

OFFICIAL REMARKS BY
AMBASSADOR H.E. LUAMANUVAE ALBERT MARINER

DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION TO
COMMEMORATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE INDEPENDENT
STATE OF SAMOA AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

ST REGIS HOTEL, BEIJING
4 DECEMBER 2025

Mr Cai Wei, Member of the CPC Committee of MFA and Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, Your Excellencies fellow Ambassadors, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen, friends. All protocols observed.

On behalf of the Government and people of Samoa, I convey warm greetings to you all, and, thank you, for making time to be here this evening, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of diplomatic relations and the ongoing strong partnership, between the Independent State of Samoa and the People's Republic of China.

I have the privilege to read here a message from Samoa's Head of State, His Highness Tuimalealiifano Va'aletoto'a Sualauvi II, that was sent to H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China:

Letter dated: 21 October 2025:

And I quote:

*"Your Excellency, (**Read the Head of State's letter to President Xi Jinping**)*

Samoa's Prime Minister, the Honourable Laaulialemalietoa Leuatea Polataivao Fosi Schmidt, on 20 October 2025, also conveyed a message of congratulations to Premier Li Qiang, in which he stated, and I quote:

"Over the last five decades, the close relationship and collaboration between our two countries has enriched our bilateral ties. High-level exchanges between Samoa and China have strongly promoted

cooperation in various fields and enhanced mutual respect and understanding between our two peoples, testament to the enduring strength of our relationship. Your Excellency, I look forward to working closely with you to foster greater cooperation and to take our diplomatic relations to new heights, and ensure that our partnership continues to thrive and deliver greater wellbeing, for our two peoples.” End of quote

Your Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen.

50 years ago, when Samoa’s political leaders established official bilateral relations with China, it was seen a sign of Samoa’s confidence and coming of age, 13 years, after securing its full independence. Samoa was the first island country in the Pacific to gain independence from colonial rule in 1962. There was also a strong connection between the growing number of 1st and 2nd generation of Samoan Chinese families, whose parents arrived from China in the mid 1800 and early 1900s, and all made significant contribution to Samoa’s post independence development.

The Samoa Government in 1975 recognised the similarities between China and Samoa as developing countries, and our efforts to lift our peoples out from poverty. And more importantly, China was always willing to help us in some of our key sectors, in which our other development partners, were not prepared to provide support.

So this bilateral relationship was set-up on a foundation of shared aspirations and mutual respect, and this continues to provide the framework, that guides the official working relationship between our two countries. This is all underpinned of course, by the political basis of our relationship, Samoa’s One China principle.

My brief remarks this evening will focus on four key aspects of Samoa and China’s partnership, friendship over the past five decades:

1) An enduring friendship:

As we celebrate this evening half a century of diplomatic relations, we pause and reflect on our fast-changing global landscape. The global challenges and the uncertainty we all face, with several theatre of conflicts (some perhaps described as intractable?) in different regions of

the world, the ongoing climate crisis, and the current global economic challenges, all have raised questions, concerning the effectiveness of our multilateral institutions and processes. Now more than ever, we see the necessity for more robust and constructive diplomacy and genuine dialogue on the need to prioritize the pursuit of peace and development, and resolve the climate crisis. Despite these multi-faceted challenges, Samoa and China's strong bond of friendship has remained a constant. This is not an alliance of convenience, but a partnership that has been based on the principle of respecting each other's sovereignty and development priorities.

II) Practical Cooperation and Supporting Samoa's Economic Development.

Our strong technical cooperation programs is tangible and visible across the Samoa's landscape. From the iconic government buildings in the capital, our national hospital, sports stadium and facilities, a state-of-the art police academy, and critical infrastructure like our Faleolo International Airport. These are not just infrastructure projects; they provide an environment conducive for promoting Samoa's growth and economic development.

III) People-to-People contacts and Cultural exchange.

Any relationship between two nations, at its core, is the relationship between the peoples. This year in May, our two governments agreed to implement visa free travel between our two countries. Through knowledge exchange programs, Chinese medical teams of experts have been working alongside Samoan Doctors past several years. In education, we have around 100 students pursuing university studies in the different provinces in China. In agriculture, our local farmers have benefitted significantly from Chinese experts over the past ten years. These knowledge and skills exchange build bridges of understanding and friendship, that will guide our relations for generations to come.

