with Samoa's reporting obligations under various international agreements. For example - Presentation of Samoa's 6th Periodic report under the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) via video conferencing on the 26 October 2018 and responses to concluding observations of the Committee made thereafter.

iv. Legal Policy Advice

The Division has supported the Ministry in formulating policy, through identifying legal concerns for policy development, providing guidance on Samoa's obligations or position under international law and providing legal advice. This is in areas such as Maritime Boundaries where the Ministry is Co-Chair of the Maritime Boundaries Committee and Disarmament, and the Trade Policy Review conducted by the WTO during the reporting period.

v. Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities

The Division has actively supported the role of Ministry as Administrator of the Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act 1978 by advising on the interpretation and application of the Act and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities. For example, for the Asian Development Bank by assisting to develop a Host Agreement to establish their office in Samoa, with reference to applicable privileges and immunities and for the PACER Plus Implementation Unit, input in considerations for setting up a host office in Samoa.

Other legal support has been in the clearance or review of host agreements for major meetings hosted in Samoa such as the Inter-regional Preparatory Meeting for the mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway.

vi. Legislative Drafting

The Ministry has made progress in determining the needs for legislative drafting for disarmament and other key areas under international law that require to be domesticated before ratification. A legislative drafting worklist has also been compiled to identify timelines and manage priority areas. For example – Reform of Foreign Affairs Act and implementing legislation for human rights treaties to be ratified.

2. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING FY2018/2019

i. Preparation for and provision of quality legal advice/briefs/reports to inform/support;

- a) Ratification of the UN Convention Against Torture (which brings the number of core Human Rights Conventions that Samoa has signed up to, to five out of nine)
- b) Ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
- c) Presentation of Samoa's 6th Periodic report under the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) via video conferencing on the 26 October 2018 and responses to concluding observations of the Committee made thereafter;

ii. Review and Clearance of Host Country Agreements for International Offices/Meetings

Aiding the establishment of the Asian Development Office in Samoa through finalization of the Host Agreement

iii. In-house Certificate of Clearance

Endorsement by the Office of the Attorney General for In –House Counsel to review and clear employment contracts for locally employed staff working in overseas missions in New Zealand and Japan.

iv. Commencement of work to create a database

A database for Samoa's International Treaty Status – list of international (multilateral and bilateral) agreements signed/ratified or acceded to, complementing legislative framework and other key/relevant documentation.

3. PLANNED COMMITMENTS NOT ACHIEVED DURING FY2018/2019

- i) Completion of a database – an ongoing development with an estimated 65% completion.
- ii) Reform of Foreign Affairs Act 1976
- iii) Guide for International Treaty Making

4. LINKAGES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO THE SECTOR PLAN/SDS

The legal support provided across the Ministry, contributes to the Ministry's proactive approach in international and regional dialogue and development of policy relating to peace and security, human rights, promotion of the rule of law, and sustainable economic development, and promotion of close cooperation. Achievements through these areas essentially link to and cut across all dimensions of the 4 priority areas of Infrastructure, Environment, Social and Economic.

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 18 – 19 financial year under 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. FY2018/19 ACHIEVEMENTS

The following are the Ministry's other achievements in the support services areas for the FY2018/19:

- i) **Review of the "Guideline on the Terms and Conditions for Diplomatic Staff in the Samoan Foreign Service 2014"**

The final internal consultations on the review of the Guideline was completed prior to the Heads Of Missions/Heads Of Posts(Homs/HOPs) Biennial meeting on 5 - 6 November 2018 wherein more further discussions took place before the final submission to Cabinet for approval in June 2019. The review also included the review of the overseas allowances for the diplomatic staff overseas.

ii) Changeover of Head Of Posts in Sydney, Australia and American Samoa

This period saw the changeover of HOPs for the Consulates in Sydney and American Samoa with Consul General Auseugaefa Poloma Komiti in American Samoa being transferred as Consul General in the Consulate General's office in Sydney to replace Mr Manogiamanu Fonoti Etuale Ioane, the Consul General in Sydney who has been assigned to the Consulate General's office in American Samoa. This changeover of staff took place in September/October 2018.

iii) Changeover of posted staff at our offices in China, Belgium & Wellington

Three (3) Foreign Service Officers (FSO) were selected from head office to take overseas postings for the next four (4) years during the 2018/18 FY. The Principal FSO, Amorette Posini from the Bilateral Relations Division was selected to replace Helen Tanuvasa as Deputy Head of Mission who had since completed her term as Counsellor at the Embassy of Samoa in Beijing, China. Senior FSO Maxine Hunter from the Trade Division was appointed to replace Anna Main at the Embassy of Samoa in Brussels. Mr Tau Kappus, Senior FSO in the Trade Division was appointed to replace Terozita Uitime as First Secretary at the Samoa High Commission in Wellington.

iv) Contracts for Locally Engaged Staff - New Zealand & Japan

The review of the contract template on the terms and conditions of employment for the locally employed staff at our Consulate General's office in Auckland New Zealand was conducted by an employment law firm in Auckland with assistance from the Attorney General's office. The review resulted in the creation of a revised contract template which took into account the local New Zealand employment working terms and conditions applicable to staff employed in New Zealand on diplomatic and consular posts. All locally engaged staff at our offices in Auckland and Wellington have been requested to use this new template as this is in line with the New Zealand employment laws and regulations.

