



Office of the Public Service Commissions Newsletter



Breast Cancer Pinktober

Welcome to PSC Newsletter Vol. 5 which covers events for September to October 2021:

- Tonga Breast Cancer Society
 - Pinktober
- * Ministry of Tourism,
 - World Tourism Day
- Ministry of Education and Training
 - World Teachers Day
- * Ministry of MEIDECC
 - International Day for Disaster Reduction
 - National Climate Change
- Ministry of Revenue and Customs
 - Tax Week
- * Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Food
 - World Food Day
- * Public Service Fale
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Breast Cancer Awareness– Give Hope and Save Lives



Her Royal Highness, Princess Pilolevu, Patron of Tongan Breast Cancer Society launched the Breast Cancer Awareness Month on October 1st, 2021. This year's theme is Give Hope and Save Lives—'Amanaki Lelei mo Kaufaki'i 'a e mo'ui.



PC: Tonga Breast Cancer Society Facebook Page

World Tourism Day– Tourism for Inclusive Growth



As celebrated the World Tourism Day 2021, it is an opportune time to reflect the importance of Tourism to the Pacific region.

World Tourism Day is an annual event celebrated each year on 27 September, it is the global observance day fostering awareness of tourism's social, cultural, political and economic value and the contribution that the sector can make towards reaching the Sustainable Development Goals.

This Year's theme is "TOURISM FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH" To mark this important day, the Ministry of Tourism launched the following projects:

Tonga Tourism Crisis Response & Recovery Strategy (TTCRRS)

Whale Watching Guide & Restricted Skipper Master Class

Inclusive economic recovery through sustainable enterprises in the informal economies of Fiji, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu.

The program was held at Queen Salote Memorial Hall where Acting Minister for Tourism, Hon Prime Minister Rev. Dr. Pohiva Tu'i'one toa was the guest of honor. The Industry Empowerment Division launched the updated Whale Watching Guide and Restricted Skipper Master Class 6 materials together with the TTCRRS communication piece to guide the tourism sectors' efforts in rebuilding and restoring their businesses. The Ministry and the World Bank technical team are currently working on the Implementation Plan of the TCRRS. The Culture and Heritage Division also launched the Inclusive Economic Recovery Programme for sustainable enterprises targeting the informal sector. This is part of a regional program, Tonga joins Fiji, Palau and Vanuatu in accessing benefits from this program. The program is now underway and facilitated by the Ministry of Tourism. The Ministry together with the Tonga Tourism Authority and other tourism businesses such as Nia's Kitchen, Lulutai Airline and Tungi Colonade Hotel organized booths for the guests to enjoy and familiarize with each organization.



National Climate Change– Building a Resilient Tonga



National Climate Change Awareness Week commenced on 19th September until 24th September 2021. The Awareness week began with a formal Sunday service by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints led by the Nuku'alofa President Stake Liahona Tonga reaffirming the week's theme: "Building a Resilient Tonga or Takanga 'etau fohe ki ha Tonga 'oku Tu'ulua"

The Director for the Development of Climate Change, MEIDECC, Mrs Lu'isa Tu'i'afitu Malolo elaborated more on defining climate change in which its elements includes rainfall, sea level and tropical cyclones 78% of the gas surrounding the atmosphere is known as nitrogen, 28% are oxygen and 1% are the other gases including the greenhouse gases that cause climate change.

The Minister for MEIDECC Mr. Poasi Tei announced how recent cyclones are now more powerful and also droughts are longer in Tonga compared to his experience of growing up in Tonga, where only a few less intense cyclones occurred after several years and droughts were shorter. He explained "This shows that the climate is indeed changing and more severe disasters are going to be more frequent".

The CEO of MEIDECC Mr. Paula Ma'u thanked the partners and stakeholders of government for their continuous contribution to Tonga and looked forward to collaborate with them to build a resilient Tonga.

This year, the National Climate Change Awareness week included various events; Commemoration of the International Ozone Day, National Youth Climate Change Talanoa Program, Tree planting and Coastal Clean Up Program, Singing Competition and concluded with the Exhibition Day.



Source: Climate change Department Website

World Teacher's Day– Teachers at the heart of Education Recovery



Hon Minister, MET staff and family representatives to receive appreciation certificates of those who had passed away in 2021.



The commemoration of World Teachers' Day (WTD), which falls on the 5th October every year since it was launched by UNESCO in 1994, has become an integral activity of the Ministry of Education and Training's annual calendar of events.

