

# Team Tokelau's engagement with the 3rd UN-SIDS conference



August - September 2014

## Sources

Most of the material for this booklet was written and compiled by Dr Jaap ("iapi") Jasperse who took on a temporary role as Communications Adviser during SIDS. He is Statistics Adviser on secondment from Statistics New Zealand, where he previously worked in the Publishing unit.

Staff from the Tokelau-Apia Liaison Office who attended the main and side events contributed text and photos. Such stories were mounted on the home page of the website [tokelau.org.nz](http://tokelau.org.nz) within a day of any event occurring. Key headlines were also put on Facebook and Twitter, to keep the world – and especially Tokelau – informed of the contribution Team Tokelau made to the historic SIDS conference in Samoa. This booklet serves as a permanent record of our SIDS engagement through text and photos.

Publication-quality jpg files of all photos can be downloaded from the Photo Gallery of the website [tokelau.org.nz](http://tokelau.org.nz) – copyright-free, provided the source is mentioned.

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**Design and layout:** Jaap Jasperse and Arnold Loia

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**Front cover and title page:** Ulu o Tokelau in the global spotlight.

**Back cover:** Most of Team Tokelau during SIDS week.

*Seated (left to right):* Jovilisi Suveinakama, Mika Perez, Ulu o Tokelau: Aliko Faipule Kuresa Nasau, Mario Volk, Silivia Tavite, Robin Pene

*1st row standing (left to right):* William Stowers, Asifangalua Pasilio, Lisa Kelekolio, Susan Perez, Wong Tuipola, Margaret Sapolu, Ruby Fuimaono, Lise Suveinakama, Valentina Fautua and Tala Sinafoa.

*2nd row standing (left to right):* Sola Leiataua, Faamaoni Tamoa, Mark Bonin, Kele Kelekolio, Lili Tuioti and Jewel Tuitama.



## **Team Tokelau's engagement with the 3rd UN-SIDS conference August/September 2014**



Published by the Tokelau-Apia Liaison Office  
to report back on the United Nations Small Island Developing States (UN-SIDS)  
third conference, held 1–4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa

# Contents

5 Introduction

18 SIDS day 1 highlights

42 More SIDS highlights

6 'My Tokelau' song launched for SIDS

26 SIDS day 2 highlights

51 Conference closed, engagement continues

8 Pre-SIDS events

34 SIDS day 3 highlights

# TOKELAU

## LEADING THE WORLD IN RENEWABLE ENERGY



JOIN US FOR A CLEANER, SUSTAINABLE FUTURE!





# Introduction

The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Samoa had the rider “The sustainable development of SIDS through genuine and durable partnerships”. An event, so close to home – both physically and strategically – promised to be of enormous relevance to Tokelau: and so it was.

Team Tokelau was there in force: the Ulu, the Minister of Education, several departmental Directors, the General Manager and staff from the Office of the Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau in Apia participated.

The objectives of our SIDS Engagement were to:

1. Showcase Tokelau's culture as part of the Pacific Community;
2. Illustrate Tokelau's plight concerning impacts of Climate Change;
3. Highlight Tokelau's success stories concerning Renewable Energy;
4. Be heard (as part of the Pacific family) at this global event and in various arenas;
5. Establish durable partnerships for the nation's future sustainable development.

The highlight in the week leading up to SIDS was the launch of the video and song “My Tokelau”. It struck a chord with many, and put a human face to life on our atolls. The launch also made delegates familiar with the special SIDS Engagement room in our Apia office. A number of important international events were able to be staged there.

During the conference itself, the Ulu's contribution to the General Debate on the world stage made United Nations delegates sit up and listen. The speech literally put Tokelau on the world map, even if we are not an independent SIDS. New Zealand's agreement to use its timeslot officially allocated by the UN, is gratefully acknowledged.



The conference brought together numerous relevant topics and delegates from various countries, in many parallel sessions. That meant that choices had to be made, by those lucky enough to be there. For them, and those absent, daily updates on the website [tokelau.org.nz](http://tokelau.org.nz) reported on our engagement during the hyper-active fortnight.

This booklet collates these news stories and will further serve to communicate the key messages from this once-in-10-years conference, both nationally and globally. It testifies to the success of the exercise of Team Tokelau's engagement with SIDS in August/September 2014.

Jovilisi V Suveinakama  
 General Manager, Apia (National Public Service)  
 Office of the Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau  
 Tokelau-Apia Liaison Office, PO Box 3298, Apia, Samoa



## 'My Tokelau' song launched for SIDS

26 August 2014

The Tokelau-Apia Liaison Office launched its theme song, "My Tokelau" today. It marks the participation of this true Small Island Developing State, in the SIDS conference that kicks off in Apia this week.

The Ulu o Tokelau, Aliko Faipule Kuresa Nasau stated: "This song is about localizing and understanding global issues such as the sustainability of our vulnerable islands in the face of climate change, national disasters, exploitation of our oceans, and the unsustainable use of our environment. "I believe that Tokelauans and friends of Tokelau everywhere can celebrate another milestone in our journey. I want to acknowledge a special musician, Mr Danny Rae Costello and his team who have worked tirelessly to bring the hearts and souls of Tokelau into SIDS here in Samoa. I want to express my sincere gratitude – Fakafetai lahi lele! Through this theme song, you are helping Tokelau and other small islands such as ours convey our distinct voice," the Ulu said.



*Singer-songwriter Danny Costello and Tokelau-SIDS adviser Leatigaga Mark Bonin at the video-presentation and song launch.*

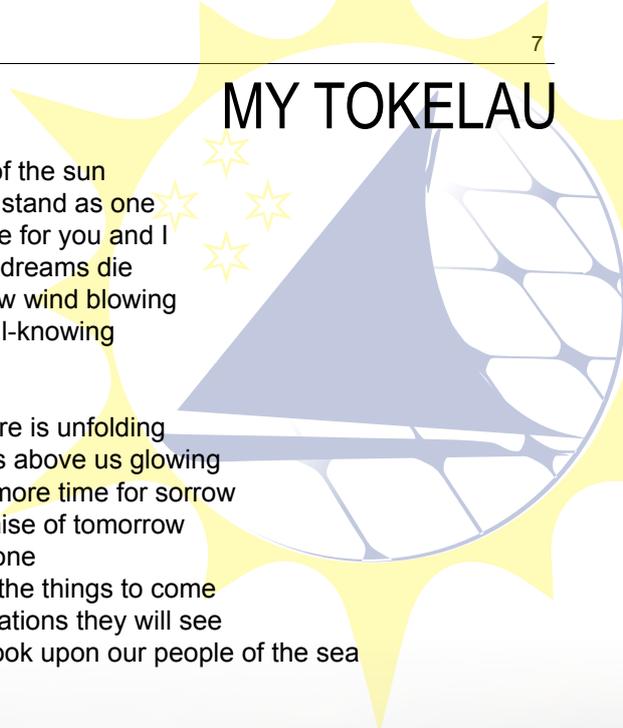
"Tokelau congratulates the Government and the people of Samoa for their role in bringing the world to Samoa so that we can highlight these shared issues, ultimately ensuring a safer and sustainable future for our region and beyond.

"I hope that the theme song 'My Tokelau' that we are launching today will continue to encourage all to work together. I know that Tokelauans and friends of Tokelau everywhere will share in the pride of what we can accomplish through initiatives such as the one demonstrated through today's launch and commencement of our SIDS engagement. Thank you and God Bless!"

The video is available in mp4 format on the website [tokelau.org.nz](http://tokelau.org.nz), as are the music in mp3 format, and the lyrics in pdf format.



