Samoa

**Population:** 200,000  
**Schools:** 205 schools, 141 primary, 25 secondary, 38,000 students (92% enrollment)  
**ICT access:** Low/moderate

**Background**  
Samoa has been investing heavily in recent years in its telecommunications infrastructure in order to improve access to and quality ICT in all sectors, especially in education and training. The goal has been to use ICT to improve administrative efficiency and to give citizens the experience and skills required to join a global workforce. The Ministry of Education, Sports & Culture is closely involved in developing new ICT programmes.

SamoaTel manages the extensive infrastructure, including optic fibre cable, satellite and mobile services. DigiCel is the new competition in mobile sector. Three ISPs compete: I-Pasifika, CSL, Le Samoa, and there are numerous internet cafes in Apia. The government runs TV, radio AM/FM services, with an occasional informal education service.

Most tertiary students and trainee teachers (approx 100 new trainees p/a) will have had access to computers and the Internet in some form, although home computer ownership is limited. Many schools only recently received telephone lines, and Internet access. Schools may average 12 PCs each, but only in urban areas. A pilot Samoa Schoolnet project funded in part by ADB has created new conditions for further development of ICT in Samoan schools, focusing on 13 schools having computers and internet access.

**Policy**  
A proactive National ICT committee has been formed to oversee the ICT for Every Samoan initiative: [www.e-samoa.ws](http://www.e-samoa.ws)  
Government policy has been to promote ICT awareness, workforce development, equal access, with the objective of participating more directly in the global economy. The goals have been to develop and implement ICT curricula at all levels of education, to use ICT to improve administration and management in schools, and develop a master plan for the further development of human resources for ICT.

Government policy also includes the development of indicators to assess the progress of ICT integration in schools, the development of a mechanism to recognize and reward innovative examples of ICT use in schools, and the promotion of public-private sector partnerships to benefit ICT use in schools.
Challenges

- Limited infrastructure and access; Limited capacity (infrastructure only available in Apia)
- High costs too high for schools
- High emigration rates

Recommendations

- Development of a long term plan to support ICT in education
- Improve teacher professional development in ICT through seminars, workshops
- Increase public-private partnerships to improve ICT in schools