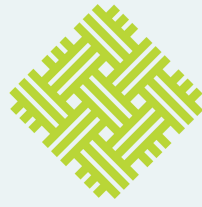




2022 PLMAM INFORMATION BOOKLET





PLMAM
PACIFIC LABOUR MOBILITY
ANNUAL MEETING **2022**

2022 Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting (PLMAM) Information Booklet

Taumeasina Island Resort,
Apia, Samoa
7-10 November



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FOREWORD



Mrs. Peseta Noumea Simi
Chief Executive Officer
Foreign Affairs & Trade, Samoa

On behalf of the Government of Samoa, I extend a warm welcome to all of you attending the 2022 Pacific Labour Mobility Meeting (PLMAM) in Apia.

This year's PLMAM is uniquely significant as it is the first opportunity to meet in person since COVID 19 resulted in border closures since 2019. It is also significant as it is the medium by which we are advancing regional labour mobility cooperation in the Pacific. This 2022 PLMAM is therefore an opportunity for us Pacific labour mobility stakeholders to re-engage, reset and re-commit to advancing an effective level of cooperation that can enhance our mutual development gains from labour mobility. As provided in our theme for the 2022 PLMAM, it is an opportunity to "Reinvigorate Labour Mobility Cooperation for Development".

As host country, we are very pleased to receive a wide range of stakeholders from across the region including Approved Employers, private sector representatives, civil society organisations, regional labour mobility bodies, labour receiving government representatives, regional and international organisations, and our Pacific labour sending unit representatives. With this level of participation, we envisage inclusive deliberations that will inform the development of conducive concrete actions that will harness the potential of labour mobility to support sustainable development in our region. We therefore thank you for your participation in the 2022 PLMAM and encourage you to take full advantage of the four-days programme to learn, share and build lasting networks and friendships.

I take this opportunity to thank the Governments of Australia and New Zealand for their commitment to progressing labour mobility in the region and for funding the PLMAM. Your partnership in labour mobility is fundamental to advancing this issue in the region and to realising the mutual development benefits for our countries.

I also thank the PACER Plus Implementation Unit (PPIU) for their support in preparations for this PLMAM and for your commitment to your role as Labour Mobility Secretariat. We can look forward to a PLMAM that can effectively deliver against the objectives of the PACER Plus Arrangement on Labour Mobility (ALM).

I wish you all a fruitful and successful PLMAM.

PREFACE



Mr. Roy Lagolago
Head
PACER Plus Implementation Unit

The PACER Plus Arrangement on Labour Mobility (ALM) establishes the Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting (PLMAM) as a mechanism to advance regional labour mobility cooperation. It is expected to be the preeminent regional meeting on labour mobility to promote open and inclusive dialogues and review progress against the objectives of the ALM and to bolster effective cooperation amongst labour mobility stakeholders in the region.

The PLMAM has been ongoing since 2017, upon the signing of the PACER Plus Agreement and ALM. However, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic cancelled the PLMAM in 2020 and resolved to a virtual PLMAM in 2021. The 2022 PLMAM is essentially the first in-person meeting since 2019 and will undoubtedly generate stimulating

deliberations that will charter a way-forward for advancing effective labour mobility cooperation and enhancing the development benefits of labour mobility.

The PACER Plus Implementation Unit (PPIU) assumes the role of Labour Mobility Secretariat and has supported the Government of Samoa in the preparations for the PLMAM and providing Secretariat services to the PLMAM. As part of this collaboration, the Government of Samoa and the PPIU have developed this Information Booklet to give you an insight into the 2022 PLMAM programme. The Booklet covers the 2022 PLMAM programme, profiles of Chairs and guest speakers, and case-studies from the region that will be highlighted during the PLMAM

programme. We have also included information on sites and activities in Samoa and hope that you will be able to take the time to enjoy paradise while you are in Apia.

I thank the Government of Samoa for their dedication to hosting this year's PLMAM and for their contribution to the development of this Booklet. I also thank the Governments of Australia and New Zealand for their sponsorship of the PLMAM and for their unwavering commitment to progressing the PACER Plus Arrangement on Labour Mobility. May you all have a fruitful and enjoyable PLMAM.

