



P R E S S R E L E A S E

Apia, Samoa
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For Immediate Release

EU hosts water seminar in Samoa

The European Commission is sponsoring a regional seminar on Water and Sanitation in Apia, Samoa. The event is opening today and will run until Thursday, 15 April 2010. It will be attended by some 35 delegates, representing water departments and agencies of government and inter-governmental organizations from 12 countries in the Pacific region

"The geographic makeup of the islands of the Pacific and a fast growing urban population place enormous stresses on fragile water resources of the islands," says Ambassador Wiepke van der Goot, Head of the EU Delegation for the Pacific.

"Water management is also threatened by natural disasters, which this region is frequently exposed to, not to mention the increasing perils of climate change. In this respect, sanitation, a key issue for the conservation of the vulnerable island environment as well as for health, is unfortunately too often disregarded. The seminar is therefore very timely," added Ambassador van der Goot.

Key objectives of the regional water seminar include disseminating wider knowledge and understanding about sector-wider approach (SWAp) and through integrated water resources management (IWRM). Cross-cutting issues like governance in the water and sanitation sector and climate change adaptation measures will also be discussed.

Countries and territories that are being represented at the Apia seminar are Cook Islands, East Timor, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Samoa, Tonga, Papua New Guinea and Tuvalu.
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For further information, contact:

THOMAS OPPERER
EU Office Samoa
Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific
Apia, Samoa
Tel: 658-20-070
Email: delegation-samoa@ec.europa.eu

SAMISONI PARETI
Media Adviser
Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific
Suva, Fiji
Tel: 979-9930-873
Email: paretis@gmail.com

