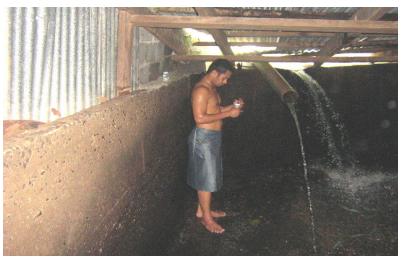




Taking Water Sample (endpoint customer)



Water Standards National Consultation



Water Sampling at Village Manage Scheme



Flaming Tap

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*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.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### International Events

**12-16 January:** Science and Information Technologies for Sustainable Management of Aquatic Ecosystems, Concepcion Chile

**2-3 February:** 5th IWA Workshop in Japan: Tariff and Pricing for Sustainable Water Services, Tokyo Japan

**4-6 February:** Technical Conference and WHYCOS International Advisory Group, Geneva, Switzerland

**17-20 February:** World Bank Water Week: Tackling Global water Challenges, Washington, USA

**2-6 March:** Slippage of WASH services: Causes, costs and how to counter. Hyderabad, India.

**12-13 March:** Benchmarking Water Services: The Way Forward, Amsterdam, Netherlands

**22nd March:** World Water Day 09, Suva, Fiji

**24-25 March:** Utilities Asset Management 2009, London, UK

**15-22 March 09:** 5th World Water Forum, Istanbul, Turkey

[www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org)

**22 March 09:** World Water Day 09: Shared Water, Shared Opportunities, Global

### National Events

**15 January:** Joint Water Sector Steering Committee meeting

**20 January—9 February:** WASSP, Bernard Collignon, Punivalu Isikuki, Water Service Policy mission

**6 February:** Joint Water Sector Steering Committee Special Meeting on Water Services Policy

**4-14 February:** SSDP-PIAC, Christine Harris, Community Liaison Specialist

**15-21 February:** WASSP, PIA, Tom Burkitt, IT-GIS Expert

**17 February:** Joint Water Sector Steering Committee Special Meeting on SSDP-PIAC contract

**18 February-4 March:** SSDP-PIAC, Dr Martin O'Dell, Project Director

### National Events

(continued)

**2-6 March:** WASSP, SUNGO training of Village Managed Schemes in Falevao/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, PIA, Frank de Zanger, WR Expert

**30 March - 2 April:** WASSP, SUNGO training of Village Managed Schemes in Lauili.

**End March:** WASSP, PIA, Bruce Trangmer, Project Director

**End March:** EU Mission to assess water sector capacity building needs

**End March:** SSDP-PIAC Training on EIA preparation

**Water Joke:** A minister is driving down to New York to see a show and he's stopped in Connecticut for speeding. The state trooper smells alcohol on his breath and then he sees an empty wine bottle on the floor, and he says, "Sir, have you been drinking?" And the minister says, "Just water." The sheriff says, "Then why do I smell wine?" And the minister looks down at the bottle and says, "Good Lord, He's done it again!"

Please visit our website  
[www.waterforlife.org.ws](http://www.waterforlife.org.ws)



# Samoa Water News



## 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/ issues in the 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 cuts 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 plan, 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 action programme.

The overall goal of the sector is to alleviate poverty and improve public health and this is duly reflected in under both the Samoa Development Strategy (2008/9-2011/12) and the Water for Life Sector Plan (08/09-11/12). One of the key development objectives at the national and sector level is that highlights the importance of water quality is "to increase access to safe and reliable water 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 failing 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!

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October-December 08

## SWA - VIEWPOINT

## MOH - VIEWPOINT



**The Ministry of Health's Chief Executive Officer Palanitina Toelupe** provides an overall leadership and management to the health sector.

**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. Those 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 factors related 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 will be the main future challenges for the Ministry in relation to its water quality management activities?**

The main challenge is sustaining the quality of water in Samoa. We are working with groups of water service providers. Our role will be extremely difficult to work along with our service providers, mainly to ensure that the agreed standards of good quality of water are maintained.

The Samoa Water Authority (SWA) is committed to providing safe water and sanitation services to the people of Samoa. This Government Corporation is headed by its **General Manger Afioga Moefaaau Tainau Taputoa Titimaea** to

provide leadership into achieving its mission of managing sustainable water services to meet the needs of its customers.

**The 2006 census provided 53% of Samoa's households with piped and metered water supply. Does this mean the other half of the country has an unsafe water supply?**

The 2006 census is misinterpreted in regards to the 53% of the total population whose water is supplied by the Samoa Water Authority. In fact, Samoa Water Authority only supplies 80%; the other 20% covers the village managed water schemes. This 80% have undertaken water quality testing in our lab, and as noticed there is a considerable increase since 2006 with our metered customers. I can't provide the exact figures but it is much greater than 53%. It is incorrect to say that the other half of the country has an unsafe water supply because if it was, the whole country will be affected with water related diseases.