Similarly the contracts for the LES in Tokyo were reviewed based on the local employment terms and conditions in Japan and staff are now using the revised contract template. The Ministry's ACEO of the Legal Services Division assisted with this important task which has been outstanding for a while.

v) Heads of Missions/Heads of Posts Biennial Meeting : 5 - 6 November 2018

The Heads of Missions/Heads of Posts biennial meeting took place on the 5th - 6th November 2018. The meeting is to bring together the HOMs/HOPs to discuss issues of concerns with their operations overseas and also for the Ministry to update them on the policy changes that have taken place relating to their work overseas.

vi) Performance Management

The Ministry particularly the Divisional heads continued to make sure that the Performance appraisals of all employees for the FY2018/19 had been completed to meet the Ministry's human resource strategy in line with the PSC's human resource development framework. The performance appraisal system is 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. The performance agreements for all contract officers for 2018/19 and Appraisal for the 2017/18 were also completed and sent to PSC for their perusals.

vii) Contract with Bluesky – on Email (gogglemail) Fetu to comment

The Ministry had to migrate its email from the MS Exchange to G Suite, Goggle support mail. The reason was due to the constant problems with sending and receiving emails and the delay in sending and receiving emails using the MS Exchange mail clients. Goggle mail offers services like easy to access, compatibility, online access from anywhere and security of data and this email system is hosted through Bluesky.

SECTION 4: MFAT COMPARISON DATA

1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019

1. Employee Statistics

The overall number of staff by the end of this financial year was seventy four (74). The Head Office in Apia comprised of fifty one (51) staff and the Overseas Missions' Offices comprised of twenty -three (23) staff. (Refer tables/graphs 1.1 - 1.3)

1.1 Apia Main Office – Local staff

	Contract Employees	Permanent Employees	Term Employee	Total
Males	2	14	1	17
Females	7	27	0	34
TOTAL	9	41	1	51

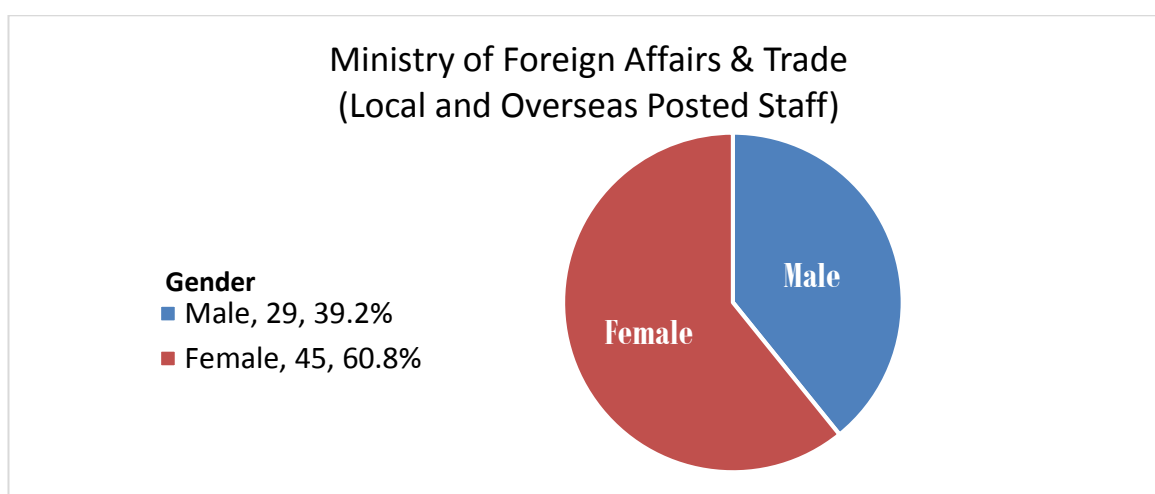
1.2 Overseas Missions Offices – Posted Staff

	Heads of Missions/Posts (HOD/HOP)	Posted Staff	Total
Males	7	5	12
Females	3	8	11
TOTAL	10	13	23

1.3 Overall (Apia and Overseas Missions Staff) By Gender Distribution

	Contract Employees	Permanent Employees	Term Employees	Overseas Posted Employees	Total
Males	2	14	1	12	29
Females	7	27	0	11	45
TOTAL	9	41	1	23	74

The overall gender scale of the Ministry including both Local and Overseas Offices were numbered by females at 60.8% and males by 39.2 %.



