

WATER & SANITATION SECTOR



NEWSLETTER

Issue #27

Jul - Sept, 2018

Inside this Issue:

1

*Message from
Sector Chairman*

2

*PWWC & PWWA
in New Caledonia*

3

*Ridge to Reef in
Melbourne
Australia*

4

*Student Rally for
NUS on SDGs*

5

*BIOGAS in
Vaitele Relocates*

*More stories
inside.....*

Greetings
from the
Water and
Sanitation
Sector
Co-Chairman

Talofa and Greetings to all our Implementing Agencies and Partners of the Water and Sanitation Sector. It is with great pleasure that I present this edition of the Sector's Newsletter, featuring some of the key events that the sector has been engaged in during the months of July to September, 2018.



The key events covered in this issue are ;

- ★ *Pacific Water and Waste Association Forum & Ministerial Meeting in New Caledonia*
- ★ *Ridge to Reef Workshop in Melbourne, Australia*
- ★ *1st Student Rally for National University of Samoa on SDGs*
- ★ *BIOGAS Project in Vaitele - Relocation and much more*

I would also like to acknowledge our implementing agencies and our stakeholder for your continuous support in all the ongoing and new developments implemented in this period. Faafetai le lagolago ma le faamalolosi. Your cooperation and support have brought us this far. I trust that our Sector will continue to strive forward with refreshed and high spirits to pursue planned works and overcome new challenges.

In moving forward, our newsletter team would sincerely welcome the support of all our Implementing Agencies and stakeholders in providing articles, news items, events, advertisements that we can announce in our upcoming newsletter editions.

For more information please contact Peni Allen on email peni.allen@mnre.gov.ws or telephone 67200 ext 321

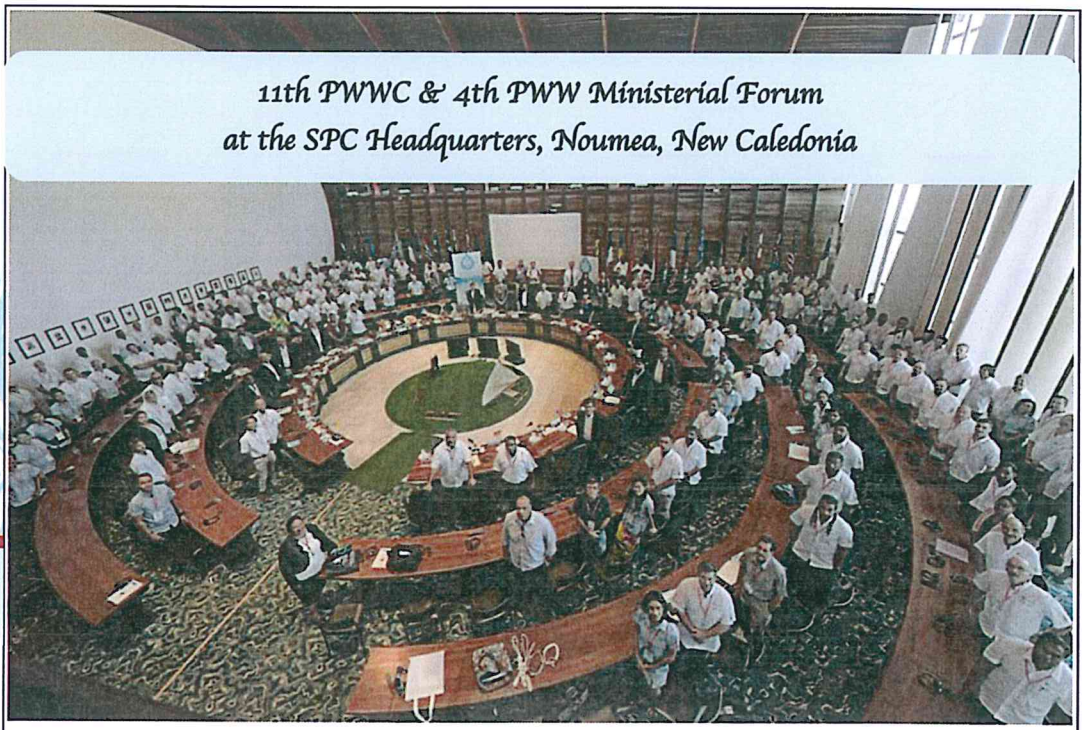
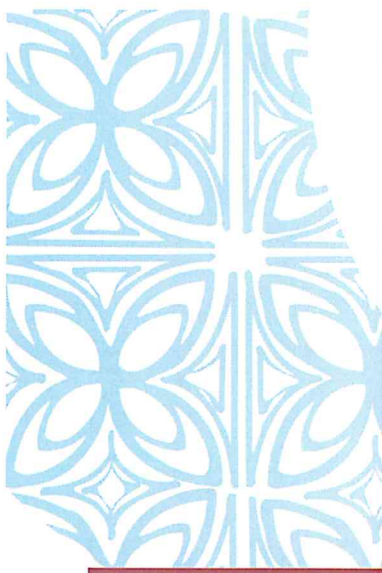
Thank you and God Bless