This year, the Ministry and its government schools and staff of over 1,300 marked the day on Friday, 08th October under the global theme "Teachers at the Heart of Education Recovery". The theme and the Joint Message from UNESCO, ILO, UNICEF and EI which was read out in both Tongan and English Languages and broadcast live to the nation paid tribute to teachers in recognition of their irreplaceable value in ensuring continuity of learning during difficult times, particularly since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The celebration commenced with a colourful marching parade along Taufu'ahau Road to the Queen Salote Memorial Hall where a commemoration service was held. A spiritual message taken from Mark 10: 28– 31 was delivered by the President of the Free Wesleyan Church, Rev. Dr. Tevita Havea. The Hon. Minister for Education and Training, Siaosi 'Ofa Ki Vahafolau Sovaleni (HU'AKAVAMEILIKU) took the opportunity also, through his Keynote Address, to thank teachers for their tireless efforts and social and emotional support for children during the pandemic. He emphasized that teachers are key players in the learning process because children believe mostly in what teachers teach them, and not what parents say. It was important therefore that they continue to do their best to achieve quality education. The celebration concluded with a Black Tie Ball in the evening which was enjoyed by all.



International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction- International Cooperation



International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction was observed on 13th October, 2021. CEO for MEIDECC, Mr Paula Ma'u commenced the day by sharing that IDDRR was to “acknowledge the work MEIDECC’s NEMO does with all partners in keeping Tonga’s residents safe and resilient including with the international donor agencies”.

The Honourable Minister, Mr Poasi Tei expressed gratitude for the continued cooperation from international agencies in supporting Tonga in building resilience and shared that Tonga would also provide support in times of disaster, when in our capacity.

Director for NEMO, Mr Mafua Maka shared his appreciation for the messages and ongoing support and encouraged everyone to enjoy and learn from the display stalls. Mr Maka also expressed his gratitude for all those there to share their resources as well as the schools for taking time out from their busy schedule to attend the IDDRR day.



Source: Climate change Department Website

Con't. International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction



Attending this important event were Heads of Mission to Tonga and they had the pleasure to share key messages at the event:

- Her Excellency, Australia's High Commissioner, Racheal Moore reflected on the reciprocated international cooperation between Tonga and Australia, from Tonga's offer to provide assistance to Australia during the devastating bushfires and Australia's continued support to NEMO through the warehouse and technical advice, as well as focusing on resilience through renewable energy and defence support for immediate response in times of disaster.

- The British High Commissioner, Her Excellency, Lucy Joyce shared encouraging words for Tonga and the UK to remain united and make our stand together to create a resilient Tonga for the future.

- His Excellency, Ambassador Cao Xiaolin of China spoke about President Xi Jinping's recent phone conversation with His Majesty, King Tupou VI of Tonga and establishing a China- Pacific Islands Cooperation Centre focusing on poverty reduction and development, and highlighted China's intent to build a China- Pacific Islands countries emergency supplies and reserve for a disaster free world.

- His Excellency, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Mr. MUNENAGA Kensaku of Japan emphasized the shared experiences of Tonga and Japan's disasters as well as highlighting this as the 10th year since the devastating earthquake in Japan including in Sendai and to reduce risks these experiences and findings should be shared with other countries for their wellbeing. IDDRR attendees were able to get a preview of the early warning system tower and would have recognised NEMO equipment donated by Japan in his message.

- Her Excellency, Tiffany Babington of New Zealand, highlighted that NZ works closely with government, NGOs, United Nations, private businesses and other donors to ensure their actions complements these stakeholders humanitarian actions.

The event provided an opportunity for all disaster risk reduction focused organizations, Ministries and Departments to display some of the tools, equipment and resources shared with affected communities in Tonga in the event of a disaster, including the donations from their international partners. Attendees and stall holders gathered together at the end of the event to observe the input from each other in building Tonga's resilience. NEMO conducted Disaster Risk Reduction fun activities prior and during the program for the primary schools, high schools and tertiary schools.

Source: Climate change Department Website

TAX Week– Solidarity for a Perpetual Tonga in this Challenging Time

The Ministry of Revenue and Customs (MoRC) launched the beginning of this year's tax week on the 25th October 2021 by the Prime Minister of Tonga, Hon. Dr. Rev. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa. The official launching was held, at the Taufua'ahau Domestic Wharf Building, and the ceremony was attended by Cabinet Members, Government Chief Executive Officer(s), representatives of the government and public stakeholders. The overarching theme for this year's tax week is "SOLIDARITY FOR A PERPETUAL TONGA IN THIS CHALLENGING TIME." In the welcoming remarks, the Minister of MoRC, Hon. Tevita Lavemaau stated that solidarity of all crucial stakeholders is key for revenue mobilization, to enhance efficiency in service provision, revenue administration and collection. Another significant milestone was launched during the program by the Prime Minister is the Electronic Sales Register System (ESRS). A short demonstration was carried out for all invites to view how the ESRS operates. The public has been encouraged to request their receipts, which would prompt businesses to use the system. The Prime Minister concluded his speech by thanking MoRC staff for this great initiative and wishing 2021 tax week a success. The CEO of MoRC, Mr. Kelemete Vahe then proceeded with the vote of thanks. In his remarks, he highlighted that this year's tax week differs to last year where there is a shift in approach from tax awareness to recognition of our business sector. The emphasis on the business sector is driven by the fact that the businesses are the major contributors of revenue which assists in financing the budget and the crucial needs of the nation during this challenging time. This year, the MoRC tax week included various events for various sectors throughout the week. Seminars were conducted at Fe'aomoengalu Building for various sectors across Tonga starting Tuesday 26th until Thursday 28th October. The tax week was concluded with a singing competition and awards ceremony on Friday, the 29th of October 2021 at Falemasiva Hall.

