

For Official Release
PR002-06262024
Office of the Governor
Utulei, American Samoa
June 26, 2024



PIF Delegation Concludes Successful Visit to American Samoa

The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) delegation met yesterday with various leaders from the American Samoa Government (ASG) and non-profit organizations to discuss the territory's commitment to the vision and purpose of the forum. The discussions covered key topics such as technology and connectivity, people-centered development, resource-based economic development, and healthcare. Today, the delegation concluded their visit to American Samoa with final discussions held this morning at the Tradewinds Hotel.

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, expressed gratitude to the American Samoa Government and people of American Samoa for their overwhelming hospitality. He stated that the delegation would reflect on their experiences in the territory and use the gathered information to prepare a report, which they will present to the PIF Board of Directors on behalf of American Samoa.

Mr. Tenuanua Nicole, the Governance Officer from PIF, expressed his gratitude for the extensive program, which included site visits, consultations, and presentations from different ASG departments and private sectors. He found these activities very helpful in covering the criteria set by PIF. Mr. Nicole noted that he has witnessed American Samoa's willingness and determination to engage with other Pacific Islands through various collaborative projects, demonstrating the territory's strong integration with the Pacific region.

Lt. Governor La'apui Talauega Ale expressed appreciation for the visit and addressed those in the meeting, stating, "We extend our heartfelt gratitude to His Excellency Ratu William Toganivalu and Mr. Tenuanua Nicole for joining us here and contributing to our efforts to join the Pacific Islands Forum. Your insights and the exchange of information have been invaluable. We look forward to building a relationship that will benefit not only American Samoa but also

our Pacific neighbors in the years ahead. Safe travels to the delegation as they return to Fiji, and our warm regards to the Pacific Islands Forum."

The American Samoa Government values productive discussions with the PIF delegation, focusing on crucial areas such as technology, healthcare, and economic sustainability. These talks highlight American Samoa's commitment to regional cooperation and development.

###













