



TONGA VISITORS BUREAU (MINISTRY OF TOURISM) | PO Box 37, Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga
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**SPEECH BY HRH PRINCESS SALOTE PILOLEVU TUITA.
TONGA NATIONAL DAY, 2 AUGUST 2010. WORLD EXPOSITION 2010.
SHANGHAI, CHINA.**

Mr. Tang Dengjie, Vice Mayor of Shanghai,
Mr. Liu Fei, Deputy Commissioner General of the Chinese Government,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of His Majesty King George Tupou V, the Government, and the people of Tonga may I extend warm greetings to the Government and the people of China for allowing this special day-the '**Tonga National Day**' possible.

Tonga's national Day also coincides with his Majesty's Birthday and I take this opportunity to wish His Majesty many happy returns.

I would like to thank the Chairman and the staff of the Bureau of Shanghai World Exposition 2010 for facilitating our participation, which has reflected positively in the presence of the Pacific Pavilion. May I also acknowledge the effort of Mrs. Bernadette Rounds Ganilau and the South Pacific Tourism Organization for organizing 14 countries in this world event. Tonga is grateful for this concerted effort, and without the determination demonstrated here, our journey here would have been very difficult.

Our journey to this magnificent world event has not been an easy task. However, difficult as it may seem, Tonga's participation at the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai will open new possibilities for us.

The theme of the Expo: Better CITY Better LIFE certainly echoes the deep desire for us all to better our lives and our fellow citizens, in spite of the many national and global challenges. This theme epitomises two things as far as Tonga is concerned.

1. The kingdom of Tonga is not only unique but is a member of the global village and contributes, however small, to the betterment and survival of our planet.
 2. Although we do not have any city in the magnitude of Shanghai, we have small villages and towns aiming to better our lives under many challenges.
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One small way to better our lives is trade, and we are here in Shanghai because we believe that through **tourism**, our lives can improve and at the same time share our culture and heritage with the people of China. Tourism is people looking after people. The most important resource is the people. Tongans are Polynesians, and we have always believed that the Polynesians migrated thousands of years ago from Southern China and South-East Asia. I invite all of you to come to the Kingdom of Tonga; the first country in the world to see the sun every day and the only Kingdom in the South Pacific.

Tonga is one nation in the South Pacific. There are many diverse nations in our regions. Tonga is from the Pacific family nations. When you visit the Tonga booth, please take time to visit Tonga's brothers and sisters from the rest of our Pacific family.

Before I conclude my remarks, I would like to acknowledge with gratitude the Government of the People's Republic of China for the warm hospitality extended to me, and my delegation, upon our arrival and throughout our entire stay here in your exciting City of Shanghai.

May I take this opportunity to invite our distinguished guests to enjoy the performance of our national dance troupe from Tonga and to visit the Tonga booth and experience a glimpse of our culture and heritage.

'Ofa atu,
Thank you.
