

NEWSLETTER

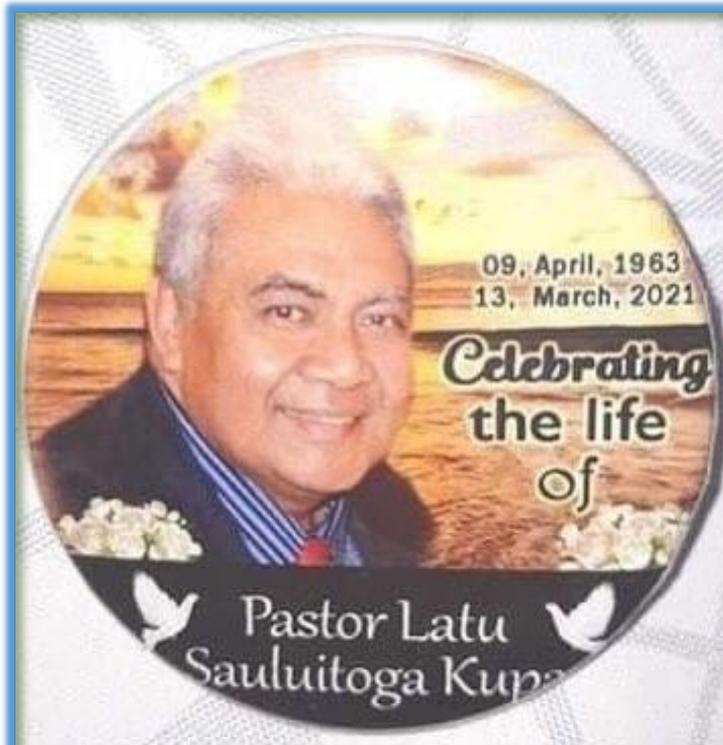
01 January – 31 March 2021



**Excerpt from Testimony for Latu Sauluitoga Kupa, former Executive Director PWWA
Delivered at his Family Service, 22 March 2021 by CEO PWWA – Pitolau Lusie Sefo- Leau**

“The Pacific Water and Wastewater Association wants to pay tribute and homage to this pioneer of its Association. It is apt and fitting too, that we pay our respects to our PWWA colleague and friend on this special day, World Water Day, a day people around the world celebrate and advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources; it is a day commemorating what water means to people, its true value and how we can better protect this vital resource.

Latu was the Managing Director of Samoa Water Authority for 10 years from 1993 to 2003. During those 10 years he pioneered with a few other water CEOs from around the Pacific and members of SOPAC and SPC, the setting up of an Association for Wastewater utilities under Latu’s the first meeting of 1995 here in Apia there was for the foundation of From that year, Suva Fiji as a organisation, with members including the Association to recognized voice for Latu continued to permanent PWWA as a regional after he resigned Authority in 2003 to consulting firm, KEW commitment and PWWA is recognized throughout the Pacific and beyond; PWWA was moved to Samoa in 2007 and Latu Kupa was appointed as the Executive Director for PWWA on a voluntary basis. He and his company - as the Secretariat - worked voluntarily from this time until December 2016 when a permanent CEO was recruited.



independent Water and of the Pacific. SWA stewardship hosted these utilities in July and at that meeting, unanimous support the Association..... PWWA was set up in voluntary the founding Latu advocating for become a water in the Pacific. pursue the establishment of organisation even from Samoa Water set up his own Consult. Latu’s dedication to by the members

He continued as a Board Director and saw through the milestone permanent establishment of the PWWA Secretariat in July 2017 in Apia as a regional organisation, until his retirement from the organisation in 2018. His colleagues in the PWWA family speak of his pastoral efforts in bringing and holding together the members of PWWA from 21 Pacific nation states and territories as unsurpassed, and the inclusive and supportive culture he and his wife Kisa embedded in PWWA will be enduring.

