



e-newsletter

Issue 17, June 2016

Word from the CEO

Chief Executive Officer

Peseta Margaret Peters Malua

Talofa lava,

I am pleased to present to you Issue 17 of our Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour e-newsletter. I do hope the information we have provided so far through these publications have kept you updated on the work we are doing here at MCIL.



In this edition, we highlight some of the Ministry's key efforts since our last newsletter. In April we celebrated World Occupational Safety and Health Day which included the OSH Stewardship Awards Ceremony and an awareness raising campaign on health and safety and minimizing the likelihood of work place accidents.

We are also proud to announce that a team of qualified carpenters have been recruited as temporary employees to work in the rebuilding program in Christchurch, NZ. The recruits were identified through MCIL's Apprenticeship Employment & Labour Market Division.

A total of \$200,000 was also allocated by the Government under the Ministry's 2015/16 budget for the private sector to assist with administrative costs of running their respective organization.

I invite you to read through and see for yourself the work that we are doing. We also welcome your feedback and contribution towards the development of the Ministry and sector.

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Industrial Relations, Occupational Safety and Health ('IROSH')

Division

OSH Day 2016

Since becoming a member of the International Labour Organisation over a decade ago, the Government of Samoa through the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour ('MCIL') has taken steps to improve Occupational Safety and Health ('OSH') within the workplace.

The World Day for Safety and Health at Work is commemorated on 28th April 2016 across the globe involving ILO constituent and all key stakeholders. The MCIL initiated two main events in commemoration of the World Occupational Safety and Health Day; (1) OSH Stewardship Awards Ceremony and (2) acknowledged the theme for the 2016 World Day for Safety and Health at work is '**Workplace Stress, a Collective Challenge**' which focused on how promoting awareness-raising campaign on health and safety culture can minimize the likelihood of work place accidents and illnesses.

Our main objectives include:

- (1) Enhance Awareness on Occupational Safety & Health.
- (2) Acknowledgement of employers' compliance.
- (3) To promote our roles and responsibilities on OSH work.
- (4) Strengthen collaborative efforts between employers, workers & Government.

Selection of companies, businesses, public bodies and government ministries were determined through OSH Monitoring & Evaluation and routine inspections over the past five (5) years (2011-2015) across key industries such as Construction, Manufacturing, Retail, Hospitality, Food and Beverage, Government Ministries and Public Bodies / SoEs.

Our major sponsors included Accident Compensation Corporation with assistance from Island Rock Limited, Business Systems Limited, Samoa Stationary and Books and Oceania Gas.



Christchurch Rebuild (AELM)

CHRISTCHURCH REBUILD

A team of professional builders and representatives from Christchurch visited the Pacific Islands to select a team of qualified carpenters to be recruited as temporary employees, to work in the rebuilding program for Christchurch which was hit recently by two earthquakes. Only twenty four (24) qualified carpenters expected from the three (3) pacific island countries inclusive Samoa.

The team through the Prime Minister's office requested ten (10) qualified carpenters from MCIL (Apprenticeship Employment & Labour Market Division). The Apprenticeship Scheme team endorsed a list of qualified and active carpenters for that purpose, which was sent to the Prime Minister's office for information of the NZ team. Selected candidates were informed to bring along their qualifications for the interview. The Principal Apprenticeship Inspector was invited by the team to sit in with the interviewing panel, helping them clarifying applicants' profiles providing apprenticeship related status' as they are all graduates of the Apprenticeship Scheme.

All candidates were interviewed on their work experiences practically and theoretically. The practical and theory tests were conducted at Don Bosco Vocational College. We are still receiving requests from Christchurch from time to time for more qualified carpenters in regards to that cause.