# MY TOKELAU



1. My islands in the sun  
From the moment time begun  
You have touched me with your grace  
As I warm in your embrace  
I stand in admiration  
at the wonders of creation

2. There's a story in our eyes  
We can hear our children's cries  
Though our journey has been long  
This is where we belong  
And we are not alone  
Blessed are we who call these islands home  
And as I look upon your crystal sea  
There is nowhere in the world I'd rather be

Chorus:

My Tokelau you are always in my heart  
Forever I will call you home  
And never shall we part  
My Tokelau united we will stand  
As you and I walk hand in hand  
Through hope and love for our homeland

3. Our people of the sun  
Together we stand as one  
There is hope for you and I  
Don't let our dreams die  
There's a new wind blowing  
For God is all-knowing

4. Now the future is unfolding  
And the stars above us glowing  
There is no more time for sorrow  
But the promise of tomorrow  
And we are one  
Thankful for the things to come  
And all the nations they will see  
When they look upon our people of the sea

(Chorus)

*Music & lyrics: Daniel Rae Costello, 2014*



## Tokelau kicks off SIDS side events with presentation on Renewable Energy

*Attendants of the renewable energy seminar in Tokelau meeting room at SNPF Plaza, Apia set up for the duration of SIDS.*



*22 August 2014*

The Tokelau Office in Apia's SNPF plaza has opened a special meeting facility. It is meant for relevant side events to the Third Small Island Developing States (SIDS) conference starting off in Apia next week. Dignitaries such as the NZ High Commissioner, the local Representative

of UNDP, representatives of UN, FAO, Samoan Government and SPREP were treated to two presentations on renewable energy. Speakers were Ms Sili'a Kilepoa Ualesi of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and Mr Robin Pene, Energy Director in Tokelau. Tokelau's Renewable Energy Project

(TREP) was completed in 2012. Its intent was two-fold. Firstly it demonstrates that it is both economically viable and operationally sustainable to dramatically reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Secondly, and equally importantly, it shows Tokelau's "commitment through action" to mitigate the effects of climate change. TREP worked closely together with SPREP to ensure regional information flow and cooperation, via their programme called PIGGAREP (Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Programme). Not only is the Tokelau's renewable energy project proud of what it has achieved; it was also declared winner of the 2014 Renewable Energy Award of NZ's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (ECCA). Tokelau could not have done this alone, even though its political will and community ownership largely led to its success. The project has demonstrated a partnership between

the leaders of Tokelau and their people, between Tokelau and New Zealand, and between Tokelau and renewable energy partners. The General Manager of the Tokelau office, Joe Suveinakama also announced the start of the Tokelau Energy Support Project between Tokelau and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This will ensure putting together a new energy policy, and provide ongoing monitoring and demand-side management of the renewable energy system.



## Tokelau hands Samoa a safety vest



*The Ulu o Tokelau, Faipule Kuresa Nasau hands over the safety vest to Ms Faalavaau Perina Sili, watched by Mr Joe Suveinakama, General Manager (Tokelau Public Service) of the Office of the Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau. The exchange took place at the Samoan Prime Minister's office.*

26 August 2014

The Ulu o Tokelau, Faipule Kuresa Nasau symbolically handed over a safety vest to Ms Faalavaau Perina Sili today. The recipient is Chief Executive Officer and National Coordinator of the 3rd conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) that is about to kick off in Samoa.

Tokelau recently chaired the Officials meeting of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Fisheries Ministers Meeting: Samoa was a previous chair of Officials. The exchange between the two FFA chairs was meant as an invitation to Ms Sili to come and visit Tokelau again at her earliest convenience, in acknowledgment of all her hard work for SIDS. The three atolls that comprise Tokelau are only about 2-5 metres above sea level. They are at risk of being submerged by rising sea levels in future. So the safety vest not only symbolises a safe trip, but also long-term survival for the villagers.



*Ms Valesi speaking during the Renewable Energy presentation at the Tokelau Office.*



## Tuna art symbolises FFA input into SIDS

*The Ulu o Tokelau, Faipule Kuresa Nasau hands over FFA tuna art to the Samoan Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi.*



The Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) visually expressed its participation in the 3rd conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Apia today. In his office, the Samoan Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi accepted a large tuna artwork on behalf of SIDS.

The Ulu o Tokelau, Faipule Kuresa Nasau handed over the travelling tuna that represents both the main Pacific fish catch, and the diversity of Pacific Peoples. Tokelau was Chair of the FFA Officials meeting and recent Fisheries Minister's meeting, that for the first time were hosted recently in Nukunonu. The FFA headquarters are in Honiara, Solomon Islands. The Samoan PM acknowledged the importance of fisheries to Pacific economies. He joked to the Ulu that he always had an interest in the Exclusive Economic Zone around Tokelau: the 200 kilometre-radius is proportionally very large. The three atolls of that country measure only 10–12 square kilometres combined. The nearest lies at a distance of 500 km from Apia, the only regular port of travel to Tokelau.



*The tuna artwork in its full glory.*



## Contributing to journalists training at SPREP

27 and 28 August 2014



*Panel members, Pacific journalists, and part of Team Tokelau at SPREP.*



Tokelau staff contributed to the journalists training that is currently taking place at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The aim is to introduce journalists through PacMAS, the Pacific Media Assistance

Scheme, to a wide range of environmental topics. Many of these will be discussed at the third meeting of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) starting in Apia soon.

On Wednesday, Mr Joe Suveinakama was part of a panel on Oceans, Seas and Biodiversity. He spoke on behalf of the Forum Fisheries Commission, which is currently chaired by Tokelau. He stated that biodiversity in the sea was the basis of a healthy fisheries.

There has to be a balance between economic and sustainable development, Mr Suveinakama stated, so that people could continue to derive income from the fisheries without depleting it.

Fisheries is a strategic issue for the Pacific. To find that balance it was necessary to look beyond the Exclusive Economic Zones of individual countries, he said, and also to look beyond fish. Regional solidarity on these issues was of key importance. He quoted the Pacific Fisheries Ministers' meeting that was recently held in Tokelau: "The region is called to work together for transformative change and collective action towards greater sustainable returns from fisheries."



## GLISPA invites Tokelau to join

29 August 2014

The Ulu o Tokelau met this afternoon with the Chair of GLISPA, the GLObal ISland PARTnership. He is Mr Ronny Jumeau, the Ambassador for Climate Change and Small Island Developing State Issues of the Republic of Seychelles.

Mr Jumeau explained what GLISPA's aim means in practice: "promoting action for island conservation and sustainable

livelihoods by inspiring leadership, catalysing commitments and facilitating collaboration among all islands."

Mr Jumeau is a former Minister for the Environment of the Seychelles, a small island developing state east of Africa, north of Madagascar. He explained how he travels the world to promote the cause of small islands, especially the issue of climate change in international forums including the United Nations.

*Left to right:  
GLISPA  
Coordinator Kate  
Brown, Chair  
Ronny Jumeau  
and participant  
Sam Teicher  
measuring up for  
size*



At the meeting he was accompanied by Mr Sam Teicher of the Yale School of Forestry and Environment Studies, and the GLISPA Coordinator Mrs Kate Brown: she is from Samoa originally, but has been living near



*Left: GLISPA representatives and Team Tokelau share an amusing moment.*

*Below: GLISPA Chair Ronny Jumeau, Coordinator Kate Brown and participant Sam Teicher.*





Washington DC in the United States for 5 years, lobbying for international conservation. The Ulu expressed Tokelau's support for the work that GLISPA promotes in terms of conservation. He confirmed that as Chair of the Forum Fisheries Agency, Tokelau is already advocating a more sustainable and meaningful approach to the marine ecosystems.

As a country, Tokelau was invited to join in the activities of GLISPA, which can be found on their website [www.glispa.org](http://www.glispa.org).



*Kiribati's Ambassador to the United States and the United Nations, Ms Makurita Baaro, speaks passionately about climate change with the Ulu o Tokelau, Aliko Faipule Kuresa Nasau.*



## CANNCC sends warnings from the frontier

Kiribati's Ambassador to the US and the UN, Ms Makurita Baaro, met the Ulu Aliko Faipule Kuresa Nasau in Apia today. The focus of this meeting was the Kiribati initiative on climate change through the Coalition of Atoll Nations on Climate Change (CANCC). Ms Baaro is a passionate speaker on behalf of Small Island Developing States, who are in the front line of suffering from climate change. It's only a matter of time, she says, that some of our countries will have disappeared below sea level altogether. And then it will be the turn of the big countries: 75% of their cities are at risk from climate change as well. So if the big countries don't help the little ones now, she argues, the problem will hit them later,

too, and much harder so. The President of Kiribati, Mr Anote Tong will be visiting Samoa during SIDS next week. There he wants to bring together leaders of these climate change frontline countries: Tuvalu, Marshall Islands, Maldives, and Tokelau, so they can jointly raise their voices on climate change under CANCC. The Ulu offered the use of the Tokelau SIDS Engagement room and office for CANCC discussions during the Conference. Ambassador Makurita Baaro is the first resident Kiribati Ambassador accredited to the United States of America and to the United Nation. She has previously worked with the Tokelau Government in the initial review of the Forum's Pacific Plan.



## First meeting of the NZ-Realm country minders



*Left: Premier of Niue, Toke Tufukia Talagi, the Ulu o Tokelau, Aliko Faipule Kuresa Nasau, and the Prime Minister of Cook Islands, Henry Puna (right).*



*Above: Premier Henry Puna and Mrs Myra Pata, Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cook Islands*

*Apia, 30 August 2014*

A historic meeting between leaders of the so-called "NZ-Realm" countries took place for the first time, in Apia today. Participants were: the Prime Minister of Cook Islands, Henry Puna; the Premier of Niue, Toke Tufukia Talagi; the Ulu o Tokelau, Aliko Faipule Kuresa Nasau; and their officials. Their discussions highlighted the



*Above: Niue Premier Toke Tufukia Talagi and Dr Josie Tamate, Director-General of Ministry of Natural Resources in Niue.*

difficulty of their countries being heard in their own right around the table at international meetings. They agreed that they will continue to pursue their right to membership of international organisations such as the UN and IMF. The Leaders agreed that the proposed way forward for future meetings was to continue to discuss what the Realm means to each. They acknowledged their countries

were at different stages of development in transition to full statehood; this may present challenges in their work together. To guide further discussions on this, the Leaders agreed to share information on the Realm.

