

## **Press Release**

### **Girls in ICT Day 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015, Tooa Salamasina Hall 9am**

**Annual day which promotes career opportunities for girls and young women with the theme “Expand horizons, change attitudes”**

**The Office of the Regulator invites the media to cover this very important day in collaboration with the International Women’s Day, International ICT Day and ITU’s 150<sup>th</sup> years of existence. The ITU is the oldest UN agency which was established in 1865 to address the issue of Interconnection at a time where the telephone was used for local calls only.**

The International Girls’ in ICT Day is an initiative endorsed by the International Telecommunication Union (“ITU”) Member States to create a global environment that empowers and encourages girls and young women to consider careers in the growing field of information and communication technologies (ICTs). The International Girls in ICT Day is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in April every year. The theme for this year is: “Expand horizons, changing attitudes”.



Samoa as a member of ITU is part of this celebration and on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015 joins other ITU Member States in celebrating the International Girls in ICT Day. Girls and young women have the potential not only to become ICT users, but also to become ICT professionals and creators. To celebrate this Day, the Office of the Regulator (OOTR) in collaboration with its’ stakeholders will facilitate a one day workshop program which will include an Essay writing competition, text competition and debates on ICT related topics. Prizes for the various activities have been kindly donated by our local ICT companies and our local partners. These prizes including Ipads, tablets, cell phones, printers, electrical appliances, gift vouchers, internet access cards, gift packs and cash. These activities are targeting young girls at Yr 12 and Yr 13 and we hope that this will boost their desire to consider ICT as their future career.

The keynote address of the Girls in ICT Day will be delivered by Afioga Faimalotoa Kolokika Stowers, Associate Minister of Communications and Information Technology. Afioga Faimalotoa is the former CEO of Radio 2AP, the first ever radio and long serving AM radio station in Samoa. Faimalotoa spent all her working life with the media and was one of the pioneers of radio broadcasting. The Honourable Minister of Communication and Information Technology Honourable Tuisugaletaua Aliimalemanu Maposua Sofara Aveau will present the prizes of the winning essay competition.

The workshop will feature interactive presentations from various ICT companies and other OOTR partners. Participants of the day include 10 girls from 10 colleges around the Apia

Area, the invitation is limited to Colleges at town area due to limited budget but we are hoping to extend the invitation to Colleges around Upolu and Savaii next year. The Essay competition though was extended to all respective Colleges around Samoa and all Colleges were invited to participate. Our aim is to spread the word to girls of today who will be the women of tomorrow because the more ICT exposure they get, the better equip they will be to serve the ICT Industry in Samoa.

The Office of the Regulator would like to include in this press release profiles of 3 prominent women in the ICT Sector. These women have been nominated to feature in our press release to encourage young girls to follow their footsteps and their respective careers. They are the classic examples of successful women in the ICT Sector in Samoa.

<p><b>Gisa Fuatai Purcell</b></p> 	<p>Gisa Fuatai Purcell is the Head, LSE Division at the Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). She is responsible for ITU's ICT activities concerning special assistance to least developed countries (LDCs) small island developing states (SIDS) land locked countries (LLDCs) and countries in special needs. Her Division is also responsible for Emergency Telecommunication, Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation. Gisa is also responsible for ITU-BDT, Strategies and policies for the proper disposal or reuse of telecommunication/ICT waste material. Gisa holds a Master of Commerce and Administration from the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand; with a major in telecommunication and information systems. Prior to joining ITU, Gisa was the Assistant Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology of Samoa after working as ICT and Financial consultant in Wellington, New Zealand for many years. Gisa is married to the Honourable Lautafi Selafi Purcell, Honourable Minister of Public Enterprises, Public Service Commission, Samoa Land Corporation and Samoa Housing.</p>
<p><b>Foilagi Maua - Faamau</b></p> 	<p>Foilagi Maua - Faamau is a Senior Lecturer and former Head of The Computing Department at the National University of Samoa. She is currently on study leave pursuing her PHD studies at Victoria University of Wellington, NZ. Foilagi's PHD research is on "Evaluating the product benefits of ICT for development projects funded by aid in Samoa". It is aimed to compare the expected outcomes of ICT projects funded by aid as determined by the donors with the expectations of local users in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the aid projects and the ICT product being developed. The main objective of Foilagi's research is to hopefully design a model to evaluate the effectiveness of ICT projects for development through aid programs and at the same time contribute to the efficient management of the funds for development projects in Samoa. Mrs Faamau is also the Manager and Coordinator of the NUS CISCO Networking Academy and is one of few qualified CISCO instructors (ITE and CCNA) in Samoa. She is also the chairperson for the Year 13 Samoa Secondary Leaving Certificate Computer Studies Curriculum Panel and is an examiner/moderator for Year 13 SSLC Computer studies. Foilagi holds a Bachelor of Arts (Information Systems) from the University of South Australia and a Masters of Information Technology from the University of Southern Queensland, Australia. Foilagi married to Ray Faamau who is a brew master by professional. They have 3 boys and a beautiful daughter.</p>

Rita Eteuati



Rita is an ICT professional and highly motivated individual. She has over 25 years of experience in the ICT Industry and is currently working as an Operational Manager for the ISP Division of the Computer Services Limited. Over the years she has engaged in strategic and business planning and in various areas of ICT including: the installation of hardware and software; IT Service and Troubleshooting, ICT Consultancy; Project Management; Training; Systems and Applications Support; Network Applications; Development and staff management. Rita has a diverse background which includes work experience in Samoa, New Zealand and USA with companies such as Motorola, HM Electronics, Xscribe Legal Systems, and the University of Otago. Rita is a leader by example and has high professional standards. She strives to deliver quality service and thrives in the challenging field of ICT. She is always learning in its ever-changing environment to promote appropriate and cost effective ICT solutions for businesses, schools, communities and various organisations. Away from the “connected world”, Rita enjoys relaxing and spending quality time with family and friends, gardening, baking, sports, and women’s fellowship. She is forever grateful and blessed for the support and love from family which includes her husband Alesana Eteuati, her three children Alesana Jr, Larissa-lynn Soli and Dawane, and parents Anesi and Merapi Koria and Teo Sagala and Lupita.