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MOWCAP
UNESCO Memory of the World
Regional Committee for Asia/Pacific

Nomination form

Asia/Pacific Memory of the World Register

Office Use Only	
ID code:	Item or collection short title:
Institution / Owner:	Country or countries
Assessed by: (Rujaya Abhakorn).....(date) / / (xxxxxx).....(date) / / (xxxxxx).....(date) / / (xxxxxx).....(date) / /	Decision: (circle as appropriate) 1. Recommended 2. Not recommended 3. Recommended subject to the following (attach additional comments if required):

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Introduction

This form should be used to nominate items to the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register. It sets out, in logical order, the range of information needed. Nominations should be expressed in clear concise language and lengthy submissions are not required.

Supplementary data may be attached. Please clearly label and number every page in the boxes provided.

It is highly recommended that prospective nominees should carefully read the *Guidelines* for nominating items and collections to the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register for further information before and during preparing a nomination. Nominees should also look at the current *International Memory of the World Register*

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=1678&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

and the [Australian Memory of the World Register](#) to see examples of completed nomination forms.

Please submit two complete document sets on paper (one original and one photocopied versions) and one electronically.

Completed nominations should be posted by mail and submitted electronically to reach the following address:

Ms Helen Swinnerton
 Secretary General of MOWCAP,
 1/F Tower 2 & 3, HSBC Centre, 1 Sham Mong Road, Kowloon
 Hong Kong
helen.swinnerton@gmail.com

The nomination form and any accompanying material will not be returned and will become the property of MOWCAP.

MOWCAP maintains a website at <http://www.unesco.mowcap.org>. Questions may be addressed to the MOWCAP Register Subcommittee (rujaya2000@yahoo.com). Please keep a copy of this form for your records and in case we need to contact you.

Please also keep an electronic version of the completed form as we will need this for successful nominations to speed up entries onto the MOWCAP website.

Ray Edmondson
 Chair, MOWCAP

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Nomination form

Archives of German-Samoa Colonial Administration

Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register nomination form

Part A: Essential information

1 Summary (max 100 words)

The German Colonization period in Samoa from 1900 – 1914 is one of the most significant eras in the history of Samoa. During this period the people of Samoa experienced a great number of political and cultural changes; both historically important in their own right, as well as serving as context for significant future developments in the nation's history. The proposed nomination, the 'Archives of the German-Samoa administration' bears witness to the administrative procedures and life in general during this period. The archives contains a number correspondence, notes, narration of events and reports arising from the political and commercial activities of German colonizers in Samoa. The documents provide a record of a unique example of Germany's colonial expansion in the Pacific, while also assuming a wider international significance; the administration arose as a direct result of colonial rivalries and international relations in the preceding period. The archive also serve to provide context to future events of national significance to Samoa, in particular the growth of Samoa's movement for independence from colonial rule, the Mau movement whose non violent presence contributed toward Samoa acquiring political independence during the period of global decolonisation in the middle half of the 20th century.

2 Nominator

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organisation)

Samoa National Memory of the World Committee (official establishment pending), in conjunction with the Culture Division, Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture, Independent State of Samoa

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

Custodian

2.3 Contact person(s)

Delphina Lee, Principal Culture Officer, Ministry of Education Sports and Culture

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2.4 Contact details

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
Ms Delphina Lee, Principal Culture Officer, Ministry of Education Sports and Culture	Ministry of Education Sports and Culture Malifa, PO Box 1869 Apia Samoa

<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Facsimile</i>	<i>Email</i>
+685626	+68564664	d.lee@mesc.gov.ws

3 Details of the Nominated Documentary Heritage

3.1 Title of documentary heritage item or collection

The nominated documentary heritage is the Archives of the German-Samoa colonial administration from 1900 to 1914. The collection housed in Samoa compose only about half of the total German Administration Records Collection, the other half are in the custody of Archives New Zealand such as annual reports, case files, general correspondence, deeds, financial and legal records, inward letters, minutes, outward letters, registered files, registered, subject files.

The archives contain a number correspondence, notes, narration of events and reports arising from the political and commercial activities of German colonizers in Samoa. As such, the historical records of this colonial period bear witness to the administrative procedures and life in general including medical records, prison records, school records, agriculture records, and records of infrastructure during that time.