The Leaders supported the Cook Islands in their pursuit to expand their international profile. They agreed to work together and support each other in achieving their aspirations.

The next meeting was proposed to occur around the margins of the Cook Islands celebrations of their 50th anniversary in August 2015.



*Above: Team Tokelau's contributors.*



*Left: Discussion in session among the Realm leaders.*



*New Zealand has responsibilities for the administration of three South Pacific territories – Niue Island, the Tokelau Islands, and (until 1965) the Cook Islands.*



The Realm of New Zealand is the entire area in which the Queen of New Zealand is head of state. The Realm comprises New Zealand, the Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau and the Ross Dependency in Antarctica. This is defined by the 1983 Letters Patent constituting the office of Governor-General of New Zealand.



## Renewable Energy Forum kicks off in Apia

The Ulu o Tokelau joined other leaders of the SIDS Conference at the Renewable Energy Forum (REF) today. The Forum was jointly organised by the Governments of Samoa, New Zealand and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). Tokelau was invited to speak at the REF and present its successful experience on renewable energy. In 2012, Tokelau completed the installation of its solar panels which provided almost 100% of its electricity. For this reason, Tokelau leads the world in renewable energy.

Students from St Mary's School in Apia led the devotion which delighted everyone in the meeting. The Prime Minister of Samoa, Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Fatialofa Malielegaoi opened REF, stating that renewable energy is very much part of Samoa's sustainable development. He listed financing and infrastructure as important in ensuring a holistic and pragmatic approach in addressing renewable energy.

*The Ulu o Tokelau, Aliko Faipule Kuresa Nasau and the Prime Minister of Tonga, Siale'ataongo Tu'ivakanō.*



This needs to be supported by institutional and capacity strengthening.

The PM was confident that the Forum brings together a wealth of ideas and goodwill for a successful meeting. The meeting should focus on "bringing solutions to life". This should be in line with the Samoa Pathway and other meetings that renewable energy holds the key to a sustainable future. This is not a matter just for development and prosperity.

The PM thanked all the stakeholders for organising the REF. The message from the PM was very much supported by the Secretary General of the SIDS Conference proper, which starts next week.



*Tokelau's Director for Energy, Robin Pene talks through his presentation at the Renewable Energy Forum.*



## Leon's staff raise the Tokelau image



*Leon's staff show off their supporting outfit.*

*Apia, 1 September 2014*

Staff at Leon's Restaurant and Bar will be wearing Tokelau T-shirts during the SIDS conference week. The Tokelau Minister of Education Mrs Saili Patea presented the items to Leon's manager Mr Ti'a Lafaele Ngau Chun this morning.

Leon's restaurant is on the first floor of the SNPF building in Apia, as are most of the departments of the Tokelau- Apia Liaison Office (TALO). Leon's food catering is often well appreciated by the participants of training sessions and meetings held in the TALO conference rooms. Having the restaurant next-door



*Leon's manager Mr Ti'a Lafaele Ngau Chun receives the Tokelau T-shirts from Minister of Education Mrs Saili Patea.*



*Team Tokelau staff took time to share a moment with Leon's staff and say thank you for their support.*

also allows social discussions to continue after the formal meetings are closed. Leon's has already been supportive in promoting Tokelau's cause during the SIDS conference weeks, by proudly displaying on its balcony the large banner stating "Tokelau leading the world in renewable energy".

# SIDS day 1 highlights







## Canoes from American Samoa via Samoa to Tokelau

*Arrival in Apia and customs clearance this morning of the two double-hulled alia, or traditional canoes, the Hokule'a and Hikianalia from American Samoa.*



### 1 September 2014

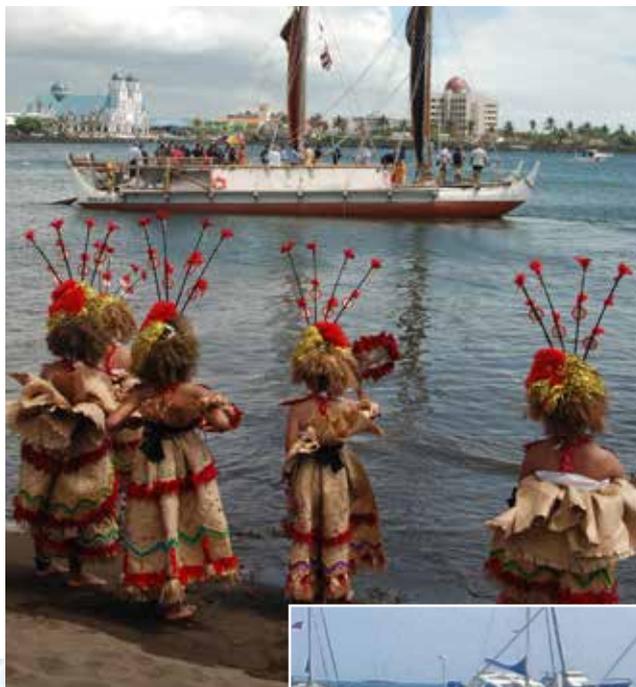
Two double-hulled alia, or traditional canoes named the *Hokule'a* and *Hikianalia* arrived in Apia this morning. They came alongside the Tokelau time chartered vessel PB *Matua* for their arrival clearance.

The traditional canoes are managed and operated by the Aiga Folau o Samoa/ Samoa Voyaging Society. They had

sailed from American Samoa to arrive at the start of SIDS this morning. The plan is to depart Apia port for Fakaofu, Tokelau on 9 September.

The Director of the Tokelau Department of Transport & Support Services, Mr Asofa Fereti explained that the scheduled call to Fakaofu means his department has become involved in the canoes' shipping agency requirements in Apia.





Above: Traditional celebrations as part of the welcoming of the alia.

Right: The Ulu o Tokelau on board the Hokule'a.



## Cruising on Apia Harbour the not-so-traditional way

Tokelau's Ulu and the Minister of Education rubbed shoulders with the United Nations General Secretary Tupua Ban Ki-Moon, the Samoan Head of State, His Highness Tui Atua Tamasese Efi and various other dignitaries, on the traditional Pacific canoe *Hokule'a* today. The lunchtime cruise on Apia Harbour provided a welcome brief change for most, from their General Debate at the SIDS meeting. Media and others followed suit in its companion canoe, the *Hikianalia*.

Given the very busy programme of the would-be mariners, the trip was cut short by towing the boats out and back to shore again in a not-so-traditional way: the boards were not allowed to sail on Pacific time at his occasion! It was remarkable that a small rubber dinghy was all that was required to bring the large structures back to shore – a testament to the effectiveness of their light, wave-riding design.

Early in the morning the two vessels had arrived all the way from American Samoa. They received a rousing welcome by a large group of girls and boys in traditional Samoan taupo and manaia costumes. The same performers were impressing their top-level audience again at the departure of these lunch-time cruises.





## We are there: Opening of 3rd SIDS plenary session

The Ulu o Tokelau was present at the opening of the International SIDS Conference as part of the NZ Delegation today. The Conference of Small Island Developing States will end on Thursday 4 September. About 109 countries are attending the Conference.

The Ulu o Tokelau leads Tokelau's delegation to the Conference and is supported by the Minister of Education, the Hon Saili Patea. The Ulu also leads the Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency delegation, of which Tokelau is the current Chair.



*The Ulu o Tokelau, Aiki Faipule Kuresa Nasau with Samoa's Minister for Justice, the Hon Naomi Fiame Mata'afa just before the opening of the 3rd SIDS Conference.*



## Tokelau impresses Global Ocean Commission (GOC) panel

"I sit in my house, I look to the front, I see the ocean. I look to the back, I see the lagoon. Without the ocean, the people of Tokelau would not survive, we could no longer exist". This brief statement by Tokelau Minister of Education, Saili Patea was a welcome audience contribution at a SIDS side event on the Global

Ocean Commission (GOC), facilitated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). Minister Patea wanted to remind people that the importance of the oceans lies in it being the livelihood for many, including Tokelauans. She also congratulated the GOC on the

eight proposals it makes at the website [www.globaloceancommission.org](http://www.globaloceancommission.org). These proposals are derived from the GOC Report that was launched late June 2014. This report highlights the decline of oceans and puts forward drivers for recovery in the form of these eight proposals.