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Ulu Bismarck Crawley'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Ulu Bismarck Crawley

Co-Chairman

(Joint Water Sector Steering Committee)



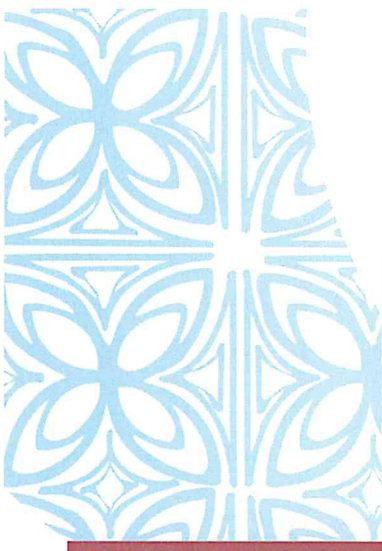
*PWWC &
PWW
Ministerial
Forum in
Noumea -
New Caledonia*

New Caledonia was the proud host of the 11th PWWC and 4th PWW Ministerial Forum which took place on 6th - 10th August, 2018 at the Nouvata Hotel, Noumea. This is an annual forum which brings together members (Public utilities, affiliated and allied) of the Pacific Water and Wastewater Association, a not for profit membership body established in 1994 to support the Pacific region in meeting all water challenges which has further evolved over the years to become a regional Association of organisations opening in the water and wastewater sectors whose mission is the delivery of quality related services that enhance the well-being of people in the Pacific region. Samoa was the host for the 10th PWWC last year and is one of the member countries of the Association with the Samoa Water Authority and Independent Water Schemes as utility members and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Health along with other implementing agencies of the Water and Sanitation Sector as allied members.

The delegation from Samoa led by his Hon. Papalii Niko Lee Hang, Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure included representatives from MNRE, SWA and the IWS who took part in activities of the conference with some of them who part as presenters in the various technical sessions.

The theme for this year's conference "Innovative Solutions for our Islands" that calls for sustained national and regional commitments and recalibration of efforts towards the genuine achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goal 6: the Universal access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.

In line with this year's theme, the conference endeavoured to inspire and motivate its members to be innovative thinkers and doers. Delegates were encouraged to capitalise on the wealth and activities in their own countries.



The Young Water Professional Programme as a key element of last and this year's programme with more than 30 young people from utilities around the Pacific participating this year, continues to serve as an incubator for innovative thinking and learning.


The 4th Water and Wastewater Ministerial Forum aimed to reaffirm commitments for priority actions to address the critical challenges in the region which included capacity and capability developments, building 'inclusive' community resilience taking into consideration the vulnerable population and promote community engagement and ownership in water and wastewater management. His Hon. Papalii Niko Lee Hang joined other Pacific Island Ministers in delivering key statements on the progress of water and sanitation sectors performance around the Pacific emphasizing on the relevance of this year's theme on the key water and sanitation sector developments and activities.



As an integral part of the conference every year, the Annual General Meeting for all PWPA members was held as one of its final events whereby the PWPA Annual report for 2017 was tabled and endorsed as well as the election of new members into the PWPA Executive Board for vacant seats. It is pleasing to note that the CEO of MNRE, Afioga Ulu Bismarck Crawley was elected into the PWPA Executive Board as a representative of the Allied Members this year to fill in one of the two vacant seats for Allied Members.



CEO MNRE (Far Right) with MNRE Staff participated in the meeting



This year's conference concluded with an Awards Ceremony and the hand-over of the PWPA Flag to Vanuatu, which will be the Host country for the 12th PWWC & Exhibition and 5th PWW Ministerial form next year, 2019.

