



GOVERNMENT OF TONGA
MEDIA RELEASE
(25 August, 2016)

“Tonga receives first International Labour Organization (ILO) mission after becoming a member of the Organization in February, 2016.”

Tonga received on Monday, 22nd August, 2016 its first International Labour Organization (ILO) mission to visit the country after becoming the 187th member of the Organization in February, 2016. The mission is led by ILO Decent Work Specialist, Mr. Satoshi Sasaki who is also the Officer-in-Charge of the ILO Suva office. Mr. Sasaki is accompanied by ILO National Programme Officer, Ms. Surkafa F. Katafono.

The mission's purpose of visit is to meet with key tripartite constituents from government, workers' and employers' associations to discuss the development of Tonga's Decent Work Program (DWP) for 2016-2017, as well as any needs and potential ILO interventions. Whilst in the country, the mission will participate in the national consultation to develop the United Nations Pacific Strategy (UNPS) 2018-2022 on Friday, 26th August 2016 before departing Tonga.

Prior to becoming a member of the Organization, the ILO had worked previously with Tonga on some activities which includes the establishment of the Tonga Retirement Benefits Scheme funded by the UNDP in early 2004-2006, revising of the 2006 Employment Relations Bill and developing the amended 2013 Draft, and capacity assessment for the stakeholder agencies in 2015.

The ILO Suva office is responsible for country programming of eleven (11) Pacific Islands ILO member countries. These member countries are: Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, and Tonga. The office also provides support to non-member Pacific Islands States.

--- Ends ---