Members of the panel at SPREP included the Minister of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism for Palau, Umiich Sengebau; Senior Climate Change Advisor of Tuvalu, Remi Parmentier; Deputy Executive Secretary, GOC and GOC Commissioner, Hon. Robert Hill. Our Minister was humbled at the reference to Tokelau through Aliko Faipule Foua Toloa's membership as a Commissioner on the GOC and his contribution to the Commission. Commissioner Robert Hill read an abridged version of the statement by Faipule Toloa to urge SIDS Leaders to listen and enact the proposals of the GOC, so that the oceans can revert back to "crying emerald tears and not the red and black tears it is shedding now due

*Tokelau Education Minister Saili Patea made a significant intervention at the SIDS side event on the Global Ocean Commission facilitated by SPREP.*



to its decline". (The full statement was published on the Tokelau website in August 2014: [tokelau.org.nz](http://tokelau.org.nz).) The audience were also urged to sign a petition by the GOC calling for support to secure a living ocean, food and prosperity.

The result of the petition will be presented to the Secretary-General UN at the General Assembly in mid-September. It currently has about 105,000 signatures, and 150,000 signatures are required. To sign, please go to Mission Ocean website.



## Samoa follows Tokelau PV example

The Ulu o Tokelau was present when the Samoa solar panel array was formally opened at Apia's racecourse at Faleata today. The Samoan solar system was developed in cooperation with New Zealand. NZ Minister Murray McCully accompanied Samoan Prime Minister at the blessing. Various dignitaries were present to applaud Samoa joining the solar power family.

*The new facility being blessed with the NZ Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Samoan Prime Minister, the Ulu o Tokelau, and other dignitaries present.*





*The Ulu o Tokelau at Samoa's newly opened solar panel array, here with the Samoan Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Tuisuga Letaua Sofara Aveau (left).*

PhotoVoltaics (PV) have arisen as one of the sustainable renewable energy sources that are very suited to SIDS, as Tokelau very well knows. We have been near-self-sufficient using solar panels on Fakaofu, Nukunonu, and Atafu since 2012.



## Tokelau statistics office joins SIDS in full force

The entire staff of the Tokelau National Statistics Office (TNSO) joined the SIDS conference today, all 1.5 full-time equivalents (FTEs) of them. Kele Lui is National Statistician (half-time) and Dr Jaap ("iapi") Jasperse the Statistics Adviser, on secondment from Statistics New Zealand.

The occasion was to participate in the "Forum on advancing statistical development in SIDS, towards sustainable development in the post 2015 era." Panel members represented a range of international statistics-oriented organisations: PARIS21 (PARTnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century), SPC (Secretariat of the Pacific

Community) and SBS (Samoa Statistics Bureau) among them.

A plea was made for better funding of national statistics organisations: National budgets had often only a fraction of one percent allocated to statistics. Yet it was essential to ensure that statistics were collected and used that are of a very high standard. Ironically it is during challenging times that statistics are needed most.

So statistics offices should be working together, particularly to enable small offices (of say 5 people) to still produce the wide range of data and analysis that were required for proper policy. This struck a chord with the Tokelau



*Tokelau National Statistician Kele Lui (left) and Statistics Adviser Dr Jaap Jasperse at SIDS.*

representatives of what must be the smallest statistics office in the world. They had encouraging discussions with representatives of PARIS21, whom they recently approached for support in developing a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS).



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

## Empowering women through economic development

The Minister of Education, Honourable Saili Patea joined an evening function by the UN Women and the Australian Government on “Empowering Women: Stories from the Pacific Market Places” at a private residence. The meeting celebrated and shared some success stories and experiences of how the UN Women’s programme has enhanced women’s economic empowerment. The UN Women’s Director strongly believes that enhancing women’s empowerment is a strategic choice for long-term equity, growth and sustainability. Research shows that improving the economic status of women leads to greater economic activity in communities. With that, it brings positive effects for families, communities and whole nations.

Women representatives from Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Fiji shared their successes through inspiring stories of how the UN Women have come into their lives. This has helped empower them to do well in the marketplace. It also supported the women market vendor’s rights and helped them to have a voice

and contributed to expanding economic opportunities for them. Other benefits come from the socio-economic security of market vendors, where women have received appropriate training and services. Focusing on business and leadership skills has enabled them to increase productivity and product development. For example product diversification, environmentally sustainable practices, disaster-resilient crops, and adding value to get more revenue from the sales of their products. A woman from Fiji inspired by telling how she had been selling products in the marketplace for more than 40 years. The resulting funds had put her children into education. Accessing financial and social services, such as saving accounts and mobile banking is a breakthrough for these women: this type of support was not accessible to them in the past. Women’s security in the marketplace has also improved. A female sergeant from PNG illustrated this by sharing some of the amazing things she has done – to protect the PNG women and children, and making the marketplace safe.



*Tokelauan Fatupaepae (women’s group) selling handicraft.*

Our Education Minister was greatly inspired by these success stories shared; and grateful that the UN Women had contributed positively. The struggles that some of these women have gone through are not yet experienced in Tokelau.

Other areas of interests that the Minister is keen to explore are, how UN Women support empowerment through women-in-leadership-training. Good governance can also improve the participation of women in decision-making. This could lead to improving the welfare and quality of life of women in Tokelau also.

# SIDS day 2 highlights







## Ulu makes statement on NZ behalf, at UN-SIDS General Debate

This morning, the Ulu o Tokelau presented his statement at the UN-SIDS General Debate. He was able to speak for Tokelau, in the timeslot that had been allocated to New Zealand. His pleas for working together as nations against the threat of climate change, and in favour of renewable energy, was well received by UN delegates.

He was introduced by the Chair, the Prime Minister of Samoa, as: "Tokelau is speaking on behalf of New Zealand, another

island bigger than Tokelau and a bit smaller than Australia". The PM had just chided previous speakers for exceeding the allocated time slot of 5-10 minutes, warning that delegates might have to stay till Sunday (instead of Wednesday) to hear all the presentations. This made listeners all the more applaud the sharp, short and clear statement made by the Ulu.

The full text of the statement, that was streamed live over the United Nations TV website, follows.



Statement by the Ulu o Tokelau, Aliko Faipule Kuresa Nasau:

The President of the Conference, Lau Afioa le Ali'i Palemia  
 Heads of State and Government  
 The Secretary-General of the UN  
 The President of the General Assembly  
 The Secretary-General of the Conference  
 Distinguished Delegates  
 Ladies and Gentlemen  
 Mr President, Malo Ni and Kia Ora - I convey warm Tokelau and NZ Greetings.  
 On behalf of the people of Tokelau, I want to acknowledge God our Heavenly Father for His guidance in making this event possible. I commend the Government of Samoa for bringing the world to the Pacific. Samoa had been working tirelessly to ensure that small islands like ours can attend this SIDS Conference. Tokelau may

not be an independent state; we are a "true" Small Island Developing State. Our total land area is approximately 12 square kilometres, and our land is only 3-5 metres above sea-level at the highest point. I also wish to extend Tokelau's sincere appreciation to the Government of NZ, who has given our people an opportunity to add our unique voice to this global family. Tokelau is proud to be represented at this important meeting and to share with you a brief glimpse of our reality. A number of distinguished delegates may not have heard of Tokelau before today. That is not surprising as we are one of the world's most geographically isolated nations. Located 500 kilometres north of Samoa there are only 1400 of us living across our 3 atolls. You can only reach our shores by taking a 24-hour boat journey from Samoa. At breakfast this morning with leaders of other low lying atoll nations, we confirmed the devastation that the impact of Climate Change has had and continues to have on our islands. As the frontline to the impact of climate change, low lying atolls are more vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change. Let me be clear - climate change is already having a negative impact on Tokelau and other atolls like ours. We are seeing signs of coastal erosion and ocean acidification. This is of deep concern to us due to our fragile biodiversity and the fact that revenue from our fisheries resource is a significant source of income. SIDS as a global family must face the challenges of climate change head on. This is our duty to future generations. We must not fail. The question is, what if the impacts of climate change are not addressed for nations such as ours? Our people stand to lose not only our unique environment and land, but also our culture, language and traditions which are our identity. The situation looks bleak. Yet, despite our size and our minimal carbon footprint, Tokelau is leading by example in the Pacific region by switching from diesel-generated

electricity to clean, renewable and reliable solar energy. We partnered up with New Zealand for the Tokelau Renewable Energy Project. Since 2012 solar arrays installed on each atoll supply 90% of Tokelau's electricity needs. That makes Tokelau one of the world's top nations in renewably-sourced electricity – and the first to run almost exclusively on solar-generated power. This project shows the world the vision of the leaders and communities in Tokelau for a better and more sustainable future. My challenge to us here today, is to agree as SIDS collectively on a platform for action going forward. If Tokelau can achieve such a good result in the renewable energy space, imagine what we, as SIDS, can do together. We must unite and be strong. Let no one be left behind nor let us shy away from difficult conversations. To the people and the Government of the Independent State of Samoa - you have made Samoa and the Pacific family very, very proud. We can only pray that your efforts bring us closer to the ultimate goal of ensuring a safer and sustainable future for our region and beyond. Let me convey a big thank you – fa'afetai tele lava. Thank you and God Bless.



