

For Official Release
PR001-06242024
Office of the Governor
Utulei, American Samoa
June 24, 2024



Pacific Islands Forum Delegation Begins In-Country Visit to Assess American Samoa's Membership Application

On Sunday, June 23, 2024, a delegation from the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) arrived in the Territory to conduct the next phase of American Samoa's pending application for membership: the in-country visit.

The delegation includes His Excellency Ratu William Toganivalu, the Fiji Roving Ambassador to Pacific Island Countries and Territories and Agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific, and Mr. Teanuanua Nicole, Governance Officer from the PIF Secretariat. Both delegation members are based in Suva.

The in-country visit will take place from June 24 to June 26, 2024. The purpose of the visit is for the Forum to perform an internal assessment of how American Samoa's governance institutions, programs, and services align with the Pacific Islands Forum vision and mission, particularly the thematic areas of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. These areas include: Political Leadership and Regionalism, People-Centered Development, Peace and Security, Resources and Economic Development, Climate Change and Disasters, Ocean and Environment, and Technology and Connectivity.

Over the next three days, the PIF delegation will engage in high-level discussions with governance stakeholders from the American Samoa Government, as well as the private and non-governmental organization (NGO) sectors, and will attend site visits to gather relevant data for the Territory's PIF application.

The in-country visit begins Monday morning with a daily devotional Lotu at the Governor's Office conference room and an *Ava Feiloaiga* at the *Suigaulaoleatuvasa* in Utulei, organized by the Office of Samoan Affairs. High-level discussions with leaders from the government, private, and NGO sectors, along with site visits, will constitute the main program for the delegation.

###

1. **His Excellency Mr. William Toganivalu**, Fiji Roving Ambassador to Pacific Island Countries and Territories and Agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific



2. **Mr. Tenuanua Nicole**, Governance Officer, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (Suva)





Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
American Samoa In-Country Visit
Proposed Itinerary 23-25th June 2024

Sunday, June 23, 2024			
10.30am	PIF Delegation arrive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Welcoming Party o Escort to accommodation 		Pago Pago International Airport
Monday, June 24, 2024			
7.30am	Governor's Morning Devotional		Governor's Conference Room
9.00am	Ava ceremony	Welcome to Amerika Samoa	Fale Samoa, Su'igala, Utulei
10.00am	Meet with Governor/Lt. Governor	Criteria 1, 3, & 5	Governor's Conference Room
12.00pm	LUNCH		
1.30pm	Office of Political Status; Fono Leaders; Samoan Affairs; Office of the Attorney General	Criteria 4	Governor's Conference Room
2.30pm	AFTERNOON TEA		
3.00pm	Site Visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o American Samoa Community College (ASCC) o Department of Education (DOE) 		American Samoa Community College Campus
6.00pm	Dinner hosted by Office of the Governor		DDW
Tuesday, June 24, 2024			
5.15am	Site Visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Star Kist Tuna Cannery 		Pago Pago
7.00am	Breakfast		
8.00am	Meet on Ocean & Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DMWR/CRAG ● DOC – Coastal Management ● Finafinau ● National Marine Sanctuary of A.S. ● Agriculture 	Criteria 2: Territory's commitment to the vision and purpose of the Forum	ASEPA Conference Room
9.00am	Meet on Climate Change & Disasters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ASEPA ● ODAPM 	Criteria 2: Territory's commitment to the vision and	ASEPA Conference Room

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Governor's Resilience Office ● Pacific Center for Human Security 	purpose of the Forum	
10.00am	MORNING TEA		
10.30am	Meet on Technology & Connectivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CIO Ray Tulafono ● ASTCA ● BCORD ● Bluesky ● Foeoletini Foundation 	Criteria 2: Territory's commitment to the vision and purpose of the Forum	ASEPA Conference Room
11.30am	Depart for Site Visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Foeoletini Foundation 		
12.00pm	LUNCH		
1.00pm	Meet on People Centred Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HR ● Rotary Club of Pago Pago ● Oceania Community Development Network ● American Samoa Alliance Against Domestic & Sexual Violence ● American Samoa National Olympic Committee 	Criteria 2: Territory's commitment to the vision and purpose of the Forum	DOH Conference Room
2.00pm	Meet on Resources/ Econ Dev/ Health Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DOC ● ASPA ● Empowering Pacific Island Communities ● Small Business Development Center ● DOH ● LBJ 	Criteria 2: Territory's commitment to the vision and purpose of the Forum	DOH Conference Room
3.00pm	Site Visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Department of Youth & Women's Affairs (DYWA) 		
6.00pm	DINNER		
Wednesday, June 26, 2024			
8.00am	Meet with Governor/Lt. Governor/Core Group	Criteria 6	TBD
1.00pm	Depart for Apia		