Ridge to Reef Workshop in Melbourne, Australia

Delegations from 14 Pacific SIDS involved with the implementation of the Pacific Ridge to Reef (R2R) Program, gathered in Townsville-Australia for the 3rd Regional R2R Project Steering Committee (RPSC) meeting and R2R Postgraduate workshops from the 30th July to the 10th August, 2018. representing Samoa was a delegation from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, including Asuao Malaki Iakopo (ACEO Water Resources Division) Ms. Ruth Ueselani (ACEO Water and Sanitation Sector) Mr.



Niuava Fata Eti Malolo (R2R Project Coordinator) and Mr. Laulu Tamati Fau (EWACC Project Coordinator)

From Left to Right:

Ms. Ruth Ueselani (ACEO WSCU), Mr. Malaki Iakopo (ACEO WRD), Mr. Laulu T Fau (Project Coordinator EWACC), Ms. Anne Trevor (UNDP), Niuava Fata E Malolo (Project Coordinator IW R2R)

The RSPC meeting involved presentations on the progress of national project activities, highlighting implementation successes as well as issues encountered by each of the participating countries. During each of the presentations, there was a lot of knowledge sharing amongst the project teams and technical experts from supporting partners such as the UNDP, FAO, UNE and SPC. There were also discussions on the regional components of the project and how SPC can further assist the participating islands in monitoring project implementation carrying out effective stakeholder engagement and improving reporting not only at the national level but also the region. The first week was concluded by a field visit around Townsville to look at soil resources management, marine and coastal protection, as well as island biodiversity. This included a visit to the Great Barrier Reef.



Following the RSPC was a weeklong training facilitated by the James Cook University on some of the science behind effective R2R strategies and plans. Participants were able to learn about Rapid Coastal Assessments and other research methods aimed at data collection, to help Pacific Island decision makers.



The 4th RPSC meeting is planned around the same time next year in Nadi, Fiji. For more information on the Pacific R2R Project or Samoa's activities under this initiative, please do not hesitate to contact the Water Resources Division.



**First Student Rally
for NUS on SDGs
supported by MNRE
and the Water and
Sanitation Sector**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment received an invitation to take part in the 4th Samoa Conference at the National University of Samoa, 4th – 6th Sept, 2018.

The **Water and Sanitation Sector** used the opportunity to support one of the key side events of the conference; the Student Rally at which took place on the 5th September 2018. The Student Rally was the first student forum for the National University of Samoa; a platform that sought to expose and engage students in sustainable development processes. The theme; *"Fostering Sustainable Development: Can Education Deliver?"* set their focus on the transformative contributions that education and academic institutions have to make in achieving Sustainable Development Goals. The overarching objective of the Student Rally is to:

To create an enabling platform to discuss how students can transform and create SDG-reformed universities

- 1) Explore what actions education and academic institutions such as NUS can take to meet SDGs in Samoa*
- 2) What actions / initiatives can students take to contribute to achieving SDGs*

Ms. Ruth Ueselani (ACEO- Water and Sanitation Sector Coordination Division) was one of panelists to reflect on how universities can deliver in fostering Sustainable Development Goals. As part of this rally, break-out sessions were also conducted on many topics including one session on *"Water and Sanitation: Ensuring the maximal engagement of young people"* at which was facilitated by Ms. Ruth Ueselani together with the selected panelists, Mr. Asua Malaki Iakopo – ACEO Water Resources Division (MNRE), Ms. Emarosa Romeo (Hydro Division – MNRE) and Mr. Fanueli Tuafale (Policy & Regulatory Division).

Students were able to ask questions and interact with the panelists during this break-out session.

these
provide and
with the
knowledge
universities
lead in
every level
ways that
sustainable



through leadership, innovation and collaboration.

The Water and Sanitation Sector supported the event by funding students packages which included stationaries as well as catering for the event.

The aim of
sessions was to
equip students
practical
as to how
can take the
education at
in delivering
foster
development

**BIOGAS SYSTEM IN
VAITELE
RELOCATE**

BIOGAS system that has been piloted in Vaitele (EFKS) compound will be removed as there is so much gas produced but the Pastor indicated that him, his wife and two young children are being taken care by the congregation, also there a very insignificant use of the system by the church groups. Further, with the biogas digester fully blown up, it is also important to remove from existing site due to safety reasons.

Therefore, we've concluded that it is best to relocate system to a community with livestock and excess supply of green waste and most importantly the willingness to feed and maintain the system with significant level of gas utilisation. Renewable Energy team are currently awaiting an appointment with Rev. Ma'afala Lima of Malua Theological College if they are interested in having our system within their compound. Another interested party is the Women in Business which we are also awaiting for their confirmation.