"As the Ulu o Tokelau speaks before the leaders of the world, where Tokelau stands as a nation before nations, I want to thank the team. Some started the journey before us, and some have left us... For all that was lost and all that you feel that was difficult and meaningless, let the Ulu's statement be the culmination of all our team work and a demonstration of goodwill, fortitude and temperance." (Joe Suveinakama, General Manager, Office of the Council, L, and Strategic Adviser Lili Tuioti, R)



## Breakfast performance addresses domestic violence issues

The Minister of Education, Honourable Saili Patea joined in a breakfast meeting against domestic violence, at the Tanoa Tusitala Hotel. It was co-hosted by the British High Commission from Wellington, New Zealand and the British Honorary Consulate in Samoa. The meeting was to introduce and bring to Samoa and SIDS the "Stages of Change Project" funded by the British High

Commission in New Zealand. This project runs in the Solomon Islands. It consists of Solomon Islands Women dancing and performing in theatre as a way of addressing domestic violence issues. The project has been hugely successful in the Solomon Islands. It is found to be an effective way of bringing out into the open the issues of domestic violence; it also helps pushing for change

to combat domestic violence within our communities. Domestic violence and sexual abuse on our women and children is prevalent in SIDS countries – this is not acceptable. We need to combat domestic violence on women and children, as they are our future.

The positive impacts of this project has led to the Solomon Islands Government passing a Bill to protect victims of domestic violence. The Government of Samoa was also congratulated for taking the



*Tokelau Minister of Education Saili Patea with the British Consul in Samoa, Brenda Latu.*

issues of domestic violence and women seriously, through its recent legislation changes and institutional strengthening and human rights. The group of women from the Stages of Change Project performed movingly and the Minister was greatly touched and inspired by the performance. She agreed that this project is indeed a powerful way of addressing domestic violence in our region, and is keen to explore taking this project to Tokelau.

A large crowd attended the breakfast session. This emphasises the seriousness of domestic violence issues and the need to push for positive changes. Improving the quality of life of our women and children is essential, as they represent our future.



*Performers in the "Stages of Change Project"*



## Future Energy for Small Island Developing States

Kazakhstan being the world's largest landlocked country by land area with an abundant supply of fossil fuel resources, but without small islands, was perhaps a surprising contributor to this conference. This session chaired by its Minister of Foreign Affairs, aimed to identify and showcase policies, practices and

experiences that could help increase renewable energy use for SIDS. Real examples and case studies drew out discussion on policies, technologies and capacities. As a leading country in solar renewable energy, Tokelau was encouraged to bring together stakeholders from across Small

Island Development States, and help identify elements needed to transform and complete our energy initiatives. New partnerships can help further deploy renewable energy across SIDS; and maintain and progress the efforts of our three villages.

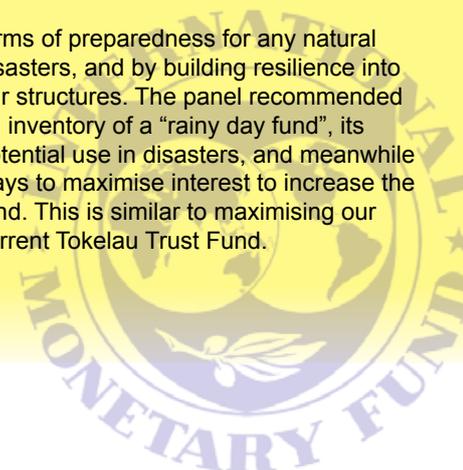


## Building macro-fiscal resilience in SIDS

The session "Coping with Natural Disasters: Building macro-fiscal resilience in SIDS" was an International Monetary Fund initiative. Panel discussions focused on including a resilience factor into Government financial systems and structures, to be prepared for costs incurred before, during and after any natural disaster. This can be a time-consuming process because of the complexities of long-term sustainability. There will be changes and effects on existing systems and

structures; and countries are at different levels of organisation. Different phases for disasters were also discussed. The recovery phase for natural disasters has proven to be the time when the affected country needs most aid and relief. Hence the importance of stable systems, structures and reserves, to provide relief for long-term sustenance of country and communities. Tokelau's benefit from this session lies in reviewing our financial systems in

terms of preparedness for any natural disasters, and by building resilience into our structures. The panel recommended an inventory of a "rainy day fund", its potential use in disasters, and meanwhile ways to maximise interest to increase the fund. This is similar to maximising our current Tokelau Trust Fund.





## Social Development in SIDS

SIDS, Health and NCDs, youth and women are all interrelated and complementary when it comes to social development. They are all economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. They have many cross-cutting issues, such as the enabling factors of financing, capacity building, technology transfer, technical cooperation and institutional development.

Women and children as well as people with disability are the most vulnerable. Governments should engage with them and hear their views on developing strategies to improve their wellbeing. Our youths are our future and we need to invest in their health and capacity to be leaders of the future.

Sustainable development needs healthy people. The current global crisis in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) threatens our communities. So we need sustainable partnerships, political leadership and whole-of-government approaches to address NCDs in SIDS. Emerging communicable diseases also affect lives in SIDS – what's needed for all, including Tokelau – is strengthened policies, and strategies to prevent and respond to these emerging challenges.



*Elderly women in Tokelau taking part in physical activity under the Tokelau Health Department's NCD prevention program.*



## Regional Pacific Health Development

Counties Manukau (CM) and National Health Services (NHS) Samoa drew the attention to their partnership of the last 4 years. CM in Auckland, New Zealand provides support for Samoa with specialized clinical care such as a patient referral scheme, visiting specialists and capacity development.

Tokelau currently has an Memorandum of Understanding with the New Zealand Capital and Coast District Health Board; we are exploring partnership arrangements with NHS and CM for additional support.



*Lomaloma Hospital stationed on Tokelau's furthest atoll, Atafu.*



## Ulu gets a first bite at bêche-de-mer

The Ulu o Tokelau got the first bite at bêche-de-mer today – that is, at signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the New Caledonia Government. The MOU is about the sustainable development of the bêche-de-mer, or sea cucumber, sector in the Pacific. The counter-signature came from the Honourable Anthony Lecren, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development in Noumea, New Caledonia. The function took place in the Tokelau SIDS Engagement room in Apia.

In his introductory speech, Monsieur Lecren gave a bit of history to the MOU between Pacific nations. He explained that Tokelau played a particular part in this MOU because the document focused on small island states – and Tokelau being the smallest, got the special honour of being the first to sign.

Other signatory nations would join the list on the following day, as a side event to the SIDS conference.



*Monsieur Anthony Lecren of New Caledonia countersigns the bêche-de-mer agreement. Witness is the Ulu o Tokelau, Alikī Faipule Kuresa Nasau.*

*Monsieur Anthony Lecren, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development in New Caledonia with his Advisor/interpreter before the first signing of the bêche-de-mer agreement.*



The initiative arose at the second Oceania21 Summit held in Noumea on 2 July 2014. Participating states are American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Niue, New Caledonia, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

The aim of the MOU is to structure the sea cucumber sector on a Pacific scale to contribute to the economic and social development of these countries and territories.

Bêche-de-mer, sea cucumber, is a marine animal highly appreciated in Asian gastronomy and in pharmacology. High demand has led to overfishing and a collapse of stocks. It has also caused significant damage to the marine ecosystem. The collapse of stocks has meant the end of bêche-de-mer fishing because it was no longer profitable. That is depriving Pacific countries and territories of an important financial resource and reducing income accordingly.

The MOU aims to reverse this situation so that bêche-de-mer stocks can build up again. The parties to the MOU hope that their cooperation will lead to the creation of jobs, sustainable economic development and social well-being of local populations.

# SIDS day 3 highlights





## Tokelau lends a hand at NTSA ratification by Tuvalu

3 September 2014

Tuvalu Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga signed the ratification papers of the Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement (NTSA) in the Tokelau-SIDS Engagement room in Apia today. The NTSA is aimed at sharing information, data and resources to support maritime and fisheries surveillance against Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing across the exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of the member countries of Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). As current Chair of the Forum Fisheries Committee, the Ulu o Tokelau had offered the facilities in the SNPF plaza, Apia, as the venue for this historic ratification during SIDS week. The FFA Director-General James Movick received the Tuvalu-signed NTSA instruments of ratification there. Other witnesses were the 2013 FFC Chair, Minister Alfred Ghiro from Solomon Islands; and the 2015 Chair, Minister Elisaia Pita from Tuvalu.

The Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement provides a legal framework for countries to share resources, exchange fisheries data and intelligence and improve their efficiency when it comes to

monitoring fishing vessels in Pacific waters.

Tuvalu's ratification will bring the number of ratifications to six: Palau, Cook Islands, Samoa, Nauru, and Vanuatu have already ratified the NTSA and it is now in force there.