The archives total in excess of 200 boxes, each containing five files per box, with an estimated number of 100 – 800 pages per file. The documents are both handwritten and typed in English, Samoan, Chinese and German. Most files in the collection is in German dialect.

3.2 Catalogue or registration details

National Archives of Samoa, Series 2-49, 'Archives of the German-Samoa colonial administration from 1900 to 1914' (Stored according to series of creating agencies).

3.3 Photographs or a video of the documentary heritage

Please see digitized examples of German-Samoa colonial documents annexed to this form.

3.4 History/Origin/Background/Provenance

Samoa was Germany's last colonial acquisition in the Pacific. The German administration was established in 1900 following the Second Samoan Civil War (1898-1899). At the war's conclusion the Samoan Islands were divided by the three involved international powers,

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Germany, the United States and the United Kingdom. The Samoa Tripartite Convention vested control of the islands west of 171 degrees longitude to Germany, (the eastern islands, present day American Samoa, were given to the United States, and the United Kingdom was compensated with other territories in the Pacific and West Africa). German-Samoa was unique as the only German colony in the Pacific, aside from the Kiautschou concession in China that was administered separately from German New Guinea.

The German administration period ended following the outbreak of World War I in 1914. New Zealand expeditionary forces, under instruction of the United Kingdom government, successfully invaded German Samoa. New Zealand occupied the German colony until 1920, and subsequently governed the island until Samoa's independence in 1962.

3.5 Bibliography

To date, little has been written about the Archives of the German-Samoa colonial administration, although the archive has been utilised as a research source by a limited number of international academic researchers (Please see further elaboration at 3.6).

This absence of commentary is due to the geographically remote nature of Samoa as opposed to the German Administration Archives' heritage value. In this sense, the lack of bibliography highlights the value that a Memory of the World inscription would have for raising the profile of what is an valuable source of research and important piece of Samoan heritage.

The following publications highlighted the German colonial times and some literature being written and documented are found in this website

1. Davidson, J.W. (1967). *Samoa Mo Samoa*. Melbourn, Oxford University Press
2. Meleisea, M. (1987). *Lagaga A Short History of Western Samoa*, University of the South Pacific
3. <http://www.nla.gov.au>

3.6 Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations with expert knowledge about the values and provenance of the documentary heritage

1. Archives New Zealand	National Office, Wellington 10 Mulgrave Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011, New Zealand PO Box 12-050, Wellington, New Zealand Phone: +64 4 499 5595 Fax: +64 4 495 6210
2. Holger Droessler, PH.D.Candidate in the History of American Civilization, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. USA	Harvard University Barker Center 225, 12 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA 0213, United States of America Phone: +1 617-495-1000
3. JC Gaillard, PHD Senior Lecturer, School of Environment, The University of Auckland, Auckland, NZ	School of Environment The University of Auckland Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142, New Zealand Phone: +64 9-373 7599

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4 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Name	Address	
Ministry of Education Sports and Culture	Malifa, PO Box 1869, Apia, Samoa	
Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+685626	+68564664	d.lee@mesc.gov.ws

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name	Address	
Telephone	Facsimile	Email

4.3 Legal status

Details of legal and administrative powers for the preservation of the documentary heritage

Category of ownership: Public

Responsible administration: As a collection of public documents, the archives of the German-Samoa colonial administration are conserved by Samoa's National Archives and Records Authority (NARA). This is the administration responsible for managing the archival heritage of the nation. In addition to those documents inherited from the colonial period NARA also supervises the conservation of documents produced by the state in connection with its administration.

Under Samoa's Public Records Act 2011 the main activity of the institution is to conserve, preserve, sort, classify, index and make available in accordance with the technical and legislative principles in force the documents for which it is responsible, including those forming part of the proposed documentary heritage.

To carry out this task, NARA recently became a separate division of the Ministry of Education Sport and Culture.

4.4 Accessibility

Describe how the item(s) / collection may be accessed

As public documents stored with NARA the physical collection is publically accessible. However due to the collection being paper based and for the most part in excess of 100 years old, access is by request only and limited to review onsite.

In 2008 the governments of Samoa and the Federal Republic of Germany signed an

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agreement to digitize the records of the German Administration period in order to enhance access to the information for research purposes. With the support of Germany, NARA is actively engaged in digitising the records

4.5 Copyright status

Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection

All items within the collection are public domain

5 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 First criterion: **authenticity**. Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? Has its identity and origin been reliably established?

