

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

23RD August 2013

CLOSING SPEECH

In every aspect of life, there is always a starting point and an ending point.

All this week, we have been talking about environment and its natural resources and referring mainly to Opening stock and Closing stock. We also learned lessons on the rate of depletion or depletion of environmental stocks.

For the workshop, although it has come to an end today, the lessons learned will still 'survive' if we all continue to 'keep this alive' and not make it fall towards the depletion rate.

So on behalf of the Samoa Bureau of Statistics and our working partners from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and Economic Agencies,

I would like to thank again:

1. Dr Ivo Havinga and all his colleagues from UNSD and ABS for educating us all on the global policies and strategies relating to SNA 2008 and SEEA 2012. This confirms the fact that 'we the Pacific Island countries are not alone in this development effort'. The global support is encouraging and very much appreciated.
2. To our regional partners: Jillian from UNESCAP, SPREP, SPC and others, thank you all for bringing the regional countries and agencies together to share experiences and knowledge on SNA and Environmental Economic Accounting so that we will all understand what and how our neighboring island countries are doing in their environment.
3. To our friends from the Kingdom of Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Fiji Islands, thank you for sharing your experiences on your Statement of Environment. Maybe next time when we meet again, you would have done much better than Samoa, so do not be discouraged.
4. To my SBS team, especially Leota and Mose who have been coordinating the logistics of the workshop, our working partners from MNRE and Economic Agencies thank you for your participation, interventions and contribution to the workshop despite time constraints.

5. **It is indeed my sincere hope that Samoa will take the lead in the Pacific region in this global effort, and, most importantly Samoa will formally get the SNA 2008 and SEEA 2012 get married very soon!!**
6. I wish you all a safe trip back home. God Bless.

Faafetai (Thank You).