**Upcoming Events**

### National Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 January</td>
<td>Joint Water Sector Steering Committee meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 January</td>
<td>WASSP, Bernard Collignon, Punivalu Isikuki, Water Service Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 February</td>
<td>Joint Water Sector Steering Committee Special Meeting on Water Services Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-16 February</td>
<td>SSDP-PIAC, Christine Harris, Community Liaison Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-21 February</td>
<td>WASSP, PIA, Tom Burkit, IT-GIS Expert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 February</td>
<td>Joint Water Sector Steering Committee Special Meeting on SSDP-PIAC contract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 February</td>
<td>SSDP-PIAC, Dr Martin O’Dell, Project Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-25 March</td>
<td>End March: EU Mission to assess water sector capacity building needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-22 March</td>
<td>End March: SSDP-PIAC Training on EIA preparation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### International Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12-16 January</td>
<td>Science and Information Technologies for Sustainable Management of Aquatic Ecosystems, Concepción Chile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3 February</td>
<td>5th IWA Workshop on Japan: Tariff and Pricing for Sustainable Water Services, Tokyo Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6 February</td>
<td>Technical Conference and WHYCOS International Advisory Group, Geneva, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-20 February</td>
<td>World Bank Water Week: Tackling Global Water Challenges, Washington, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-6 March</td>
<td>Slippage of WASH services: Causes, costs and how to counter, Hyderabad, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-13 March</td>
<td>Benchmarking Water Services: The Way Forward, Amsterdam, Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd March</td>
<td>World Water Day 09, Suva, Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-25 March</td>
<td>Utilities Asset Management 2009, London, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-22 March</td>
<td>5th World Water Forum, Istanbul, Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 March 09</td>
<td>World Water Day 09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**What’s Inside**

- Message from Joint WSSC
- Interviews with stakeholders
- Progress: Descriptive-Water Quality
- Recent Events
- Water Issues
- Open Forum
- Calendar of Events

---

**Upcoming Events**

- **National Events** (continued)
  - 2-5 March: WASSP, SUNGO training of Village Managed Schemes in Falae’o / Lalomauga
  - 4-24 March: SSDP-PIAC, Daniel Todd, Environmental Specialist
  - 16-20 March: WASSP, SUNGO training of Village Managed Schemes in Salailua
  - 24 March-13 April: WASSP, Frank de Zanger, WR Expert
  - 30 March - 2 April: WASSP SUNGO training of Village Managed Schemes in Lauli.

---

**Message from Joint Water Sector Steering Committee**

Welcome to the fifth edition of our water sector newsletter! Through our quarterly newsletters we hope to keep you up to date on developments in our water sector. The last four issues had focused on water supply and sanitation, drainage, wastewater, water resources and water use whereas the main theme of this edition is “Water Quality.”

Water quality issues cut across all the four identified sub-sectors: sector orientation, water resources, water use and wastewater, sanitation & drainage. This is duly reflected in the development of the sector policies whereby the strategies and actions considered the importance of cross-linkages between infrastructure and non-infrastructure aspects including natural resource and environmental management, health & hygiene promotion, water supply and sanitation infrastructure, and community participation and behavior. Given these inter-linkages and complexities, water is best tackled as a sector with all aspects of water resources management and water services brought together under a single management programme.

The overall goal of the sector is to alleviate poverty and improve public health and this duly reflected in under both the Samoa Development Strategy (2006-2011/12) and the Water for Life Sector Plan (2006/07-12). One of the key development objectives at the national level is to ensure the long-term sustainability of water and sanitation services, and the importance of water quality is to increase access to safe and reliable supplies.

Despite health concerns, the current levels of treatment and number of samples not meeting standards may indicate a too low priority level accorded to the quality of drinking water. It is accepted that intermediate contamination through falling infrastructure may be the cause but water quality management must shift to a process approach from source to the tap (i.e. Water Safety Planning, a newly introduced approach led by MOH) and not just at the treatment plant itself. The situation is not helped by some customers disliking and complaining of the taste and odor of treated supplies.