Small Scale household biogas system with a prefabricated flexible PVC Digester



Group photo of UNESCO staff and participants from 7 different Sectors taken during the last day of the workshop

UNESCO in collaboration with Samoa Bureau of Statistics and Ministry of Finance hosted a 5 day workshop from 3-7th September 2018. This workshop was held at the DBS Conference Room and was a follow-on workshop from the previous one that was held in June of 2018 where Samoa undertook the first of two-workshop series aimed at applying a generic tool (EPIC) to seven pre-selected sector plans, to test its applicability and commence work on identifying all key data requirements from these seven sectors, as indicated in their existing planning documents.

The ultimate aim of policy-data integration tool, EPIC, is to enable the analyst to understand statistical needs for monitoring policy issues regarding social, economic, environmental and institutional core concepts outlined in a given policy, inclusive of all beneficiary target groups. This objective is achieved through developing a National Sustainable Development Indicator (NSDI) framework to benchmark actions and outcomes related to these concepts. The NSDI is the result of closely reviewing national planning and policy documents and other existing relevant national indicator sets, to identify appropriate indicators to track progress, which are then mapped against regional and global frameworks such as the SDGs. As a result of applying EPIC, analysts will be able to identify current demands and lack of demands for data as well as opportunities for further enhancement of linkages between policy and data across different policy domains. The application of EPIC also provides necessary information to both policy makers and data producers to further analyse gaps in policy and data.

The objectives of the workshop are as follows:

- Applying the generic tool in detail to the remaining seven sector plans, to commence work on identifying all key data requirements from these sectors, as indicated in their existing planning documents
- Deliberate on most appropriate way forward for Samoa to fully adopt the generic tool, clearly outlining all data requirements Samoa wishes to meet for national

POLICY – DATA INTEGRATION WORKSHOP

3 – 7 SEPT, 2018

The workshop was officially opened by the Minister of Samoa Bureau of Statistics, Hon. Sala Fata Pinati. He welcomed the participants by providing the keynote address and for each sector to contribute during discussions. The seven (7) Sectors that participated were Environment, Water and Sanitation, Energy, Education, Transport, Communications and Finance Sector. Each sector coordinator was invited to present on the current status of their respective sector on the Sector Plans that are currently being implemented.

Representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment included Ms. Ruth Ueselani (Water and Sanitation Sector Coordinator) Perise Kerslake, Mrs. Frances Reupena, (Environment Sector Coordinator), Olioli Faletose and Vitolina Taupau from the Water Resources Division. Ms Ueselani and Mrs Reupena both provided a brief overview of the Water and Sanitation Sector and Environment Sector and the alignment of the current Water for Life Sector Plan 2016-2020 and NESP with national plans such as SDS, regional plans such as Samoa Pathway and the global plans such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The workshop ended was officially closed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Finance, Afioga Tupaimatuna Iulai Lavea.



Participants during group activities

IWSA Water Quality Improvement Projects

The IWSA have completed village Water Committee training and initial installations for the home water treatment (HWT) project. This project focused on the provision and installation of 370 HWT's to Independent Water Schemes and associated training. The training involved a presentation by IWSA on the need for, and the benefits of the home water treatment systems and an introduction to the in-field water quality testing. This was then followed by a demonstration of how to install the systems which involved Water Committee members assembling their own HWT systems. A demonstration of the water quality monitoring kits was also provided by the IWSA staff.



Installation of HWT with IWSA



*In field water testing with
Compact Dry EC plates*

be in a position to apply for additional funding for this initiative. This project was funded by the Canadian Government as part of their Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) program.

The IWSA are also fortunate to have recently found out they were successful in another round of funding by the CFLI program. This new project will involve the installation of UV water filter systems in Government schools within IWS's, training and a water quality testing program.

In total 370 HWT systems were provided to Water Committees and the next stage of this project will be for IWSA to conduct follow up site visits to each scheme to map installation locations, troubleshoot any installation problems and discuss water quality testing issues or maintenance questions. Water testing results to date confirm the HWT systems are removing all *e.coli*, thus significantly improving the quality of the drinking water for these households. Once this monitoring stage is complete the IWSA hope to have sufficient information to confirm suitability of this model to a range of Samoan conditions and will



HWT training session



WATER RESOURCES - SCHOOL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

UPOLU

07th – 15th Aug

&

SAVAI

12th Sept 2018



“Ensuring sustainable development and management of Samoa’s water resources through conservation and protection of WATERSHED areas” is the vision behind the school awareness initiative within the Water Resources Division. It has long been of great importance to the Water Resources Division (WRD) to work together with the community and members of the public, to impart knowledge on the significance of our watershed areas, and how these valuable water resources can be sustainably managed. Not only this, but recognizing the importance of educating our young generation, and instilling in them the sense of responsibility, in looking after our environment and the precious resources they provide. In recognition of this, the WRD organised a series of school awareness programmes which commenced on 8th August to 15th August for Upolu and Savai'i on 12th September 2018.

