

September 1996

WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT
VISIT TO WESTERN SAMOA AND AMERICAN SAMOA
19-28 August 1996

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INTRODUCTION

The main purpose of the trip was to attend the inaugural meeting of the Pacific Water Association which was to be held in American Samoa from 22 to 24 August 1996. The author took the opportunity to visit Pacific Water and Sanitation Programme (WASP) clients and other collaborating agencies in Western Samoa.

The following documents the trip:

19 August 1996

Arrive Apia and was met at Faleolo Airport by the Apia Observatory staff.

20 August 1996

UNESCO Apia Office

Met with Trevor Sankey, Science Adviser. He had just prepared a UNESCO Pacific Science Programme, July 1996, in which he updated progress on the Tonga groundwater pollution study and the Kiribati groundwater recharge study. The proposed deforestation proposal was also updated. An article entitled “WASP under threat” noting that continued funding for WASP was formally recommended by the IHP Working Group Meeting that was hosted by SOPAC in April 1996 (see attached article in Annex 1).

Trevor will be attending and making a presentation regarding the UNESCO IHP studies at the Pacific Water Association meeting in American Samoa.

UNDP Apia Office

Briefly met with Tony Patten, Resident Representative. Tony will present a paper at the PWA meeting regarding the UNDP Perspective (see attached paper in Annex 2).

I also met with Mikael Jorgason who I had previously provided with information to assist him prepare notes for Tony’s presentation.

US Peace Corps Office

Met with Steve Nagler, Director and Jamie Foss, Deputy Director. to discuss any possible collaboration in the water sector. At one stage Peace Corps were trying to place a water supply engineer in Niue but were unable to provide a suitable candidate.

Western Samoa Water Authority (WSWA)

A meeting was held with Latu Kupa, General Manager of WSWA and PWA Steering Committee Member, Graham Costin, Chief Engineer of WSWA, John Chaniel, Manager of UNELCO Water Division and PWA Steering Committee Member, and Chuck Filiaga, Deputy Director of the Pacific Power Association. We discussed the forthcoming PWA meeting and developed an agenda for the General Session of the meeting.

21 August 1996

Apia Observatory

The Superintendent (Ausetalia Titimaea) was away on two months sick leave, thus I met with the Acting Director, Faatoia Malele.

Faatoia indicated that assistance is required with the existing gauging stations, instrumentation and stream gauging. He did not have any “working” current meters. I suggested that SOPAC could assist by inspecting and reporting on all gauging stations and instrumentation. One of WASP’s new current meters would be taken to Samoa to make flow measurements and to train staff on its use.

Rainmaker Hotel, American Samoa

Travelled to Pago Pago. Prepared meeting documents and made arrangements required for the meeting along with American Samoa Power Authority staff, Chuck Filiaga (PPA), John Chaniel (PWA Steering Committee Member) and Aliti Sema (WASP Programme Assistant).

22-23 August 1996

PWA Meeting

Thirty five water utility representatives from the following countries/states attended the meeting:

American Samoa	Pohnpei
Yap	Chuuk

Kosrae	Fiji
Guam	Kiribati
Marshall Islands	New Caledonia
Niue	Solomon Islands
Tokelau	Tuvalu
Western Samoa	

Officials from the UNDP and UNESCO Apia offices made presentations at the meeting.

Eleven representatives from private companies supporting the PWA from American Samoa, Australia, New Caledonia, New Zealand and the USA attended the meeting. Display tables were set up so that companies and utility personnel could interact.

Annex 3 contains the meeting program and agenda while Annex 4 contains the minutes and summary of the resolutions made at the meeting. The participants list is in Annex 5.

The meeting was successful as potential members reconfirmed their support for the PWA. However there is still some work required by the PWA consultant (PPA) to finalise the legal details in establishing the PWA in Fiji as a regional organisation. The Pacific Water and Sanitation Project at SOPAC will still continue to be PWA's Interim Secretariat until the PWA is operational.

For a more detailed account of the Inaugural Meeting of the PWA see SOPAC Miscellaneous Report 235.

24 August 1996

ASPA Field Trip

The tour of some of ASPA's facilities was very informative. The tour included an inspection of the Utulei Wastewater Treatment Plant which provides preliminary treatment using clarigesters with the treated effluent discharged into the Pago Pago Harbour about 40 m below sea level. Sludge is removed from the clarigesters and disposed of in landfill sites. There are facilities at the treatment plant to accept and dispose of sludge and scum pumped from septic tanks and delivered by truck tanker.

Demonstrations were given on pump repairs, leak detection, connection/meter installation, the ASPA SCADA system and computerised mapping.

Depart American Samoa.

25 August 1996 (Sunday)

Le Godinet Hotel

Work on trip and meeting reports.

26 August 1996

UNESCO

I met again with Trevor Sankey and he gave me the following two reports regarding the Tonga IHP Groundwater Pollution Study.

- Groundwater Pollution by Sanitation on Tropical Islands by Peter Dillon, July 1996.
- The revised Interim Report for the IHP Project 3 Groundwater Pollution Study by Lindsay Furness, August 1996.

We also discussed the Kiribati study and the need for an additional trip sometime early next year to enable data collection over a “wet” season.

Trevor will be attending the 25th SOPAC Annual Session scheduled for 2-9 October 1996 in Rarotonga.

UNDP

Both Tony Patten and Mikael Jorgason were unavailable when I visited. However I did make contact with Mr Sili Apelu, Senior Programme Assistant and Office Technology Coordinator.

WSWA

I met with Latu Kupa and briefed him on the meeting. Due to a WSWA Board meeting and a Cabinet meeting Latu was unable to attend the PWA meeting. Latu is a member of the PWA Steering Committee and has been very active in the formation of the PWA.

Latu advised me that Cabinet had approved the national installation of water meters and was briefed on a proposed tariff structure where users are charged in proportion to what they use (ie the more you use the more you pay).

APIA OBSERVATORY

I visited the Observatory’s drilling and mechanical workshop located at Vaitele. The drilling team is geared for foundation drilling investigations. The WSWA are now responsible for groundwater well drilling. The manager of the Observatory’s drilling section is Sitivi Kamu who was one of the first graduates of the SOPAC/USP Certificate Course in Earth Science and Marine Geology. The head driller, Sam Ta’ape, also just completed the ESMG course last year.

Depart Apia.

27-28 August 1996

Arrived in Nadi late on 27 August and flew to Suva on the morning of 28 August.