2. Recruitment & Selection Statistics

Type of Recruitment & Selection	Gender	Designation	Salary Grade
Contract Position (2)	F	ACEO	C1
Newly recruited (2)	F	PFSO	A16
Re-Hire/Change Position (1)	F	PFSO	A16
Re-Hire/Change Position (1)	M	PFSO	A16
Newly recruited (1)	F	PHRO	A16
Re-Hire/Change Position (1)	M	SFSO	A12
Newly recruited (2)	F	FSO	A10
Newly recruited (1)	M	Customer Service Assistant	A7
Newly recruited (1)	F	Tea Lady/Office Assistant	A3

During the financial year, there were twelve(12) recruitment and selection (R&S) processes being carried out including two (2) Contract positions and ten (10) new Officer level positions.

3. Resignations

During this financial year, seven (7) staff resigned from the Ministry and the majority were support staff from the Corporate Services & Overseas Missions Division. The staff turnover was due to promotion, professional development opportunities in other Ministries/agencies and personal preferences.

3.1 Financial Year 2018/2019

Employee Category	Gender	Designation	Salary Grade
O	F	Customer Service Assistant	A7
O	F	Tea Lady/Office Assistant	A3
O	F	Executive Assistant	A13
O	F	Principal Human Resource Officer	A16
O	F	Principal Foreign Service Officer	A16
O	M	Principal Foreign Service Officer	A16
O	M	Senior Foreign Service Officer	A12

Support Staff – staff within the Corporate Services & Overseas Missions Division
Professional Staff – staff classified as Foreign Service Officers within the Core Divisions

3.2 Resignations per FY (2015-2018) Apia Office

	FY 2018/2019	FY 2017/2018	FY 2016/2017	FY 2015/2016
Support Services Staff	4	1	2	4
Professional Staff	3	2	4	2
TOTAL	7	3	6	6

4. Organisational Structure (Apia Office)

The three (3) Contract positions approved by PSC have been implemented with the recruitment of the last two ACEOs- ACEO Regional Relations Division and Legal Services Division in the current FY and the two (2) new Principal Officers for the Regional and Protocol Divisions. The other newly created positions will recruited in the next financial year.

	Occupied	Vacant	Total
Contract Positions	9	0	9
Permanent Positions	41	5	46
Term Position	1	0	1
Newly Established/Approved Positions***	0	2***	2***
TOTAL	51	7	58

5. Professional Development

The Ministry was fortunate to take advantage of the several training development and opportunities at both the Overseas and Local levels for its staff to gain skills and knowledge for professional and capacity building. (Refer 5.1 and 5.2)

Not limited to the above, there were also other on-the job trainings and meetings / workshops organized by other line ministries attended by staff in various areas for the purpose of professional development and capacity building opportunities.

5.1 Trainings (Overseas / Local) 36

Training Course Title	Training Provider	Duration of Training (in working days)	Location of Training	Staff attended
Implementing UN Security Council resolutions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PIFS	02-03/07/2018	Suva, Fiji	Matilda Bartley
Seminar on the development of Finance & Economics for the Pacific	China	6-19/07/2018	Harbin, China	Temukisa Eapeisi
EU Workshop on Tax Governance	Government of Fiji	31/07-2/08/2018	Tanoa Hotel, Nadi Fiji	Desna Solofa
Customer Service Training	PSC, Apia	6 – 10/8/ 2018	PSC Conference Room	Faasifo Semi
Project Management	PSC, Apia	20-24/08/2018	PSC Conference Room	Senetima Samau
Workforce Planning Training	PSC; Apia	27-29/08/2018	PSC Conferenc Room	Elineofeira Tigaina
Report Writing Training	PSC, Apia	28/08/2018	PSC Conference Room	Lonnie Tuatagaloa
Report Writing Training	PSC, Apia	10 – 13/09/ 2018	PSC Conference Room	Maketa Peter/Marissa Toomata
Bilateral Seminar on Information & Communication Technology	China	27/08-07/09/2018	Hainan Province, China	Fetufou Maiava

