

20 August 2012 His Serene Highness Prince Tungi was the guest of honour at the [Opening Ceremony](#) for a national consultations workshop on two of Tonga's social development issues, gender policy (GAD) and capacities for peace (CPAD).



The Minister for Internal Affairs, Lord Vaea hosted a Reception at the International Dateline Hotel, where the Hon. Frederica Fatafehi Lapaha Tuita and other members of the Royal Family attended.

The Prime Minister, Lord Tu'ivakano, and His Deputy, Hon. Samiu Vaipulu represented the support of the Government of Tonga at the occasion, with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Lord Fakafanua, leading [Tonga's CPAD team](#), in his capacity as CPAD Chairman.

Other [distinguished guests](#) were Their Excellencies Mr. Thomas Roth, Australian High Commissioner to Tonga and the Ambassador from the People's Republic of China, Mr. Wang Donghua. Counterparts from UN Agencies and development partners, included the UNDP Pacific Centre Manager and a Technical team from Suva and were guided by Tonga's UNDP Country Director, Milika Tuita.

Facilitators and organizers for the Workshops were the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Chief Executive Officer [Lopeti Senituli](#), [Ms Polotu Fakafanua - Paunga](#), Deputy Director of Women Affairs, and the executive members of the CPAD Tonga.

Joint National Consultations on gender policy and framework for peace

This joint national consultation were in partnerships between the Australian Government AusAID program, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government's Women Affairs Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA).

The MIA will hold a four-day workshop on the Reviewed National Policy on Gender and Development (GAD) and strengthening its Capacities for Peace and Development (CPAD) from August 21-24 at the Fa'onehua Convention Centre.

[On August 21](#), Government, CSOs & NGO Stakeholders, Offices of the two Governors Offices and the Government Representatives, District and Town Officers, will be presented the input from thirty two community consultations, on key issues and challenges on the 2012 Reviewed Policy on Gender and Development. From August 22-24, the workshop will focus on developing a framework for collaboration between the Government and Civil Society on building capacities for peace and unity in Tonga.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs has six main areas of responsibility which includes the District & Town Officers, Governors and Government Representatives, Women, Culture, youth and Sports. It is also responsible for overseeing the progress in district development communities, social protection and community projects.

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