



PACIFIC IMMIGRATION DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE

NEWSLETTER

Level 5, FNPF Place,
Private Mail Bag,
Suva, Fiji.

Phone : +679 331 2017

Fax : +679 331 2113

Email : akuilaratu@pidcsec.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PIDC MEMBERS WORKING TOWARDS SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING 1

PAPUA NEW GUINEA READY TO HOST ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN 2014 2

FIJI AND PALAU IMMIGRATION OFFICERS ATTEND PIDC OPERATIONAL SECONDMENT IN AUSTRALIA 2

PIDC PARTNERS WITH UNODC TO HOST TRAFFICKING IN PERSON WORKSHOP 3

PIDC HOSTS INAUGURAL INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY FORUM FOR IMMIGRATION PRACTITIONERS 3

JOINT BORDER PROTECTION TRAINING RAISING AWARENESS 4

FIJI IMMIGRATION LAUNCHES NEW INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM 4

TRAFFICKING BULLETIN LAUNCHED IN THE PACIFIC 5

FIJI LAUNCHES NEW PASSPORT SCANNERS TO COMPLEMENT NEW IBMS SYSTEM 5

FORUM REGIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING 6

FIJI IMMIGRATION ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT RECOGNIZING STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS 6

2013 PIDC PHOTO GALLERY 7



Management Board Members attending the last Board Meeting for 2013 in Palau

PIDC MEMBERS WORKING TOWARDS SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

PIDC Members are currently undergoing national verification and approval processes to sign off on PIDCs' Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The signing of this MOU by Members and the formal acceptance of the Constitution will enable PIDC, to finally proceed towards formalising its legal entity status and most importantly allow the organisation to begin delivering more of its core activities to its members. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding is the pinnacle of a long journey that started in 2005. PIDC members and especially its Management Board members have worked tirelessly to reach this stage of the process. It is for this reason that members are encouraged to continue working together in supporting this final stage of the legal entity status process as we anticipate a successful new year in 2014.

The PIDC is unique as it is one of the very few regional immigration groupings in the world that brings together 23 island states and territories to discuss issues of mutual interest as well as foster multilateral co-operation and mutual assistance aimed at strengthening members' territorial borders including the integrity of their entry systems. The PIDC forums provide members the opportunity to share stories and lessons so that members learn from each other and increase their combined capacities to secure borders within the Pacific region.

Since its establishment in 1996, the organisation has continued to grow and broaden its areas of work with members. However one major challenge that has restricted the potential growth of the organisation has been the formalisation of its legal entity status. Since 2005 the PIDCs' legal entity status has been an ongoing subject of discussion that Members have been working towards formalization. The signing of the MOU by members will be the culmination of a long process and what members are beginning to witness today are the final steps towards the beginning of a new chapter in the organization's short history.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA READY TO HOST ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN 2014



The Papua New Guinea Immigration and Citizenship Services Authority has confirmed its anticipation to host the 2014 Annual Conference from 30th April – 2nd May 2014 in Kokopo, East New Britain, Papua New Guinea. This year's Annual Conference had been postponed to 2014 to provide sufficient time for the organisation to finalise its legal entity status governance process earmarked to be formalized at the 2014 Annual Conference.

PIDCs' Management Board had been working through a number of key governance processes and postponing the Conference has provided the organisation sufficient time to finalise all relevant governance issues that are crucial to the formalization of the organisation's legal entity status.

At the second Management Board meeting in Tonga members agreed to postponing this year's annual Conference in light of the work that members needed to complete to allow for a smooth transition into its new legal entity status. The new Conference dates now provides members sufficient time to prepare for a seamless transition of the organisation to its new reporting timeline in addition to having the benefit of postponing the meeting cycle to be in line with the new financial planning and reporting cycle required under PIDCs' newly drafted Constitution.

FIJI AND PALAU IMMIGRATION OFFICERS ATTEND PIDC OPERATIONAL SECONDMENT IN AUSTRALIA



Lolin of Palau Immigration (first from left) and Channel of Fiji Immigrations (third from left) with the DIBP Team at Melbourne Airport.

The Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) successfully hosted two immigration officers from Fiji and Palau at a one week PIDC operational secondment programme in Australia from 27th May to 1st June, 2013. This annual programme began in 2010 and continues to play an important role in developing and strengthening the expertise and knowledge base of immigration officers in the region.

