



LOLO M. MOLIGA
Governor

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Lt. Governor

AMERICAN SAMOA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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Information Release Authorization Form

Monday, May 18, 2015

- Newspapers (Advertisement/Public Notice/Press Release)
- Radio Stations
- Televisions

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
- KSBS FM 92.1 Radio Station
- KNWJ FM 104.7 Radio Station

Title/Heading:

“AS-EPA WILL BE HOSTING THE 28th PACIFIC ISLANDS ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE 2015”

Approved by: _____


Ameko Pato, Director
American Samoa – EPA

Date: 18 MAY 2015



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PRESS RELEASE

AS-EPA WILL BE HOSTING THE 28th PACIFIC ISLANDS ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE 2015



The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) will host the 28th Pacific Islands Environment Conference (PIEC) on June 15 – 18 2015. This will be the second PIEC the local EPA will host, the first time being 2007. The theme for this year's PIEC conference is "Islands United Creating Solutions", with the goal to continue to pioneer a path towards sustainable growth and economic development while also creating and maintaining a healthy and pristine environment for the next generation of Pacific Islanders. The first PIEC session convened in 1961, which was 54 years ago,

as there was a need for Pacific Island Nations to unite and assess how to better preserve and protect the natural resources of Oceania that were being threatened by rapid economic, social and environmental changes.

AS-EPA Director Ameko Pato emphasizes to the community how we as the caretakers of this great Pacific are responsible for policy decisions that conserve and restore its natural resources. Director Pato states "Conservation and restoration go together with any economic development program. We should be proud that the Pacific has understood this for decades".

"In creating solutions, the Pacific Island nations are blessed with a unique blend of environmental resources and potential. Unfortunately, we are also faced with unique environmental challenges that demand innovative approaches and solutions on the part of our decision makers and those responsible for the implementation of developmental and economic policies. Effects of climate change on the environment are felt heavily in island settings. Therefore, Pacific Islands will need to protect their environment and resources by marshalling specialized resources at home and abroad in an effort to preserve the state of our environment" says Director Pato.

The conference will take place for four days with 37 Speakers and 14 panels altogether. The three feature panel sessions are *Islands United Creating Solutions*, *Climate Change* and *Sustainable Pacific*. The public is invited to register with a registration fee of \$20 to attend the Pre Conference Workshops on Monday June 15, and a registration fee of \$40 to attend the main

conference from Tuesday to Thursday (June 16 – 18). Local high school students and college students are invited to register. All local high school and college students registration fees are waived or are free of charge.

Director Pato kindly challenges local college and high school students and the general public to take advantage of this rare opportunity to engage with environmental professionals and leaders from across the Pacific and our USEPA Region IX office to discuss the environmental policy agenda that affects all of us in the Pacific. “This is our Pacific and we share it as the nations of the Pacific. We need each other because together we form the voice that informs the world about the Pacific’s unique environmental successes and challenges”, says Pato.

For more information about the 2015 PIEC or if you would like to register for the PIEC conference, please contact AS-EPA at 633-2304 or log on to www.epa.as.gov/piec2015 .