



Last Week in the Pacific: Chinese Police, Societal Engagement, and Sub-National Diplomacy

Summary of PRC Activity

Activity across China's Pacific embassies picked up last week after the Lunar New Year lull. In the Solomon Islands, Ambassador Cai Weiming attended a ceremony handing over a Chinatown police post to the Solomon Islands Police. Diplomats across the region engaged in education and sports exchanges as part of a broader people-to-people outreach. In Samoa and Vanuatu diplomats traveled outside the capitals for meetings with provincial and local leaders.

This Week's Big Themes:

A Chinese Police Station?

The Chinatown Lantern Festival in the Solomon Islands drew high-level attendance, including Prime Minister Manele, but the real story is the handover of a police post. The Solomon Islands Chinese Association (SICA) hosted the festivities at the Chung Wah school, which SICA administers for Chinese-language education in Honiara's Chinatown. SICA built and donated a new police post adjacent to the school and handed it over to the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force during the event. Before the handover, the police post had already [stirred controversy](#) as residents in Chinatown circulated claims that the Chinese Police Liaison Team in the country would staff it. The Solomon Islands government and SICA denied the rumors. Notably, the Chinese embassy's English-language press release makes no mention of the police post, while the Chinese-language version includes a brief note.

Supporting Events

- **Solomon Islands:** [Chinatown Police Post Handover](#)
- **Solomon Islands:** [Lantern Festival Celebration](#)

Ambassador's Corner:

On March 3rd, PRC Ambassador Li Minggang [hosted Vanuatu's Ombudsman](#), Hamilson Bulu, at the embassy.

Li discussed China's supervision system, praising its effectiveness in monitoring public officials, combatting corruption, and building government capacity.

The embassy readout notes Bulu's appreciation but omits any reference to the gap between the PRC's Leninist system and Vanuatu's democracy. In a one-party state, supervision of public officials is not a bureaucratic function—it is a political instrument. China claims it does not export its governance model, yet appears comfortable advising other countries to adopt its methods.

**The PRC Pacific Embassies Monitor provides systematic, open-source tracking of Beijing's public diplomatic activities across the nine Pacific Island Countries hosting Chinese missions. The monitor captures official embassy social media and website posts, supplemented by local sources, to offer a weekly structured intelligence report that bridges critical information gaps on regional engagement*

Sports, Society, and Education

Chinese diplomats across several countries focused on societal engagement last week. For International Women's Day, PRC Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia attended a celebration and donated to the Pohnpei Women Council. In Vanuatu, Ambassador Li Minggang's wife, Madame Lin Ying, hosted a tea function to celebrate the occasion. First Lady Rima Vurobaravu and spouses of senior officials attended the event. In Samoa, Ambassador Fei Mingxing attended the launch of the National University of Samoa's new Chinese major program and awarded scholarships to the program's first cohort of students. In Tonga, Counsellor Ruan Dewen met with the Principal of Tonga College, discussed cooperation with the CEO of Tonga's Rugby Union, and presented certificates to participants in the Oceania Sports Education program.



PM MANELE ATTENDS CHINATOWN POLICE POST HANDOVER
(Source: SBM Online)

Supporting Events

- **Federated States of Micronesia:** [Ambassador Wu Attends International Women's Day Event](#)
- **Samoa:** [Ambassador Attends Launch Ceremony of New Chinese Major](#)
- **Tonga:** [Ruan Dewen Meets with the Principal of Tonga College](#)
- **Tonga:** [Ruan Dewen Meets with the CEO of Tonga Rugby Union](#)
- **Tonga:** [Ruan Dewen Presents Certificates to Participants](#)
- **Vanuatu:** [Madame Lin Hosts International Women's Day Event](#)

Islands Diplomacy

China's Ambassadors in Samoa and Vanuatu extended their outreach beyond the capitals last week, traveling to neighboring islands for public events. Ambassador Fei traveled to Savai'i Island in Samoa with China's medical and agricultural teams. The medical team provided more than 200 check-ups, while the agriculture team ran field demonstrations. Ambassador Fei toured the demonstration site with a member of Samoa's Council of Deputies. In Vanuatu, Counsellor Gu Zihua attended the National Chief's Day celebrations on Malekula Island. Vanuatu's Minister of Justice and the Governor of Malampa Province accompanied Counsellor Gu. The ceremonies featured the unveiling of a new Nakamal council house and other ceremonies honoring the National Council of Chiefs of Vanuatu.

Supporting Events

- **Samoa:** [Ambassador Travels to Savai'i Islands](#)
- **Vanuatu:** [Counsellor Gu Attends National Chief's Day Celebrations](#)