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StarKist Samoa CEO Visits with Governor Lemanu

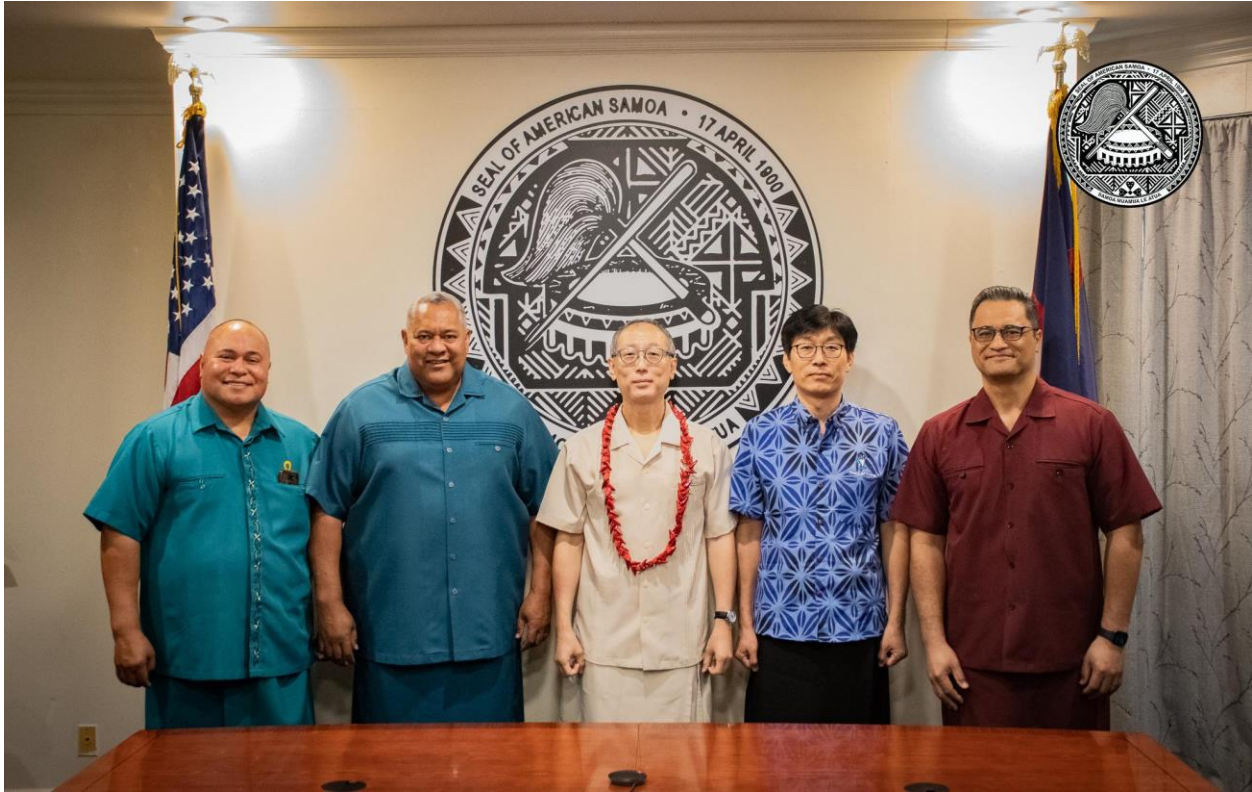
"At one point, American Samoa was the number one tuna canning factory globally. We want to help American Samoa get back to that status."

On Wednesday, August 24, 2022, Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga met with a delegation from StarKist Samoa led by President & CEO of Starkist Co. Andrew Choe and Starkist Samoa Plant Director Injoo Ha.

The purpose of their visit was to conduct a courtesy visit with Governor Lemanu to introduce the new Starkist Samoa Plant Director Injoo Ha and also to request an increase for the guest worker program to help meet labor shortage issues with the local cannery. Mr. Ha discussed that despite the global challenges from COVID-19, overall, the Tuna industry in the US is doing 'ok,' and American Samoa plays a significant role in Starkist being a major player in the competitive market. Mr. Choe also requested the need for Starkist to increase the guest worker program to help meet the market's demands and the Tuna industry's future outlook.

"Starkist is blessed to be here in American Samoa. We have been here for 59 years, and we look forward to being here to celebrate 100 years. At one point, American Samoa was the number one Tuna Canning Factory globally. We want to help American Samoa get back to that status," stated Mr. Choe.

"I want to thank Starkist for visiting this morning. I assure you that we are here to help with whatever issues you have. This morning, our department representatives from ASEPA, ASDOH, DMWR, and DLA will be standing by to ensure you get the help you need to continue being a big part of our local economy. I also want to thank your team here in American Samoa for being very patient and professional during the COVID-19 lockdown." states Governor Lemanu. He continued, "I hear your concerns with your labor shortages, and I want to work closely with your team to see how we can streamline efforts to help you out the best we can."



Pictured (L-R): Loa Tuimavave T. Laupola (Chief of Staff), Honorable Lemanu P. S. Mauga (Governor), Mr. Andrew Choe (President & CEO Starkist Samoa), Mr. Injoo Ha (Starkist Samoa Plant Director) and Honorable Talauega E.V. Ale (Lieutenant Governor).



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