Governments' Annual Grant for the Private Sector Organizations (IDIP)

Governments' Annual Grant for the Private Sector Organizations

A total of \$200,000.00 was allocated by the Government under the Ministry's 2015/16 budget for the private sector which was presented on Tuesday, 4th April 2016 at the Minister's office. The main objective of this grant is to assist the private sector organizations with the administrative costs of running their respective offices or any related activity that will contribute to further strengthening the role of their organizations. A total of twelve (12) private sector organizations received cheques ranging from \$5,000.00 to \$40,000.00. These private sector organizations included Women in Business, Samoa Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc, Samoa Association of Manufacturers and Exporters, Samoa Hotels Association, Farmers Samoa Inc, Samoa Mamanu Design & Manufacturers Inc; Business of Salafai Association, Savaii Samoa Tourism Association and the new organizations such as Flea Market Business Association, Federated Farmer, Tautai Samoa and Samoa for Real.

Honorable Lautafi Selafi Purcell, Minister for Commerce Industry & Labour, in his address acknowledged the private sector's contribution to the development of the economy and further stated that the Government is willing to provide support to sound business initiatives from the private sector.

The assessment criteria for the allocation of funds are generally based on the following requirements;

- ⇒ Number of registered members
- ⇒ Annual & Audited Financial Reports
- ⇒ Submissions of critical issue relating to trade, investment or any matter relating to development within the current or recent financial year
- ⇒ Number of ongoing projects
- ⇒ Confirmation that a proper office has been established

Beneficiaries of the grant are also required to submit written reports on the progress of the organization, following a standard reporting template, towards the end of the financial year.



Awareness, Monitoring & Evaluation (IROSH)

Awareness, Monitoring & Evaluation

As part of our regulatory role IROSH on the 26th – 28th May 2016 conducted their Awareness and M&E in Savaii to promote labour laws through; (1) enhancing awareness by educating employers and employees on their obligations/rights with relevant legislations; (2) engage with employers and employees on OSH and Industrial Relations matters; (3) evaluate compliance and non-compliance; and (4) improve interactive strategies for reporting purposes and policy development.

A total of thirty three (33) employers were inspected which included the Hospitality Industry, Food and Beverage, Retail, SoEs and Government Ministries:

- 14 corrective notice follow ups from inspections conducted in March 2016 for non-compliant
- 19 new inspections



Verification of Weighing equipment (FTCD)

VERIFICATION

The verification or in service of weighing equipment was conducted for Upolu from the 18th April to the 9th June 2016. The purpose of the verification was to ensure that traders are aware of the new legislation before it is fully enforced on the 1st January 2017 plus to verify the scales used by traders whether they are accurate and reliable for trading purposes and given them stickers attach to the weighing equipment's in order to use it or reject. The Division also had a radio talk show on Magic FM 88.5 to elaborate more on the intention and the motive of the verification that is going around the country to all businesses and retail outlets to familiarise them about the new units for trade to be used.



World Intellectual Property Day 2016 (RCIP)

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DAY 26th April 2016 THEME: “DIGITAL CREATIVITY: CULTURE REIMAGINED”

The World Intellectual Property day is a significant Day, commemorated all over the world, even in our small country of Samoa. The purpose of the World Intellectual Property Day is to increase awareness and understanding of Intellectual Property (‘IP’) and to promote its role in encouraging Innovation and Creativity throughout the world. A theme is set by the WIPO for the World IP Day each year and this year’s theme was **“DIGITAL CREATIVITY: CULTURE REIMAGINED.”** This year’s theme aimed to explore the influence that current and emerging technologies will have on cultural works such as music, books, films, TV, art, video games, choreographic dances and so forth. That is, the impact that digital technology has on how we create, access and finance cultural works. Thanks to digital technology and the Internet, we now have access to more cultural works than ever before. The Internet has created a global marketplace and global stage for music, books, films and other creative works, which is wonderful for worldwide consumers and creators of such works.

To celebrate the World IP Day of 26th April 2016, the Registries of Companies and Intellectual Property Division (‘RCIP’) conducted various activities to commemorate this significant day. These activities comprise of Radio talkback sessions on TalofaFM from 10am to 10.30am in the mornings of Monday 25th April, Tuesday 26th April and Wednesday 27th April 2016, followed by an hour of radio talk back discussions from 11am – 12pm at the 2AP. The 2AP talkback sessions provided an opportunity on air for questions to be posed by our listeners on IP matters. The purpose of these Radio Talk Back shows were to:

- Increase our people’s awareness of the significance of the World IP Day and the different themes that are set by the WIPO each year;
- Emphasize the role that IP rights (copyright, designs, trademarks, patents) play in encouraging innovation and creativity amongst our local artists and creators;
- Enhance our people’s understanding of the applicable IP laws in Samoa and
- To make known how the staff of the RCIP can assist our local artists and creators in obtaining and maintaining legal protection for their IP Rights.