This documentary heritage is a set of highly valuable documents conserved for the most part in Apia, Samoa; the very place where the colonial authorities that produced them had their administrative headquarters. Their authenticity is verified by NARA.

5.2 Second criterion: **world significance**. Is the documentary heritage unique and irreplaceable, something whose disappearance or deterioration would constitute a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity? Has it created a great impact over a span of time and/or within a particular supra-national cultural area of the region? Is it representative of a type, but it has no direct equal? Has it had great influence – whether positive or negative – on the course of history?

The German Colonization period in Samoa from 1900 – 1914 is one of the most significant eras in the history of Samoa. The Germans took over after the period of warring parties between including involvement of US, Britain and Germany. The era was the time of European power control in the Pacific.

The German administration records document this period and therefore provide insight into the ways in which the European colonial influence transformed aspects of Samoa's traditional social structures. The records also serve to set the context for future events which took place in Samoa, in particular the establishment of independence in the 1962. For example, the period of German administration also coincides with the beginning of the Mau movement, a non violent movement for Samoan independence from colonial rule which had its beginnings in the early 1900s and gathered widespread support throughout the county over the next two decades.

The records hold a similar significance to Germany as they serve as a unique example of its colonial past. The records are unique because they are original copies and document a period of German colonialism which is underrepresented in contemporary historic accounts. This is due to Samoa's geographic remoteness which inhibits access to the records to date. Moreover the archives of German administration records constitute a body of documentation which details personal information and government

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policy. As such these records hold a recognised value to both the state of Germany and descendents of the colonists alike.

The archives of German administration records are also significant as heritage detailing European imperial expansion of the late 19th and early 20th Century in general. The Pacific region was heavily colonised during this period and the documentation provides context not just to future developments in Samoa, and a period of German history but also serves to highlight the nature of international relations amongst colonial powers, especially Germany, the United States and the United Kingdom.

5.3 Third, world significance must be demonstrated in meeting one or more of the following criteria. Because significance is comparative, these criteria are best illustrated by checking them against items of documentary heritage already inscribed (for example) on the International *Memory of the World Register*:

Time: Is it especially evocative of its time (which may have been one of crisis, or significant social or cultural change; it may represent a new discovery or be the “first of its kind”)

The German administration records provide a unique perspective on European politics during the period 1900-1914. They are naturally insightful of Germany, a nation which took a key role in international relations during the early 20th Century. Latter records in the collection, those from 1913-14 provide insight into the politics, and personal sentiments of colonists leading up to World War I.

Place: Does it contain crucial information about a locality important in the history of the region and its cultures? Or did the location have an important influence on the events or phenomena represented by the documentary heritage? Or is it descriptive of physical environments, cities or institutions since vanished?

People: Is it related to people in a social and cultural context that reflects significant aspects of human behaviour, or social, industrial, artistic or political development..It may reflect the important roles and impact of key or certain individuals or groups.

Debate continues as to what extent the German administration altered the Samoan indigenous population’s cultural framework (further analysis of the archive will undoubtedly provide greater insight), however it is undeniable that the German administration instigated significant changes to the Samoa’s traditional power structure, reorganising the internal administration in a centralised ‘top down’ form and creating various municipal offices and roles staffed by both German’s and Samoan’s. The document bear witness to this process.

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Subject and theme: The subject matter may represent particular historical or intellectual developments in natural, social and human sciences, politics, ideology, sports and the arts.

Colonialism

The German administration records document a unique instance of German colonialism in the Pacific. The administration can also be perceived more broadly as an example of European imperial expansion which characterised international relations in the late 19th and early 20th Century. At a national level the German administration records offer context to the development of Samoa as a modern nation, and in particular provides a unique resource for understanding the circumstances leading to the development of Samoa's movement for independence from colonial rule, the Mau movement, whose non violent presence contributed toward Samoa acquiring political independence during the period of global decolonisation in the middle half of the 20th century.

Form and style: The item(s) may have outstanding aesthetic, stylistic or linguistic value, be a typical or key exemplar of a type or presentation, custom or medium, or of a disappeared or disappearing carrier or format.

6 Other matters taken into account: rarity, integrity and threat

Rarity Does the content or physical nature of the documentary heritage make it a rare surviving example of its type or time?

