



AMERICAN SAMOA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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Information Release Authorization Form

Monday, October 05, 2015

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Attached is an Information Release issued by our office (AS-EPA). We would like to ask your assistance in making this information available to the public immediately, via your broadcasts or news publications. For additional information, kindly contact the AS-EPA Director, Ameko Pato or Deputy Director, Faamao Asalele, or Tumau Lokeni, Environmental Awareness & Education Program Manager at 633-2304.

Fa'afetai lava.

- Governor's Office, ASG Weekly  
 Director, Department of Public Information (KVZK-TV)  
 Samoa News  
 Samoa Post  
 KHJ FM 93.1 Radio Station  
 WVUV FM 103.1 Radio Station  
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**Title/Heading:**

**“AS-EPA Representatives attended the 26<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting of Officials 2015 in Apia”**

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

*Ameko Pato*  
Ameko Pato, Director  
American Samoa – EPA

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Oct 5, 2015*



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## Press Release

**Pago Pago, September 28, 2015:** The 26<sup>th</sup> SPREP (Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme) Meeting of Officials took place in Apia last week September 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. The American Samoa delegation included Head of Delegation, AS-EPA Deputy Director Fa’amao Asalele and Delegation alternate, AS-EPA SPREP Coordinator Neil Pilcher.

The annual meeting covers all programmatic and corporate activities of the regional organization, which drew delegations from 21 of its 26 member countries and territories.

Highlights from the Climate Change work program included intense preparations of the regional bloc as it prepares to attend the COP 21 climate change talks in Paris this December. American Samoa will not be a part of this delegation as it is not a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). However, Deputy Director Asalele insists “exposure to these policy discussions keep American Samoa informed and relevant to regional climate change policy decisions and actions.”

Significant regional action on the area of Marine Pollution was also a focal point of the Meeting. Increasing the reach of ocean observers to monitor fishing vessels derived pollution from per seines and long-liners continue to be a strategic goal. Deputy Director Asalele was invited by the SPREP Waste Management & Pollution Control Division to present on marine pollution management in the Territory. His presentation described the Territory’s holistic approach to the environmental problem and drew many questions from the audience regarding best practices from the American Samoa case study.

In the area of corporate services, the long anticipated announcement of the new Director General of SPREP was made. Current Deputy Director General Kosi Latu of Samoa was announced as the new Director General of SPREP. The selection of Mr. Latu was unanimously supported from Meeting country and territory members.