PLMAM BACKGROUND

Labour mobility presents one of the few viable opportunities for sustainable development in most Pacific Island Countries. The prospects of development for these island countries are highly constrained by the inherent disadvantages of their smallness, isolation, vulnerability to natural disasters and, in some cases, rapid population growth. For these economies, there is wide consensus, based on both theoretical and empirical foundations, that trade integration is essential for sustainable development. The gains from international trade, however, lie in the exploitation of differences in factor endowment ratio and preferences, and the largest difference that most Pacific Island Countries can exploit is in labour mobility, particularly of its low-skilled workers. This is the factor endowment that they have in relative abundance and the endowment that developed countries are increasingly lacking due mostly to their ageing demographics. Exploiting these differences could potentially generate the largest returns for Pacific labour sending countries.

These potential development gains played a pivotal role in motivating Pacific leaders to negotiate the PACER Plus Arrangement on Labour Mobility (ALM) which was signed alongside the PACER Plus Agreement in 2017. The ALM exists as a regional framework for labour mobility cooperation and establishes the Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting (PLMAM) as a mechanism to advance labour mobility cooperation. The significance of the PLMAM lies in the fact that development gains from labour mobility are not automatic and may remain elusive unless conducive conditions and policies are present in both sending and receiving countries. The PLMAM effectively provides the preeminent opportunity for open and inclusive dialogues that can advance the level of cooperation needed to enhance the positive development benefits of labour mobility in the Pacific.

The PLMAM is also a mechanism to review progress against the objectives of the ALM. These objectives include: establishing a broad regional framework for labour mobility cooperation; enhancing



Participants gathered to hear special guests speak at 2021 PLMAM in Apia, Samoa.

labour mobility schemes to maximise the development benefits for all participating countries; promoting the utilisation of other labour mobility opportunities in Australia and New Zealand for the Developing Country Participants; exploration and utilisation of new labour mobility opportunities to Australia and New Zealand as well as other Pacific labour receiving countries; strengthening the governance of labour mobility; and building the labour supply capacity of Pacific sending countries

including through TVET pathways.

Through these objectives, the ALM complements Bilateral Labour Agreements such as the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme and the New Zealand Recognized Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme. Since it is a side-arrangement to the PACER Plus Agreement, flexibility is granted for the negotiation and determination of measures that can enhance mutual gains from labour mobility, including through the PLMAM. The scope of the Arrangement is also broader

relative to bilateral arrangements as it covers low-skilled, semi-skilled and skilled labour mobility and covers the full circular labour mobility process extending beyond recruitment and mobilization to areas such as improved regional cooperation, governance, building labour mobility supply, and qualifications recognition. Accordingly, the PLMAM is intended to complement and support other meetings and forums relevant to regional labour mobility.

PACIFIC LABOUR MOBILITY ANNUAL MEETING 2022

"Reinvigorating Labour Mobility Cooperation for Development"

PROGRAMME

7 - 10 November 2022
Taumeasina Island Resort
Apia, Samoa

Day 1 7 November		Pacific Island Participant Caucus (Closed Meeting for Pacific PACER Plus Participants) Chair: Mr. Pulotu Lyndon Chu Ling, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Commerce, Industries & Labour, Samoa
8:30 am	Registrations	
9:00 am	Opening Formalities and Procedures 1. Opening Prayer 2. Welcome note by the Chair 3. Adoption of the Agenda	
9:15 am	Agenda 1: The Arrangement on Labour Mobility (ALM) and significance of the PLMAM Discussion Paper PLMAM-22/1.1: Improving the effectiveness of the PLMAM to deliver on the objectives of the Arrangement on Labour Mobility	
10:00 am	Morning Tea	
10:15 am	Agenda 2: Increasing the effectiveness of the Arrangement on Labour Mobility 2.1 Benefits of the Arrangement on Labour Mobility Discussion Paper PLMAM-22/2.1: Benefits of the Arrangement on Labour Mobility for Participants	
11:00 am	2.2 Improving coordination and cooperation amongst Pacific sending countries Discussion Paper PLMAM-22/2.2: Knowledge sharing amongst Participants	
12:00 pm	Lunch	
1:00 pm	2.3 Measuring progress against the Arrangement on Labour Mobility objectives Discussion Paper PLMAM-22/2.3: Monitor & Evaluation Framework for the Arrangement on Labour Mobility	
1:45 pm	Agenda 3: Building skills and entrepreneurship to increase labour mobility gains 3.1 Economic reintegration for local private sector development and sustainable livelihood Discussion Paper PLMAM-22/3.1: Concept Note - A Framework for Pacific Labour Mobility Economic Reintegration	
2:45 pm	Afternoon Tea	
3:00 pm	3.2 Trade and Education to deliver labour mobility outcomes for the Pacific Discussion Paper PLMAM-22/3.2: Improving Coordination between Trade and Education to support Pacific Qualifications Recognition	
3:45 pm	Agenda 4: Other Matters	
4:00 pm	Procedures for the development and reporting of the Caucus Statement Final Words from the Chair Closing Prayer	