Latu was a champion for water in the Pacific...he was recognized and awarded by PWWA for “his outstanding and continuous leadership and support for the organisation”; he had a passion, and a vision for water to be

accessed and available to everyone; he was an inspirational leader in WASH issues in Samoa and in the Pacific; he was someone always looking for water and sanitation solutions that are adaptable, effective and efficient for the Pacific region.

He wanted along with all his water colleagues in PWWA, the recognition by everyone in positions of authority, that water is life, that without water every other sector is impacted and every life is doomed. He believed and advocated that the collective voice of PWWA through its 30 member utilities throughout 21 nation states and territories would bring the much needed attention and priority to this most vital resource to life.

In the water sector, many have warm memories of working alongside Latu over the years, as a professional colleague, a loyal friend, a Pastor colleague, and a member of the PWWA family. He was a truly well respected Pasefika water champion.

Latu was, without a doubt, a great man, a gentle soul, and a man of distinguished humanity. On behalf of the Chairman, the Council, the Board of Directors and Members, and the Secretariat of PWWA, please accept our heartfelt and deepest condolences Kisa, Abraham, Branham, and Joseph and your family. May the outpouring of love surrounding you bring you comfort, and may our collective prayers ease the pain of his loss... tofaina oe Latu, ia manuia lau malaga.....”

“YOU ARE SORELY MISSED BY YOUR PWWA FAMILY....UNTIL THAT GLRORIOUS MORNING CHAMP”



IN THIS ISSUE

1. Tribute to the late Latu Sauluitoga Kupa... [page 1-2](#)
2. UWSSP Project Update (SIWA)..... [page 3](#)
3. Water Supply System Projects (SWA)..... [page 4-5](#)
4. Wash Practices & Hygiene Behavioural Change Workshops.....[page 6-10](#)
5. Pacific Young Water Professionals Program... [page 11](#)
6. Independent Water Schemes Association Project (IWSA).....[page 12-13](#)
7. Commemoration of World Water and Forest Day (Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment).....[page 14-15](#)
8. Upcoming Activities for the next Quarter.....[page 16](#)

Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project (UWSSSP)

(sourced from SIWA)

The project adopts a sector to approach for developing sustainable, inclusive, and climate resilient water supply and improved sanitation in the greater Honiara area (GHA) and in five other towns of Auki, Gizo, Noro, Munda, and Tulagi in Solomon Islands. The project will implement high priority components following the government’s water and sanitation sector plan to increase access to piped water supply and sanitation service, especially among the poor households; reduce reliance on groundwater and rainwater harvest and ensure more efficient use of water. The project will also enhance hygiene awareness, promote water conservation, and improve faecal sludge management.

In our last Newsletter, we had highlighted the commissioning of Auki Water Supply upgrade which was undertaken by Solomon Water ahead of UWSSP approval due to poor state of the existing infrastructure at this town.

Major Milestone for the Proposed Kongulai Water Treatment Plant

Solomon Water is excited to announce the completion of the design for the Kongulai Water Treatment Plant, the second project to kick off under UWSSP. This 15 million litres per day plant is to be of conventional design including flocculation, clarification, filtration, and disinfection of the water. This type of installation on this scale is a first for the Solomon Islands and constitutes one of the cornerstone projects of the Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project which is co-financed by the Asian Development Bank, the EU, the World Bank and Solomon Water.



The plant will assist Solomon Water in supplying its Honiara customers with a continuous water supply even during periods of heavy rain which have of recent times caused a number of challenges. It will meet and exceed all World Health Organization drinking water guidelines and will contribute approximately 40% of the demand for Honiara. The project is due for commissioning in the third quarter of 2021.



SAMOA WATER AUTHORITY

(sourced from Samoa Water Authority)



*Hon. Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi
Delivering the Key-note address at Satapuala project*

The Samoa Water Authority Office officially opened one of its two Water Supply System Projects at the village of Satapuala on the 11th of February 2021.