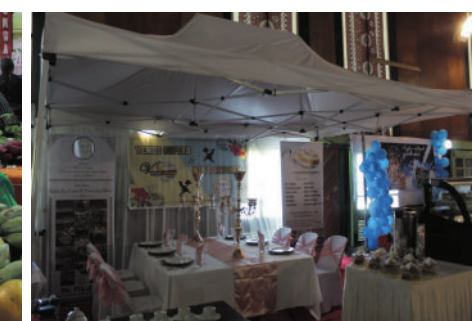


PC: Ministry of Revenue & Customs
Tonga Facebook Page

World Food Day



Our Actions are our Future, Better Production, Better Nutrition, A Better Environment and a Better Life



Public Service Fale

The Public Service Fale was announced in January 2020 as a centre of excellence to support Pacific Public Service Commissioners to strengthen public services across the region. The Fale is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and is housed at Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission.

In July 2020, Tania Ott was appointed Deputy Commissioner to lead the Fale and its programme is governed by the Pacific Public Service Fale Governance Board chaired by Hon. Luamanuvao Dame Winnie Laban. The Fale has Pacific relationships, service design and secretariat teams servicing the Pacific Public Service Commissioners' requirements.

Pacific Service Fale Integrity & Ethics Programme Launched for Pacific Public Servants

The inaugural Pacific Integrity & Ethics Programme was launched on Friday to support the region's Public Service Commissioners in implementing a Pacific-wide Code of Ethics.

The Code of Ethics is based on cultural values identified by Pacific Public Service Commissioners and the programme focuses on expected behaviours based on these cultural values.

The Code will help the region's public servants to strengthen ethical public service cultures and enhance public trust and confidence in their work.

The Friday 22 October launch – led by the NZ based Public Service Fale – was to lift awareness and understanding of the Code and outline the future programme. The focus was familiarising public servants with the programme's learning modules based on pillars of Service, Integrity, Equity, Accountability and Community.

The programme goals are to provide the tools necessary to develop and build integrity and ethics plans in-country for all Public Service Fale Pacific member states, to provide a forum for public servants to share their ideas and experiences from their own country contexts and, to provide a framework which can be adapted to existing integrity and ethics programmes, regardless of their stage of development.

Tokelau's Public Service Commissioner Tiso Fiaola said he was looking forward to coming back in the new year for the next five modules and developing a Tokelau specific plan.

Tiso said it is important that people are confident about performing to the standards expected of them. "Doing the right thing and knowing what the right thing is, is key. The programme looks practical because it describes what good looks like and it is grounded in Pacific values."

This first programme cohort is being attended virtually by twelve public service leaders from Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, and Tuvalu. The 16 Public Service Fale member countries also include Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, and Vanuatu, with Australia and New Zealand supporting.

Public Service Workforce Development

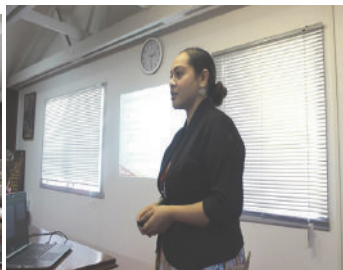
Key Activities for the Month of September, 2021

- 1) Dissemination of the FY2020/21 - Quarter 3 and 4 Public Service Workforce Snapshot to all Line Ministries on the 02 September 2021
- 2) Two (2) staff and one (1) daily paid staff participated in the UNITAR Disaster Risk Reduction Online Training from 8 September to 8 December 2021
- 3) Workforce Division in collaboration with HR Division facilitated the training on Code of Ethics and Conduct for all MTED staff on 16 September 2021
- 4) Two (2) interns from the Tonga Institute for Higher Education assumed duty at the Office of the Public Service Commission under the Workforce Division for the duration of 20 September — 26 November 2021.
- 5) An Induction Training Program was conducted on 22 September 2021 for seventy-eight (78) new employees from the Ministry of Education and Training.
- 6) Scholarship Opportunities for Master's and PhD Program in Japan Universities was disseminated to all Line Ministries on 23 September 2021.