Third Value Chain Committee meeting for the Coconut Industry	Government of Fiji	11-12/09/2018	Labasa, Fiji	Louis Jalesa Ofele Lene
66th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD)	Fiji	12/09-12/10/2018	Nadi, Fiji	Rapture Pagaialii
Pacific Women Climate Change Negotiators Workshop	WEDO	4-6/10/2018	Suva, Fiji	Anna Main
Regional Trade Policy Course for Asia Pacific member and Observers	WTO	22/10-14/12/2018	Bangkok, Thailand	Raewynn Manuleleua & Tamarini Mauafu
Seminar on Trade Promotion of Pacific Is Countries in 2018	CIFAL	30/10-12/11/2018	Shanghai, China	Tau Jurgen Kappus
WTO Trade Facilitation Committee (TFC)	WTO TAF	9-12/10/2018	Geneva, Switzerland	Louis Ofele Lene
Workshop on Laws for Legalised cigarettes from WTO advocate	WTO	12-16/11/2018	Suva, Fiji	Nella Tavita-Levy
2018 Seminar on Economic Diplomacy for Developing Countries	UIBE	21/11-11/12/2018	Beijing, China	Fiona Judy Lene – Samoa
Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness Workshop	Maritime	20-22/11/2018	Brisbane, Australia	Desna Solofa
Workshop on the BOE Declaration Action Plan	PIFS	26/11/2018	Suva, Fiji	Desna Solofa & Angela Ula
Workshop on the Pacific Fusion Centre	PIFS	27-28/11/2018	Suva, Fiji	Desna Solofa & Angela Ula
Regional workshop transportation of PACER Plus Tariff Schedule & Product specific rules from HS 2012 to HS 2017	OCO, Secretariat	21-25/01/2019	Tonga	Lonnie Tuatagaloa
Presentation Skills Training	PSC, Apia	5-7/02/2-19	PSC Conference Room	Sarona Tomane
Job Sizing Training	PSC, Apia	12/02/2019	PSc Conference Room	Sarona Tomane

27th Junior Diplomatic Course	Government of Pakistan	04/02-15/03/2019	Islamabad, Pakistan	Reupena Matauiaiu
Presentation Skills Training	PSC, Apia	01 -05/03/2019	PSC Conference Room	Dorothy Anetone/Lise Enari
Training for HR Trainers	PSC, Apia	29/03/2019	PSC Conference Room	Sarona Tomane
General Training Course on the Chemical Weapons Convention	OPCW	05/02-01/03/2019	The Hague, Netherlands	Matilda Bartley
Training Course on Disaster Finance (Small States Centre of Excellence & World Bank	Samoa Government	25-26/03/2019	TATTE Conv. Centre, Apia SAMOA	MFAT
National Security Policy Development in the Pacific Islands	DKI APCSS	27-29/03/2019	Suva, Fiji	Desna Solofa
Blue Diplomacy – Enhancing Sustainable Economic Development of the Oceans workshop	MFA, Kingdom of Netherlands	18-29/03/2019	The Hague, Netherlands	Malaeoletalu Ulia
Workshop on Sustainable Development held by ESCAP & Sweden for the rights of all people	ESCAP	25-26/03/2019	Bangkok, Thailand	Francella Strickland
Workshop on National Security Policy Development in the Pacific	Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies	27/03-29/03/2019	Honolulu, Hawaii	Desna Solofa & Matilda Bartley
WTO 38th Geneva Week	WTO	04/05 - 13/05/2019	Geneva, Switzerland	Dorothy Judy Anetone
McCabe Centre Intensive Legal Training	McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer	05/05-25/05/2019	Melbourne, Australia	Louis Ofele Lene
International Training Course on Safeguard for States with Small Quantities Protocols	IAEA	01-09/06/2019	Ibaraki, Japan	Rapture Pagaialii

5.2 Conferences/Meetings - 47

Conference Title	Training Provider	Duration of Training (in working days)	Location of Conference	Staff attended
SPC 48th CRGA & 10th Pacific Conference	SPC	26-28/06/2018	Noumea,	Peseta Noumea Simi
4 th Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty	ATT Secretariat	20-24/08/2018	Tokyo, Japan	Robert Niko Aiono
50 th Celebration of USP, Suva	Government of Fiji	26-29/08/2019	Suva, Fiji	Peseta Noumea Simi & Desna Solofa
SIS Officials Meeting & PACP Official meeting & Pre Forum FOC meeting & Forum Foreign Ministers meeting	Government of Samoa	6-10/08/2018	Taumeasina Hotel, APIA	Peseta Noumea Simi & MFAT Officials
LOWY Institute	MFAT	29/08-01/09/2018	Sydney, Australia	Peseta Noumea Simi & Desna Solofa
First Intergovernmental Conference	UN	4-17/09/2018	New York, USA	Matilda Bartley
Pacific Island Forums Leaders meeting	PIFS	3-6/09/2018	Nauru	Peseta Noumea Simi & Desna Solofa
Third Value Chain Committee meeting	SPC	11-12/09/2018	Labasa, Fiji	Louis Ofele Lene
73 rd UNGA meeting & Trip to China	UNGA	14-22/09/2018 & 22-30/09/2018	New York, USA	Peseta Noumea Simi & Francella Strickland
WTO Trade Facilitation Committee meeting	WTO TAF	9-12/10/2018	Geneva, Switzerland	Louis Ofele Lene
FPR Review – consultations with Sam Sefuiva	By Teleconference	17/10/2018	Apia, Samoa	Peseta Noumea Simi & Desna Solofa
Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting(PLMAM) & PACER Plus Signatory meeting & PACER Plus UNCTAD Regional forum	UNCTAD	9-12/10/2018 & 12-13/10/2018 & 15-18/10/2018	Honiara, Solomon Island	Hermine Raeli Mc Carthy