The awareness program aimed at fostering and enhancing the young generation's understanding and knowledge of the environment and its natural resources and why it is important to protect our water resources in particular. The awareness campaign also highlighted some of the ongoing activities that are being carried out by the WRD to protect Samoa’s water resources such as tree planting, monitoring of boreholes as well as community engagement activities like consultations and the development of P3D models.



The school awareness campaign covered a total of six schools, 5 from Upolu and 1 in the big island of Savaii. The schools visited included three colleges in Upolu - Lepā & Lotofaga College, Aleipata College, Anoamaa College and two Primary schools - Fagalii Primary School and Saina & Toamua Primary School. Vaitoomuli Primary school from

Savaii was the only school from the big island which was included in this round of awareness programs.

All the students from the different schools visited showed great interest and a high level of participation in the topics discussed and conveyed their appreciation of the program and the information gained from it. The questions asked and the level of discussions had during the discussions is proof of the success of the awareness campaign in gauging interest from the students in learning more about our water resources and how to better protect and conserve them.

LEPA
COMMUNITY
CONSULTATION
"Watershed
Management Plan
Development"

On August 22nd the Water Resources Division conducted its initial Community Consultations with the members of the Lepā Village. The main purpose of the consultation was to introduce to the village of Lepa the importance of watershed management through the development of a Watershed Management Plan and Village Bylaws. Lepā Watershed is on the island of Upolu in the district of Lepā and Lotofaga. Lepā catchment is bordered by Valama Watershed on the east and Vavau Watershed on the west.

During the consultation, the Water Resources Division presented to the village an overview of the current status and characteristics of Lepa's watershed catchment areas, highlighting the degraded riparian zones that require rehabilitation and identifying implementation actions that need to be taken in order to protect the village's watershed areas and water resources.

WRD also emphasized the importance of protecting and conserving our water resources through integrated water resource management and collaborative action with the community. This is in light of the Ministry's vision to conserve the environment and its natural resources and increase climate resilience in the communities. Response from the community was very positive with some of the members identifying some of the proposed actions, as some of the activities that are already being undertaken by the village, and welcome any assistance the government has to offer to ensure that these activities are more effective and better executed.



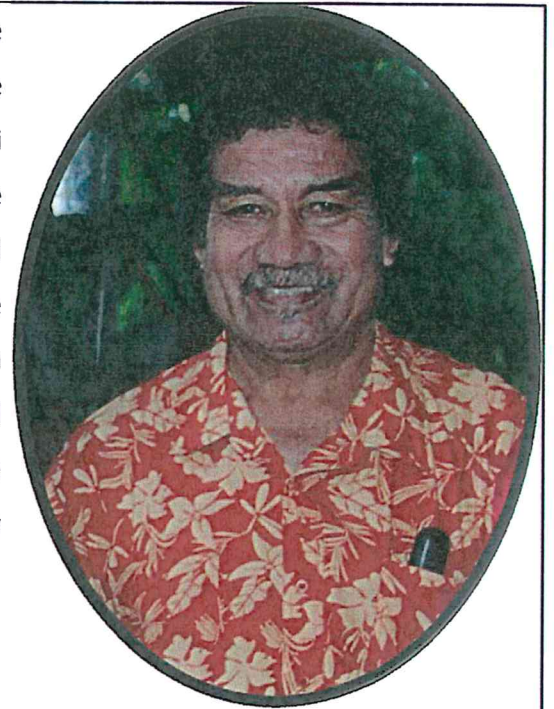
**Tribute to the
Late
Seumanutaafa
Malaki lakopo**



The Water and Sanitation Sector would like to convey our heartfelt condolences to the family of the Late Seumanutaafa Malaki lakopo. He has been serving as the Chairperson of the Joint Water and Sanitation Sector Steering Committee (JWSSC) for more than 8 years. He was a true Champion and a strong Advocate of all what the sector values and stands for. He was a passionate leader with great humility and his absence will surely be felt by all.

Manuia lau malaga

Seumanutaafa Malaki lakopo!



RIP Seumanutaafa Malaki lakopo