Day 2
8 November

Labour Sending Unit (LSU) and Approved Employer (AE) Conference: Worker Recruitment, Selection, Education, Mobilisation, and Welfare

Chair: Ms. Angelica Neville, Labour Mobility Technical Officer, ILO Pacific Office

Panel: Ms. Carli Shillito (Australia), Ms. Stacey Kwant (NZ), Ms. Chere Arthur (Cook Is), Ms. Birtha Tongahai (Niue), Mr. Pulotu Lyndon Chu Ling (Samoa), Mr. Stephen Burdette and NZ employers representative

7:30 am	Registrations
8:30 am	Opening Ceremony Hosted by the Government of Samoa
9:00 am	Morning Tea
9:15 am	Opening Formalities 1. Welcome note by Chair 2. Introduction of programme and group activity instructions
9:30 am	Session 1: Demand prospects for Pacific labour mobility workers PALM Scheme: New direction and opportunities Ms. Carli Shillito, Assistant Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade Ms. Helen McCormack, Assistant Secretary, Department of Employment & Workplace Relations RSE Update: Future prospects Ms. Stacey Kwant, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade Mr. Sam Foley, Manager Immigration (International & Humanitarian) Policy, Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment Ms. Melanie Mylvanganam, Senior Policy Adviser, Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment Intra-Pacific Labour Mobility Ms. Chere Arthur, Compliance & Office Manager, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration (Cook Islands) Ms. Birtha Tongahai, Director of Education, Department of Education, Ministry of Social Services (Niue) Q & A Forum
10:45 am	Session 2: LSU Experiences Opportunities and Challenges Presentations by LSUs (see list of LSU speakers)
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:15 pm	Session 2 Con't: LSU Experiences Opportunities and Challenges Presentations by LSUs (see list of LSU speakers)
3:00 pm	Session 3: AE Experiences Opportunities and Challenges Mr. Stephen Burdette, Executive Officer, Approved Employers of Australia Ltd RSE Approved Employer Representative Q & A
4:00 pm	Afternoon Tea
4:15 pm	Priority Actions for FY2023/24 Group activity on priority actions derived from the day's discussions
5:15 pm	Procedures for reporting agreed priority actions to the Pacific Dialogue Final Words from the Chair Closing Prayer
6:30 pm	Welcome Function Hosted by the Government of Samoa

Day 3
9 November

Development Impact Workshop: Enhancing the positive development impact of labour mobility in Pacific sending countries

Chair: Mr. Vaitulia Alafina Ioeli, Chief Executive Officer, Samoa Business Hub
Panel: Ms. Janelle Chapman (APTC), Mr. Emmanuel Murwisi (IOM), Dr. Dung Doan (World Bank), Dr. Kirstie Petrou (World Bank), Ms. Maletina Hiliate (ATI), Mr. Peter Bumseng (SSFWP), Mr. Tumanuvao Pualele Fiu (Samoa), Ms. Angelica Neville (ILO)

