



## e-newsletter

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### Word from CEO

Greetings to all our subscribers and readers

The Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labour celebrated two events with the rest of the world in April. The first was the World Intellectual Property Day on 26 April 2018 with the theme “Powering Change: Women in Innovation and Creativity”. To commemorate this special day, MCIL held its second Secondary School Science Fair. It was a successful event. Participating Secondary



Schools showcased innovative and creative science projects. Secondly was the World Occupational Safety & Health Day, on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018 with the theme “OSH and vulnerability of Young Workers”. To celebrate OSH Day, MCIL held its second OSH Stewardship Awards to recognize compliance of OSH in the workplaces.

MCIL continues to work in partnership with the private sector and development partners to identify, strengthen and utilize all options that will further contribute to the economic development of Samoa including the creation of employment opportunities for our people. A total of 13 Private sector organizations (PSOs) received grants to assist with their administrative operations for financial year 2017/2018. The total allocation distributed amounted to \$200,000; the inaugural Samoa Exports Awards 2018 spearheaded by SAME with administrative support from the MCIL and other government agencies was also a success; and the recruitment and selection of skilled trades workers from Samoa to work in the New Zealand Construction industry through the Pacific Trade Partnership (PTP) took place end of last month.

Faafetai le lagolago Soifua

# World Intellectual Property Day 2018:

## *“Powering Change: Women in Innovation and Creativity”*

The World Intellectual Property Day is celebrated every year on the 26th April! The theme this year is “Powering Change: Women in Innovation and Creativity”, celebrates the brilliance, ingenuity, curiosity and courage of women who have and are still contributing to the world of Innovation and Creativity.

MCIL in collaboration with the Scientific Research Organization and the National University of Samoa is hosting the 2nd Secondary School Science Fair to celebrate the World Intellectual Property Day.

The main objective is to encourage innovation and creativity of young potential Scientists and Inventors, and for them to be made aware of benefit of intellectual property rights and protection.

There were 15 secondary Schools that participated in this year’s science fair, 13 secondary schools from Upolu and 2 from Savaii.

This year’s science fair was a great success; we have seen so much potential and talent in our young people. Vaiola College took first place with their invention ‘extraction of DNA’ and also second place with their invention the ‘Solar Oven’. Leififi College took third place with their invention of the “Extraction of Essential Oils.

The organizers are exploring the possibility of incorporating other areas such as artistic designs and other sciences and are confident that with the number of sponsoring interests and support they believe that this will be realized in the nearest future.



## Science Fair Categories Result

### Science Project/Invention category

1st Place - Vaiola College

2nd Place - Vaiola College

3rd Place - Leififi College

### Exhibition/Display category

1st Place - St Marys College

2nd Place - RLSS

3rd Place - Vaiola College

### Essay Writing Category

1st Place - RLSS

2nd Place - RLSS

3rd Place - Le Amosa College



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# SAMOA CELEBRATES WORLD OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH DAY

Every year, the International Labour Organization (ILO) worldwide commemorates World Day for Safety and Health at work. This year the World Day for Safety and Health at Work and the World Day Against Child Labour are coming together in a joint campaign to improve the safety and health of young workers and put an end to child labour. The aim is to accelerate action to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 8.8 of safe and secure working environments for all workers by 2030 and SDG target 8.7 of ending all forms of child labour by 2025.

The theme for this year is Occupational Safety Health (OSH) vulnerability of young workers. To celebrate OSH day, MCIL conducted a Public Awareness program by setting up information booths throughout the week. The aim is to educate and instil the message about Safety and Health capturing youth seeking work/about to work and students.

The celebration of the World Occupational Safety and Health Day ended with the Stewardship Award which was hosted by the Ministry. The award was to recognize businesses, organizations and ministries that have complied with the Act and Regulations on Occupational Safety and Health. This is the second OSH Stewardship Award the Ministry has had and it will be held every two years.

Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour, Hon. Lautafi Fio Selafo Purcell awarded the special prize—Overall Excellence in Promoting OSH in the Workplace to Scientific Research Organization of Samoa (SROS).

