



## Press Release

### UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL, Ban Ki-Moon sails on traditional HŌKŪLE'A IN APIA, SĀMOA



*UN Photo*

Apia, Samoa, 1 September 2014 - The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon sailed aboard the Hōkūle'a in Apia Harbor, Sāmoa today. He was joined by Under Secretary-General Gyan Chandra Acharya, the Worldwide Voyage crew, and specialists such as Sylvia Earle of Mission Blue, artist Wyland, Blue Planet founder Henk Rogers, and Greg Stone of Conservation International.

“Hōkūle'a, our voyaging canoe, threads together stories of hope as she voyages across the world's oceans. We are inspired that His Excellency Ban Ki-moon and island leaders have come together on Hōkūle'a's deck around shared values of preserving and protecting our oceans,” said Nainoa Thompson, president and master navigator of the Polynesian Voyaging Society.

The Secretary-General presented Thompson and the crew of the Worldwide Voyage with a handwritten message in a bottle which he asked to be carried with crew as they circle the

globe. The message stated, “I am honored to be a part of Hōkūle'a's Worldwide Voyage. I am inspired by its global mission. As you tour the globe, I will work and rally more leaders to our common cause of ushering in a more sustainable future, and a life of dignity for all.”

The organization of the sail was part of the broader outreach efforts of the UN Office for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to draw greater global attention to the small islands, especially their particularly vulnerability to climate change and the challenges that face oceans.

After the Samoa conference, which concludes on September 5, Hōkūle'a and her sister canoe Hikianalia, continue their sail covering 47,000 nautical miles, 85 ports and 26 countries, including 12 of UNESCO's Marine World Heritage sites, through June 2017.

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