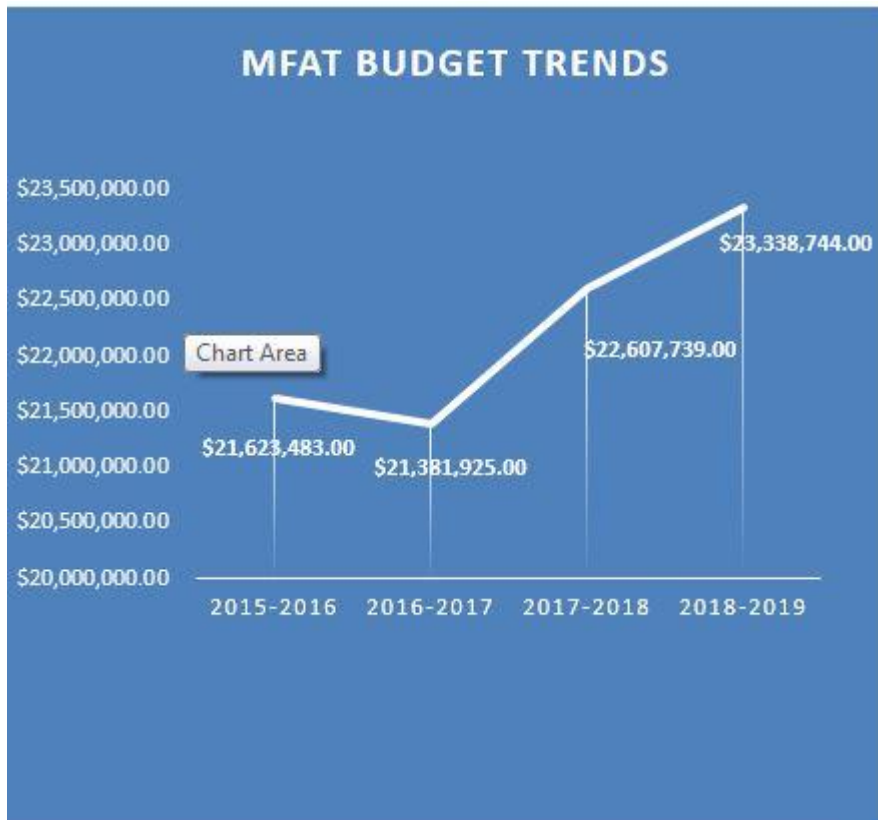
ACP Trade Meeting	ACP/EIF	22-26/10/2018	Brussel	Peseta Noumea Simi & Nella Tavita Levy & Fiona Lene & Isaia Lautasi
5 th Korea – Pacific Islands Senior Officials Meeting	Korea Government	23-25/10/2018	Seoul, Korea	Malaeoletalu Ulia
Inter-Regional preparatory meeting for the Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway	Government of Samoa	29/10-1/11/2018	TATTE Convention Centre, Apia	Peseta Noumea Simi & MFAT Officials
Signing of MOU for Submarine Cable Company	Samoa Submarine Cable Company	8-10/11/2018	Auckland, NZ	Peseta Noumea Simi
16 th Meeting of the Council of IRENA	IRENA	12-15/11/2018	Abu Dhabi, United Arab	Matilda Bartley
APEC Economic Leaders' Week	APEC	17-18/11/2018	Papua New Guinea	Peseta Noumea Simi
Sustainable Blue Economy Conference	ESCAP	26-28/11/2018	Nairobi, Kenya	Sharon P Aiafi & Louis Lene
Regional Policy Briefing meeting & FOC Budget Session	PIFS	28/11/2018 – 29/11/2018	Suva, Fiji	Desna Solofa & Angela Ula
COP24 UNFCCC	MFAT	7-14/12/2018	Katowice, Poland	Peseta Noumea Simi & Francella Strickland
Committee meeting for education assistance	PIFS	14/01/2019	Suva, Fiji	Nella Tavita Levy
Senior Official meeting in partnership with the Government of NZ	NZ Government	30/01- 02/02/2019	Wellington, NZ	Peseta Noumea Simi & Sharon P Aiafi
Pacific Nations Meeting on UN Convention Against Torture	Convention Against Torture	6-8/02/2019	Nadi, Fiji	Francella Strickland
Maritime Boundaries Working session	SPC	11-22/02/2019	Sydney, Australia	Francella Strickland
Polynesian Leaders meeting	Government of American Samoa	14/02/2019	American Samoa	Leiataua Kilifoti Eteuati
PACP Officials Meeting & PACP Leaders meeting	Government of Samoa	25-26/02/2019	Taumeasina Island Resort, Apia	MFAT & Samoa Govt & PACP Leaders & Officials & EU Delegation