The main purposes of this project is to cater treated water to all residents of the village.

The project includes :

- Drilling of borehole with depth of 90.3 meters
- Building of a 250 cubic meters storage tank
- Installation of close to 8,000 meters of PE pipelines



*Hon. Minister of Samoa Water Authority Niko Lee Hang
cutting the ribbon*



The Government and Samoa Water Authority Office wishes to acknowledge the support of Alii ma Faipule and the proud residents of Satapuala.

Another successful Water Supply System Project was also opened at the village of Nofaalii on February 18th, 2021. With the same purpose of catering treated water within the community.



One of the Village Elderly Mother Tanuvasa Lefinealii was given the honour of cutting the ribbon for the Project.

The project includes:

- Drilling of borehole with depth of 165 meters
- Building of a 250 cubic meters storage tank
- Installation of PE pipelines



The Government and Samoa Water Authority Office also wishes to acknowledge the support of Alii ma Faipule and the proud residents of Nofaalii

WASH PRACTICES AND HYGIENE BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE WORKSHOPS

Under a special collaboration between PWWA and ADB, a series of workshops for PWWA's member utilities kicked off in November 2020 to run through most of 2021 under the auspices of an ADB Regional Technical Assistance (TA 54227-001) Strengthening WASH Practices and Hygiene Behavioural Change in the Pacific.



Workshop #1: Introduction to Pandemic Planning held on the 26th of November 2020.

The level of pandemic preparedness amongst the utilities was found to vary from fully implemented, in development and in some cases, there were no documented plans in place. Given this level of preparedness across the industry a Pandemic Preparedness Workshop was planned and delivered during this Workshop

The discussions with utilities prior to the workshop development resulted in a range of pandemic plans being shared for discussion with the TA team. The plans all covered the same essential topics in varying levels of detail. The plan from the Solomon Islands Water Authority (SIWA) contained a detailed risk assessment customised to the Pacific context that could be readily applied to other utilities. SIWA subsequently provided approval to share their plan as a template with other utilities as part of the workshop material.



1-Taking the message to the people

- Bus hygiene campaign
- 16 routes connecting all settlements



2-Actual activities

- Localized Hygiene kit
- Integrate social sensitive messages
- Establish LTA for procurement
- Engage local NGO for Hygiene training



Maynilad Water from the Philippines agreed to participate in the workshop and provide a presentation on their experience with pandemic planning and the implementation of the plan when COVID-19 had been detected in country.



Maynilad intensifies handwashing campaign donates hand-wash stations.

The support for the installation of handwashing facilities in key public areas is a key initiative under the TA. The role of utilities is largely to support governments and NGOs in the installation of these facilities rather than being the lead agency in most countries; but also supplying water in most cases. Utilities need to have a good understanding of the technical requirements and a concept for how they would respond to an urgent demand to assist with the provision of handwashing services in a time of emergency