Apart from those documents from housed at Archives New Zealand and negligible traces to be found in private collection the original documents of archival heritage pertaining to the period of German administration of Samoa is available and accessible only in Apia, Samoa.

Integrity Within the natural physical limitations of carrier survival, is the documentary heritage complete or partial? Has it been altered or damaged?

The records of the German administration of Samoa are managed as part of the collection of the National Archives of Samoa. Please see further discussion at 4.3. While the Archives hold a large proportion of the historical records from the colonial period, additional documents namely service personal records are located in New Zealand and Germany National Archives.

Threat Is its survival in danger? If it is secure, must vigilance be applied to maintain that security? Detail the nature and scope of threats.

The risk of deterioration to the physical collection is fair- to moderate. Most of the collection is in a satisfactory physical condition. However a number of the documents are in a poor state, some documents are deemed beyond repair and others condition merit only limited conservation work. This is due in large measure to the effects of a

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tropical climate which increases the speed of deterioration of paper. It is also due to the late development of archival programmes in the Samoa.

Those records which have been digitized have benefited from the preservation and restoration efforts which have for the most part stabilized the originals.

Attach a separate statement if space is insufficient!

7 Preservation and Access Management Plan

Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage? Are there strategies to preserve and provide access to it?

NO

If yes, describe or attach a summary of the plan. If no, please provide details about current method of storage and custody of the materials.

The collection was salvaged from an old prison building in 2001 to the Nelson Memorial e Public Library and later transfer to where it is now in the Ministry building, housed in an a airconditioned room with proper archival shelves together with the digitization equipments..

There is no separate management plan for the archives of the German administration period, with the exception of the specific digitisation project as described at 4.4. However all the records are held in a responsible state archive which has developed access and preservation policies as well as disaster prevention and management plan.