Trip to Israel on Special Courtesy from the Israel	Government of Israel	3-6/03/2019	Israel, Egypt	Peseta Noumea Simi
6th Meeting on Sustainable Development for Asia Pacific Countries	AP Forum	27-29/03/2019	Bangkok, Thailand	Francella Strickland
EU-ACP Post Agreement for Post Cotonou Agreement	EU-ACP	3/04/2019	N'djamena, Chad	Peseta Noumea Simi
SPREP Troika and Trilateral meeting	SPREP	8-9/04/2019	SPREP	Desna Solofa
PACER Plus Trade Official Meeting	NZ/Australia	10/04/2019	Suva, Fiji	Nella Tavita Levy
1 st Supply Cluster Connectivity meeting	Commonwealth Secretariat	10-11/04/2019	Port Villa, Vanuatu	Louis Ofele Lene
Meeting on Trade Policy & Commission	EIF	10-12/04/2019	Geneva, Switzerland	Peseta Noumea Simi & Nella Tavita Levy
2 nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation	China	25-27/04/2019	Beijing, China	Nella Tavita Levy
Beijing EXPO 2019	China	28-29/04/2019	Beijing, China	Nella Tavita Levy
Senior Official meeting for the government of Australia & Samoa	Government of Australia	29-30/04/2019	Canberra, Australia	Peseta Noumea Simi
Pre – FFC 110 meeting & 110th Annual Officials Forum Fisheries Committee meeting	SPDF	29/04-04/05/2019 & 6-10/05/2019	Federate States of Micronesia	Desna Solofa
Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM)	PIFS	6-8/05/2019	Suva, Fiji	Nella Tavita Levy
Senior Official meeting & 3 rd Pacific meeting for Weather & PSIDS Leaders Meeting & Pacific Leaders meeting	Government of Fiji	10-11/05/2019 & 13-14/05/2019 & 14/05/2019 & 15/05/2019	Suva, Fiji	Peseta Noumea Simi & Francella Strickland
Voluntary National Review	PIFS	19-30/05/2019	Vanuatu	Francella Strickland

109 th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers	MFAT	20-22/05/2019	Belgium	Peseta Noumea Simi
44 th Session of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers	MFAT	21-24/05/2019	Belgium	Peseta Noumea Simi
75 th UNESCAP meeting	ESCAP	27-31/05/2019	Bangkok, Thailand	Sharon P Aiafi
Commonwealth Secretariat Meeting	Commonwealth Secretariat	28-30/05/2019	Singapore	Nella Tavita Levy
UNFCCC Meeting	UNFCCC	11-27/06/2019	Bonn, Germany	Francella Strickland
49 th Annual Meeting for Senior Officials of Pacific Community(CRGA49) & 11 th Conference of the Pacific Community	SPC	17-20/06/2019	Noumea, New Caledonia	Peseta Noumea Simi & Desna Solofa

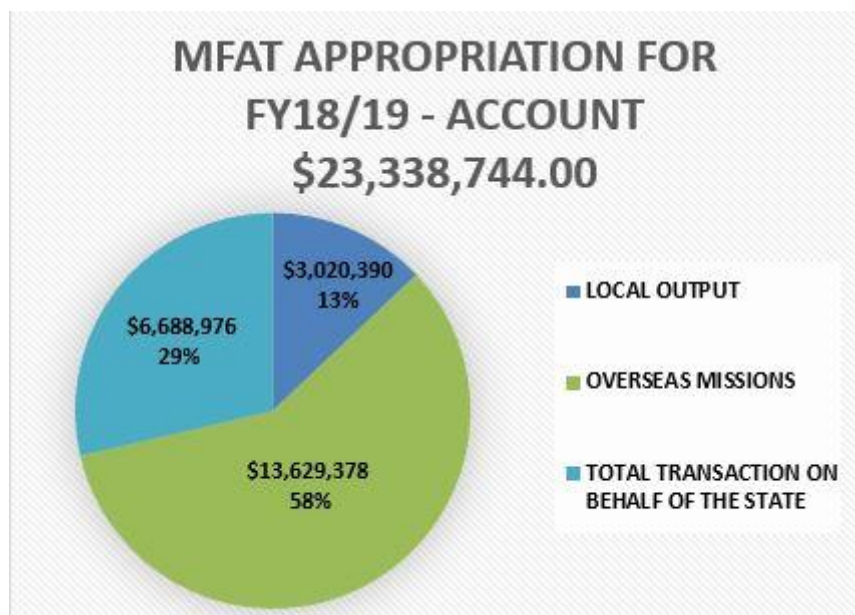
SECTION 5: FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE : 2018-2019 Financial year

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW MFAT BUDGET TRENDS



The MFAT budget for the financial year 2018-2019 was ST\$23,338,744 which was about ST\$731,005 more than the previous financial year's budget of \$22,607,739. This was due to the increase in Missions Operational Activities and the Below Line provisions for the International/Regional Meetings hosted by the Government of Samoa such as the FFMM – Foreign Ministers Meeting, Samoa Pathway – SIDS in November 2018, Pacific ACP – EU Ministers Meeting in February and Commonwealth SIS meeting in March 2019.