An Information Booth aimed at increasing public awareness of Intellectual Property matters was also hosted by staff members of the RCIP Division, at the Ground Floor of the ACC Building in Apia during the mornings of Monday 25th April to Wednesday 27th April 2016.

As part of the activities conducted for World IP Day, The RCIP Division of the MCIL in partnership with the National University of Samoa (NUS) Library accommodated an awareness programme on the 26th April 2016 in the NUS “AOA” Conference Room as



Apprenticeship, Employment & Labour Market (AELM)

LABOUR MARKET SURVEY 2016

The Employment and Labour Market Unit open access to implement one of its major activities namely – Labour Market Survey 2016. The survey is conducted by the ELM team on a three-year-basis therefore a total of nine (9) successful enumerators from the applicants were selected to carry out this dominant field work activity for two (2) months. The training of enumerators was conducted in a week including pilot testing prior the actual field work is carried out. The purpose of this survey aims to collect information particularly on national employees only from Government Corporations and all employers in the private sector inclusive individual employers concerning employment situation, vacancies, skill shortages and training needs in Samoa. An estimated amount of 789 employers covered on both rural and urban areas as well as employers located in Savai'i. Therefore 78.9% of the target number of employers' demands to cover was accomplished.



DISABILITY FORUM - NOLA

“Nothing about us without us: Bringing the voices of youth with disabilities to the forefront of national developments”. A presentation was held at the St There's Retreat Accommodation by the Assistant CEO, Apprenticeship Scheme, Employment Services and Labour Market and Senior Labour Market Officer in response to an invitation from the Nuanua ole Alofa. The purpose was to showcase the current initiatives MCIL has in place to support the inclusion of young people with disabilities on employment opportunities.

Capacity Assessment and Provision of Advisory Service for the Implementation of the Metrology Act 2015 (FTCD)

CAPACITY ASSESSMENT AND PROVISION OF ADVISORY SERVICES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE METROLOGY ACT 2015

The Fair Trading, Codex Alimentarius, Consumer Protection & Metrology Division (FTCACPM) hosted Mr. Jean Francois Assier, a technical expert from France under the ACP EU TBT Programme. The main aim of his presence is to have a partial overview of the current situation, identify topics which may need some strategic decision and analyzed for proper practical metrology implementation plan.

The ACP – EU TBT programme approved the participation of three officials to a training in France before September end 2016. The overall objective of this mission is to upgrade the skills of the metrology and standardization units through;

- (i) Training and certifying of Fair Trading Officers to calibrate, verify and inspect all means of existing weights and measures equipment in Samoa to facilitate trade;
- (ii) Implementation of quality management systems; and
- (iii) Increasing awareness among economic operators.

It is expected after the mission, the enhanced capacity and experiences of the staff to effectively administer the new Metrology Act will greatly contribute to the improvement of private sector development in terms of competitiveness, access to export markets hence improving the framework conditions for market access for all trading partners and enhance services delivery.

Mr Jean Francois Assier's mission officially began on the 16 June 2016. Three Fair trading Officers namely Elisapeta, Kolio and Ulises were attached to this mission for their capacity building and understanding on the Metrology areas. One to one meetings were held with relevant stakeholders as this was more effective than having workshops. Site visits were also conducted to some companies to further provide a thorough analysis of the current situation of the domestic trade. The Division was also fortunate to spend most of the time discussing and sharing ideas with the consultant on metrology issues for the well development before and after the commencement of the Act. Specific technical assignment on priority field (fuel dispenser, weighing scale and length verification) with short terms objectives were shared to develop awareness and maximize training efficiency in LNE.



