



Eleventh Pacific Health Ministers Meeting

April 15-17, 2015



World Health
Organization

Western Pacific Region



SPC
Secretariat
of the Pacific
Community

Media release

15th April 2015

Pacific Health Minister's Meeting successfully commences

The 11th Pacific Health Ministers Meeting convened this morning with 22 Pacific Island Countries represented.

The outgoing chair Hon. Samoa Minister for Health Tuitama Dr Leao Talalelei handed over duties to the incoming chair the Hon. Fiji Minister for Health & Medical Services Mr Jone Usamate.

Hon Minister for Health & Medical Services Mr Usamate said “I commend the work done so far by Hon. Minister for Health Samoa as chair of the Healthy Island vision. This is a historic event as this important position returns to where it began, 20 years ago”.

The meeting further progressed with a review of the Healthy Islands Journey; Achievements, challenges and way forward which was presented by Professor Don Matheson (consultant).

Professor Matheson said, “The 20th anniversary provides the best opportunity to recommit to the vision and at the same time implement challenges that may have weakened progress to date. The commitment has to be more vigilant to achieve this vision”.

The Hon. Peseta Sam Lotu-liga, Associate Minister of Health New Zealand during discussion of the review said, “I commend the work done so far by Fiji & its predecessor and encourage dialogue and forum for the Pacific for better coordination”.

Professor Matheson further shared that 20 years after the Healthy Island declaration people in the Pacific are still inspired in terms of work and health in the region.

The Hon. Minister for Health, Tokelau, Mr Siopili Perez shared briefly on their country's journey. “We have worked to strengthen and promote health and polices. One achievement that was highlighted was the banning of fizzy drinks.

“We have also piloted the Package of Essential NCD Interventions for Primary Health Care (PEN) and have encouraged home gardening so that fresh local fruits and vegetables are

obtained. We remain persistent to provide quality health care and review our health services”, added Hon. Mr Siopili Perez.

Meanwhile, today’s meeting will conclude with group discussions on the review of the Healthy Island Journey and a closed meeting for the Ministers.

The Pacific Health Ministers Meeting is hosted by the Fiji Government, World Health Organization and Secretariat of Pacific Community.

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