

SAMOA'S THIRD ANNUAL NATIONAL HEALTH FORUM



Health Sector Partners working together for a "Healthier Samoa"

The Health Sector gathered on the 16th and 17th of December, 2010 to commemorate the 3rd Annual National Health Forum. The objective of the day is to reflect on the achievements of 2010 and also the challenges faced by the Health Sector, hence discussing ways forward and resolutions to improve service delivery as they prepare for another year. The theme of the two day symposium is entitled; *"Road to achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through Strengthening Health Systems founded on Health Promotion and Primary Health Care"*.

The day started with a prayer offered by Father Nimo Pilimai of the Catholic Church. It was then followed by a welcoming speech by the Honorable Minister of Health, Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow. She mentioned the importance of the realization of this year's theme for all to remember and especially the actions taken by the health sector working in partnership, to achieve MDGs 4, 5 and 6 that is, to reduce child mortality and improve child health; improve maternal health; & combat HIV/AIDS, TB and NCDs and other diseases. This, she said, can be implemented by the health sector through a holistic and robust health system.

The Sector Partners from the different areas of health participated through presentations of their respective roles and reviews of what was implemented during the year. The Health Sector includes the Ministry of Health as the lead government agency with regulatory and monitoring role; the World Health Organization (WHO); the National Health Service which focuses on the provision of health care services through publicly funded hospitals; National Kidney Foundation, Oceania University of Medicine, General Practitioners Association, Samoa Medical Association, Samoa Dental Association, Samoa Nurses Association, Private Pharmacists, Private Clinics, Red Cross, Samoa Family Health Association, Nurses on Wheels, Faculty of Nursing & Health Sciences (NUS), Physiotherapists, Loto Taumafai, and SUNGO.