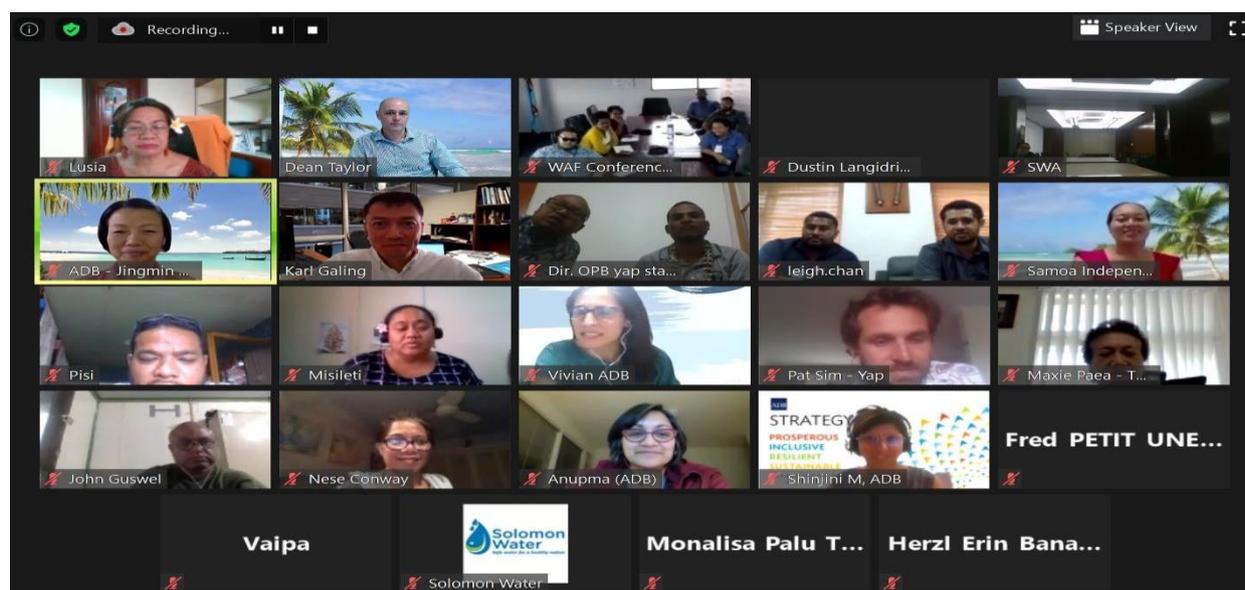
Attendees	Presentations
Pacific Water and Waste Association KAJUR Marshall Islands Samoa Water Authority Kiribati Niue Solomon Water Authority Nauru UNELCO (Vanuatu) Yap Water Authority of Fiji MEC Majuro Pohnpei.	Niue Solomon MEC Majuro

Workshop #2: Strategies for Supplying Water to Informal Areas and Handwashing held on February 23rd, 2021.

The initial discussions with the water utilities covered by the scope of TA 54227-001 - Strengthening WASH Practices and Hygiene Behavioural Change in the Pacific highlighted some common themes of potential support to the partner utilities.

The support for the installation of handwashing facilities in key public areas is a key initiative under the TA. The role of utilities is largely to support governments and NGOs in the installation of these facilities rather than being the lead agency in most countries; but also supplying water in most cases. Utilities need to have a good understanding of the technical requirements and a concept for how they would respond to an urgent demand to assist with the provision of handwashing services in a time of emergency or pandemic; and their role in sustainable handwashing services.

Attendees	Presentations
Pacific Water and Waste Association	Water Authority of Fiji
Tonga Water Board	Southern Yap Water Authority
Samoa Water Authority	
Public Utilities Board(PUB)/Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy(MISE) (Kiribati)	
Niue Ministry of Infrastructure	
Solomon Water Authority	
Nauru Utilities Authority	
UNELCO (Vanuatu)	
Southern Yap Water Authority (FSM)	
Water Authority of Fiji	
Samoa Independent Water Schemes (IWS)	
Tuvalu Ministry of Public Utilities and Environment	
Vanuatu Department of Water Resources.	



Zoom Participants

Workshop #3: Financial Sustainability and The Impacts of Covid19 held on the 23rd February, 2021.

TA6551-REG: Strengthening WASH practices and hygiene behavioural change in the Pacific.

TA9685-REG: Implementing a Differentiated Approach to Urban Development in the Pacific



A team from Wedgewood White Ltd, a New Zealand based consultancy firm joined the workshop to go through their experience with the financial impacts of COVID-19 and some of the strategies that have been put into place by utilities to ensure their ongoing financial sustainability during the pandemic.

Workshop #4: Water Safety Plan held on March 12th, 2021.

Water Safety Plans provide the building blocks for creating safe water supply systems for our communities. If implemented using an engagement model it can be used to build resilience in water operations and create long term sustainable improvements as well as resilience when unexpected events do occur. The workshop covered the basic of water safety plans, overview of a different approach to risk assessments, as well as discussions on how to embed Water Safety Plans to create long-term benefits.