Fair Trading, Codex Alimentarius, Consumer Protection and Metrology Division (FTCD)

MINISTRY OF HEALTH FOOD RECALLS TRAINING ON 2-4 MAY 2016.

The training course for food businesses and government officers on food recall in Samoa took place from the 2- 4 May 2016. Ministry of Health conducted the three half day training in collaboration with the World Health Organization. Sharon Roma, Uputaua Lauvi and Elisapeta Ma Dar were the representatives from our Ministry. The main objectives of the training program was to update on Samoa's current and proposed food recall legislation, be aware of what will be required to include in a company food recall plan, provide opportunity to mock practice aspects of a food recall and be able to provide feedback on guidance materials for business related to food recalls. The training was significant as it builds the officer's capacity on the differences between a food recall and a food withdrawal. Also get to learn how to identify the hazard of a food product that is affected and whom to contact and how to notify the contact point of the product affected.



Apprenticeship, Employment & Labour Market (AELM)

APPLICATIONS TO THE SCHEME

April is the last month for screening of new applicants through their applications, qualifications and most importantly follow up visits at their respective place of employment. So far we have received 65 new apprentices with 15 new employers. This year marks the inclusion of a registration fee for new applicants only.

APPRENTICESHIP DATA BASE

Last meeting with CSL in April regards to completion of database installation and finalizing of payment from Trade Commerce and Manufacturing Division. Still awaiting the database final touch and expecting special training for staff in handling and maintenance.

The Difference Incubator (TDi)

Mission Phase 2 (IDIP)

THE DIFFERENCE INCUBATOR (TDi) MISSION, PHASE 2, 6 - 9 June 2016:

PHASE 2:

Following the TDi team's first visit in March (7th – 10th) Anthea Smits and Anna Moegerlein returned to Samoa for phase 2 of the project which focused on awareness workshops. TDi conducted two separate workshops targeting some of the local entrepreneurs. The workshops were successful and very interactive.

Session 1: 6th June 2016: Exploring SMEs aspiration, success factors and opportunities for further growth. A total of 10 participants participated in this session.

Session 2: 9th June 2016: Driving to teach the skills of business modelling appropriate for individuals that are engaged in small to medium enterprises; and are keen to understand key principles in becoming investment ready. A total of 16 participants attended this session.

The TDi team also hosted one-on-one consultations with the participants on areas and issues that required their expert advice.

The team has also established on-going collaboration with SBEC and MWCSO on matters pertaining to incubators in their respective fields, as well as SROS on their investment projects.



Public Policy Development and implementation Workshop (TCM)

Public Policy Development and implementation Workshop:

Trade Sector 25th – 29th April 2016

The workshop was conducted by Mata'afa Dr Desmond Amosa and attended by representatives from MCIL, MFAT, SROS, SCoC, and SBEC. The 5 days' workshop was to provide trainings to the key stakeholders of the Trade Sector, on the first two stages of public policy cycle – policy development and policy implementation. This initiative is an attempt by the Ministry to build the capacity of its staff and key stakeholders responsible for policy development and implementation in the trade sector. Public Policy is at the core of developing the sector hence the effort to strengthen the capacity of staff and stakeholders directly involved.

Public Policy development or analysis is about defining a policy problem and proposing a feasible solution for approval by the responsible authority. This is mainly perceived as the first stage of the policy cycle. The second stage is policy implementation. This is about action or implementing the decision made by the responsible authority.

We acknowledge the assistance from EIF Tier 1 project for making this capacity development exercise possible for the Trade, Commerce and Manufacturing Sector and its stakeholders.



MCIL and NUS commemorates World Intellectual Property Day 2016 (RCIP)

“MCIL and NUS commemorates World Intellectual Property Day 2016”

This year's theme and how it poses a charge for member countries to explore how advancements in the digital age has impacted on their cultures and the important role that intellectual property legal framework plays in ensuring that such developments are steered towards a positive and rewarding direction for all relevant stakeholders. The presentation geared towards the work of the University that is linked to IP more specifically on Copyright Law. The awareness session was attended by library staff and representatives from the different faculties of the University. The Registry aims to reach not only government bodies but also private enterprises, so that our people are made aware of the importance of Intellectual Property and the role it plays in our society.