8:00 am	Registrations
8:30 am	Opening Formalities Opening Prayer Welcome note by Chair and introduction of Panel members Introduction of programme and group activity allocations
9:00 am	Session 1: Skills Development and TVET Empowerment for Sustainable Labour Mobility Supply The role of the Australian Pacific Training Coalition (APTC) in Pacific labour mobility Ms. Janelle Chapman, Executive Director, APTC Tonga case study: Tonga Tourism & Hospitality Labour Mobility Pathway, Ahopanilolo Technical Institute Ms. Maletina Hiliate, Principal, Ahopanilolo Technical Institute (ATI) Q & A Forum
10:30 am	Morning Tea
11:00 am	Session 2: Reintegration - Leveraging labour mobility for sustainable livelihoods and local business development Sustainable Reintegration: International best practices Mr. Emmanuel Murwisi, Head, Pacific Programme Support Unit, International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Samoa case study: Leveraging labour mobility for entrepreneurship Mr. Tumanuvao Pualele Fiu, Entrepreneur Q & A Forum
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	Session 3: Economic and Social Impacts of Labour Mobility Economic and Social Impacts of Labour Mobility Dr. Dung Doan, Social Protection Economist, World Bank Dr. Kirstie Petrou, Social Protection and Jobs Consultant, World Bank Vanuatu case study: Converting the negatives to positives - Strengthening Seasonal Workers Family Programme (SSFWP) Mr. Peter Bumseng, Co-Founder, SSFWP Q & A Forum
3:00 pm	Afternoon Tea
3:15 pm	Priority Actions for FY2023/24 Group activity facilitated by the Chair
4:30 pm	Procedures for reporting agreed priority actions to the Pacific Dialogue Final Words from the Chair Closing Prayer

Day 4
10 November

Pacific Labour Mobility Dialogue

Chair: Ms Peseta Noumea Simi, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Samoa

7:30 am	Registrations
8:30 am	Opening Formalities and Procedures 1. Opening Prayer 2. Welcome note by Chair 3. Adoption of the Agenda
8:45 am	Agenda 1: PLMAM 2021 Outcomes Paper PLMAM-22/1: Progress Towards the Outcomes of PLMAM 2021
9:15 am	Agenda 1.1: The Arrangement on Labour Mobility (ALM) and significance of the PLMAM Discussion Paper PLMAM-22/1.1: Improving the effectiveness of the PLMAM to deliver on the objectives of the Arrangement on Labour Mobility
10:00 am	Morning Tea
10:15 am	Agenda 2: Increasing the effectiveness of the Arrangement on Labour Mobility 2.1 Benefits of the Arrangement on Labour Mobility Discussion Paper PLMAM-22/2.1: Benefits of the Arrangement on Labour Mobility for Participants
11:00 am	2.2 Improving coordination and cooperation amongst Pacific sending countries Discussion Paper PLMAM-22/2.2: Knowledge sharing amongst Participants
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	2.3 Measuring progress against the Arrangement on Labour Mobility objectives Discussion Paper PLMAM-22/2.3: Monitor & Evaluation Framework for the Arrangement on Labour Mobility
1:45 pm	Agenda 3: Building skills and entrepreneurship to magnify labour mobility gains 3.1 Economic reintegration for local private sector development and sustainable livelihood Discussion Paper PLMAM-22/3.1: Concept Note - A Framework for Pacific Labour Mobility Economic Reintegration
2:30 pm	Afternoon Tea
2:45 pm	3.2 Trade and Education to deliver labour mobility outcomes for the Pacific Discussion Paper PLMAM-22/3.2: Improving Coordination between Trade and Education to Support Pacific Qualifications Recognition
3:30 pm	Agenda 4: Recommendations from the LSU & AE Conference and the Development Impact Workshop Presentation by Chairs from Day 2 and Day 3 proceedings
4:00 pm	Agenda 5: Adoption of Host Country and tentative dates for PLMAM 2023
4:15 pm	Agenda 6: Other Matters
4:30 pm	Procedures for the development and adoption of the PLMAM 2022 Outcomes Document Final Words from the Chair
4:45 pm	Closing Ceremony Hosted by the Government of Samoa
6:30 pm	Farewell Function Hosted by the PACER Plus Implementation Unit

OUR GUEST SPEAKERS



Stephen Burdette

Executive Officer, Approved Employers of Australia Ltd

Senior executive with a background in agribusiness for many years. Strong industry involvement chairing a number of national and regional committees including Biosecurity, Fruit Fly, Variety and Rootstock leadership and seasonal worker programs. Participated in the Seasonal Worker Programme since the pilot was introduced in 2012. Extensive knowledge and experience was gained between 2012 and 2018 in the recruitment, selection, administration and welfare and wellbeing of up to 200 workers from the Pacific. Key driver in the formation of the Approved Employers of Australia Ltd and chaired the Association between 2019 and 2021 and is now the Executive Officer since May 2021.



