

**Developing Programmes for Implementing the 2008 SNA, the 2012 SEEA
and Supporting Statistics in the Pacific Region
(Apia, Samoa, 20-23 August 2013)**

20 August 2013

WELCOME SPEECH

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the Acting Government Statistician for SBS, I am very pleased to welcome you all to Samoa to attend this ' Regional workshop on Developing Programmes for Implementing the 2008 System of National Accounts, and, the 2012 System of Environmental-Economic Accounting.

It is also a great honour to welcome especially the PRIME MINISTER OF SAMOA, AND, MINISTER FOR THE SAMOA BUREAU OF STATISTICS:

**HIS HONOURABLE TUILAEPA LUPESOLIAI DR SAILELE
MALIELEGAOI.**

Your presence gives us great hope for this workshop.

I am also very honoured to welcome the presence of the **Representitive of the United Nations Statistical Division Dr Ivo Havinga** and his colleagues, who flew all the way from New York, to inform Samoa and the Pacific Region about this very important framework for sustainable development.

Similarly, I'd like to extend our warm welcome to our **International working partners and mentors from:**

1. THE UN ECONOMIC SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND PACIFIC-(ESCAP)
2. AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS (ABS)
3. THE SECRETARIAT FOR PACIFIC COMMUNITIES (SPC)
4. SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM (SPREP),
and
5. PACIFIC FINANCIAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTRE (PFTAC)

Last but not least, I am very pleased to welcome the Participants from our neighbouring countries:

'The Kingdom of Tonga, Fiji Islands, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, as well as the Representatives from the Government of Samoa.

Therefore,

We must sing praise and give thanks to the Good Lord, our Almighty God

For bringing YOU all safely to our soils

We pray for his wonderful blessings throughout this week.

In the name of Jesus Christ, AMEN

Before I call upon Honourable Prime Minister for his keynote address,

I hope that you already have a copy of the **Samoa Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2011-2021 with you**, in which his Honourable had officially launched in August of last year, thus making Samoa to be the first Statistical office in the Pacific island communities, to have this important Statistical Guideline.

It confirms the fact that our **political leaders** are truly committed to Statistical development, in order to provide evidence-based data to support planning and policy-making in any aspect of life: including national accounts and environmental-economic accounts.

Without further do, may I now call upon:

1. Honourable Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Dr Sailele Malielegaoi for his KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

2. MAY I NOW CALL UPON DR IVO HAVINGA FOR HIS RESPONSE.