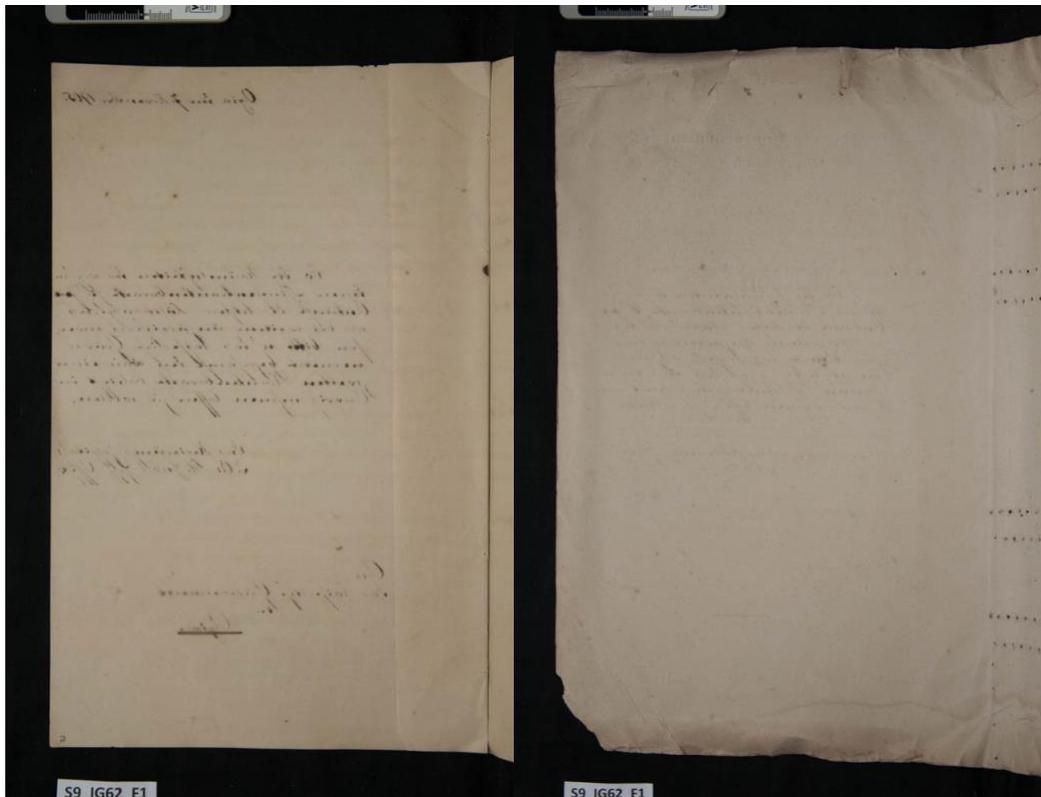
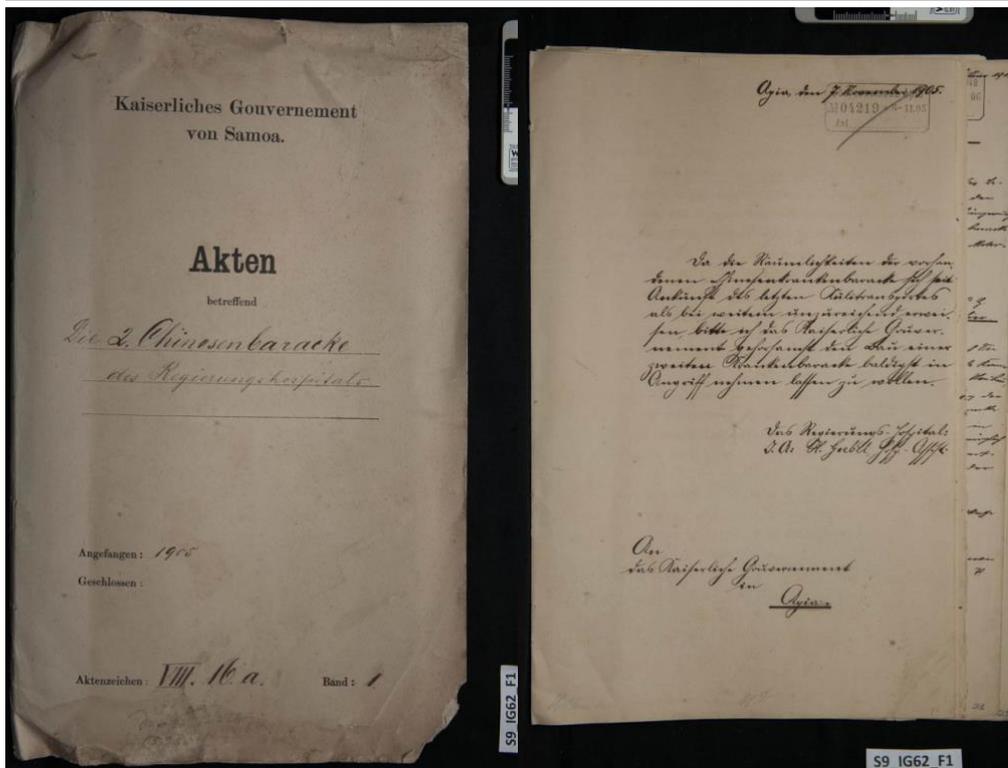
8 Any other information

Please provide any other information that supports the inclusion of this item(s) / collection on the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World Register*.

Attach a separate statement if space insufficient.

We will celebrate as a special cultural event and make sure the people of Samoa are aware of this important milestone through media and all other forms of awareness.

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9 Checklist

Nominees may find completing the following checklist useful before sending the nomination form to MOWCAP.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | MOWCAP website reviewed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Introduction read |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | summary completed (maximum 100 words) (section 1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Nomination and contact details completed (section 2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | If this is a joint nomination, section 2 appropriately modified |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Documentary heritage identified (sections 3.1 – 3.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | History/Origin/Background/Provenance completed (section 3.4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bibliography completed (section 3.5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations recorded (section 3.6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Declaration signed and dated that all referees have given their written permission for their names to appear on the MOWCAP website (section 3.6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of owner completed (section 4.1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of custodian – if different from owner - completed (section 4.2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of legal status completed (section 4.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of accessibility completed (section 4.4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of copyright status completed (section 4.5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented of authenticity (section 5.1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented of world significance (section 5.2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented against one or more additional criteria (section 5.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Information presented on rarity, integrity and threat (section 6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Summary of Preservation and Access Management Plan completed. If there is no formal Plan provide details about current and/or planned access, storage and custody arrangements (section 7) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other information provided - if applicable (section 8) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sample photographs or VDO prepared for MOWCAP use (if required) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Printed copy of Nomination Form made for organisation's records |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Electronic copy of Nomination Form made for MOWCAP use (if required) |