The attachment exposed the seconded immigration officers to a specific range of experiences in a busy airport environment under the supervision and mentoring role of an airport liaison supervisor working with them.

Lolin from Palau expressed her appreciation to DIBP staff for the support and hospitality offered to them during their one week stay in Canberra and Melbourne. *"The one week work experience with DIAC in Australia has been an eye opener and one of the best work experiences that I have ever had. I was given an opportunity to learn their policy, systems, operations and procedures and I feel privileged to be given this opportunity."* Lolín added that she would like to see the adoption of the best practices which were quite relevant to Palau as it certainly would strengthen their operational processes.

Ms Channel from Fiji shared that personally she gained a lot of experience in being exposed to key specialist areas of DIBP operational environment and supported the continuation of the secondment programme as more Immigration Officers would benefit from the experience.

She stressed that she intended to return to Fiji and share her experience and findings with her senior and junior colleagues especially on how they could collectively work towards improving and raising operational standards at their borders.

PIDC PARTNERS WITH UNODC TO HOST TRAFFICKING IN PERSON WORKSHOP

PIDC recently partnered with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Vienna Office in coordinating and organizing a criminal justice training workshop regarding trafficking in persons for Pacific Island States.

UNODC is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to provide technical assistance to member States on the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its supplementing protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children.

As part of this mandate, UNODC supports Member States through capacity-building training activities, utilizing specialised UNODC training materials and delivered by a multidisciplinary and international team of experts. This recent training programme targeted criminal justice practitioners, including both law enforcement and victim support providers.

The workshop was hosted at the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat's Conference room in July 2013. There were 40 participants from Fiji, PNG, Solomons, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tonga, Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia. Participants were represented from Law Enforcement agencies, Ministry of Social Welfare, Women, Children and Poverty, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) including regional and international organisations that had an interest in trafficking issues.

This regional PIDC workshop was the first of its kind that combined participants from law enforcement agencies, other Government agencies and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs). However a more concerted effort is needed to strengthen the networking relations between regional and national organisations. The training has assisted in changing the perspective of law enforcement participants especially immigration officers to recognize the need to work more closely with NGOs in addressing trafficking in person's issues.



Fiji Immigration Officer attend the workshop.



Vanuatu delegates deliberating a point during discussion.

PIDC HOSTS INAUGURAL INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY FORUM FOR IMMIGRATION PRACTITIONERS

PIDC successfully hosted an information, communication and technology (ICT) workshop for Practitioners in Canberra at the University of Canberra. There were 30 participants that attended this regional workshop including Directors and ICT managers from Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Solomons, Vanuatu, PNG, Palau, Marshal Islands, FSM, Niue, Tuvalu and New Zealand.

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship Secretary, Mr. Simon Schiwy in opening the workshop welcomed the participants and reinforced the objectives of the forum on the need to develop a community of practice among ICT officers for sharing of information and support; identifying areas of ICT expertise in the region and areas of common training need and identify commonalities in business requirements and common approaches to the development of ICT solutions to immigration needs.

The PIDC regional forum on ICT was also an opportunity for PIDC to work in partnership with members to establish a common understanding and consistency in addressing information,

communication and technology issues in the region. Most importantly the forum provided the opportunity for members to share experiences on immigration ICT in the region.

One of the major outcomes of the ICT workshop was the recognition of the value of having a specialist ICT workshop and the need for the organisation to continue supporting consultation forums for ICT. Participants recognized their limitations and the different ICT standards and environments that immigration departments operated under. There was a general agreement that the organisation needed to identify regional or national approaches that members could adopt to strengthen their respective border management systems in the region.



Participants at the ICT workshop listen attentively to expert presentations.

JOINT BORDER PROTECTION TRAINING RAISING AWARENESS

Law enforcement and border control agencies are being given tools to assist officers in monitoring border control in the region through a joint border protection training programme that is being coordinated and delivered in conjunction between the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Pacific Immigration Directors Conference (PIDC) and the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO).

Since its inception in 2010, this border protection training programme has been delivered to around nine countries including Vanuatu, Palau, Marshal Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Island, Kiribati and Niue.

The training programme looks at targeting border issues such as human trafficking, money laundering & counter financing of terrorist activities and the use of false or fraudulent travel documentation to facilitate illegal migration by individuals and organised crime groups as well as targeting custom areas such as profiling passengers, risk management and smuggling of illicit drugs and other contraband items. The increasing threat of transnational crime networks entering the Pacific continues to grow with globalization forces and the Pacific regions increasing connectedness to the rest of the world exposes the vulnerability of our region.