The World Day for Safety and Health at work is an annual international campaign that promotes safe, healthy decent work. It is held on 28 April every year and has been observed by MCIL since 2013.



## MCIL NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE

We continue to make improvements and updates to our site to cater to our clients needs and always welcome your feedback.

If you have any suggestions on how we could improve our site, get in touch with our Communications team at [mpal@mcil.gov.ws](mailto:mpal@mcil.gov.ws).



# SAYING NO TO CHILD LABOUR

As part of a joint global campaign throughout 2018, the World Day Against Child Labour (WDACL) and the World Day for Safety and Health at Work (Safe Day) will focus on the need to end child labour and to improve the safety and health of young workers. All children have the right to be free from all forms of child labour and all workers have the right to safe and healthy workplaces. Globally, 541 million young workers (between the ages of 15 and 24) account for 15 per cent of the world's labour force. They sustain up to 40 per cent more non-fatal occupational injuries than do adult workers (workers older than 24) and workplace hazards can even pose a threat to their lives. An estimated 152 million children (aged 5-17) around the world are in child labour, of whom 73 million perform work which is hazardous because of its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out. Many factors contribute to hazardous child labour and the high rate of work-related injury and ill health among children and young workers. What is certain is that much more can and must be done.

The campaign aims to accelerate action to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 8.8: "protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers" by 2030; and SDG Target 8.7: "take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour and, by 2025, end child labour in all its forms". Reaching these goals requires renewed commitment and integrated approaches to eliminating child labour and promoting a culture of prevention on occupational safety and health, particularly for young workers.

Children in child labour must be withdrawn from all forms of work for which they have not reached the minimum age, and ensured access to quality education. Hazardous child labour must be prioritized as part of an integrated approach to eradicating all child labour. More attention must be paid to the youngest children (5-11 year-olds) for whom progress has stalled and among whom hazardous work has increased since 2012. We will never end child labour while children continue to enter child labour in the first place.

The joint campaign started to build a safe and healthy generation by eradicating child labour and ensuring safe and healthy work for youth will only succeed if we all play our part. Add your voice to the global movement to improve the safety and health of young workers and to end child labour.



# SAYING NO TO CHILD LABOUR

The campaign calls for coordinated action to

- Promote the universal ratification and application of key ILO Conventions on occupational safety and health (OSH) and on child labour, in particular:
- Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155);
- Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184),
- Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187);
- Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138); and
- Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).
- Promote integrated strategies at all levels to end hazardous child labour and address the specific safety and health risks faced by young workers.
- Ensure quality education for all children and integrate occupational safety and health into general education and vocational training programmes.
- Strengthen the evidence base for improved policies and actions to eliminate hazardous child labour and improve the safety and health of young workers.
- Ensure that young workers gain access to trade union membership and are able to exercise their right to freedom of association, collective bargaining, and safety and health at work.
- Address the specific vulnerabilities of the youngest children and prevent their entry into child labour
- Build stronger tripartite action to improve occupational safety and health for young workers and eliminate hazardous child labour, drawing on the experience of employers' and workers' organizations up in the face of danger at work. Consequently, workplace safety and health must be promoted for workers of all ages, and most urgently for those who suffer disproportionately because of their youth.
- Eliminating hazardous child labour and improving the safety and health of young workers will make it possible for the next generation to start their working lives as productive, fairly-remunerated workers capable of contributing to social justice and economic growth. It will also improve the safety and health of workers and help secure the livelihoods of parents and family members, thereby helping prevent child labour.



# PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM GOVERNMENT

The Honorable Minister, Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell, presented financial assistance worth \$200,000 through the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour to thirteen (13) Private Sector Organizations (PSOs) with commercial affiliations and registered as Incorporated Societies with MCIL. This grant is distributed annually by the Ministry on behalf of the Government to assist PSOs with administrative operations. The Minister acknowledged the private sector's continuing contribution to the economy of Samoa and the government's on going commitment to strengthening and harnessing a closer partnership with the Private Sector.

