



## **14<sup>th</sup> Annual PITAA Heads Meeting**

# **COMMUNIQUE**

*13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017*

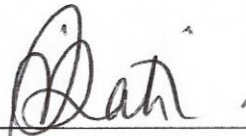
**Sheraton Aggie Grey's Hotel & Bungalows  
Apia, SAMOA**

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1. The Samoan Ministry for Revenue hosted the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual PITAA Heads Meeting at the Sheraton Aggie Grey's Hotel & Bungalows in Apia, Samoa from the 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017.
2. The meeting was attended by delegates from thirteen of the sixteen PITAA members countries. The members present were Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Apologies were received from Niue, Palau and Timor-Leste.
3. Also in attendance were observers from local, regional and international organizations. These were Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Center (PFTAC), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Autonomous Region of Bougainville, INSPUR Group, International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation (IBFD), International Monetary Fund (IMF), New Zealand Inland Revenue (NZIR), Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) Tax Inspectors Without Borders, Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes (Global Forum), Australian High Commission- Samoa, Central Bank of Samoa, Ministry of Finance, Samoa International Finance Authority and Ministry of Public Enterprises.
4. The meeting was officially opened by the Chief Guest, Honorable Prime Minister Afioga Tuilaepa Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, and in his opening address stressed the importance of the Pacific region working together to tackle taxation issues and taxation leakages. He further expressed his appreciation for hosting the PITAA Annual Heads Meeting stating that it demonstrated the strong commitment of the Samoan government to support regional efforts and initiatives to share ideas, knowledge and skills.

5. The meeting endorsed the appointment of Samoa as Chair. This was nominated by Kiribati and seconded by Fiji.
6. Members noted the 2016 – 2017 PITAA Executive Committee Report.
7. Members noted the PITAA Secretariat Report on:
  - a. Update from Head of Secretariat;
  - b. Update on PITAA Financials; and
    - i. Members endorsed the proposed 2018 PITAA Secretariat budget.
  - c. Update on Capacity Building Initiatives.
    - i. Members endorsed the formation of a Working Group to review the proposed Training Funding criteria for the PITAA Secretariat to utilize when co- funding regional workshops.
    - ii. The Working Group members are Fiji, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Tokelau.
8. Members endorsed the election of the PITAA Executive Committee representatives for the period 2017 – 2019. The members are:
  - a. TIER 1 – Papua New Guinea
  - b. TIER 2 – Solomon Islands
  - c. TIER 3 – Tuvalu
9. Members noted the PITAA Heads Meeting Nomination Mechanism paper and endorsed that a Working Group be formed to review the Nomination Mechanism options proposed by the PITAA Secretariat. The Working Group members are Fiji, Samoa and Kiribati.
10. Members noted Fiji's intention to host the 2018 PITAA Annual Heads Meeting after no volunteers were received. Members also noted Vanuatu's intention to host the 2020 PITAA Annual Heads Meeting.
11. The meeting also acknowledged the progress report provided by the Head of Secretariat on the PITAA Strategic Plan 2017-2021.
12. The meeting acknowledged the presentation on the Pacific Managers Development Program (PMDP) and noted the postponement of the PMDP in 2017 that was supposed to be in Vanuatu. The meeting therefore noted Samoa's interest to host the program if it continues in 2018.
13. The meeting acknowledged the presentations delivered by Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga and Solomon Islands on their country reforms.

14. The meeting also acknowledged presentations from the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Center (Work in the Region & Compliance Risk Management – Are we progressing?) , Global Forum (Work in the Region), International Monetary Fund (Fragile States and Review of Reforms for Selected countries – Lessons for future revenue mobilization), Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade- Australia (PACER Plus) , Inspur (Integrated Taxation Cloud Solution), New Zealand Inland Revenue (Making tax simpler – IR's Business Transformation & SGATAR 2017), Asian Development Bank (Domestic Revenue Mobilization Fund for Sustainable Development) and the Police Transnational Crime Coordination Centre in Samoa (Anti Money Laundering & Financial Crime). Members were urged to utilize the presence of the regional and international stakeholders at the meeting. Fiji and Papua New Guinea presented a country case study on their experience in anti-money laundering and counter terrorism financial crime.
15. The meeting coordinated its first-ever Bilateral Meeting sessions and this was well received by PITAA members.



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Ms. Matafeo Avalisa Viali Fautua'alii  
Chair- 2017 PITAA Annual Heads Meeting  
*15<sup>th</sup> September 2017*

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