All countries who have ratified can enter into cooperative fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) initiatives and operations. In a region already crowded with development treaties, the NTSA multilateral process is quite special in promoting partnerships and regionalism. As envisaged by the Leaders and Fisheries Ministers, the agreement provides another useful tool for cooperation in fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance enforcement; and for cooperation in broader law enforcement. The agreement provides the parties with a refined legal framework to strengthen their cooperative efforts based on their needs and resources. The underlying goal envisaged by the Leaders, is to ensure sustainable management of the region's tuna fisheries, and therefore favourable economic returns to the Pacific from this resource.

*Distinguished participants are (right to left): FFA Director-General, James Movick; Tuvalu Prime Minister, Enele Sopoaga; the Ulu o Tokelau, Aliko Faipule Kuresa Nasau; Minister Elisaia Pita from Tuvalu; and Minister Alfred Ghiro, from Solomon Islands.*





The CANCC panel representing from left: the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Tokelau, Maldives, with Mrs Baaro of Kiribati chairing.



## CANCC launch at SIDS side event draws major support

A major side event to this week's SIDS conference was the launch of CANCC, the Coalition of Atoll Nations on Climate Change.

This initiative of President Anote Tong of Kiribati brings together those nations that are at the forefront of climate change damage: they are all so low-lying that there is nowhere to escape to when the sea level rises. This is something people in non-SIDS countries can find hard to understand. They may ask: "Why not move your homes further away from the sea?", not knowing that we would then fall off our land on the other side...

"We haven't really a good response to rising sea levels," President Tong said. And so we need to join forces to find practicable solutions. It's a moral question but also one that requires very concrete proposals with which we can seek help from the developed countries that caused the problem to arise. The Prime Minister of Tuvalu echoed this sentiment by saying "We cannot over-dramatise the seriousness of our situation. All our lives we have been adapting to the environment we are in, it is the Pacific way of live. But now changes are so fast and the predictions from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) so dramatic that we must act. If not, we will have to leave

our homes within the lifetime of our children. We need to seek legally binding agreements on reducing carbon emissions in an effort to stop climate change.

Our communication needs to be global, and avoid the lack of success of the Copenhagen conference (COP15 in 2009). We need to believe in the goodwill of governments to save us, but we need global communication to make our case, through CANCC.

That sentiment was backed up by the Marshall Islands Environment Minister, who urged not to just "preach to the choir" but take the message out to the world in every way possible. He illustrated this by screening a youth perspective through a video presentation of the moving poem "Tell Them" by Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner of the Marshall Islands: "Tell them, we don't want to leave. Without our islands, we are nothing." There were very few dry eyes in the room after watching this amazing contribution: <http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=w9D88ST9qbw>

*Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner, the Marshallese poet in her youtube clip.*



*Before presenting his statement, the Ulu drew attention to the colour of his shirt: the bright red indicated the country was on high alert 24/7. This was highlighted by several members of Team Tokelau who participated in the event.*



The Environment Minister from Maldives made it know that “atoll” was in fact a Maldives contribution to the English language. He highlighted how “graduating” from the list of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) created additional problems for SIDS, in that funds were harder to come by to mitigate climate change effects. He stated that in the Christmas 2004 tsunami, as much as 60 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) was lost in a single day. International advice for tsunami risk is to run to higher ground. But how can we do that if on atolls a coconut tree is the tallest structure, unstable to boot?

Maldives also raised the argument that climate change is a violation of human rights; and that security from it is a fundamental right. This is one of the communication stances that could be used to good effect in seeking CANCC support, he suggested.

The audience of this session comprised some key world players, the chief scientific adviser to President Obama of the United States among them. Dr John Holdren stated the USA was now playing its part in dramatically reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. The USA is actively seeking partnerships with vulnerable countries as part of its climate change action plan. Technological advances could help in raising islands or perhaps

building artificial ones: if some countries can do it for leisure purposes, then it could be done for survival. Rachel Kyte is World Bank Group vice president and special envoy for climate change. She took away three key words from her participation in SIDS, she said: (1) Resilience – not necessarily creating new initiatives, but supporting already existing ones with less red tape, for atoll countries in particular; (2) Poverty – cannot just be measured by income, but climate disaster risk is an equally important criterion; (3) Coherence – necessary not just in economic policy, but in climate change mitigation and adaptation as well.

The full text of the Ulu's statement is as follows:

President Tong, honourable leaders of the Coalition of Atoll Nations on Climate Change, ladies and gentlemen.

Tokelau supports wholeheartedly the formation of the Coalition of Atoll Nations on Climate Change. We are so pleased to be a member of a forward-looking and proactive group who are committed to advocating for immediate actions so that we can remain as viable sovereign nations. We want to build our resilience but cannot do this in isolation. Therefore we will work together and harness our strength through our common challenges. The low-lying atoll nations can play a significant role in spurring global action to mitigate for the impact of climate change.

For decades now, science has revealed the bleak future the world will face if we do not reduce our greenhouse gas emissions drastically. But this has not moved powerful and developed nations enough for them to make the necessary concessions. Instead, those of us on the frontline are facing the consequences of inaction. Low-lying atoll nations can

no longer sit by and wait for the promised assistance that is so complicated, difficult to access and excludes some of us. Our people look to their leaders and point the finger at us to follow through and enact on-the-ground activities that make a difference to their reality. The Coalition of Atoll Nations on Climate Change has been formed to fulfil this commitment to our peoples. We propose to work together to not only give voice and face to the impact of climate change on our atolls, but also to implement practical solutions on the ground to improve the



## Developing sustainable and resilient maritime transport systems

Tokelau maritime transport got a specific mention today, in Samoa's presentation at a transport side event of SIDS. We featured through our partnership / connectivity being established with Samoa, reported our Transport Director Asofa Fereti who was in attendance. "The Ocean Wealth for SIDS through Trade Specialization and Sustainable and Resilience Maritime Transportation" session was chaired by Mr Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); and Mr Tuiloma Neroni Slade, Secretary-General of the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS). Guest speakers from UNCTAD, PIFS, Samoa, Mauritius and the Commonwealth Secretariat all highlighted the importance of the oceans and the need to develop sustainable and resilient maritime transport systems. Regional Cooperation was encouraged, and Regionalism shared by all as one of the ways for SIDS to achieve viable and sustainable maritime

livelihood for our stricken populations.

We need assistance for this. We want this assistance to be free of bureaucratic constraints, easy to mobilise, with criteria that are NOT exclusive and self-serving. We hope that others who have this same vision and can provide this assistance will join us – the Coalition of Atoll Nations on Climate Change.

Thank you.

*Tokelau's main connection with the outside world: PB Matua about to leave Apia Harbour.*



transportation – a topic very relevant to Tokelau. Mr John Hogan, Director Economic Development Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) highlighted SPC's effort of advocating for regional cooperation. Later in the day, a special presentation explained the SPC plan put in place, in relation to the establishment of the Eastern Pacific Shipping Commission (EPSC).

Tokelau is listed as one of the island nations and territories that can be a rightful member of this Commission.



## Building public service resilience in SIDS through 'Foresight'

'Foresight' is a tool for strategic planning and policy development in SIDS for sustainable development. It has an emphasis on community engagement and involvement of citizens in defining the future. Both the Director of Health and the National Public Health Advisor of Tokelau attended his side event discussing Foresight. They felt the tool is well worth exploring in future strategic planning and policy development.

This Foresight approach has been adopted by the government of Tonga in preparation of strategic planning and budget forecast for the next 5 years. In a very interactive discussion, Tonga shared how they used the tool, especially with the involvement of children and youth through art to express the future they want. UNDP Administrator Helen Clark highlighted the need for Public Service leadership; it is essential to have collaboration among sectors, and commitment to shape the future of countries' public services.



## Combat NCDs based on Healthy Island Vision

Because of the potentially debilitating impacts of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), Pacific island leaders declared a state of emergency for the Pacific in 2011.

At the conference, the UNDP Administrator Helen Clark commented that the global NCD crisis is playing out most acutely in the SIDS. And as NCDs challenge public health, so does it make an impact on the overall sustainable human development.

