



A Problem-Solving Challenge From the Real World

NPR: Samoa's Traffic Change
September 2, 2009

On the Pacific island of Samoa, traffic will switch next week from the right side of the road to the left. Protesters took to the streets.

Source: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=112461431>

Hundreds protest Samoa's traffic changes
Tue, 1 Sep 2009

Hundreds of protestors took to the streets of Samoa Tuesday morning, in a last-ditch effort to persuade the Samoan government not to proceed with plans to make drivers switch from using the right to the left side of the road.

The change-over is due to start next week.

The Samoan Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele wants residents to be able to get cheap cars from relatives in Australia and New Zealand, but protestors say there will be chaos on the roads and there may be accidents.

The Samoan Supreme Court confirmed last Friday that the change over will happen.

Judge Vui Clarence Nelson said there was insufficient evidence that the switch would lead to a rise in road accidents.

Source; <http://australianetworknews.com/stories/200909/2673261.htm?desktop>

Samoa to Change Traffic Direction on 7th of September 09
Tuesday, August 25, 2009

Tiny Pacific Island country Samoa is about to be charted into history books this coming 7th of September, by not only becoming the first ever country to switch sides of traffic since 1970, but also the very first one in history to do it from Left Hand Drive, to Right Hand Drive.

Reports suggests this move is more economically motivated than politically, as with many countries that had switched from RHD to LHD over the past century; Prime Minister Tuilaepa cited because Samoa's two nearest neighbors, New Zealand and Australia are both RHD countries, it would only benefit Samoans when after the switch, poor Samoans will then be benefitted by the 170,000 or so clunkers (used cars) from these countries

For the record, there's no Right Hand Drive or Left Hand Drive, there's only Right Hand Drive and Wrong Hand Drive. As we're supposed to drive by keeping to the left, with the steering on the right; before Napoleon Bonaparte switches it for tactical and political reasons, followed by Americans ideological move to distant themselves from the Brits, then rest is history with America producing most of the world's vehicles after WW1 and WW2.

Source: <http://www.wheels-weekly.com/2009/08/samoa-to-change-traffic-direction-on.html>

Keep to the Left

Countries that use left-hand traffic account for about 30% of the world's population, a sixth of its area and a quarter of its roads. Below, the list.

Anguilla	Ireland	Anguilla)
Antigua	Isle of Man	St Lucia
Australia	Jamaica	St Vincent
The Bahamas	Japan	Seychelles
Bangladesh	Kenya	Singapore
Barbados	Kiribati (Gilbert Islands)	Solomon Islands
Bermuda	Lesotho	Somalia
Bhutan	Macao	South Africa
Botswana	Malawi	Sri Lanka
British Virgin Islands	Malaysia	Surinam
Brunei	Maldives	Swaziland
Cayman Islands	Malta	Tanzania
Channel Islands	Mauritius	Thailand
Christmas Island	Montserrat	Tokelau Islands
Cocos (Keeling)	Mozambique	Tonga
Islands	Namibia	Trinidad and Tobago
Cook Islands	Nauru	Turks and Caicos
Cyprus	Nepal	Islands
Dominica	New Zealand	Tuvalu
Falkland Islands	Nieu Island	Uganda
Fiji	Norfolk Island	United Kingdom
Grenada	Pakistan	Virgin Islands (U.S.)
Guyana	Papua New Guinea	Zambia
Hong Kong	Pitcairn Island	Zimbabwe
India	St Helena	
Indonesia	St Kitts-Nevis (-	

Source: The Rule of the Road