At a recent training in Niue local staff from international airline Air New Zealand, aviation security, bio-security, customs, the Financial Supervisory Commission, Ministry of Marine Resources and Immigration attended the training sessions. Many participants

FIJI IMMIGRATION LAUNCHES NEW INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Fiji Immigration achieved another important milestone when the department installed its new Integrated Border Management System (IBMS) on 11th April 2013. The new system to be administered and operated by the Immigration Department continues to improve the movement and profiling of passengers arriving and departing the country but most importantly the system has strengthened the departments border control monitoring system of wanted persons and irregular travelers. One of the strengths of the IBMS is its security features empowering Fiji Immigration's monitoring system to identify passengers on local or international wanted lists.

What sets the system apart is its ability to systematically adopt entry and departure documents into one system providing immigration department and other government agencies access to accurate data of people movement at the click of a button.

The new system will eliminate processing problems of manually entering immigration data resulting in a more efficient and productive processing system but most importantly the system ensures that security standards at borders are not compromised but are in fact raised to a higher level of compliance and security



Kiribati boarder control agency with the course certificates flank the Chief Guest and Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs; Mrs Tessie Lambourne (third from left).

from the different agencies agreed that the training programme highlighted the current trends in transnational crime but most importantly it provided an opportunity to learn and share ideas on regional border security issues and a better understanding and appreciation of the roles of other border control agencies.

At a similar training programme in the Cook Islands, a law enforcement officer reflected that the workshop was a first of its kind and allowed regional experts on border control issues the opportunity to train local staff from the different agencies. One of the significant benefits of this joint training programme is how it exposes border control officers to the different roles law enforcement agencies undertake at the border and the imperative need for all border control agencies to work together to monitor irregular people and goods movement.

that weeds out any element of exploitation through its state of the art technology.

One of the major challenges in international airports globally is the turn-around time at immigration checks especially for weary and tired travellers traveling long distances. The IBMS systems are expected to increase the turn-around time of primary line officers checking passengers through.

The system is expected to allow for a quick flow of immigration information and ensures there is quick turnaround time for each passenger entering or leaving Fiji. This means that more happy smiling visitors are expected to go through Fiji's arrival and departure gates in the future without compromising their high security standards.



Fiji Immigration Director, Mr Nemani Vuniwaqa officially launches the IBMS.

TRAFFICKING BULLETIN LAUNCHED IN THE PACIFIC

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has launched its first trafficking bulletin providing basic information to law enforcement agencies and Non-governmental organisations dealing with human trafficking cases specifically for the Pacific. The bulletin is the first of its kind and the authors continue to work on improving its content. The bulletin was initiated by UNODC officials based in Brussels following the successful PIDC/UNODC human trafficking workshop where participants from Law enforcement agencies and NGOs across the Pacific discussed recent trends and issues of human trafficking globally and regionally. The Bulletin provides critical information on new human trafficking trends and methods members need to address in tackling human trafficking.

The bulletin is divided into 3 parts with the first section dealing with tools which may be of use to officers working on trafficking cases/issues; the second deals with international developments on human trafficking and the third describes cases and discussions which participants submitted to the authors during the PIDC/UNODC course, which may be of interest to others – whether in terms of common issues they raise or concrete information they provide as to suspicions of trafficking in the region.

The select audiences of readers have been encouraged to contribute any information, insights or knowledge they have about any of the issues raised in the bulletin, whether related to the discussions on Trafficking in Persons, or to the concrete cases and issues raised by other participants.

The bulletin most importantly provides a continuing discussion forum developed out of the PIDC/UNODC workshop and strives to continue the network of stakeholder's collective efforts in addressing human trafficking in the Pacific.



Participants of the PIDC/UNODC workshop continue to be updated on recent trafficking trends through the bulletin.

FIJI LAUNCHES NEW PASSPORT SCANNERS TO COMPLEMENT NEW IBMS SYSTEM

The Fiji Revenue and Customs Authorities (FRCA) recently launched the use of passport scanners at the Nadi International Airport in its efforts to strengthen border control standards in Fiji. The scanners are expected to assist in the expeditious processing and clearance of passengers. The scanners complement Fiji's new Integrated Border Management System (IBMS) and ultimately ensures that arriving and departing passengers have their passport details accurately checked and processed within ten seconds hence prompting a shorter turn around period.

