

# Pazifik

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### **Dossier Nr. 108**

#### **ENDANGERED PARADISE?**



#### **Challenges and opportunities for Small Island Developing States (SIDS): The way forward**

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Erscheinungsdatum: Januar 2015

Dossier ISSN 2198-6967

Die Pazifik-Informationsstelle wird getragen vom Pazifik-Netzwerk e.V.; Mission EineWelt - Centrum für Partnerschaft, Entwicklung und Mission der Evang.-Luth. Kirche in Bayern; dem Evangelischen Missionswerk in Deutschland; dem Evang.-Luth. Missionswerk Leipzig; dem Zentrum für Mission und Ökumene - Nordkirche weltweit und MISSIO München.



**Anmerkung der Redaktion:**

Das hier vorliegende Dossier enthält die Rede des samoanischen Botschafters in der EU, H.E. Fatumanava III Dr Pa'olelei Luteru, die er bei der Veranstaltung „Challenges and opportunities for Small Island Developing States (SIDS): The way forward“ am 7. Oktober 2014 in der neuseeländischen Botschaft in Berlin hält. Die Veranstaltung war eine Kooperation der DGVN Berlin-Brandenburg, des Pazifik-Netzwerkes e.V. und der neuseeländischen Botschaft.

**Das Dossier ist in englischer Sprache.**

**Zum Autor:**

H.E. Dr. Fatumanaa Pa'olelei H. Luteru, verheiratet, zwei Kinder, ist seit dem 3. August 2012 samoanischer Botschafter in der EU.

Hier ein Auszug aus seinem Lebenslauf:

**Employment History**

1 March 2010 - 6 April 2012: Consul (Commercial) & Samoa Trade Commissioner to New Zealand and RSE Representative.

March 2009 - February 2010: Director, Oceancrest Consultancy Ltd. Team Leader for the Tuvalu Trade Study funded by the World Bank and UNDP. Also undertook a study of Technical Vocational Education and Training needs of Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Tonga for the National University of Fiji.

Nov 2005-Feb 2009: Inaugural Dean, Faculty of Islands and Oceans and Director of Alafua Campus, Samoa, University of the South Pacific.

May-Oct 2005: Senior Consultant for Newton 21, Brussels on conflict resolution and good governance issues.

2000-April 2005: Assistant Secretary-General of ACP Group, Political Affairs and Human Development, Brussels, Belgium.

1996-2000: Director, Luteru & Associates Consultancy.

1993-96: Director, Pacific ACP: EU Bureau - responsible for the design and facilitation of projects for Pacific ACP member states under the Lome IV Convention. The value of these projects was in excess of ECU 40 million.

1991-93: Director of Planning and Development, Vice-Chancellor's Office, USP, Fiji.  
(...)

### **Academic Qualifications**

1991 *Doctor of Philosophy*: Development Economics, Strategic Planning, Management, and Aid Policies. Flinders University, Australia.

Doctoral thesis: 'The Relationship between the Development Needs of Pacific Island Countries and Donor Aid Policies'

1983 *Master of Educational Administration*: Economics of Education & Strategic Planning, University of New England, Australia. Masters thesis: Foreign Aid Administration

1982 *Diploma of Tertiary Education*: Educational Finance and Policy. University of New England, Australia

1978 *Bachelor of Science*: Mathematics, Economics & Operational Research. University of Canterbury, New Zealand

### **Awards:**

1973 New Zealand Government Scholarship

1974 New Zealand/ Western Samoan Government Scholarship

1982 Australia/ University of South Pacific Scholarship

Das **Urheberrecht** des Textes liegt beim Autor.

**Redaktion:** Steffi Kornder, Pazifik-Informationsstelle, Neuendettelsau, 2015.



**Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Friends of SIDS,**

My first words are those of thanks to the organizer of this event – to the United Nations Association of Germany, Berlin-Brandenburg, the German Pacific Network and Ms. Bailey of the New Zealand Embassy – for the kind invitation and the hospitality extended to me since my arrival in this beautiful and historical city of Berlin – my third in less than 11 months.