The identified strategies in the sector plan therefore aim to ensure community access to water of suitable quality and appropriate quantities as well as maximizing proper water quality management. We hope you enjoy this update of the Samoa water sector newsletter!

---

**Flaming Tap**

The Ministry of Health is the nation’s regulator on water quality. What does that mean in practice? The Ministry Of Health reforms functions according to its mandates in the MOH Act 2006 where the Ministry’s health services must ensure it is done according to the law. It regulates the standards to identify the services implemented in the context of water and how the standard of water is developed in Samoa. These are the standards that must be met to ensure that water is safe for consumption for the people of Samoa. MOH carries out its functions according to the law because of its mandate as a regulator.

To what extent is the increasing number of typhoid cases in Samoa a result of a bad water quality and what is the Ministry doing to address that? Water supply can never be specifically accused with the cause of typhoid in Samoa. This is based on the facts that if it was the case, then we would all be affected by typhoid now. Other than water as a factor that is causing typhoid, there are also other related factors such as food, and those who are infected with typhoid and are handling food for consumption. It is therefore not right to claim that the typhoid situation in Samoa is specifically related to water. Ongoing national campaigns such as Wash Hands and Typhoid awareness programmes are underway to reduce the effects of typhoid in Samoa.

---

**MOH - VIEWPOINT**

The Ministry of Health’s Chief Executive Officer Palatenia Toolepe provides an overview on leadership and management to the health sector.

---

**SWA - VIEWPOINT**

The Ministry of Health is the nation’s regulator on water quality. What does that mean in practice? The Ministry Of Health reforms functions according to its mandates in the MOH Act 2006 where the Ministry’s health services must ensure it is done according to the law. It regulates the standards to identify the services implemented in the context of water and how the standard of water is developed in Samoa. These are the standards that must be met to ensure that water is safe for consumption for the people of Samoa. MOH carries out its functions according to the law because of its mandate as a regulator.

To what extent is the increasing number of typhoid cases in Samoa a result of a bad water quality and what is the Ministry doing to address that? Water supply can never be specifically accused with the cause of typhoid in Samoa. This is based on the facts that if it was the case, then we would all be affected by typhoid now. Other than water as a factor that is causing typhoid, there are also other related factors such as food, and those who are infected with typhoid and are handling food for consumption. It is therefore not right to claim that the typhoid situation in Samoa is specifically related to water. Ongoing national campaigns such as Wash Hands and Typhoid awareness programmes are underway to reduce the effects of typhoid in Samoa.

---

**What’s Inside**

- Message from Joint WSSC
- Interviews with stakeholders
- Progress: Descriptive-Water Quality
- Recent Events
- Water Issues
- Open Forum
- Calendar of Events

This newsletter has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this newsletter are the sole responsibility of the WSMU and its contributors and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.
WATER FOR LIFE:
"Water is everybody's responsibility"

The Water for Life – Water Sector Plan and Framework for Action 2008-9/2011-12 was officially launched on the 27th June 2008 at Sails Restaurant by the Hon. Prime Minister Tualaepa Sailele Malielegaoi on behalf of the Government. Stakeholders from various ministries, corporations, donor community, NGOs and private sector were all present to mark this major milestone in the development of the water sector in Samoa.

Samoan water sector is at a critical stage of development – as it moves away from a business as usual approach toward a Sector-Wide Approach (SWA). Commitment to common action based on a unified sector-wide approach has gained endorsement and forms one of 14 sectors under the Government’s sector planning initiative. The foundation for change has been built on a wealth of water sector consultations, sector assessments, technical studies and water-related documents produced over the past decade.

Samoa’s water sector is at a critical stage of development – as it moves away from a business as usual approach toward a Sector-Wide Approach (SWA). Commitment to common action based on a unified sector-wide approach has gained endorsement and forms one of 14 sectors under the Government’s sector planning initiative. The foundation for change has been built on a wealth of water sector consultations, sector assessments, technical studies and water-related documents produced over the past decade.