The grant was allocated to the thirteen (13) PSOs as follows:

|                                                                            |             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Samoa Chamber of Commerce                                                  | \$40,000.00 |
| Samoa Association of Manufacturers and Exporters                           | \$40,000.00 |
| Women in Business Development Inc.                                         | \$40,000.00 |
| Samoa Hotels Association                                                   | \$30,000.00 |
| Business of Salafai Association                                            | \$15,000.00 |
| Samoa Federated Farmers Inc                                                | \$7,000.00  |
| Savaii Samoa Tourism Authority                                             | \$7,000.00  |
| Samoa for Real                                                             | \$5,000.00  |
| Small Business Association of Samoa Arts and Handicrafts Inc (Flea Market) | \$5,000.00  |
| Samoa Banana Farmers Association Inc                                       | \$4,000.00  |
| Samoa Mamanu Designs & Manufacturers                                       | \$4,000.00  |
| Tautai Samoa                                                               | \$2,000.00  |
| Samoa Farmers Association Inc                                              | \$1,000.00  |



**Photo source : Government of Samoa : Honorable Minister for Commerce , Industry and Labour Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell with representatives of the thirteen Private Sector Organizations**

# The Honorable Minister Visit to Fero Samoa Limited and Sleepwell International Limited

The Honorable Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour - Afioga Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell had conducted a friendly site visits to Fero Samoa Limited and Sleepwell International Limited on the 24th of April 2018. The visit was organized through MCIL and was therefore accompanied by the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry.

The purpose of the site visits was to merely observe the premises and to discuss the progress of current operations of the two companies and any future development projects or in the pipeline.



## Fero Samoa Limited



L - R: FSL Director Greg Fulton, Hon. Minister Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell, MCIL CEO - Pulotu Lyndon Chu Ling

Fero Ltd is a manufacturing solution provider of wiring and assembly requirements for the technology sector based in New Zealand since 2002. Some of these technological assemble products are used by services such as agriculture (machinery), power control, appliances, automotive military, marine, medical, safety and emergency services etc.

Given the company's unsuccessful attempt to set up in Fiji due to the lack of a skilled workforce in the area of wire harness, and with the Yazaki operations winding up at the time, the company then looked at Samoa and decided to take advantage of the skilled workers (amongst other beneficial factors for investing in Samoa) previously employed by Yazaki.

Fero Samoa Ltd is one of the two companies that are currently operating from the building that was leased by Yazaki EDS Samoa Ltd. The company in the long term will implement an expansion programme with its employment scaling to a staff complement of 150 in 12—18 months. At time of the site visit, the company had 72 workers on its payroll with a total of 71 recruited from former employees of Yazaki EDS Samoa Ltd.

## Sleepwell International Limited



Left - Right: GM Teleiai James Potoi, Director Sala G. Lutu, Hon. Minister, Christina and MCIL CEO - Pulotu Lyndon Chu Ling

Sleepwell International Limited is also a registered company in New Zealand, registered as Sleepwell NZ Limited since February 2014 with its main business activity of manufacturing bed bases, bed mattresses and lounge and dining suites.

Sleepwell NZ is owned by two Samoan Citizens residing in NZ - Sala George Lutu and David Lutu Hurrel and is the second of the two companies currently operating from the building that was leased by the Yazaki EDS Samoa Ltd. At the time of the visit, former Yazaki employees made up 50% of the company's labour force.

Establishing in Samoa as Sleepwell International Limited with a formed partnership with SSAB, the company continues to target its two key goals:

- Become a long term supplier of its products to furniture stores in New Zealand, Australia and in the Pacific Region; and
- Manufacture good quality beds affordable to everyone

# AVA STANDARDS LAUNCHED IN SAMOA

Ava plays a significant role in ceremonies and social life or fa'asamoa. The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour officially launched Samoa's first ever "Ava Standards" at Tanoa Tusitala Hotel.

The aim of the Ava standards is to ensure that Samoan Ava is produced and stored accordingly to good hygiene standards while maintaining its quality, so that it is safe for consumption and is internationally recognized as a quality product.