Featured speakers for this workshop were Clara Laydon from Hunter Water, Daiana Legalega and Mosese Nariva from Water Authority of Fiji, and Clarissa Laulala from Samoa Independent Water Schemes Association.

The overall attendance and feedback on these workshops were very positive.

PWWA Role in Coordinating These Workshops with the Assistance from ADB

The PWWA is a key supporter for the utility component of the work under the TA. PWWA network is an established channel for communications and provide assistance in organising meetings and communicating with members.

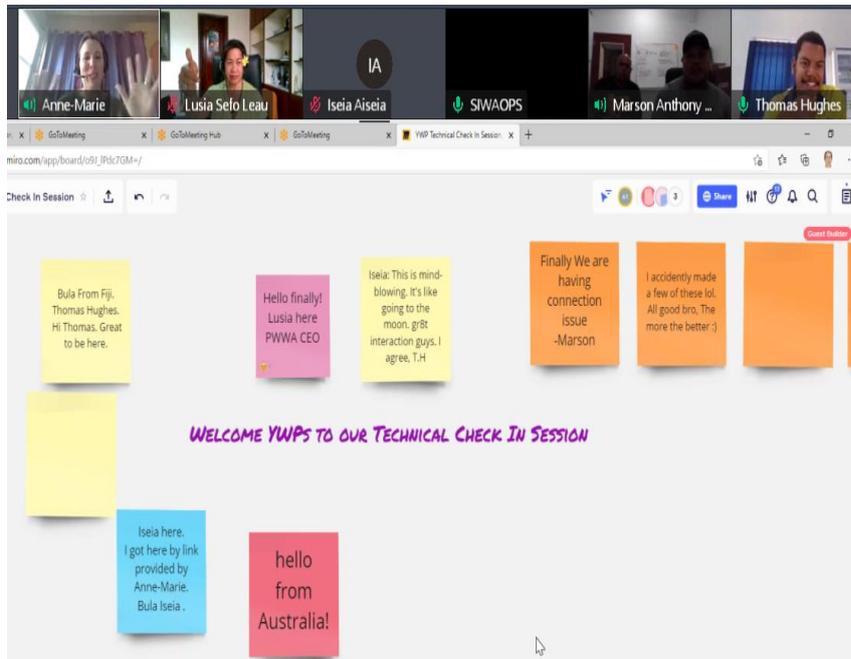
Support of the PWWA also helps to make the Pacific water sector more self-reliant in the future by demonstrating the high level of capability that exists within the group on many topics.

The Pacific Water and Wastewater Association (PWWA) co-organized with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) the workshop and helped raise the awareness through their utility CEO network. This assisted in generating a good level of engagement and helped to generate some momentum for the planned series of workshops.



Pacific Young Water Professionals Program 2020/2021 Kicks Off!

The first PWWA online Young Water Professionals Program kicked off 24 March 2021 following a long intensive design and planning stage. The training program will be held over a four month period from March to July, to replace the intensive three day program normally held during the PWWA Annual Conference which was unable to be held in 2020 due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions and border closure.



