



# **GIRLS IN ICT DAY REPORT**

## **SAFER INTERNET**

*25 April 2019*

*Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi (TATTE) Conference Room – Apia  
UPOLU*

## **Girls in ICT Day: SAMOA**

### **0.0 BACKGROUND**

It has been five (5) years since Samoa celebrated this annual event. Throughout the years, this was commemorated on the island of Upolu inviting all the Government, Church and Private Colleges. In 2018 OOTR decided to take this initiative to the big island of Savaii given the low number of participants from Colleges in Savaii in the past years. The organising committee received positive feedback from the girls, teachers and other members who were there in support on the event. Their only wish was for the organising committee to consider its continuity in Savaii as travelling between islands restraints most of the colleges to participate in Apia. This year, OOTR will commemorate this event on Upolu Island at the Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi (TATTE) Conference Room inviting all the schools in Samoa – Government, Church and Private, to attend.

### **1.0 PARTICIPANTS**

#### **1.10 Main Competition:**

Every year, since its first (1<sup>st</sup>) successful program, OOTR holds a main competition in which college girls are invited to participate. The winners are announced on the day of the event and presented with special prizes. In the previous year, OOTR has held a Video competition, Poster Competitions, Debates and Essay Writing Competition which focused on the importance of ICT and other related topics.

For this year's event the organising committee hosted two main ICT activities which the girls choose from. Task no.1 is creating an online mobile application using MIT App Inventor & Task no.2 is creating a short ( 1-3 minutes) animated presentation/explainer video using cloud based software. Attached is the application form. Due to travelling constraints between Islands this task is for all Upolu colleges only for levels 12 & 13.

This activity was conducted over the course of four weeks at OOTR building with the first two weeks delegated to introductory sessions and the last two weeks given to the participants to create their final product based on the theme of this year's event – *Safer Internet*.

Our organising committee received 13 applicants for this activity from Faatuatua College, Aleipata College, St. Joseph's College and Aana No.2 College (two rural two urban colleges).

The winner for this activity was announced on the day during the main event. Miss Breeze Chan of Faatuatua College received first prize for her animated explainer video on Safer Internet. Consolation prizes for the other participants were prepared to express our sincere appreciation for their active participation during the competition.

### **1.20 Girls in ICT – Samoa 2019 Mobile application:**

One of the key achievements of this year's event was the Girls in ICT-Samoa 2019 mobile application created in-house using online tools and made available on Google Play Store for accessing information on our event this year. The application contained information on the program of the day including success stories of previous Girls in ICT participants who are now pursuing ICT related studies in overseas universities.

### **1.30 Keynote Speaker :**

*Honourable Fiame Naomi Mataafa*

Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and also the Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, is an empowering figure in the female community who has inspired so many young female leaders in a variety of sectors such as environmental, cultural, spiritual and ICT related fields.

### **1.40 Guest Speaker:**

*Justice Tuala-Warren*

Justice Tuala-Warren is the Judge of the Supreme Court and was the main judge for the Family Court and Family Violence Courts in Samoa. OOTR extended its invitation to Justice Tuala-Warren as there is an increase in violence against women and children which mainly derive from inappropriate use of the Internet. Justice Tuala-Warren expressed her views on how ICT should be utilised appropriately to benefit the girls and their families.

### **1.50 Pastor:**

*Ruby Misa Sabbath*

Pastor Ruby Misa Sabbath is a respected figure in the spiritual community with a strong background in ICT. She is not only a pastor but also a respected employee of the New Zealand High Commission.

### **1.60 Colleges attended:**

A total of 11 confirmed colleges attended the event with 4 representatives from each school. Due to travelling constraints only one college from the big Island of Savaii attended the event.

### **1.70 Presenters:**

Presentations were delivered by some of the well-known influential women in our society presenting on leadership skills and experience relating to ICT from their field of work. The presenters were:

- Mrs. Palanitina Tupuimatagi Toelupe - Former Chief Executive Officer of the National Health Services (NHS) and is now a consultant.

- Ms. Afoa Peseta Arasi Tiotio - Former Chief Executive Officer of Samoa Land Corporation (SLC) and is now a consultant and current President of Women in Business Development Incorporated (WIBDI)
- Professor Muagututia Ioana Chan Mow - Lecturer and professor of Computing and Computing Education at the National University of Samoa (NUS).
- Dr. Simona Marinescu - United Nations Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative.
- Miss Theresa Palale - Principal technical officer with the Office of the Regulator.

Working as leaders in their respective fields of expertise they are also ambassadors in their chosen fields and each play a role in influencing and incorporating ICT in their careers. The presenters aimed to empower the girls to take up leadership skills and inform them about the different career paths which are integrated into ICT via professions like a legal officer or an economist in this sector.

The last presenter is one of OOTR's female engineer presenting on her journey as a student with focus in ICT as a career path and becoming a technical officer in one of the most influential corporations in the ICT sector in Samoa, the Office of the Regulator. She encouraged the girls on the fun side of ICT and challenge the girls on the WOW side of ICT.

## **2.0 ACITIVITIES**

The event was celebrated by various activities.

- Text Competition:

- A phrase or question was displayed on the screen and the participants had to text in the answer to the number 190 which was a short code approved by OOTR to the telecom providers for this specific activity.

- Online Quiz

- An online link was distributed to a group of girls to answer a set of multiple-choice questions. The questions had a time limit and at the end of the quiz their scores were calculated and viewed to determine the winner

- ICT Amazing Race

This consists of four different work stations and each team has to complete three of them. The stations were online quiz, answer the riddle, mix and match the correct computer parts and label and a simple curve plotting code using MATLAB.

- Samoan Poems

The girls and teacher had to pick a topic and were given three (3) minutes to prepare a short impromptu poem.

### **3.0 SPONSORSHIP**

We are very grateful for the many sponsorship we received this year. Faafetai lava (Thank you very much) to Women in Leadership Association, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, United Nations Organisation, Bluesky Samoa Limited, Digicel Samoa Limited, Samoa Stationary and Books, Business System Limited and Island Rock for sponsoring our event. Please see separate document on received sponsorship and prizes.

### **4.0 FEEDBACK**

The organising committee received positive feedback from the girls, teachers and other members who were there in support on the event and wished that other schools who were supposed to join could have made it to the program. Teachers and students expressed their sincere thanks to OOTR for carrying out this program which made them aware that there is more work opportunities in ICT careers opening up and giving them the courage to pursue this male dominant field.

The teachers have expressed their eagerness to make sure that their students will also participate in next year's event.

### **5.0 CONCLUSION**

This year's celebration was another success starting from the main competition and everything prepared and implemented up to the day of the event. There were a lot of positive energy and eagerness displayed by the attendees on the day and OOTR also received positive feedback from the presenters and colleges. Looking forward to the year 2020 to another Girls in ICT Day celebration.

Note: Due to the size of this report, the following are attached separately, Main Competition Poster, Girls in ICT Day 2019 Program, Girls in ICT Profiles, Girls in ICT Day 2019 Sponsorship List.