MFAT APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT



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.

The graph shows the largest amount of the Ministry's Appropriation for Overseas Mission with a 58% allocation, 29% for Transaction on behalf of the state and 13% for Local outputs.

SCHEDULE 2.10

STATEMENT OF MINISTRY RECEIPTS BY REPORTING CATEGORY AND EXPENDITURE BY OUTPUT APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT

for the financial year ended 30 June 2019

	Notes	2019	Final Estimate	(Over)/Under
		\$	\$	\$
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE				
RECEIPTS				
Ordinary Receipts				
Income from Investments		0	0	0
Income from Investments		0	0	0
Other Revenues				
Fees & Other Charges		94,144	72,000	(22,144)
TOTAL RECEIPTS		94,144	72,000	(22,144)
PAYMENTS				
Outputs				
1.0 Policy Advice to the Responsible Minister & Cabinet		825,932	833,939	8,007
2.1 Ambassador at large for the Pacific (Newly Created Output)		161,333	169,131	7,798

2.2	Political and International Relations and Protocol Services (Formerly Output 2)	542,352	544,458	2,106
3.0	Representation Overseas			
3.1	High Commission, Wellington	1,304,138	1,441,743	137,605
3.2	Consulate General, Auckland	957,065	1,035,928	78,864
3.3	Embassy, Brussels	1,778,610	1,857,632	79,022
3.4	Embassy, New York	2,500,997	2,503,722	2,724
3.5	High Commission, Canberra	1,228,047	1,338,953	110,906
3.6	Student Counsellor, Fiji	351,095	388,901	37,806
3.7	Consulate General, American Samoa	525,853	545,617	19,764
3.8	Embassy, Japan	1,899,089	1,890,586	-8,503
3.9	Embassy, China	1,558,429	1,562,401	3,972
3.10	Consulate General, Sydney	1,039,159	1,063,895	24,736
		13,142,481	13,629,378	486,896
4.0	Scholarship, Training & Bilateral	372,303	426,315	54,012
5.0	Trade Development & Promotion	575,919	594,642	18,723
6.0	Protocol Services	185,868	176,463	(9,404)
7.0	Regional Relations	133,489	148,170	14,681
8.0	Legal Services	110,948	127,273	16,325
	Total Outputs	16,050,626	16,501,598	450,973
	Transactions on Behalf of State			
	Membership Fees			
	United Nations	65,266	65,266	0
	Pacific Community	222,307	222,317	10
	Forum Secretariat	107,584	107,584	(0)
	Commonwealth Secretariat	112,049	127,727	15,678
	United Nations Development Programme - Apia	601,304	760,569	159,265
	United Nations Development Programme - Headquarters	14,085	14,085	0
	Commonwealth Fund Technical Cooperation (CFTC)	108,223	160,800	52,577
	UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNIDOF)	1,173	1,174	1
	UN Interim Forces in Lebanon	2,252	2,348	96
	Miscellaneous for Other United Nation Assessments	32,885	33,297	412
	Pacific Island Centre	10,817	10,817	0
	International Red Cross FK (96)40	1,183	4,695	3,512

Chemical Weapons Convention 1992 ORPCW	3,148	3,173	25
Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism 2001	2,566	3,173	607
Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty 1996	1,793	1,793	0
World Trade Organisation	75,351	75,351	0
International Tribunal for Law of the Sea	2,374	2,470	96
Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	2,162	3,173	1,012
World Trade Organisation Office Geneva	45,442	45,447	5
International Criminal Court	5,253	5,264	11
International Seabed Authority	1,719	2,348	629
International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Commonwealth (Joint Office in New York)	25,000	25,000	(0)
Group of 77 ECDC (USD\$2,000)	4,806	4,806	0
International Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia	1,512	2,012	500
International Tribunal for Former Rwanda	1,370	1,573	203
UN Office for South-South Cooperation	2,563	2,563	0
	1,455,983	1,691,174	235,191
Hosting of Regional Meetings/Conferences			
Samoa Trade Talks	0	15,000	15,000
Pacific Island Forum Leaders Meeting	182,897	200,000	17,103
Office of the Chief Trade Advisor (OCTA) Meeting	90,000	90,000	0
Samoa Pathway Review	99,996	100,000	4
Forum Trade Ministers Meeting	149,751	150,000	249
ACP Fisheries & Agricultural Meeting	130,875	150,000	19,125
	653,519	705,000	51,481
Government Policies / Initiatives			
Government Scholarship Scheme	3,165,243	3,200,000	34,757
	3,165,243	3,200,000	34,757
Rents & Leases - Government Building	394,853	394,853	1
Rents & Leases - Auckland Residences	418,407	428,602	10,195
VAGST Output Tax	170,093	269,347	99,254
Total Transactions on Behalf of State	6,258,097	6,688,976	430,878

