



PRESS RELEASE

ADB CHIEF ECONOMIST YASUYUKI SAWADA VISITS TONGA 29-30 APRIL 2019

Date/Time: 26/4/2019

NUKU'ALOFA, TONGA (26 April 2019): Tonga's Minister for Finance Hon. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa will host the ADB Chief Economist Yasuyuki Sawada's first visit to Nuku'alofa-Tonga from 29 –30 of April 2019.

Chief Economist Sawada is the ADB chief spokesperson for its economic and development trends, and leads on economic research and regional cooperation department, which publishes ADB's flagship knowledge products. During this visit, the ADB Chief Economist will meet with Tonga's Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Semisi Sika, Chief Secretary and Secretary to Cabinet Edgar Cocker, Minister for Finance Hon. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa, and Governor for the National Reserve Bank of Tonga Dr. Sione Ngongo Kioa.

The ADB Chief Economist will also lead the presentation on ADB's flagship annual economic report, the **2019 Asian Development Outlook (ADO)**, which include the Tongan economy as part of the Pacific region.

Tonga's Finance Minister Hon. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa stated that "Government of Tonga welcomes the opportunity for the ADB Chief Economist to be in Tonga. Key Government officials and stakeholders will attend his presentation on the Asian Development Outlook on Monday afternoon at the National Reserve Bank Conference Centre. Tonga's economy is also enjoying tangible benefits from ADB increasingly relevant and scaled up investments in renewable energy, transport infrastructure resilience, climate change adaptation, cyclone recovery, resilience urban development and public sector management".

Hon. Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa will also lead Tonga's delegation to attend the ADB 52nd Annual Meeting in Fiji from 1-5 May 2019.