As alluded to before, Samoa's connection to China started in the mid 1800s and early 1900s. A period when our first Chinese settlers arrived primarily from Guangdong Province and Fujian Province. Some of our second and third generation Chinese families are now key players in

our social, economic, and political landscape. Some of them, up to this day, refers to China as the motherland.

IV) Shared Values and strong International Collaboration.

On the global stage, Samoa and China share common views on many issues, and we collaborate closely in multilateral fora, championing the interests of small island developing states. On the climate crisis, Samoa will continue to place this as a national priority issue. The Pacific Islands Ambassadors Group in Beijing appreciated very much our recent exchange of views with China's Climate Envoy, Mr Liu Zhenmin, who provided an overview of China's leadership in the COP process, and the critical leadership role the G20 must play, in addressing this crisis.

Samoa and all the Pacific Forum Islands countries had fully supported Australia's bid to host next year's COP31, which we all promoted as a 'Pacific COP'. Australia bid was not successful, however, we warmly congratulate Turkey, as the next host and incoming President of COP31 in 2026. Samoa will work closely with Australia to support all the pre-negotiation meetings in the Pacific, in the lead-up to next year's meeting. The challenges in resolving this climate crisis continues. Samoa however will continue to work closely with all the small islands developing states and like-minded countries, to ensure the 2015 Paris Agreement is fully implemented. Samoa welcomes China's collaboration and partnership in this regard, and in particular, technical and financial support to meet our ongoing efforts to meet our clean and green energy transition targets.

Message to Samoan Students:

There are almost 100 Samoan students currently studying at Universities at the different provinces here in China. From the south in Guangdong and all the way up to the North, in the ice city of Harbin. Around 50 students are studying here in Beijing and surrounding areas. Most of them are here with us this evening. To my students - you are the future bridgebuilders between Samoa and China. Some of you at the completion of your studies, may return on official visits as government officials, media personnel, private sector entrepreneurs. Some may return as political leaders. I remind you of the importance of

learning the Chinese language, learn and appreciate China's history and culture. Learn and understand about China's high-quality development. For those of you studying science, computer and engineering, China is the place to be. Please learn as much as you can about AI, EV and robotics, and technology associated with clean and green energy.

I would like to acknowledge the representatives from the private sector, in particular some of the supporters of the Samoa Embassy who have in partnership with our office, provided sponsorships for this evening's reception. We will acknowledge your support later in the programme. I also acknowledge Samoa's friends from the Huizhou FAO, who are with us this evening. Some recently returned from Samoa and were part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations in our capital. I also appreciate the modern technology recently provided for the Embassy, to allow for online meetings and news update.

This evening you will be entertained by our Samoan University students. Traditional dancing and music is one of the greatest connectors between different cultures. And this will be followed later by a performance by the Choir of Peaceful Voices, whose members are from the world renown Beijing Central Conservatory of Music and the National Academy of Chinese Theater Arts. Please enjoy.

For our dinner, we had planned to provide a unique taste of Samoa cuisine through our traditional way of cooking pacific island food, but we will reserve that, and invite you to visit Samoa and enjoy our hospitality, our culture and delicious cuisine. I acknowledge one our Ambassador colleagues who recently returned with his Good lady from a holiday visit to Samoa. I believe two of our colleagues are also planning to visit later this month. If you need help/advice with your travel arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Finally, the relationship between China and Samoa is a great example of South-South cooperation. In 2018, President Xi elevated our bilateral relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. It is comprehensive, as it covers our key sectors such as health, agriculture, education, tourism, sports and infrastructure. It is strategic, as it is based on a long-term shared interests. And most importantly, it is sincere.

Looking ahead, Samoa's newly elected Prime Minister Laaulialemalietoa is very confident, that this partnership with China will continue to deepen, bringing even greater benefits to our peoples and serving as a beacon of friendship and cooperation in the Pacific region.

Soifua ma ia manuia.
Xie xie da jia.