TOTAL PAYMENTS - FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE		22,308,723	23,190,574	881,851
RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS		(22,214,579)	(23,118,574)	(903,995)
GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS				
		2019	Receipts	Payments
		\$	\$	\$
Grants - GDP				
NZAID/Aus AID-Harmonised Gov't Scholarship (Other)		34,889	33,987	1,740
Secondment of Samoa UN-Mission DRP(SAT) (NZ Aid)	<i>a</i>	8,686	0	0
Supporting the Pacific Voice on Climate Change and Renewable Energy Solutions (Other)	<i>a</i>	14,769	0	0
Financial Assistance for the Facilitation of the Pacific Islands Forum (Other)	<i>a</i>	92,164	0	0
PACER Plus Readiness (Australian Aid)		70,349		6,848
Streamlining Arms Data Collection and Reporting in Samoa (Other)		59,448	165,886	106,438
Samoa Pathway Mid Term Review Meeting (Other)		51,410	313,019	261,609
Fifth Global Biennial Conference on Small States (AusAid)		43,853	108,388	64,535
National Report on Human Rights (Other)	<i>i</i>	1,156	0	0
Small Island Developing States Conference Multi Donor Activities (Other)	<i>d</i>	784,219	0	0
Secondment of Samoa UN Mission DRP(USD Acct) (NZ Aid)	<i>b</i>	8,757	0	0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS		1,169,699	621,280	441,170

The above schedule shows the trend the Ministry's Appropriation Account for the financial year 2018/19. The Local Outputs utilized about thirteen percent (13%) 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 and CEO's related travel and Daily Subsistence Allowances, airfares and all other related expenses for their 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 twenty nine percent (29%) of the Ministry’s Appropriation over the period being reported. Appropriations under the Transactions on Behalf of the State or Below Line Items are mainly incorporated for specific one off purposes relating to hosting local, regional and international meetings in Apia such as hosting of the Samoa Pathway – SIDs in November 2018, the Pacific ACP-EU Ministers meeting in February 2019 and the Fifth Global Biennial Conference on Small States/ Commonwealth SIS in March 2019. 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 utilized fifty eight percent (58%) 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 2018-19. 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\$1,052,165 which shows cost savings measures employed by the Ministry and some reimbursements for airfares for the Hon. Prime Minister and delegations which were received very late after the MOF had closed off the financial year processes.

REVENUES/COST RECOVERIES

Cost Recoveries

The actual amount collected for “Apostilles” referred to as Sales, fees and Other Charges of ST\$94,144 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 3.1 was due to the changeover of the First Secretary post from a married officer with a family of three (3) to a single officer in January 2019 resulting in savings from overseas allowances/medical and tuition fees for children.
- 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. The Recruitment & Selection process for some of these positions have started already.

TRANSACTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE STATE

A) Membership fees

The underutilization 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 2018/19 financial year when the UN and agencies moved to the One UN House provided for by Government at Tuanaaimato. The revised budget based on the current arrangements with One UN House is yet to be confirmed from the UN using their UN formula for the calculation of the contribution wherein a rent component is included.
- 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. This revised pledge is yet to be corrected in the budget for the 2019/2020.
- iii) Late receipt of invoices/advices from some organizations.

B) Other Payments

- i) The 2 Samoa Talks did not take place as planned during this financial year.
- ii) The slightly 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: ACRONYMS

ACP – African Caribbean and Pacific
ALFS – Asia Ladies Friendship Society
ANZ – Australia and New Zealand
APTC – Australia Pacific Technical Program
AusAID – Australia Aid Program
BTL – Below 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 Organization
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
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
LM – Labour Mobility
LSD – Legal Services Division
MCIL – Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labour
MESC – 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
PLG – Polynesian Leaders Group
POC – Point of Contact
PSC – Public Service Commission
PSD – Protocol Services Division
RC – Reference Centre
RoO – Rules of Origin
RRD – Regional Relations Division
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
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
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 Organization
UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund
UNGA – United Nations General Assembly
UNIDO – United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNOPS – United Nations Office for Project Services
USA – United States of America
WHO – World Health Organization
WIPO – World Intellectual Property Organisation
WTO – World Trade Organization