Bon Voyage Maryann!

On the last week of May we said ‘Sayonara’ to one of our most valued Senior Officers, Maryann Vaiula-Kafoa who has been with MCIL for almost 7 years. Maryann was a great person to work with, always nurturing but also pushing her officers to do better. She was not only an exemplary employee, but she was also inspirational and amazingly hardworking. MaryAnn's absence is keenly felt in the RCIP team, but this is also an opportunity for our junior officers to rise up to the challenge. As the saying goes ‘the only constant in Life is change’ and only through perseverance and hand work do we not let ourselves be overwhelmed by change.



Public Notices (MCIL)

PRICE INCREASE IN CHICKEN LEG

An increase in the price of chicken leg has been experienced during this period due to the increase in exchange rates of the importing country, USA. The Division confirmed this increase according to costings received from importers of this food product. The community was well informed through advertisements on television and newspaper

	WHOLESALE		RETAIL	
	UPOLU	SAVAII	UPOLU	SAVAII
Chicken leg 33lbs	\$54.50	\$57.10	\$2.00	\$2.20

APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL MEETING

The Apprenticeship Council Meeting for this quarter (April-June) was held on Friday 24th June 2016. New matters being discussed were approved by the Council inclusive the need to revise the course descriptors of the trades under the Apprenticeship program, to meet the demands at the workplace and the labour market.

FAREWELL WITH THE ENUMERATORS

Closing the Labour Market Survey on the 14th June 2016 was also the day the AELM unit farewell to the nine (9) successful enumerators. Sa'u together with ELM staff acknowledges and said the final words to them for being so supportive and for assisting Sauleone and the team in implementing the LMS 2016



Capacity Building (MCIL)

Capacity Building

Building professional development is important for the achievement of our mandated requirements. IROSH staffs were very fortunate to participate in overseas trainings/workshops for the month of April, May and June.

As a Member country of the International Labour Organization ('ILO') MCIL is responsible for the coordination and compilation of International Labour Standard Reports which Samoa Government is obligated to submit to the ILO in Geneva. The Reports are to advise the ILO on the progress in the implementation of the eight Fundamental Conventions which Samoa has ratified.

Training on International Labour Standards was held in Turin and Geneva from 19th May – 27th May 2016.

The core purpose of this course aims to strengthen national capacity to follow ILS procedures, including the discharge of reporting obligations under the ILO

Objectives of the course:

1. Participate actively in the procedures of standard setting, submission, ratification, regular and special supervision in the fields covered by the ILO's mandate.
2. Follow actively the discussion at the International Labour Conference on the adoption and application of ILS.
3. To understand and gain knowledge of the process system for reporting obligations

The course relates well in the field of preparing reports on ratified conventions skills in upgrading and updating of annual reporting for International Labour Standards in regards to conventions already ratified by the Government of Samoa. We also facilitate numerous tasks such as the National Tripartite Forum, ILO questionnaires and surveys as one of the tasks of being a member state.

Providing and collecting relevant information from relevant organizations and Government in regards to the direct requests and observations from the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations. Also contributes to the overall success of the Ministry through efficient implementation of the legislations and International Conventions. Able to understand the procedure and writing of the good reporting practices in managing International Labour Standards before the due dates according to the work plan in annual basis.

Staffs were also fortunate to participate in the Import and Export Commodities Quality Inspection for developing countries in China, and the "Trade in Services Training for LDC Officials Workshop" which was held in Fiji.



Capacity Building (MCIL)

ENHANCING INDUSTRIAL POLICIES: DIAGNOSIS, STRATEGIES AND INSTRUMENTS FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

From 4 – 22 April 2016, Ms. Christine Hoponoa – Laulu together with 22 public servants and industrial analysts from two dozen developing countries took part in a training course on industrial policy organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

The three-week programme, delivered by UNIDO's Institute for Capacity Development, titled "Enhancing industrial policies – diagnosis, strategies and instruments for inclusive and sustainable industrial development" supported policymakers in designing and re-formulating industrial policies for a socially more equitable and environmentally sound development. It enabled participants to acquire a comprehensive overview of the key stages of effective industrial policy development, including industrial performance diagnosis, strategy, and policy instruments to achieve objectives and priorities.