My brief is to speak about the outcome of the 3rd International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) which was held in my country from 1-4 September this year. This is a huge subject to cover in the allocated time so I will confine my brief comments mainly on the way forward in implementing the outcome document or the SAMOA Pathway. But first some general comments. Samoa hosted over 3000 delegates from member states of the UN family as well as international and regional bodies. A very good number of Heads of State and Government especially from the Caribbean and Pacific attended including Ministers from EU member states and Heads of international organisations. The UN Secretary-General attended and was bestowed a princely chiefly title – Tupua. So whenever he visits Samoa he will be addressed as Afioga Tupua BAN Ki-Moon.

The debate and discussion focused on six main dialogue clusters:

- sustainable economic development;
- Climate change and disaster risk management;
- Social development (encompass health, NCDs, youth and gender)
- Sustainable energy;
- Oceans, seas and biodiversity; and
- Water and sanitation, food security and waste management.

As you can see, these clusters provided a good balance between the three pillars of sustainable development – economic, environmental and social. These same topics formed the backbone of the outcome document in addition to implementation modalities. There were also pre-conference activities focusing on NGO, youth, renewable energy and the private sector.

In essence the specific circumstances of SIDS underscore the linkage between vulnerability, fragility and poverty amongst other issues.

The overarching theme of the Conference was “Sustainable Development of SIDS through genuine and durable partnerships”. To this end, partnerships were announced as well as pledges totalling about US \$1.9 billion. Going forward we need to continue strengthening existing partnerships (North/South, South/South, or triangular cooperation) as well as fashioning new and genuine ones – a good example would be SIDS-SIDS cooperation.

The SIDS and the developed world are miles apart in many things; the distance that separates us, level of development, leadership role at the global level - in the economic and political spheres, and in particular good governance, rules of law and democracy. The central and obvious question to ask is what issues bind us together? – Two come to mind – climate change and energy.

When one mentions SIDS, in many cases it invokes images of swaying palm trees, sandy beaches and clear blue waters. But SIDS are much more than this touristic image – we feel the pain of climate change more than most and we are not cocooned either from global economic shocks and crises whether natural or man-made. In the same vein, we strive to meet our global obligations and commitments the best way we can.

For SIDS communities, living with the adverse effects of climate change, is a daily challenge. For these communities, the real issue for them is not about setting new global targets, commissioning more studies and reports or even more talk shops - it is about survival. What is clear is that climate change is

not only of paramount importance to SIDS but also to humanity. There is no greater challenge confronting the global community now than that of climate change.

For instance, if not address in a serious and committed manner climate change will confront everyone as the number one global obstacle to the future security, prosperity and sustainable development of humanity. Make no mistake about it – the problems of SIDS today will become the problems of humanity tomorrow.

According to the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change the effects of climate change are already widespread and consequential – from the tropics to the poles, from small islands to large continents, and from the poorest countries to the wealthiest – it respects no boundaries and fears no country irrespective of its economic or military might. The question now is can the global community afford to continue sitting on the fence and do nothing.

Why action? Action because it cannot “be business as usual”. We need collective action to reduce carbon emission and limit global temperature rise. Action to secure a legally binding global agreement as soon as possible. Here, the recently concluded Climate Change Summit hosted by the UN Secretary-General, we hope, will be the final catalyst in mobilizing global action towards addressing the challenges of climate change especially at the governance level.

If we are to be effective in putting in place the required actions to mitigate the impact of climate change then we need adequate finance to achieve this successfully. Here the mindset should be to regard “climate finance” as an investment in our collective future, for the alternative in terms of loss of lives, properties and livelihoods is much greater and unsustainable. Such financing should come not only from governments but also from the private sector through genuine and durable partnerships.

I know the issue of clean energy is at the very top of the global economic agenda. For SIDS, the reality is clear. We need to secure sustainable renewable energy sources if we are to achieve our development agenda. The bulk of our energy requirement for commercial activities are imported – clearly this is not sustainable and a huge drain on foreign reserves.