The main purpose of the present achievable Framework for Action for which responds to Sa
The Water for Life document is to and coherent Sector Plan and the period 2008-9/2011-12 moa’s development agenda. ment elaborates specific policies, and budgetary implications for the vehicle to clarify how best the resources of Government, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), private sector, community representatives, donor community and other stakeholders can be utilized to have the greatest possible impact. Implementation of the plan will be monitored and evaluated from the current baseline conditions through a set of key indicators and milestones.

The challenge for Government, and indeed all stakeholders, is to put these plans into implementation.

For more information please contact:

- Philip Kerslake at SWA: philip@swa.gov.ws
- Andrew Peteru at MOH: andrewp@health.gov.ws
- Amataga Penaia at MNRE: amataga.penaia@mnre.gov.ws
- Maulolo Amosa at WASSP: maulolo@wassp.org
- Amos Poua at MMW: amos@mmw.gov.ws
- Tagaloa Jude Kolhalse at PUMA: jude.kohlhalse@mnre.gov.ws
- Tilei Leai Tamalealifano at EPC: tilei@epc.ws
- Nadia Meredith at MOF: nadia.meredith@moi.gov.ws

Water quality initiatives
Water Sector Support Programme (2005-2012)

Water quality issues are being addressed under several of the WASSP components, notably in Component 2a Capacity Building (SWA), Component 5 Sanitation and waste water improvements (MOH/MNRE) and Component 6 Water resources management (MNRE). WaSSP is also assisting in setting up a water quality monitoring (WQM) plan, systems and procedures and to facilitate the exchange of water quality data between the key stakeholders. Assistance is also provided to develop National Drinking Water Quality Standards (NDWQS) in close collaboration with the WHO as well as to develop Water Safety Plans with additional assistance from SOPAC, NZ Aid and WHO. WaSSP is also funding an overseas training in New Zealand for a MOH official to become a certified water assessor.

For more information please contact:

- Philip Kerslake at SWA: philip@swa.gov.ws
- Andrew Peteru at MOH: andrewp@health.gov.ws
- Amataga Penaia at MNRE: amataga.penaia@mnre.gov.ws

SWM and MNRE Groundwater Management

One of the roles of the Water Resources Division (WMD) is to monitor and assess the quantity and quality of groundwater resources. In collaboration with the Samoa Water Authority (SWA), the Hydrology section of the WRD carried out a pump test for the newly drilled production bore located in Apia, Savai. Some principles behind a pump test were the measurement of the bore water levels, discharge rates, the water level response in the aquifer and water quality monitoring for salinity vulnerability.

Purposes:
- to determine a suitable pumping rate at which the groundwater resources is sustainable
- more easily identify when maintenance and rehabilitation of the borehole is required
- guard against saltwater intrusion which could spoil this drinking water sources (a common problem in this part of Savai)
- better understand the response of groundwater to pumping

The plan is to undertake a pumping test following the construction of new boreholes to secure a good quality of the water and sustainable use of the water resources. MNRE and SWA will work together to assess the results and determine appropriate operating rates. This forms the part of a wider expansion of groundwater quality and quality monitoring in Samoa undertaken by the WRD. There will be 20 new monitoring boreholes are planned to be constructed by June 2010.

For further information, please contact: Sulukaliki Amataga Penaia at Water Resources Division, MNRE: amataga.penaia@mnre.gov.ws

Water quality monitoring capacity building programme in Pacific Island Countries (2006-2009)

This regional project is funded by NZAID and implemented by SOPAC, WHO and the USP. It is aimed to create sustainable national capacity to maintain safe quality of drinking water, surface ground and coastal waters.

One of the main activities is the development of national water quality databases, which would involve MOH, SWA and MNRE. A first mission to Samoa by Taselemo Hasan (SOPAC) and Alan Ferguson (ESR NZ) took place in July. Pilot countries for the database project are Cook Islands, Niue, Marshall Islands and Samoa.

For information please contact: Andrew Peteru at MOH: andrewp@health.gov.ws