



**26 January, 2012. The very first New Zealand National Certificate in Official Statistics course for the Public Sector conducted in Tonga begins today, Thursday 26 January 2012.**

The course which was initiated by the Resident Statistical Advisor from New Zealand and hosted by the Statistics Department aims to enhance the statistical skills of the Public Sector and build knowledge and confidence in employees. It is on the New Zealand Qualification Authority (NZQA) National Qualification Framework.

The course is being adapted to the Tongan situation and will be presented by two highly respected tutors, Adjunct Professor Sharleen Forbes and Dr Richard Arnold, from the Victoria University in Wellington.

The cost of completing this course in New Zealand is NZ\$2,600 per participant, so we are grateful to the New Zealand Government for sponsoring this course through the Ministry of Training, Employment, Youth and Sports.

20 participants from the Statistics Department, other Ministries and Statutory Bodies, have been accepted to participate in this training course. We hope that this training will improve and enhance statistics capability of the public sector and contribute to the efficiency and

effectiveness of services provided to the public says Mr 'Ata'ata Finau, Government Statistician.

The training, which includes a research project, is expected to be completed by 31st July 2012 and, the assessment will be done by the official qualified New Zealand assessors and it will be completed by 31 October 2012.

Ends

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