**The Apia Urban Area continues to see a population growth. What are your plans to secure proper water quality for your current and new customers in the capital?**

We are actually looking at expanding our treatment plants in Fuluasou and Sogi as well as searching for other water sources to boost the supply to our plants. We are working with our partners such as MNRE to implement programmes such as the deforestation of catchment areas to ensure its protection for increased water supply that can cater for all our customers including those in the suburban of Apia.

**SWA has its own water quality laboratory which is very expensive to run. If you can't recover these costs through your customers, what should be done to sustain the laboratory?**

Our work is to provide good sustainable and quality water for the people of Samoa, thus we have to run this lab though it's very expensive. If we fail to have our water tested then we will be in trouble. We are currently expanding our customer base, other possible ways to make sure our laboratory is maintained for its survival in the long run is by reducing our expenses.



## RECENT EVENTS

**6-10 October**, WASSP, SUNGO management training of IWSA Executive

**13-17 October**, WASSP, EU Results Oriented Monitoring Mission, Roberto Canessa, Mary Hall

**13-17 October**, SPREP, Pacific Climate Change Conference

**17-30 October**, SSDP, PIAC, Christine Harris, Community Expert

**24 October**, Joint Water Sector Steering Committee meeting

**28 October**, First Joint Annual Water Sector Review

**3-8 November**, Environmental Week, Apia

**7 November**, National Environmental Forum, Apia

**3-7 November**, SUNGO training of Village Managed Schemes in Solosolo

**4-26 November**, WASSP, PIA, Frank de Zanger, Water Resources Expert

**10-14 November**, WASSP-UNEP, Soil Characterization Training, Apia

**17-21 November**, SUNGO training of Village Managed Schemes in Satupaitea

**24-28 November**, WASSP, SUNGO training of Village Managed Schemes in Sataoa and Lotofaga

**26 November-15 December**, WASSP, GSSW, Michel van der Stricht, Hydro-geological Expert

**19 October-1 November**, SSDP, PIAC, John Wannack, O&M Expert

**30 November- 13 December**, WASSP, PIA, John Cox, Wastewater Treatment Expert

**18 December**, Cabinet Development Committee (Economic)

## WATER FOR LIFE:

### Water Sector Plan & Framework for Action (2008/9-2011/12)

*"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 Tuilaepa 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.

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 (SWAp). 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 stakeholder consultations, sector assessments, technical studies and water-related documents produced over the past decade.

The main purpose of the present an achievable Framework for Action for which responds to Sa- The Water for Life docu- cies, programme priori- tions to guide the me- sector, and to provide a resources of Government, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), private sector, community representatives, donor community and other stakeholders can be utilised 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. It is recognized that documents alone will not guarantee results. It is only through the implementation of integrated and targeted action that the desired goals and objectives will be achieved and in this respect these documents aim to reinforce the message that "water is everybody's responsibility".

#### For more information please contact

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

Water for Life document is to and coherent Sector Plan and the period 2008/9-2011/12 moa's development agenda. ment elaborates specific poli- ties, and budgetary implica- dium-term development of the vehicle to clarify how best the

## 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 assisting to set up a water quality monitoring (WQM) plan, systems and proce- dures and to facilitate the exchange of water

quality data between the key stakeholders. Assistance is also provided to develop Na- tional 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 wa- ter assessor.

#### For more information please contact :

Philip Kerslake at SWA: [philip@swa.gov.ws](mailto:philip@swa.gov.ws)

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Amataga Penaia at MNRE: [amataga.penaia@mnre.gov.ws](mailto:amataga.penaia@mnre.gov.ws)

### SWA and MNRE Groundwater Management

One of the roles of the Water Resources Division (WRD) is to monitor and assess the quantity and quality of groundwater re- source.

In collaboration with the Samoa Water Au- thority (SWA), the Hydrology section of the WRD carried out a pump test for the newly drilled production bore located in Auala, Savaii.

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 pump- ing rate at which the groundwa- ter resources is sustainable
- more easily identify when main- tenance and rehabilitation of

the borehole is required

- guard against saltwater intru- sion which could spoil this drinking water sources (a com- mon problem in this part of Savaii)
- better understand the response of groundwater to pumping

The plan is to undertake a pumping test fol- lowing the construction of all new boreholes to secure a good quality of the water and sustainable use of the water resource. MNRE and SWA will work together to asses the results and determine appropriate oper- ating rates.

This forms the part of a wider expansion of groundwater quantity 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:** Suluimalo Amataga Penaia at Water Resources Division, MNRE : [amataga.penaia@mnre.gov.ws](mailto: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 na- tional capacity to maintain safe quality of drinking water, surface, ground and coastal waters.

One of the main activities is the develop-

ment of national water quality databases, which would involve MOH, SWA and MNRE. A first mission to Samoa by Tasleem 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.

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Measuring the groundwater level



Measuring the discharge



Monitoring the water quality



Water level measurements at the new production bore

# OPEN FORUM

*Readers and stakeholders involved in the Water Sector can contribute to our newsletter via:*

[infowassp@mof.gov.ws](mailto:infowassp@mof.gov.ws)

## Water For Life

*"Water is everybody's responsibility"*