Key Activities for the Month of October, 2021

- 1) Host a new intern for an initial period of one (1) month; 19 October – 16 November 2021
- 2) Conducted the Policy Trainings for Palace Office Staff;
 - a) Policy Instructions on Friday, 8/10/21
 - b) Code of Ethics and Conduct on Friday, 15/10/21
- 3) Dissemination of these scholarship opportunities to all LMs:
 - a) New Zealand Scholarship Programme: Cohort-Based Short-Term Scholarships on 14/10/2021
 - b) Chevening Scholarship to study in the UK on 19/10/2021
- 4) Workforce LMs Profile Quarterly Snapshot



Public Service Performance Development

Key Activities for the Month of September, 2021

- Completion of reconciliation and analysis of PMS EFY Results for 2020/21 FY for twenty five (25) Line Ministries.
- Convene of 1st Oversight Moderation Committee meeting on the 08 September 2021.
- Dispatch of Moderation papers to Oversight Moderation Committee Members to commence the Oversight Moderation Process.
- Identification of Line Ministry's Supervisors and HODs required PMS Assistance through PMS Coaching and Mentoring Programs (CAMP) from the PMS EFY Results 2020/21 FY.
- Disseminate PMS Calendar for 2021/22 FY to Line Ministries on the 03 September 2021.
- Submission of PMS Internal Implementation Plan (IIP) for 2021/22 FY on 16 September 2021.

Key Activities for the Month of October 2021

- Complete and submission of Divisional Job Descriptions (JDs) and Performance Development Plans (PDPs) to the Remuneration & Corporate Services Divisions on the 11th & 15 October 2021.
- PDD Team continue to facilitate and support the Oversight Moderation Committee (OMC's) directions and schedules.
- Submission of Line Ministries PMS Quarterly Report for Quarter 1 for the 2021/22 FY on 08 October 2021 .
- Dissemination of Line Ministries Quarterly Traffic Light Status for Quarter 1.
- Submit Circular email to line ministries regarding PMS Status Check Instructions on the 26 October 2021.



**Mele Paea Latu, Assistant Secretary—PDD Team,
Office of the Public Service Commission.**

Mele Paea Latu of the Performance Development Division commenced her study leave on 01 October, 2021. She is currently pursuing her studies online toward a Master of Technology Management for two (2) years sponsored by JICA. She will be dearly missed by the Team. We wish her all the very best and success in her studies.

Public Service Oversight

Talatalanoa Program and Sexual Harassment Policy Training

PSC Office conducted its Talatalanoa Program and Sexual Harassment Policy Training to Line Ministries in Tongatapu and Vava'u. The program was to:

- Ensure that employees are protected from sexual harassment in the workplace
- Provide clear guidance to all employees in any Government Ministry (Schedule I) regarding sexual harassment in the workplace
- Raise awareness amongst all employees about how to identify the behaviours, actions and circumstances of sexual harassment
- Provide clear guidance for processing sexual harassment complaints within the Public Service
- To promote and maintain a safe and healthy workplace, where all employees, irrespective of gender or position are treated with fairness, dignity and respect.

For the month of September and October, the program was conducted to these Ministries;

<u>Ministries</u>	<u>Date</u>
PSC Office	02 September 2021
Palace Office	03 September 2021
Ministry of Tourism	06 September 2021
Vava'u Island	13-17 September 2021
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests	21 September 2021
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	23 September 2021
Ministry of Fisheries	05 October 2021
Ministry of Finance	07-08 October 2021
Ministry of Internal Affairs	18 October 2021
Attorney General Office	20 October 2021



PSC OFFICE EVENTS



Mental Health Awareness training conducted by Ms. Nancy Schaumkel from the Ministry of Health



Sisilia Taulava
Senior Assistant Secretary,
Organizational Review
Oversight Division



Jamie Sa
Senior Assistant Secretary,
Monitoring & Evaluation
Oversight Division



...and the
WINNERS
are...

Taliui Sepitema
Mufti Day:
Malia Tonga



**BIG PINK
MUFTY DAY**
Kato'one Fa'aoa

The PSC Office wishes to acknowledge the Tonga Breast Cancer Society, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of MEIDECC, Ministry of Revenue and Customs, Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Food, and Public Service Fale for their articles and support towards this Volume 5 of the PSC Newsletter.

We hope the Public Service will be better informed of events, achievements and annual occasions through this medium of communication. For any events, achievements, or annual occasions please send articles and photos to newsletter@psc.gov.to by **10 December, 2021** for the compilation of our Nov– Dec 2021 Volume.

BEHIND THE SCENES



Siniteke Fotu
Assistant Secretary, Communication and Engagement
Oversight Division