



19 February 2013, **The MV 'Otuanga'ofa re-shuffled its normal service to the outer islands of Tonga this week in order for it to meet its scheduled maintenance program as required by the Classification Society Nippon Kaiji Keiki.**

The scheduled maintenance was revised from November of last year to February, this year, in agreement with the Classification Society Surveyor, based in Auckland. The rescheduling was to facilitate service of the vessel during the high season from November to early February.

Although the vessel will be in port to carry out maintenance, for one week, the weekly service to the outer islands will not be disrupted. The only change is the sailing time to the islands, with the departure on Monday entailing a quick turnaround to arrive back in Nuku'alofa by Wednesday. Maintenance is then run for one week with the next departure on the following Wednesday and a return to Nuku'alofa by Friday. With this re-shuffling of the weekly schedule, the MV 'Otuanga'ofa still maintains its commitment of a weekly service to the outer islands.

The allotted maintenance is for a comprehensive program that covers not only the engines but the whole vessel. Items that are covered include the painting of the vessel; cleaning inside of Passengers areas not only to maintain the clean condition of the vessel but to ensure that compliance is kept with the requirements of the Classification Society and the Government's

requirement for FISA to look after the vessel and maintain it to the highest possible standard.

FISA will continue its services to the people as required by the Government of Tonga and maintaining the MV 'Otuanga'ofa to the highest standard possible. To maintain this high standard and cover the costly fuel charges required to run the ship, FISA will from time to time look to pass on these costs to ensure that it is able to comply with all the stringent safety standards of keeping the vessel in class and maintaining the ship's standard to the highest order. This will mean that fares and freight will have to be adjusted from time to time and we are asking the Public to please accept these adjustments as they are for maintaining the MV 'Otuanga'ofa to the highest standard possible for the SAFETY of the Public, travelling on board the MV 'Otuanga'ofa.

ENDS

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