In addition to the course's theoretical and practical components, participants had the opportunity to exchange their ideas and network with their colleagues from different parts of the world. The course further highlighted the Korean industrial development experience. It was supported by a number of high-level guest speakers from Korean Ministries and Universities as well as by several field trips to companies throughout the country.

Participants were invited to the following places:

- Samsung Innovation Museum/Samsung Digital City, Suwon-si, Gyeonggi-do
- Hyundai Steel Mill, Dangjin City, Chungcheongnam-do
- KOGAS LNG Exhibition Plaza, Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi-do
- Hyundai Heavy Industries, Ulsan
- Hyundai Motor Ulsan Plant, Ulsan
- SK Energy, Ulsan
- Incheon Free Economic Zone, Incheon



4 - 22 April 2016 | Republic of Korea

Capacity Building (MCIL)

SEMINAR ON IMPORT – EXPORT COMMODITY QUALITY INSPECTION FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

From 1st – 21st April 2016, one member of the IDIP division Ms. Retina Leavai Tuiletufuga together with two other members from MCIL, Ms. Alice Fa'asoo and Ms. Gaulua Sefulutasi of the IROSH Division and three members from the Ministry of Agricultural and Fishery represented Samoa at this seminar. The seminar was sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and was organized by Jiangsu Inspection and Quarantine Institute of Quality. The focus of this three-week seminar was for the Jiangsu Inspection and Quarantine Institute of Quality (JSIQ) under the direction of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China to share their high technologies and knowledge in excellent inspection and quarantine systems to other developing countries.

The three-week seminar was divided and organized by means of lectures, site visits, investigations, and communication and in-class discussions. This has enabled participants from 12 member countries to enhance their knowledge and skills in inspection and investment promotion. All participants also had the chance to present their own country's inspection system and country profile. The course had also further highlighted the Chinese historical and development experiences to participants and several field trips to both historical/cultural and Industrial sites such as:

- Changzhou Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau
- Changzhou Museum and Urban Planning Exhibition Hall
- Center of CIQ Jiangsu – Industrial Product Testing Center for Animal and Plant Testing
- Nanjing Qinhuai Scenic Spot
- City sight of Changzhou
- Changzhou Tianning Temple
- Tour in Xi'an
- Tour in Shanghai



Capacity Building (MCIL)

SEMINAR ON INFORMATION COMMUNICATION FOR SAMOA

12th May - 1st June 2016, Shanghai, China

There were 22 participants from Samoa who attended the ICT seminar held in Shanghai China from the 12th May – to the 1st of June 2016. The ICT group were all participants from Samoa including government Ministries and private sectors representatives and our ICT officer Vasapasefika Lenuu was among the group of participants. The main focus of the workshop was to enhance the mental capacity of the participants with updates and latest technologies exist in China.

The Seminar was designed to improve participants knowledge in the areas of information, communication and information technology. Shanghai is one of the cities that have witnessed great benefits from the application of information technology and participants were able to experience the advanced level of information technology in Shanghai from lectures and company visits.

The participants were also fortunate to travel to the cities of Wuhan and Qindao as part of the Seminar for company visits to further expose participants to various ways that could improve different industries from developing information technology. We were also having the opportunity to listen to high qualified professors' lectures and presenters from various companies regarding impact of Internet Plus and Internet of Things on certain communities in terms of economy and social development of the country.

There were also site visits for participants to learn about China's history, culture and customs.

It was a privileged for us to attend to this type of seminar to gain knowledge and learn about China's Information Communication Technology developments as showcased in various companies we visited and available courses at universities to prepare and equip people with the knowledge and skills in researches and designing modules for real expectations and especially the utilising and deploying of Internet Plus and Internet of Things in China.



OSH Day Awards Stewardship Awards Ceremony at Tanoa Tusitala (MCIL)