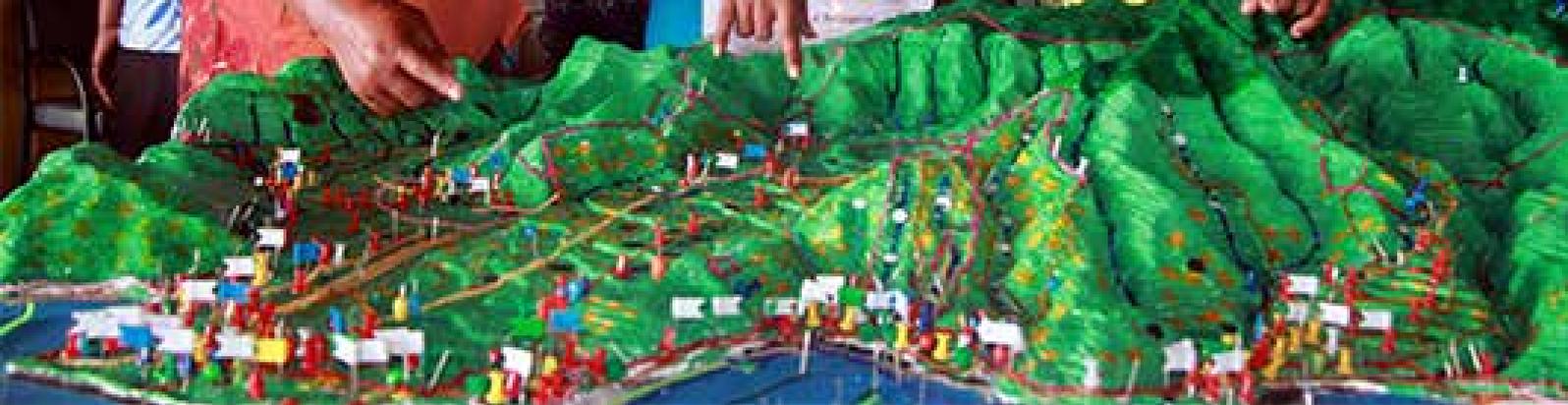
The Prime Minister of Samoa, Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi highlighted that sustainable development needs a healthy population. The Regional Director for Western Pacific of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr Shin Young-soo also contributed. He commented on the increasing number of young individuals dying from NCDs, leaving young families behind to fend for themselves.

The Tokelau Director of Health and the National Public Health Advisor both participated and supported the views expressed at this event: Combatting the impacts of NCDs need a whole-of-government approach, political leadership and commitment. The Pacific NCD partnership framework emphasises a multi-sectorial approach to reduce the NCD burdens within countries, within SIDS in the Pacific region and beyond.



*Fight against NCD with physical activities and awareness training.*





## Three-dimensional model to help planning

ability as a country to store, discover, access and use climate change information, so our Government can undertake effective adaptation and resilience planning. Tokelau could utilize the Pacific Climate Change Portal (PCCP, a SPREP initiative), to get greater access to key data and information across multiple platforms and jurisdictions. Discussions are already underway between SPREP and the Tokelau Government, on how to update and review these data from time to time.

“Enhanced resilience to climate change and sustainable management of resources using a three-dimensional model” was chaired by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa.

Samoa shared its experiences on climate change impacts to human and economic development in key sectors. Partnership with communities aim at promoting the adoption of innovative information and communication technology tools. This helps addressing challenges of increasing the resilience to climate change, by integrating local knowledge in adaptation planning and implementation.

The Participation 3-Dimensional Modelling (P3DM) process includes participation, resource mapping and spatial information. Its product is a stand-alone scaled relief model which has proved to be a user-friendly and relatively accurate research, planning and management tool. Samoa has identified P3DM as a tool to unlock the potential of all stakeholders to adequately plan for a sustainable future – an example worth following?

# More SIDS highlights





## Tokelau telecommunications alternative for 2017 explored

The Ulu o Tokelau held talks with the telecommunications company Kacific today. Its Chief Executive Officer Christian Patouraux, General Manager Jacques-Samuel Prolon, and Director Michael Alex were present. They explored possible communication opportunities through satellite for Tokelau.

The talks focused on developing a partnership between Tokelau and Kacific. The Ulu welcomed a fuller document on Kacific's proposal to support Tokelau. Kacific is currently working with other Pacific Island Countries on satellite opportunities, expected to be functional by 2017. Current telecommunication services are provided through the Tokelau Telecommunication Corporation (Teletok) which is managed through a Board. Last August, Tokelau and New Zealand commissioned a review of its telecommunication. The review was carried it by the World Bank.



*The Kacific Team (left), meeting the Ulu o Tokelau and General Manager of the Tokelau-Apia Liaison Office.*



## ICT for sustainable development

Information and communication technology is all about sharing knowledge. This brings opportunities but also threats. Currently in the Pacific, there is limited capacity for ongoing monitoring and evaluation. There is a need to establish a regional body to assist SIDS in coping with increasing threats of Information and Communications Technology (ICT). It was noted that the top three internet

domains are from the Pacific: .tk (Tokelau); .tv (Tuvalu) and .au (Australia). It was also stated that .tv provides the highest income for Tuvalu. Perhaps Tokelau could further maximise opportunities for .tk to bring in finances. The University of the South Pacific (USP) is member of the university consortium for small island states. It is introducing flexible distant learning for higher

education, with new courses in climate change, sustainable development and waste management. All these would be very relevant for Tokelau. The ICT panel discussion focused on telemedicine, and information sharing during disasters. Tokelau may wish to explore their potential for further enhancing health and clinical services in the three communities.



## CANCC wants to move forward fast

Officials met at the Tokelau SIDS Engagement room, to discuss the way forward for the new Coalition of Atoll Nations on Climate Change (CANCC). Present were the Ambassador and Permanent Representative Kiribati Mission to the United Nations, Mrs Makurita Baaro; the Ambassador and Permanent



*The Kiribati delegation, headed energetically by Ambassador Makurita Baaro, in the Tokelau-SIDS Engagement room.*

Representative Tuvalu Mission to the UN, Mr Afelee F. Pita; with officials from Tuvalu, Kiribati and Tokelau. Other members of the Coalition are Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Maldives.

CANCC wants to make the most of global forum opportunities to promote its mission and foster partnering prospects. The newly established Coalition represents low-lying atoll nations in the world who are on the “frontline” of the impacts of climate change. CANCC should be considered as the “early warning system” for other nations given that more than 70% of human settlements and cities are built along coastal areas.

One of the first tasks required is to formalise and establish the structure and instruments by which CANCC operates. The meeting agreed that CANCC should make the most of global forum opportunities such as the UN Secretary General Climate Summit (23 Sept 2014), the UN General Assembly (24 Sept – 8 Oct 2014). The 10th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to be held from 1 to 12 December 2014 is also an important venue for CANCC to promote its mission and foster partnering



prospects. Establishing a Climate Alert Fund is planned, to kick-start joint activities among the CANCC members. Meanwhile they can seek out partners who may want to contribute to the cause and mission of the CANCC. A CANCC communications strategy will be developed to provide members with essential information. This can be used to advocate, and be included in, national statements in upcoming international forums. It will also ensure that the “brand” of CANCC is present and recognisable in the regional and global communities.

This meeting followed up an earlier breakfast meeting on 2 September, of the Leaders of CANCC. Here they tasked their Officials to make the best of the opportunity of being together in Samoa. They suggested to meet and progress the establishment of the coalition, and to identify key activities that can be implemented expeditiously in support of promoting CANCC as well as attracting interest from prospective partners.



*The Ulu o Tokelau (left), President Anote Tong of Kiribati (centre), minister De Braum from the Republic of Marshall Islands (right) and attendant at Amanaki Hotel on 2 September.*

*Below: The Tokelauan atoll Fakaofu: nowhere to move to if sea level rises.*





## Potential benefits of research for Tokelau highlighted

Tokelau's Department of Education staff were involved in an inspiring SIDS side event called "Education and Research for Sustainable Development". Tokelau as the smallest SIDS can benefit from research into the mental health of our young people; links between imports and non-communicable diseases; cultural knowledge and practices; food security; resources and sustainable development, and climate change effects. This SIDS side event was convened by the National University of Samoa (NUS), Centre for Samoan Studies. The session focused on the research the university staff and students were conducting in the sciences, technology, education, arts, and health. Among the highlights were the strong and enduring partnerships the university has carefully cultivated and nurtured over the years to support its research agenda. For example it has strong ties with Massey University, University of Otago, and the Australian National University who provide technical expertise, capacity building and to a degree funding.

areas as renewable energy, numeracy achievement and teacher competence, understanding the emotional impacts of tsunami, the quality of water at the NUS and substance use in young people. Strong support from development partners such as Australia and New Zealand has enabled the university to proceed with its research program.

The session was well attended by participants from across the SIDS, development partners, and those from organisations in New Zealand, Australia, and as far away as Scotland. Some interesting points were raised in the discussions. In regard to education and research for sustainable development, a key issue raised was the risk of research not being sustainable because it is costly in both human and financial terms. Insufficient funds and the ongoing search for funds constrain research efforts. A member from the Pacific Leaders' Group noted it was critical for SIDS development to be informed by research. Data needs to be available and understood on any development issue, including the costs associated with the issue so that relevant and effective strategies are implemented. Research having an influence on the quality of lives of people and society in general is critical for the development of all SIDS. This side event was inspiring.

