

For Official Release  
PR 004-02092024  
Office of the Governor  
Utulei, American Samoa  
February 09, 2024



## **American Samoa Delegation Prepares for trip to Fiji to Discuss PIF Membership**

American Samoa delegation prepares to meet with several representatives of the Pacific Island Forum (PIF) Secretariat, to continue the discussion of American Samoa becoming an Associate Member. American Samoa has held Observer status at PIF since 2011, and since taking office in 2020, Honorable Lemanu has fought to be an official Associate Member, signifying the territory's commitment to deeper engagement and collaboration with all of Pasefika.

Governor Lemanu highlighted the significance of this decision stating “Becoming an Associate Member of the Pacific Island Forum represents a milestone in our ongoing efforts to strengthen ties with our Pacific brothers and sisters. We believe that close collaboration within the region will not only bring mutual benefits but also promote sustainable development and resilience in our communities.”

The Lemanu-Talauega administration's interest in joining the forum as an Associate Member reflects its recognition of the importance of regional cooperation in addressing pressing issues such as food security, fisheries, climate change, international trade, strategic communication, and digital technology. By actively participating in the forum's activities and dialogue, the territory aims to contribute to the advancement of shared goals and priorities across the Pacific region.

### **American Samoa Delegation:**

Chief of Staff Loa Tuimavave T. Laupola, Office of the Governor

Director Lefega Faamao Asalele, American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency

Director Taotasi Archie Soliai, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources

Dr. Elisapeta Lauvao, American Samoa Department of Public Health

CEO Wallon Young, American Samoa Power Authority

Tapau Dr. Dan Aga, AS Political Matters

Deputy Chief Legal Counsel Terry VanEaton, Office of the Governor

**Support Staff**

Executive Assistant to CoS Antonina Pselio-Toilolo, Office of the Governor

Lindsey Laupola, Office of Political Status

Regional Consultant Toleafoa Alfred Schuster, Tutulumanulagi Ltd

###