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American Samoa's Engagement in the Region - Day 1

On February 13, 2024, the American Samoa Delegation to Fiji led by Lieutenant Governor, Honorable Talauega E.V. Ale embarked on a journey of strategic meetings in Suva, aimed at bolstering regional engagement and advancing the collective interests of our Blue Pacific family. The delegation sought to forge stronger ties with regional organizations while advocating for American Samoa's inclusion in important pacific conversations.

The day commenced with a vibrant exchange of ideas at the Pacific Community (SPC) Suva Missions Briefing, led by Director General, Dr. Stuart Minchin. During this meeting Lieutenant Governor Talauega passionately conveyed American Samoa's unwavering commitment to escalating regional engagement and contribution, while also articulating the importance of our active participation in collective discussions surrounding significant regional events. As the session unfolded, the delegation embraced the opportunity to interact with SPC teams and members, gaining valuable insights into regional priorities and fostering meaningful connections.

Following the briefing, the delegation was warmly received by Dr. Mareva Lechat, Head of Delegation for International, European & Pacific Affairs, Office of the President, French Polynesia, at the Grand Pacific Hotel. Discussions flourished as American Samoa's aspirations for Associate Membership to the Pacific Islands Forum were passionately shared. Drawing inspiration from French Polynesia's remarkable journey to full membership, the delegation sought guidance and support, recognizing the invaluable role of experience-sharing in navigating the complexities of regional integration.

Later in the day, the delegation convened with His Excellency Ali'ioaiga Feturi Elisaia, Samoa High Commissioner to Fiji. Lieutenant Governor Talauega, key members of the cabinet and His Excellency Ali'ioaiga engaged in heartfelt discussions centered around a shared heritage and mutual aspirations for both Samoas.

The day's endeavors culminated in a dinner hosted by His Excellency Ali'ioaiga. In attendance were Reverend Dr. Upolu Luma Vaai, Principal of the Pacific Theological College, Reverend Vavatau Taufao, Missionary for The Congregational Christian Church of Samoa in Fiji, and fellow Samoans living in Suva.

American Samoa's presence was not merely acknowledged but celebrated, reaffirming its integral role in the rich tapestry of Pacific unity and cooperation. The journey of the American Samoa delegation in Suva, Fiji, serves as a testament to the territory's steadfast commitment to scaling up its participation and contribution to advancing regionalism in the Pacific. Through dialogue, collaboration, and shared aspirations, American Samoa seeks to chart a course towards a future of prosperity, unity, and shared destiny within the Blue Pacific family.

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Honorable Lieutenant Governor Talauega E.V. Ale & the Pacific Community Director General
Dr. Stuart Minchin



(L-R) ASPA CEO Wallon Young, Director Faamao Asalele, Tapa'au Dr. Daniel Aga, Chief of Staff Loa Tuimavave T. Laupola, Honorable Lieutenant Governor Talauega E.V. Ale, SPC Director General Dr. Stuart Minchin, Dr. Elisapeta Lauvao, Director Taotasi Archie Soliai, and Governor's Counsel Terry Van Eaton.



Honorable Lieutenant Governor Talauega E.V. Ale & Dr. Mareva Lechat, Head of Delegation for International, European & Pacific Affairs, Office of the President, French Polynesia, cabinet members and staff



Honorable Lieutenant Governor Talauega E.V. Ale & Dr. Mareva Lechat, Head of Delegation for International, European & Pacific Affairs, Office of the President, French Polynesia



A dinner hosted by His Excellency Ali'ioaiga Feturi Elisaia, Samoa High Commissioner to Fiji. Lieutenant Governor Talauega, members of the cabinet, Reverend Dr. Upolu Luma Vaai, Principal of the Pacific Theological College, Reverend Vavatau Taufao, Missionary for The Congregational Christian Church of Samoa in Fiji, and fellow Samoans living in Suva.