



PRESS RELEASE

Government of Tonga and Development Partners' Forum 2019

Government of Tonga through its Ministry of Finance hosted the 2019 Government of Tonga and Development Partners' Forum on 7th June 2019, at the National Reserve Bank of Tonga Building, Nuku'alofa Tonga.

The Forum serves as an annual event conducted for the purpose of initiating the required dialogue between the Government of Tonga and Donor Development Partners in support of the ongoing development of the country.

The Minister of Finance Honourable Dr. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa chaired the Forum, and emphasized the importance of strengthening and reinforcing development aid coordination in support of successful development aid-funded portfolios in Tonga. The Minister further highlighted the importance of collaboration in support of building the capacity of Government as a whole to effectively implement projects, successfully and in a timely manner.

The Government led the proceedings of the Forum by presenting to Development Partners **(i) the Government's budget policies for Financial Year 2019/2020, (ii) an update on the ongoing Tropical Cyclone Gita Recovery Framework, and (iii) a presentation of recent reforms in project management governance and capacity for development aid effectiveness within Government.** New initiatives in support of these items were also presented and development partners responded in relation to their respective portfolios.

A draft record of the outcome document of the Forum is expected to be finalized and circulated within a week's time.

Development Partners who were present included distinguished representatives from the World Bank Group, the Asian Development Bank, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the Peoples' Republic of China, the United Nations and its various agencies, the World Health Organization, and the European Union.

The Forum concluded with a highlighted reminder from the Chair that successful and ongoing development is an all-important and ongoing priority for Tonga. To enable this, the ongoing and collaborative assistance of Development Partners in support of Government's priorities is vital and absolutely fundamental.

**Group Photo: Government of Tonga Officials and Development Partners after the Forum.
7th June 2019**



Front row seating L-R: Mr Yu Hongmiao (PRC), Ms Shaleshni Prasad (EU), Mr Shinji Yoshiura (JICA), and Mr Yutaro Setoya (WHO);

Second row seating L-R: Dr. Rev. Tevita Palefau (FWC), Mr Yasuhiko Kamada (Japan), Mr Moana (MFAT), Hon. Minister Tuí Uata (MTED), Hon. Minister Pohiva Tuíónetoa (MOF), HE. Adrian Morrison (DFAT HC), Mr Masayuki Tachiiri (ADB), Mr Lasse Melgaard (World Bank);

Third row standing L-R: Mr Piula Tuiono (MOF), Ms Elizabeth Baker (MOF), Ms Gladys Fukofuka (MOF), Ms Ásopesio Lakalaka (MOF), Ms Lesieli Tufui Faletau (MOF), Ms Ána Fakaola Lemani (MOF), Ms Balwyn Faotusia (CEO MOF), Mr Pita Tonga (MOF), Mr Sione Ákauola (CEO MPE), Mr. Seniloli Ínoke (MOI), Ms Lia Maka (CEO PSC), Representative of Bureau of Statistics, Ms. Rosamond Bing (CEO MLSNR), Mr Mafua Maka (NEMO), Dr. Sione Ngongo Kioa (Governor NRB), Mr Maliu Takai (PREP), Ms Natalia Latu (World Bank), Ms Lavinia Latu (MIA), Ms Madeline Scott (DFAT), Mr Manase Foukimoana (MIA), Ms Eleni Leveni Tevi (EU), Ms Netatua Prescott (CSU – World Bank), Dr Viliami Manu (CEO MAFF), Mr Edgar Cocker (CSSC PMO), Ms Rebecca Worner (DFAT), Mr Tatafu Moeaki (ADB), Ms Carry Russel (DFAT), Ms Amelia Faotusia (MOF), Ms Louisa MacDonald Hall (DFAT), Mr Paumolevuka Likiliki (FAO), Mr Vijay Marayan (ADB).

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