Janelle Chapman

Executive Director – Australia Pacific Training Coalition

Janelle Chapman is Executive Director of the Australia Pacific Training Coalition, the largest DFAT donor-funded project in the Pacific region, initiated in 2007. She was previously Executive Director, TAFE Queensland International, where she had oversight of all international business activities. With 30+ years of experience working in vocational education and training, predominantly within international, Janelle has always been a strong advocate for the industry. She has also held public and private sector positions within the school international education sector, in ELICOS and the Council for International Education.



Maletina Hiliate

Principal, 'Ahopaniolo Technical Institute

Maletina is the Principal of the leading Tourism & Hospitality TVET in Tonga. She is a program developer and trainer by trade and works closely with private sector organisations in Tonga to supply local labour demands in the Tourism and Hospitality sector. She is now working with the Tonga Labour Sending Unit, PLF and APTC to supply work-ready tourism and hospitality workers for labour mobility. Maletina holds a Bachelor in International Hospitality Management from the Auckland University of Technology.



Emmanuel Murwisi

Project Development Officer, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

With over 15 years of experience in international development, Emmanuel is leading IOM's Pacific programme support unit and coordinating project development for Country Offices (CO) in New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific alongside liaising with government counterparts and other development partners. He has previously worked in humanitarian projects in Africa and the Middle East.



Tumanuvao Pualele Fiu

Poutasi Village, Samoa

Tumanuvao Pualele Fiu is one of the first Samoan workers to join the RSE scheme and held a managerial position at Johnny Appleseed Holdings Limited in Hastings, New Zealand. Mr. Fiu used his returns from labour mobility to pursue his current entrepreneurial endeavours and is now a successful entrepreneur, mentor and mayor of his village of Poutasi.

OUR SPEAKERS



Dr. Dung Doan

Social Protection Economist, World Bank

Dung Doan is a Social Protection Economist at the World Bank, where her work focuses on jobs, labour market and social protection issues in the Pacific region and Vietnam. Before joining the World Bank, she was a Research Fellow at the Research School of Economics, The Australian National University. She holds a PhD in Economics from the Australian National University and her research interests include higher education financing, nutrition, poverty and development economics.



Dr. Kirstie Petrou

Social Protection and Jobs Consultant, World Bank

Kirstie Petrou is a social protection and jobs consultant at the World Bank whose work focuses on migration, labour mobility and social protection in the Pacific region. Prior to joining the World Bank, Kirstie was an academic. She has published widely on topics including migration and labour mobility in the Pacific. Kirstie holds a PhD in human geography from the University of Sydney. Her research interests include labour migration, gender and development.



Peter Bumseng

Co-Founder of Strengthening Seasonal Workers Family Programme (SSWFP)

Peter started as an RSE worker in 2007. His experience inspired him and his wife, Regina, to start the SSWFP, as a support group for families of seasonal workers. SSWFP directly responds to the concerns of seasonal workers and their spouses and families at home.

Labour Sending Unit Presenters

Fiji	Mr. Lui Mario Director National Employment Centre Ministry of Employment, Productivity & Industrial Relations
Kiribati	Ms. Tekotaake Keariki Senior Labour Officer Ministry of Employment and Human Resources
Nauru	Ms. Rebecca Amwano Director Nauru Labour Mobility Division
Papua New Guinea	Mr. Jonathan Kidu PNG Acting High Commissioner to New Zealand
Samoa	Mr. Pulotu Lyndon Chu Ling Chief Executive Officer Ministry of Commerce, Industries & Labour
Solomon Islands	Mr. Barrett Salato Trade Commissioner Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
Tonga	Ms. Akosita Polota Deputy CEO - Overseas Employment Ministry of Internal Affairs
Timor Leste	Ms. Cezarina Guterres Labour Sending Unit Coordinator SEFOPE
Tuvalu	Ms. Telieta Lusiane Finauga Manuella Labour Officer Department of Labour
Vanuatu	Ms. Murielle Metsan Meltenoven Commissioner of Labour Department of Labour

Reintegration: Leveraging labour mobility for sustainable livelihoods and local business development



Tumanuvao Pualele Fiu at home in Poutasi village, Samoa.

Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime. For many, labour mobility provides short-term but necessary support for families and communities back home. For a few, it means a step up to entrepreneurship and a way to support families long term when they return home.

In 2008, Tumanuvao Pualele Fiu travelled from his Samoan village, Poutasi to Hastings, New Zealand as one of the first participants of the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme. He held a managerial position at Johnny Appleseed Holdings Limited for several months where he was responsible for overseeing a team of fellow RSE workers from the same village.

Like other RSE workers Fiu left Samoa with an aim to attain tangible outcomes for his family. During this time, he managed to save for, purchase and ship over a vehicle to Samoa. This humble sedan was to be the first step toward Fiu's entrepreneurship endeavours.

Upon his return to Samoa, Fiu started his own taxi service using the vehicle he had shipped from New Zealand. The business began well. Fiu was able to support his family through an arrangement with a well-known resort to ferry clients to nearby attractions. Tragedy struck however on 29 September 2009 when the tsunami caused major damage to villages and businesses, including resorts, along the south coast of Samoa. Fiu's taxi was also badly damaged.

Despite losing his working vehicle, Fiu was able to use his savings from the RSE to start a brick-making business. The start-up was timely as affected areas of the Samoa south coast were rebuilding homes, churches, and hotels after the disaster. The products manufactured by Fiu's brick business helped with the rebuild.

After establishing the brick-making business, Fiu expanded into commercial fishing. He purchased two vessels and began supplying fish to the local market. Although the venture was successful, the inherent

risks associated with fishing such as cyclone threats and basic sea safety caused Fiu to consider returning to port for good to pursue land based business opportunities instead. He decided to sell the fishing vessels and use the funds to develop land for farming.

Fiu now oversees a plantation where he primarily grows taro. His eldest son works on the family farm and assists in transporting the taro to market. Besides the taro plantation and the brick-making business, which is managed by his second eldest son, Fiu has diversified into lawn mowing and hiring out public address system. He employs up to 20 workers from the village through his various businesses.

The RSE journey for Tumanuvao Pualele Fiu and his family has gone full circle. Along with his many businesses, Fiu also mentors youths who wish to participate in the RSE scheme. He offers guidance and reinforces the need for participants to be disciplined in their work and life overseas as they are representing their families, village and Samoa.

Economic and Social Impacts of Labour Mobility

Converting the negatives to positives: Vanuatu Strengthening Seasonal Workers Family Programme (SSFWP)

One of the downsides to labour mobility is the negative social impacts on families of workers left behind in their home countries. As Pacific labour mobility programmes are largely dominated by men, the wives are often required to manage the households and take on the roles of both mother and father while their husbands are abroad.

Peter Bumseng was one of the first 45 Vanuatu workers to participate in the New Zealand Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme. He has participated in the program every year since, and in 2011 he and his wife Regina, established the Strengthening Seasonal Worker Family Program in Vanuatu. In an interview with the Australian National University Development Policy Centre, Mr. Bumseng stated "It started with my wife who took the families once a month, just on social occasions, like taking a picnic. I found this was helpful in New Zealand, as when the men know their families are happy and being looked after, they perform to the best of their ability in a good working environment. This is how we started and came up with some ideas and programs to look after the families. We know we can only move ahead if

the process is right, if the families and communities are right" (Sherrell, 2016).

The SSFWP is essentially a localised support group for the spouses of the workers. It started with five women engaging in monthly meetings at Peter and Regina's home, with Regina regularly checking on workers' spouses to ensure they had support. Peter and Regina would monitor the wellbeing of the workers and their spouses, and when issues arose, they would each provide targeted support to the workers and families involved including through house visits.

Since 2011, the SSWPF has significantly grown in membership. Monthly activities continue to bring together families to support each other and share their experiences. The program now also provides new programmes focusing on social, educational, and spiritual support which are fundamental to helping workers and their families cope with the separation and the potential problems associated. The SSFWP also provides counselling programmes for workers and their spouses and have internally developed solutions to address social problems amongst the members.