Tokelau as the smallest SIDS can benefit from research into many of the challenges it faces today. Research in mental health was highlighted as a gap in Samoa; similarly a focus for Tokelau research could be the mental health of our young people, perhaps as it relates to substance use. Another

An encouraging development is the associations the NUS is forming with government ministries, industry and the wider community through partnerships in research in such



The National  
University of  
Samoa



Australian  
National  
University



research focus in the health sector could be on any links between what is imported and the incidence of non-communicable diseases on Tokelau. A very important area of sustainability for Tokelau and therefore a research focus is its cultural knowledge and practices including language. Food security, resources and sustainable development, and the effects of climate change are other important areas for research. This particular session has highlighted the need for a research agenda and research strategies to support Tokelau's sustainable development initiatives. Tokelau as a nation has enormous capacity to cultivate and nurture meaningful and enduring partnerships to pursue a research agenda for its sustainable development.

## Culture and heritage go hand in hand with sustainable development

The Tokelau Minister of Education was impressed by the SIDS side event that focused on strengthening the inclusion of culture and heritage in our islands; the focus underscores the advancement of sustainable development.

Speakers included the Vice-Chancellor of the University of South Pacific (USP), UNESCO specialists for culture, the Secretary-General of the w, and the Human Development Advisor of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

The Convention for Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage 2003 has only been ratified by 24 of the 52 SIDS countries. The speakers made presentations to promote the importance of this Convention. Culture and heritage should be included into national sustainable development plans, and in particular in the SIDS-SAMOA pathway outcomes document, they stated.

With the impact of climate change threatening the existence of small island nations such as Tokelau, it is critical that the culture and heritage are recorded and preserved for future generations.





## Food security in Pacific SIDS

Underlying this session was that the right to adequate and safe food is a fundamental human right. Food security underpins all other development areas, but SIDS face many challenges to achieve this basic right. In this discussion, SIDS shared experiences with the challenges and threats to food security in their home countries. Common factors relating to reduced food production came from urbanization on the one hand. On the other hand, there is an increased demand for consumption. Social, economic and climate change all have an impact on the production of food. Limited funding, natural disasters and limited landmass also play a part.

The issue of trade and economic growth was also highlighted. The need for sustainable partnerships; appropriate legislations and policies; leadership and whole-of-government approaches were suggested as strategies to address food security threats in SIDS.

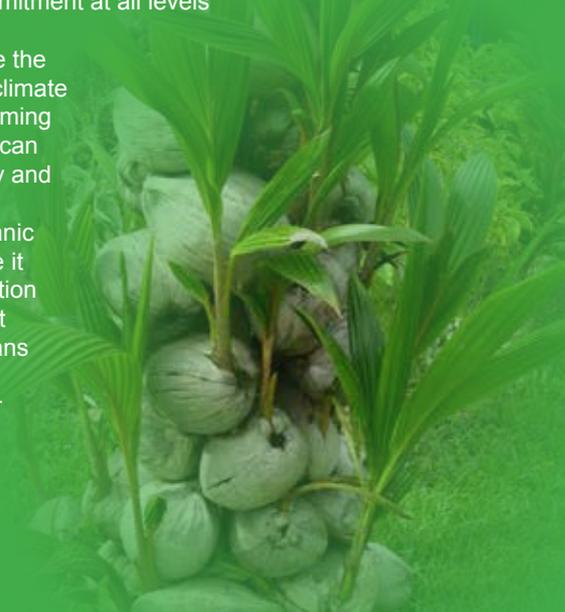
A SIDS coalition on food security and nutrition was proposed to bring forth the challenges in SID to the global arena.



## Organic islands

This event highlighted the critical role that organic agriculture plays in sustainable development. The Prime Minister of Samoa referred to organic agriculture as traditional farming – a cheap approach to addressing food security issues. Using compost and organic matter enhances soil stability and fertility. There's no need to spend money on fertilisers, and the produce are safe for human consumption. Women play a major role in organic farming in SIDS. Both growing for family needs, and for earning money can improve the quality of life. The discussion highlighted how leadership and commitment at all levels are required.

Atoll populations are the most vulnerable to climate change. Organic farming is an approach that can ensure food security and safety. Tokelau may wish to explore organic agriculture, because it could enhance nutrition and address NCD. It could also be a means of small business development for our women.



*Climate change on Mangaia means sea level rise, high winds and swells, and an increase in the intensity of Tropical Cyclones.*

**Documentary: “Vital Harbours – Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC)” by Infrastructure Cook Islands, Government of the Cook Islands.**

This documentary was about the Cook Island Demonstration Project under PACC, describing their coastal management. The video highlighted the frustrations and the challenges faced by villagers of Mangaia Island in the outer Cooks. They only have access to supplies and materials through a boat travelling every 2 months between the main island and Mangaia.

With the assistance of the New Zealand National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), the team developed a scientific calculator. This was used to help re-build the Mangaia harbour so it can cope with extremes of mother nature. This scientific calculator helped cut time-consuming mathematical and manual work: it calculates how high, how deep, how thick, how strong any type of structure should be to resist maximum wind, wave, current and other natural elements. This helped the engineers determine the strength of harbour structures in dangerous conditions, given the location of the harbour.

Without any harbours, Tokelau is in a similar situation when the weather conditions are not favourable: we need to use alternative channels (such as on Fakaofu and Nukunonu), or wait until the weather clears up before any passengers or cargo can be exchanged. It would be interesting to apply this scientific calculator to Tokelau, given the similarities between our atolls and Mangaia Island.

The video is online at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYKzLZ6\\_ITI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYKzLZ6_ITI)

## Solid waste: exploring PPP

The discussion focused on the Government of Samoa's integrated solid waste management system. It highlighted the multi-sectorial approach; and the need for strong policies and sustainable partnership to sustain this system for Samoa. It highlighted the Public Private Partnership (PPP), the need for everyone to work together, from government agencies, to private sectors and to local communities and individuals. The discussion acknowledged the increasing challenges with volume, type and diversification of solid waste products, including e-waste and liquid waste. Solid waste is an area that Tokelau needs to carefully look at. If solid waste is not managed well, it has a great impact on our environment, both visually and environmentally. This is especially so if we consider the small landmass we have for disposing waste.



*Rubbish is shipped from Tokelau to Samoa to dispose of.*



## Ulu offers symbolic Tokelauan gift to the Forum Fisheries Agency



*Ulu o Tokelau (right) offers the special coin to FFA Director James Movick. Standing left: is the General Manager of the Tokelau-Apia Liaison Office, Joe Suveinakama. Right: The two sides of the coin.*



A quiet and quick moment today provided an opportunity to present a symbolic Tokelauan gift to the Forum Fisheries Agency. Forum Fisheries Chair, Te Ulu o Tokelau Alikai Faipule Kuresa Nasau, offered a 2014 Tokelau 1 oz. Silver Kakahi Yellowfin Tuna Coin on the SIDS plenary floor. The thank-you gesture came moments after FFA Director James Movick completed delivery of the statement from Forum Fisheries Ministers to the UN-SIDS 3 plenary. The Tokelau Kakahi Yellowfin Tuna features on the silver bullion coin. It is the first coin to be released in a new series, issued by Tokelau to celebrate its rich ocean life. The \$5 NZD coins, of which 500,000 were minted, are one troy ounce of .999 fine silver. All Tokelau coin designs are sent to the Royal Palace in London for approval of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II whose portrait appears on the 'head' side.





## SIDS conference closed, but engagement continues



*Pacific leaders at the closure of the 3rd UN-SIDS conference.*

The Ulu o Tokelau and other Pacific leaders came together at an amazing closing ceremony to mark the end of the 3rd UN-SIDS Conference in Samoa. Leaders will now be returning to their respective countries with an aim to put words into action. The Ulu headed Tokelau's delegation and was supported by the Minister of Education. Both returned to Tokelau on Wednesday 10 September for consultations with the villages in regard to addressing national issues. In addressing the Conference on the second SIDS day, the Ulu o Tokelau had thanked the Government and the people of Samoa and stated how they have made the Pacific very proud.



## Waitt Foundation has oceans interests at heart

5 September 2014

The Waitt Foundation specialises in funding ocean projects. Its representatives dropped by for an informative visit and to explore mutual interests, that lie in particular within the large exclusive economic zone surrounding Tokelau. The Foundation's current funding priorities are focused on creating, strengthening, and expanding Marine Protected Areas and promoting Sustainable Solutions. It has made over 2,000 grants totalling over US\$118 million to non-profit and charitable organisations to date. [waittfoundation.org](http://waittfoundation.org)

*Waitt Managing Director Jacob James (sitting right) and Pacific representative Jess Cramp (centre) visited the Tokelau office. Standing, in SIDS uniform colours, from right: General Manager Jovilisi Suveinakama (blue), the Ulu o Tokelau (red), Legal Adviser Lise Suveinakama and EDNRE Director Mika Perez (yellow).*



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