The dependence on imported fossil fuels, I hasten to add, is not unique to the SIDS. I understand that in 2011, the EU combined trade deficit was €150 billion, but the combined oil import bill was more than double this amount at €315 billion and the figure for 2012 was well in excess of €335 billion. These are telling figures – pointing to the urgent need for action at all levels. Action at the national, regional, and global levels. But perhaps more important, partnership action between the EU and SIDS.

Let me now turn to what comes next in progressing the SAMOA Pathway – the outcome document of the 3rd International Conference on SIDS – a document that focuses attention on the unique challenges confronting this category of developing states. More importantly the provisions of the document are grounded on universal goals and principles enshrined in the UN Charter.

But if there is a lesson to be learnt from the Barbados Plan of Action and Mauritius Strategy for Implementation it is the lack of real and consistent commitment and political will to implement the outcomes of these Summits. The reasons for this are varied but what is glaringly obvious is if we are to succeed with the SAMOA Pathway, individual countries, and SIDS in particular, will need to “commit on what they can do and NOT what others should do” – in effect get our SIDS house in order first. Perhaps this will shame others to stop sitting on the fence and meet their obligations. The issue of common but differentiated responsibility should thus be embraced.

To keep close tap on progress or lack thereof of implementing the SAMOA Pathway, it is strongly recommended that the global community meet again in 2

years-time to assess achievements gained, evaluate and refocus attention for the next cycle before the mid-term review process.

In a statement made by the Honourable Prime Minister of Samoa during his recent visit to New York for the Climate Change Summit, he argued that “sympathy and pity will not provide solace nor halt the disastrous impact of climate change” – action will. I am also hopeful that the final outcome of the Secretary-General’s recent Summit on climate change is a globally binding Treaty which would assist in the governance process.

As noted earlier, the central theme of the Conference was on genuine and durable partnerships. I strongly believe that this is one of the most potent way to proceed. SIDS-SIDS partnerships, SIDS-EU, SIDS-US, SIDS-China, SIDS-BRICS, but not forgetting partnerships at the regional and national levels between private sector and civil society and amongst themselves. In brief, climate change is the collective responsibility of all humanity.

The current categorization of countries based on geographical location needs to be reviewed. Perhaps a better way would be to classified countries based on the challenges they face and the opportunities available for their sustainable development especially within UN agencies. Thus classifying SIDS as an official UN category of countries capable of having a voice and promoting their common interests will also ensure that the SIDS agenda is not sidelined.

As we move from the Climate Change Summit and look forward to Lima in December 2014, Paris in 2015, as well as the conclusion of negotiations for the post-2015 Development Agenda, I believe now is the opportune moment for SIDS to consider agreeing a “Political Strategy” which would facilitate and speed up the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.



A political strategy is absolutely essential if we are to have any real chance of succeeding. World leaders must walk the talk and demonstrate true leadership in addressing climate change. We need the leaders “buying into the process”. Is there a role for Europe? And if so what?

I am aware of the stance taken by the Council of the European Union’s position regarding the SIDS conference. That is, they are supportive of an EU-SIDS partnership that will evolve into durable, concrete and practical actions at the grass root level in our communities.

What role for Europe vis a vis the Commission and the European Parliament in taking forward the outcomes of the Conference. Here I firmly believe that there is a vacuum for someone to take a genuine leadership role at the global level and not just mere lip service. In our assessment the EU is best place to provide this leadership role. Focusing on a limited number of key areas where the EU has a comparative advantage would be a good way to start – climate change, energy and private sector appears to be at the forefront of the EU’s agenda. In June this year Samoa had the pleasure of hosting a reception at the European Parliament in Brussels to brief and sensitize newly elected Members of Parliament on the challenges confronting SIDS as well as seeking their support in the future. Commissioner Connie Hedegard was our chief guest. From the information we have both the Commission and the European parliament are well engaged in pushing the climate change and energy agendas forward.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am here today because I firmly believe that every single person on this planet is important if we want to succeed in saving our future and our humanity. You all have a role to play – whether to demand actions from your political leaders or assist in changing consumer trends that will contribute to environmentally friendly practices and trade arrangements. But more importantly, doing what you can by empowering others.