The activities of the SSFWP are self-funded through fundraising activities by the workers and their spouses in Vanuatu. The workers in New Zealand set up a Christian reggae band to raise funds through concerts. The spouses also work together to raise funds through selling food, producing local arts and crafts, and sewing items for tourist and local markets. The proceeds have helped the set-up of a rotation of money scheme where each household is given VT15,000 (AUD189) in their fortnightly meetings. They have also initiated a loan scheme for workers and their families who have set up new businesses (Bailey, Bumseng, & Bumseng, 2016)

The SSFWP highlights the importance of localised support groups to addressing the negative social impacts of labour mobility. Peter believes that the programme can be replicated in other countries as the challenges are similar. It only takes the commitment of champions such as Peter and his wife to convert the negatives to positive outcomes for the workers and their families.

Skills Development and TVET Empowerment for Sustainable Labour Mobility Supply



Meeting for National Qualification for Work Readiness and Employability skills. (Photo: Provided)

Preparing workers is key to developing and maintaining a highly productive Work-Ready Pool that gives confidence to foreign employers as well as help the workers themselves to adapt well to new employment and living environments.

Tonga's 'Ahopanilolo Technical Institute (ATI) offers national certificates in work readiness and employability. The Principal of ATI, Ms. Maletina Hiliate says the institute equips graduates with technical, professional, and personal skills to meet workplace needs in Tonga and abroad. Employability skills such as communication, teamwork, integrity, problem-solving, work ethic and initiative are considered essential for success in any workplace and are key features of the ATI Work-Ready and Employability training.

"ATI offers various Certificate IV Hospitality and Tourism courses, as well as after hours classes for the community", she says. "ATI aims to

educate the youth of Tonga with life skills, provide quality education for all, improve living standards of low-income earners, and cater for the needs of out-of-school youth."

Courses are available to school leavers, as well as individuals who have completed higher qualifications. "Approximately 85% of our students have completed high school ranging from Years 11, 12, and 13". The ATI Work Readiness and Employability training programmes helps youths who may not be academically inclined to pursue careers and access labour mobility opportunities that can further their career development.

Successful completion of the Work Readiness and Employability courses qualify candidates for the Tonga labour mobility work-ready pool. Workers are selected from this pool for opportunities in Australia through the PALM scheme.

ATI enjoys a close partnership with the Australia-Pacific Training Coalition (APTC), which is Australia's flagship investment in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in the Pacific region. The partnership with APTC strengthens local TVETs such as ATI through accreditation and upgrade of their programs to meet Australian industry requirements.

Through their participation in the 2022 PLMAM, ATI hopes to increase their visibility and establish strategic partnerships and networks that will secure demand for the ATI tourism and hospitality work ready pool, as well as further support the development of the ATI training programmes.

Hiliate hopes that ATI will continue to provide quality education to nurture and produce a labour force that caters for local and international demands especially during the COVID-19 recovery period.

Top Attractions in Samoa

Robert Louis Stevenson Museum

The museum is the former home of the Scottish author which has been perfectly restored back to its glorious day with some of the author's work and family memorabilia. Robert Louis Stevenson is famous for his many writings including Treasure Island, Kidnapped, and the Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. The museum is well kept and all its facilities are in good condition.



Samoa Cultural Village

Discover Samoa's age-old culture and traditions in a fun and interactive way at the Samoa Cultural Village on Beach Road in the heart of Apia. Samoans are proud of their strong Fa'a Samoa - which means 'the Samoan Way'. It is the essence of the Samoan culture and dictates how Samoans are meant to behave and their obligations to their community and the environment. Fa'a Samoa has a strong focus on welcoming visitors making Samoans friendly and hospitable hosts.



Immaculate Conception Cathedral

Looming over the harbour, this lofty cathedral is breathtakingly beautiful. Originally constructed in 1884, the building was recently rebuilt. Its ornate timber-crafted ceilings, dazzling stained-glass windows and gaspingly huge interior (2000-person capacity; it previously held 400) make it a must-visit whilst in Apia.



To Sua Ocean Trench

The To Sua Giant Swimming Hole is one of the most unique historical site located on the coastal side of Upolu in the village of Lotofaga. It's 30 metres deep and accessible via a long ladder where a long platform sits for easy access in the pool, surrounded by beautiful native gardens.

Entry Fee: SAT\$15 per adult & SAT\$5 per child

Contact: Sina Petelo on +685 7745627





PLMAM
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