

OPUS INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS SAMOA LTD OFFERS ENGINEERING TRAINING INITIATIVES FOR SAMOA



(L-R) Matilda Bartley, Sharon Potoi-Aiafi (MFAT), Paul Rooney (Opus), Fui Tupai Mau Simanu (IPES President) Faina Ah Liki (IPES), Titi Tutuvanu-Schwalger (IPES)

The Government of Samoa through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), Opus International Consultants Samoa Ltd in partnership with the Institute of Professional Engineers Samoa (IPES) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Opus to provide capacity building opportunities through short term training in the field of engineering and scholarship initiatives for Samoa. The capacity building initiatives include partially funded scholarships for students to undertake civil engineering at an approved university in New Zealand, a cadetship programme for Samoan nationals working in the civil engineering fields in Samoa as well as the secondment of engineering staff in Samoa to either New Zealand or on projects being carried out by Opus in Samoa.

Samoa's growing number of infrastructural developments brings an increase in demand for qualified engineers. IPES and the Government of Samoa recognize that the initiatives offered by Opus is a good incentive for students to undertake engineering as a career and to enhance the capacity of engineers already working in Samoa both in the government and private sector. The partnership established between Opus, IPES and the Government of Samoa will hopefully encourage other overseas consultancy firms or contractors to follow suit and provide and establish a positive working relationship with the engineering sector in Samoa.

The MOU was signed in May 2016 by Mrs Peseta Noumea Simi, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. Paul Rooney, General Manager of Opus International Consultants Ltd; and Mr Fui Tupa'i Mau Simanu, President of the Institute of Professional Engineers Samoa.

An advertisement to invite students and engineers to apply for the above programs will be published on IPES website (www.ipes.ws) and MFAT website (www.mfat.gov.ws) and in local newspapers, once these programs are made available for the first intake for 2017.