FRCA had previously used passport readers where it normally took at least a minute for FRCA primary line officers to assess passengers. FRCA's investment for primary line officers underpins the value placed on the work of primary line staff especially in capturing the most accurate details of personal data and the early clearance of passengers to avoid long queues of tired and disappointed travellers. Most importantly the scanners strengthens Fiji border control processes and systems in detecting fake passports, especially details that cannot be detected with even the most trained naked eyes.

FORUM REGIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) annually hosts the Forum Regional Security Committee (FRSC) meeting. The FRSC is an important driver of the work performed by the Forum Secretariat. Coordinated by the Political Governance and Security Programme, the FRSC's annual meeting draws together representatives from Member Countries, representatives of all the Regional Law Enforcement Secretariats such as OCO, PIDC, PILON and PICP as well as representatives of other CROP agencies such as SPREP, SPC and FFA.

The annual meeting of the FRSC is the principal regional forum on political security and governance issues and allows Members and stakeholders to discuss reports compiled by the Forum Secretariat and Regional Law Enforcement Secretariats on: i) Regional security issues such as civil unrest, transnational crimes and terrorist related activities; ii) Identify and discuss both internal and external security threats that affect either the security or sustainable economic development of the region; iii) Promote cooperation between Members and the Regional

Law Enforcement Secretariats to encourage coordinated responses to the identified threats; iv) Identify key priority areas to enhance the capacity of Members and their National Law Enforcement Agencies to respond to National security threats; and coordinate regional responses to the identified threats and concerns.



The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat staff providing secretariat services during the meeting.

FIJI IMMIGRATION ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT RECOGNIZING STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS



Presentation of awards at the 2013 Annual Events by the Permanent Secretary, Mr Osea Caware (first from right).

Fiji Immigration continues to set high standards for its staff and the Annual awards for the department has now become an important schedule in the department's calendar as it marks the culmination of a year's hard work and the recognition of the most outstanding officers that have worked diligently throughout the year.

Fiji immigration celebrated its annual Awards night on 30th November 2013 at the Southern Cross Hotel, Suva with the

theme of the event "Celebrate 2013 Achievements" setting the tone of the annual event. This year was an outstanding year for the department with a number of civil service awards including the *Fiji Civil Service Prize* and the *Fiji Energy Saver Public Sector Recognition Award* while the Director, Mr. Nemani Vuniwaqa was also recognized for his outstanding contribution to the civil service being awarded the *Fiji Civil Service Medal*.

The awards night is a reflection of the department's growth over the years and indicates a growing, well organised, structured and professional organisation. The 2012 criteria focused on individuals who had demonstrated excellent performance. Being selected from their respective sections indicated that nominees were amongst the best and had demonstrated high work ethics that were being formally recognized and ranked as the most outstanding in their respective sections. However underlying the Annual awards is the promotion of a culture of professionalism with high work standards and the competition indirectly strengthens the department's standards nationally, regionally and internationally.

This year's awards criterion was different as it sought to promote teamwork and efficiency at all levels and officers were rewarded collectively as groups.

To promote teamwork, officers were divided into eight working teams. Each team was represented by Officers from various levels within the Department. The underlying purpose for the formation of these teams was the promotion of active participation of all officers at varying levels of the department to deliver its core services to the public. Consequently each team member was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for their commitment, dedication and performance during the year. Managers were also given Certificates of Recognition for their support and commitment towards the achievement of the Department's goals. A special Award was also presented to the Director of Immigration for his sound and strong leadership. The eight teams included:

1. Business Process Re-Engineering Team - Identifying all processes in the Department that needs review for efficiency and effectiveness;
2. IBMS Team - Support team to oversee the successful implementation of the Integrated Border Management System and provide support where necessary;
3. Quality Improvement Team - Identifying areas for improvement in the Department;
4. OHS Team - Occupational Health & Safety (health and Safety of staff members and customers)
5. Service Excellence Awards Committee - Coordinated the implementation of the Service Excellence Awards Framework in the Department.

6. Sports and Social Club Committee - Organized and coordinated sports and social activities in the Department;
7. E-Team - Coordinated the Energy Savings program and activities; and
8. Reports and Monitoring Team - to coordinate the timely submission of accurate reporting from the various sections in the Department.



Mr. Mucunabitu presenting during the annual event.



Mr. Vuli during the formalities of the evening.

FIJI IMMIGRATION ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT PHOTO GALLERY



2013 PIDC PHOTO GALLERY

