

GROUND BREAKING OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH HEADQUARTERS



L-R: Hon. Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiatua (*Speaker of Parliament*); Hon. Gatoloifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow (*Minister of Health*); HE Chongren Ma (*Ambassador for the People's Republic of China*), Hon. Aeau Peniamina L; Rev. Peteru Tone; Hon. Faumuina Tiatia Liuga (*Minister of Natural Resources and Environment*); Hon. Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi (*Prime Minister*) and Hon. Misa Telefoni (*Deputy Prime Minister*) unveiling the new MOH Headquarters.

September 16, 2010 was marked as one of the historical moments for the Health Sector especially for the Samoa Ministry of Health (MOH). This day was momentous as it brought together many efforts to facilitate the construction of a new modern office building for the Ministry of Health. This move was considered necessary due to the poor conditions of the old administration office built during German colonization which is currently being used. It was indeed a major development which is evidence of the government's commitment to developing and enhancing health systems in Samoa.

There was a huge turn up of participants present on that day to witness such historic event namely the Hon. Prime Minister, the Chinese Ambassador, Speaker of Parliament, Cabinet Ministers, Chief Executive Officers and also the Health Sector Partners. Rev. Peteru Tone of the Congregational Christian Church led all in prayer of thanksgiving and was followed by the main address by the Hon. Prime Minister Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi. He acknowledged the continuous assistance of the People's Republic of China to the development of Samoa and also the generous financial support from other donor partners such as the WHO, AusAid, NZAid, World Bank, JICA and Regional Organizations. The Ambassador for the People's Republic of China also in his speech reiterated the continuous partnership between the two nations and will flourish more in the near future.

This project is funded by the Chinese Government, the Government of Samoa and Multi-lateral donor partners. The new headquarters will be located right across the road, opposite the old building and will be built by the Shanghai Construction Group from China. Construction ends in June, 2011.



Site of the new MOH headquarters



Palanitina Tupuimatagi Toelupe (Director General / CEO, MOH) plays her role as Master of Ceremony.