



## *Christmas Edition*

From the Editor:

Welcome to this Christmas Edition of the Quarantine Newsletter. It has been a very busy year for us, with world events bringing new challenges and new threats. Bird flu has been very much on our minds, and it continues to trigger appropriate actions in our contingency planning both for imports, and in the case of an outbreak of the disease in animals here.

This year has seen Quarantine making significant advances with the SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary) requirements for WTO accession, and I am pleased to report that Samoa has fulfilled the necessary requirements in this important area.

Legislation that supports the SPS requirements was passed through the parliamentary process in 2005. This important piece of legislation, the *Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act 2005*, has valuable benefits for trade, as well as providing the mechanisms for Quarantine, and for other government departments, to manage their biosecurity responsibilities. SPC is assisting us in publicising this act.

There has been technical progress at our borders, since the introduction of an X-Ray machine for air passenger baggage screening. There is measurable increase in passenger compliance with our requirements, and a corresponding reduction in non-declaration of goods. The introduction of our Quarantine Information Database (SQUID) has also resulted in a significant streamlining of our cargo clearance and reporting processes.

Quarantine is very much an “on-demand” service dictated to a large degree by Government directives and requirements, and international trends and developments. Importers and exporters needs add to the mix, so that the “Quarantine Strategy” has to balance flexibility of purpose with internationally credible systems and practices. All of which are not easy, but very necessary in the modern world - and we can do it.

My Quarantine Team and I look forward to working with all our stakeholders in 2007, and wish everyone a happy and safe holiday period.

*Asuao Kirifi Pouono*  
*Assistant CEO*

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*Want more information about Quarantine, or about Plant and Animal Export issues ?*

*Come and see us at our office at the [Quarantine Operations Centre, Matautu-tai](#), telephone [20924/22171](#).  
Visit our website [www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws](http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws)*