



**Statement by**

**His Highness Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II**

**Head of State**

**of the Independent State of Samoa**

**On the Occasion of the Presentation of Credentials of**

**H.E. Mr. Ta Van Thong**

**Ambassador-designate of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam**

**to the Independent State of Samoa**

**Office of the Head of State, Vaialele**

**Thursday, 7 March 2019**

Your Excellency,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Samoa and to receive your Letters of Credence accrediting you as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the Independent State of Samoa. Thank you also for the Letter of Recall for your predecessor.

Please convey my best wishes for the good health and well-being of His Excellency the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and the continued peace and prosperity of the people of Vietnam.

Excellency,

Samoa and Viet Nam have enjoyed close relations as neighbours in the Asia-Pacific region since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1994. Our two countries have worked together to promote issues of mutual interest such as international peace and security, human rights, climate change, trade and sustainable development, and tackling illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing through the United Nations and other international fora.

Furthermore, we share similar concerns and positions in the areas of general disarmament, democracy, and terrorism. Our two countries are State Parties of many international intergovernmental conventions or agreements in these areas.

Like Viet Nam, tourism is a major contributor to Samoa's economy and agree this is an area for potential increased collaboration between our two countries. Samoa and Viet Nam also share a strong interest in addressing the adverse impacts of climate change and the consequential challenges it

poses to our sustainable development and security. We will continue our joint efforts in calling for more ambitious climate action from the international community.

Excellency,

I am confident that during your tenure as the Ambassador of Viet Nam to Samoa, the close and friendly relations that presently exist between Samoa and Vietnam will be further strengthened.

I trust you will also find your tenure rewarding and fulfilling and I wish you all the best.

Soifua.