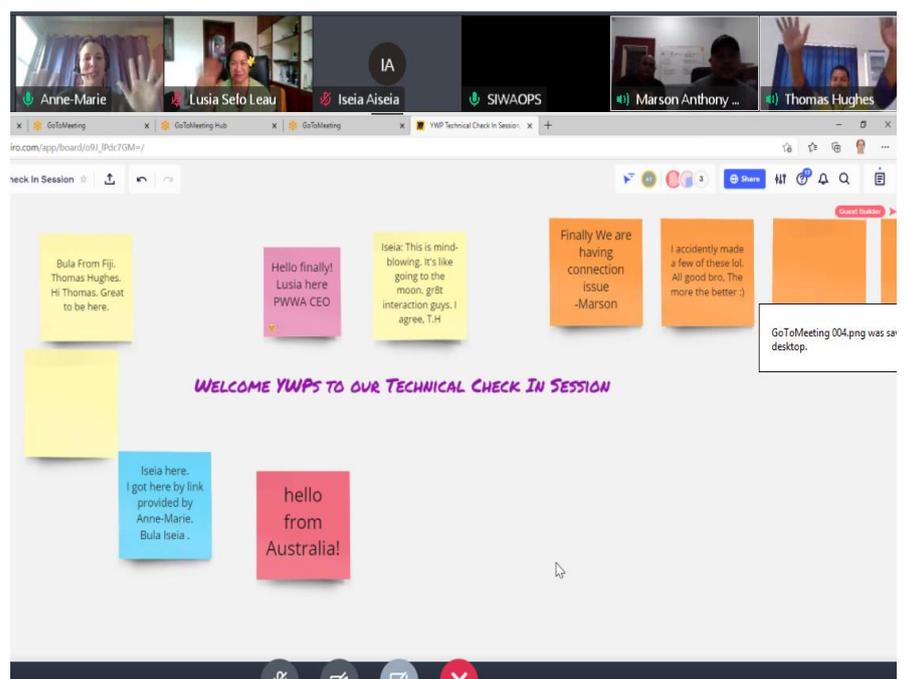
Running over a four-month period every fortnight, there will be a two-hour interactive session which will include a speaker and then group activities which will occur via a series of virtual “break out rooms”.

The program content includes two distinct phases. Phase 1 will introduce participants to each other and some key concepts which can be applied across their career, including presentation skills, collaboration skills, gender

equality, disability and social inclusion, and governance. Phase 2 will include a series of 5 sessions which aims to walk participants through the key components of the problem solving process.

This process is relevant to all roles and includes a series of steps which build on each other. Participants will work in as part of a team during this phase, to practice their collaboration and project solving skills. The culmination of this phase will be a group presentation of their problem solving process during the final session of this program. Teams will be encouraged to have fun and explore creative ways to conduct their presentation in the final session.

Twenty-seven Young Water Professionals from 11 utilities are attending the Program this year; this year a lot more males (22) are attending with only 5 females signing up.





Independent Water Schemes Association

(sourced from IWSA)

The Samoa Independent Water Schemes Association (IWSA) launched a pilot community project on Friday 29th January, 2021 to monitor households' use of water from natural spring water sources to boost conservation.

According to a IWSA media statement, the village of Aufaga on the southeast of Upolu was chosen for the project which involved the installation of water meters and meter boxes in 89 households. The village's Independent Water Scheme (IWSA) has a natural spring that provides fresh water for 463 people. I.W.S.A. conducted several consultations with the community to discuss the benefits of the water meters and how to read them.



Funding for the project was made possible through a partnership between the European Union and the Government of Samoa through the Civil Society Support Programme (CSSP). The funding amounts to EUR€490,000 (about SAT\$1.5 million) to bolster efforts to improve the capacity of communities to better manage their own water resource network. The IWSA's Programme Manager, Clarissa Laulala said that although it has only been a few days since the water meters were

installed, there are immediate changes in the Aufaga IWSA community's outlook towards their water supply.

"Some households have reported their meter readings indicated there were existing leaks in their homes which they now have fixed, [which] has helped improve the water pressure they now receive. Water is a shared responsibility and we are mindful of their usage, which was the aim of the project." Ms Laulala said.



Happy residents of Aufaga Village with IWSA's Manager Clarissa Laulala & Staff.

IWSA – Independent Water Schemes Association launched Eight Drinking Water Safety Plans on March 22nd, 2021 at Taumeasina Island Resort during the Official Opening of the World Water & Forests Day.

The key priority under this project is the development of drinking water safety plans (DWSP) for all independent water schemes, to systematically assess and manage risks to their water supply from catchment to customer for final consumption.