This standard was initiated by Samoa Association of Manufacturing and Exporters (SAME) and put together by the Samoa National Codex Committee to assist Ava producers and suppliers in Samoa to produce high quality Ava production for the benefits of customers

The standard was developed through a consultative process with Samoa National Codex Committee and stakeholders in both Upolu and Savaii. It was developed to align the quality standards and activities to support the implementation and enforcement of these standards amongst Ava growers in the Pacific.

It is indeed a major milestone in view of the recent event that led to the banning of Ava exports from Samoa and the Pacific. The Minister in its keynote address encourage producers, farmers and exporters to ensure compliance with the Act to increase exports to Ava overseas thus leads to higher level of the economy.

The Ministry also commends the tremendous support provided by the Australia and New Zealand funded Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Program (PHAMA)



# MCIL AWARENESS PROGRAM AT SALEAULA

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour held its awareness program in Saleaula, Savaii on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The main objectives of the program were to showcase the different services provided by the Ministry and its partners as well as the commemoration of World Consumer Rights Day. This year marks the 3<sup>rd</sup> year since this awareness established and the twentieth year since Samoa celebrated the World Consumer Rights Day.

The Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour, Honorable Lautafi Fiu Selaifi Purcell addressed the significance of this awareness program by setting a high priority in strengthening long term partnerships with development partners, government agencies and the community to ensure a roadmap in achieving the Ministry's vision "Create an enabling environment for business innovation and employment creation for all Samoans". He also highlighted the need for a strong collaboration of government agencies who are participating in this event to support our economy and our national vision of "Accelerating sustainable development and opportunities for all. It is the Ministry's aim that through these awareness programs we are contributing to improving the development of businesses, exports, foreign investment and the business environment to create employment"

The Minister expresses his appreciation to other government agencies for participating in this awareness program such as the Ministry for Revenue, Ministry of Prime Minister and Cabinet-Immigration Department, Small Business Enterprises Centre, Accident Compensation Corporation and Gambling Control Authority. The awareness was attended by more than hundred representatives from business owners/employers, parish ministers, youth representatives and the general public.



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# PACIFIC TRADE PARTNERSHIP: EMPLOYMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY (NEW ZEALAND)

As part of its steadfast commitment to champion efforts for job creation opportunities for Samoan citizens, the Government of Samoa successfully hosted the first phase of the Pacific Trade Partnership ('PTP') in Apia from the 25th—29th June 2018.

The current phase of the PTP initiative is primarily aimed at recruitment and selection of skilled trade workers from Samoa and Tonga and builds on the success of the Canterbury Rebuild Employment Pilot (2015-2016). The PTP initiative is not the first of its kind and is one of two NZ-based labour mobility schemes which exemplify the on-going close partnership between the Government of New Zealand and the Government of Samoa.



Furthermore the initiative provides a valuable opportunity to work collaboratively with other local institutions and agencies. As Pulutu Lyndon Chu Ling, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour (MCIL) stated *"The Government of Samoa is committed to poverty alleviation through various pathways, and of course employment creation is one of the essential elements"*.

*"However, we recognize that this is not a pathway that can be taken single handedly. The success and strength of any initiative with far reaching effects is collaboration. Collaboration between different stakeholders all fully engaged and compelled by their tenacity to be a part of an endeavour that contributes to the socio-economic development of individuals and families"*

*"The Government is also committed to addressing gender disparity in the schemes and we are pleased to confirm that we have a female applicant whom has been shortlisted. Ultimately the buck does not stop here and we encourage more qualified women in trades (carpentry) to participate in the future"*

# PACIFIC TRADE PARTNERSHIP: EMPLOYMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY (NEW ZEALAND)



For the recent phase, a total of 30 local applicants were shortlisted for the roles of Hammer Hands and Carpenters. Screening for the applicants consisted of documents vetting & backgrounding checks, practical assessments and face to face interviews with employer representatives. Final outcome of assessment will be determined in the forthcoming months.

The Ministry acknowledge with appreciation the support of the National University of Samoa which accommodated the interview and practical assessments, as well as the valuable role of agencies such as Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC) and the Development Bank of Samoa.

The visiting delegation from New Zealand comprised of officials from the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE), ARA Institute of Canterbury as well as employer representatives from Downer Group, Tradestaff Limited and Foulton Hogan.

