



Newsletter 4: April 2014

President's Message

I wish to thank you all for your confidence in selecting me to steer and lead our association for the duration on this current financial year, and I look forward to working with our New Executive Council in doing the task at hand.

On behalf of SAME, we would like to offer a very big Faafetai and Faamalo to Afioga Funefeai Oliva Vaai, who was at the helm of the Association for the last 3 years. Despite his own busy schedule as CEO of Yazaki Samoa, he devoted his time to carrying out his duties as President. Likewise, we offer a big faamalo to our previous EC Council Members.

This year, we have a big task ahead of us in following through with the programs and work-plan that has been earmarked for 2014, as well as the upcoming review of our 5 Year Strategic Plan. The focus of all these activities are to provide support to SAME members in capacity building to become competitive in meeting the challenges offered by an ever increasing global trading environment, as well as the challenges posed by small developing economies like Samoa - which is often exposed to natural disasters, and high costs of utility and transportation.

To assist SAME in effectively carrying out its tasks, we have now established a highly competent and efficient office, which is now fully available to all members for any assistance required. In addition to this, the SAME Executive has now selected various subcommittees of SAME (Advisory Committee; Trade Development Committee; Membership Committee; Strategic Plan Committee) to spear-head the various programs and to further strengthen service for our members.

Update from the AGM

A very successful AGM was held at the Millennia Hotel on March 26th. All the resolutions proposed to update the Constitution, as circulated to you all, were passed and the election of officers was held. The Executive Committee had four nominations, one for each of the Office Holders of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. 9 nominations were received for the 8 General Committee positions and so an election for these was held on the night.

Office Holders:

President - Tagaloa Eddie Wilson
Secretary - James Potoi

Vice President - Funefeai Oliva Vaai
Treasurer - John Bellinger

Executive Committee:

Clare Leota
Pulou M Tau (Kap)
Chikara Yoshida
Edwin Tamasese

Patrick Rasmussen
Opeta Siilata
Laeimau Oketevi Tanuvasa
Robert Pereira

New Members on the Executive

Edwin Tamasese - Soil Health Company
Robert Pereira - Maali Company Limited

ISO 9001:2008 - Audits and Internal Auditor Training/Change of Service Providers

The SAME ISO Program is an integral part of the Association's efforts to support members in enhancing capacity to become competitive in the provision of Samoan Made Goods & Services both locally and for Export Markets.

For this program to be sustainable, SAME has changed service providers from Quality Catalyst of India, to New Zealand International Certification Limited. The decision for the change was made on the basis of: economy/cost-recovery; that SAME will be able to carry out the Internal Audit Training under supervision of the new service provider; and that the program will be expanded to include other certifications such as Food Safety Management/HACCP; Environment and over 20 other certifications.

The change in service providers was the subject of on-going email objections from the previous service provider, Mr. Bhope. This matter has now been put to rest, I have provided a letter of explanation to all members (President Letter – ISO Service Providers - dated 17th April 2014) on the matter and to stakeholders included in the exchange.

SAME have entered into a contract with International Certifications Ltd for ISO certifications from this year for the next three years to conduct ISO and other certifications and deliver Internal Auditor Training for SAME members. The last week in March and the first week in April this year saw the start of this programme with a launch of the training supported by the Deputy Prime Minister which was covered in the media. Of significance, is the statement made by the Deputy Prime Minister during the launch, that Government Ministries; Organizations and SOEs will be encouraged to join the SAME ISO Program.

Other Training opportunities for you:

The questionnaire asking about training that you might find useful in your business was sent to you in early March. If you haven't yet completed this form please do so, it is provided in both English and Samoan, so we can see what you might require and how SAME can help you to access this training.

In addition Faith, the SAME office Administrator will call you to check on your progress and you can complete the survey with her by phone if you wish.

We would like to receive your completed forms back ASAP so we can then determine what training is most appropriate for SAME to offer to their members.

SAME Work Plan 2014

The SAME Work Plan can be found on the website [Click here](#). This document is developed from the Strategic Plan and is what the SAME office will be focussed on for 2014. You can read this document and if you have any comments or recommendations you would like to make please feel free to contact the office on office@same.org.ws

Next Members Meeting

SAME Members meeting 30th April 2014, 5.30 p.m., Venue Federal Pacific Building at Saleufi. Agenda - see over the page

**SAME Members Meeting to be held at the Federal Pacific
Building at Saleufi, Apia, Samoa- Wednesday**

30 April 2014

AGENDA

1. Opening by President
2. Prayers
3. Attendance/Apologies
4. Review of last Minutes - circulated prior
 - a) Adopt minutes as circulated - after any corrections
 - b) Matters Arising from Minutes
5. SAME ISO Program 2014-2016 Update
 - a) Change in Service Providers
 - b) Program for Remainder 2014
 - c) Meeting sessions for Eligible ISO certified members –to establish quality manuals before May 31st 2014.
 - d) Other ISO Certification requirement by members
6. Financial Report
7. Office Update
 - a) Information for members & Newsletter
 - b) Summary of NZ Trade Fair Interviews
8. Other Business
9. Closing

2014 SAME Membership Fees Due

Pay at the SAME office or direct credit, just contact us ph: 842 2910 or email office@same.org.ws for the account number

Reminder invoices were emailed to you in March along with invoices for any outstanding amounts shown in our records. 3rd and final notices are due out shortly - please note that these invoices will also include any outstanding payments due.