The Eight DWSP that have been developed and were all launched at the Opening are for the following communities:

- Lotofaga Safata IWS
- Sataoa IWS
- Nuusuatia IWS
- Lona IWS
- Maasina IWS
- Sili IWS
- Satupaitea IWS
- Salailua IWS

We look forward to the impact of these plans on our locals' usage especially those in the above villages.

Wishing everyone especially those working tirelessly to bring safe water supply to all families in Samoa the best as we celebrate the World Water & Forests Day 2021.



This project is fully funded by European Union in the Pacific through CSSP- Samoa.



MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

(sourced from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment)

COMMEMORATION OF THE WORLD WATER AND FOREST DAY, MONDAY 22 MARCH 2021.

The International Day of Forests (March 21st) and the World Water Day (March 22nd) are annual events celebrated across the world to highlight the importance of and advocate for the sustainable management of our freshwater and forest resources, especially in light of growing natural and human-induced pressures. As such, the government has commemorated these days together since 2013 as an annual event.

The National Theme for this year's commemorations is "***Valuing our Water and Forest resources: a path to recovery and well-being.***" The theme looks at promoting the social, environmental, and economic values of forests and water, especially in raising the resilience of communities and national economies to the impacts of climate change and extreme disasters. The national program over the next 12 months will focus on promoting education on sustainable water and forest management through all levels of the community from the grassroots to the policy and decision makers, and involving everyone, especially the often marginalized groups. Some of the key messages that the Ministry wishes to portray through this commemoration include

- (i) Upland forests covering the mountain ridges of central Upolu and Savaii, act as natural towers which capture, store, and gradually release freshwater for domestic, agricultural, industrial, and ecological needs;
- (ii) Forests act as natural water filters and stabilize the soil. They act as a screen from heavy rainfall, reducing runoff and promoting water infiltration into the soil where it is stored within the underground aquifers;
- (iii) Water and forests are at the forefront of reducing the effects of climate change. Water is a necessity after natural disasters, and vital to the resilience of any community;
- (iv) As such, water and forests have a crucial role in building and strengthening resilience;
- (v) Effective community participation and engagement is essential to the success of sustainable forest and water resources management initiatives.

This year's celebrations were a two-day event. The Opening Ceremony was conducted on Monday 22nd March 2021 at the Taumeasina Island Resort. This was followed by the 9th Annual Water Sanitation Sector Forum; a platform where views and experiences on best practices and lessons learned from the Sector are shared with the public and key stakeholders.

On Tuesday 23rd March, the 13th Annual Sector Performance Review took place which provided the opportunity for the Sector's Implementing Agencies to report and present on their achievements and challenges against identified outcomes and KPIs as specified in the Water for Life Sector Plan for the FY2019/2020 under review.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment thanked all the development partners for their continuous support with water and forest resources management in Samoa.



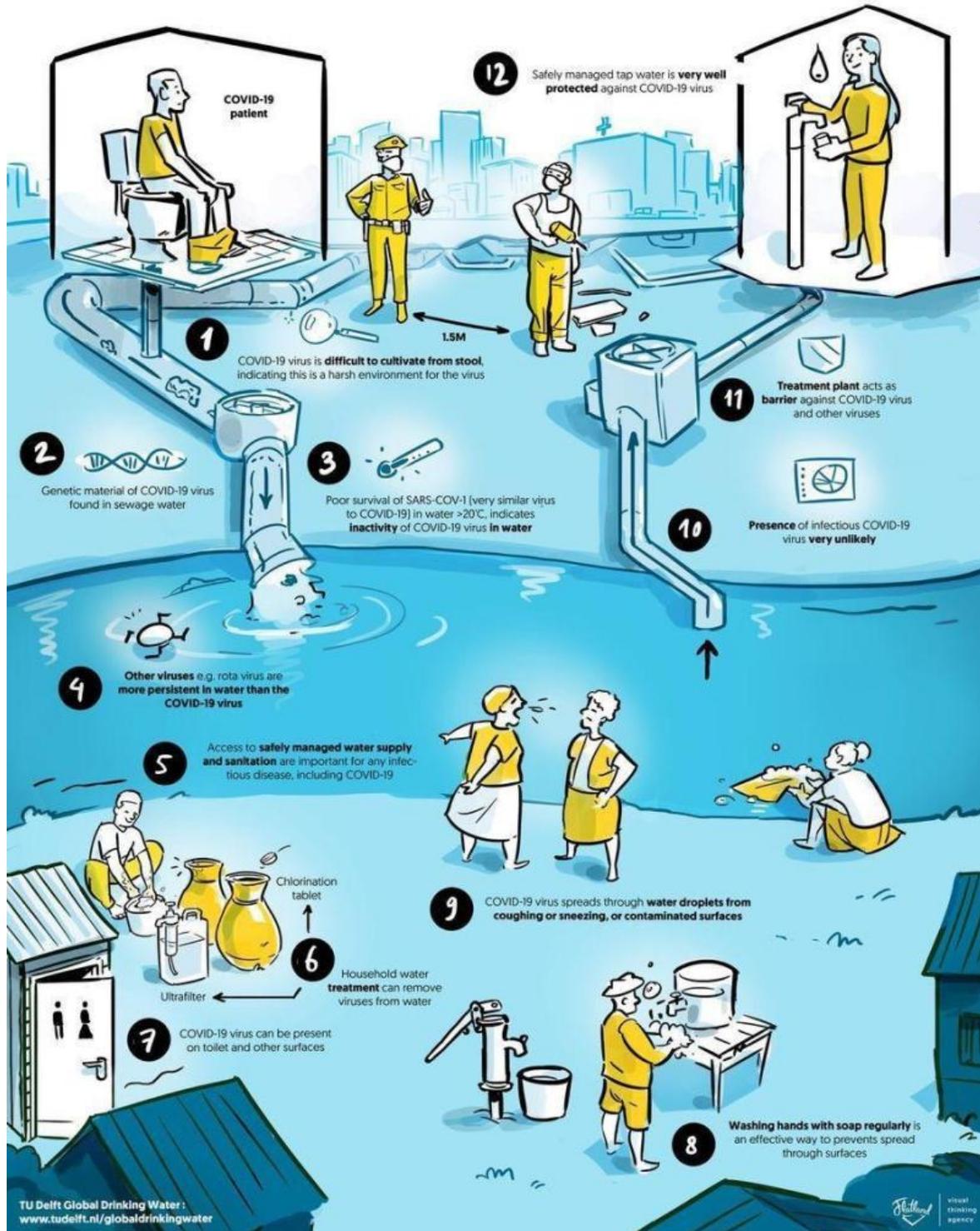
CEO PWWA attended the Commemoration of World Water Day and Water and Sanitation Forum 22 March 2021

PWWA Activities and Upcoming Events in the Region Next Quarter

EVENTS	DATE
Easter Holiday	2,3,& 5 th April
YWPs Training Program	7 th & 21 st April 5 th & 9 th May 16 th & 30 th June
General Election Day – Samoa	9 th April
ADB/PWWA Wash Workshops	14 th April, May & June
American Samoa Flag Day	17 th April
ANZAC Day	25 th April
Mother's Day	10 th May
Memorial Day – Guam	31 st May
Samoa Independence Commemoration Day	1 st June

12 FACTS ABOUT COVID-19 VIRUS IN WATER

The importance of water access and hygiene in times of crisis



**PACIFIC WATER AND WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION
SECRETARIAT
P.O. Box 868
L4 FMFMII Building
Eleele-fou, Apia
SAMOA
PH: +685 30326**

E-mail: info@pwwa.ws

Website: www.pwwa.ws