



PACIFIC IMMIGRATION DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE

NEWSLETTER

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2nd Management Board meeting in Koror, Palau – 17-18 July, 2012

Sitting (L-R): Matthew Noble, Kave Ringi, Hon. Mr. John C. Gibbons, Tessie Lambourne, Jenkins Mariur, Standing (L-R): Nemani Vuniwaqa, Robert Johnston, Akuila Ratu, Siaopo Pese, Shaun Driscoll, George Rodrigues, Shirly Narayan

FIJI AND PALAU SUCCESSFULLY HOST FIRST AND SECOND MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETINGS IN 2012

The Management Board has met on two separate occasions since the beginning of this year. The 17th PIDC Management Board meeting, the first in 2012, was hosted by Fiji on 20 and 21 March while the 18th and second Management Board meeting for 2012 was hosted by Palau from July 17-18. The Board during these meeting sessions discussed at length a number of important issues critical to members work including PIDCs' legal entity status, secretariat recruitment, Secretariat work plan reprioritization for 2012, new PIDC Strategic Plan 2013-2015, PIDC Membership Voluntary Subscription, PIDC People Smuggling, Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration workshop for immigration operational staff, comparative immigration legislation study, PIDC project Progress reports, immigration information technology project, PIDC Training Strategy and the 16th annual Conference to be hosted by the Cook Islands Immigration in November this year.

One of the major issues discussed centred on PIDCs' legal entity status. Members at the 2011 annual Conference in the Federated States of Micronesia had endorsed PIDC becoming a legal entity status and

2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3rd - 7th September 2012:

Document Examination Principles and Application (DEPA) and Facial Image Comparison Principles and Application (FPCA) Training – Apia, Samoa.

25th – 27th September 2012:

Regional Workshop on People Smuggling, Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration – Nadi, Fiji.

September- October 2012 (TBC):

Border Protection Training – Tuvalu.

29th – 31st October 2012:

PILON Annual Conference – Papua New Guinea.

20th November 2012:

PIDC Management Board Meeting – Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

21st -23rd November 2012:

16th PIDC Annual Conference – Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

tasked the Management Board to determine the most viable option that PIDC should implement to become an entity status. The Board has consequently been assessing the recommended options following a scoping study that had been undertaken in 2010. The Entity Status Sub-committee is currently reviewing

two options which includes PIDC being located under an umbrella organisation and having a Headquarters agreement with a host government. The Management Board is expected to present their findings and recommendations for members endorsement at this year's annual Conference in the Cook Islands. ■

MANAGEMENT BOARD REVIEWS NEW PIDC STRATEGIC PLAN

Management Board members attended a half day workshop session following the first MB meeting in Fiji on Thursday 22 March 2012. The primary objective of the workshop was to review the PIDC Strategic Plan 2009-2012 and to provide sufficient information for the drafting of the new PIDC Strategic Plan 2013-2015.

This workshop was a follow-up session from the 2011 PIDC annual Conference held in Pohnpei that undertook a review of the current PIDC Strategic Plan 2009-2012. This included an environmental scan and a SWOT Analysis by members and observers working in groups. The discussion sessions included

breakout groups which reviewed the Strategic Plan and developed focus areas of the new Strategic Plan (2013-2015).

The recent follow-up strategic plan review workshop held in Fiji achieved a number of outcomes including the finalization of PIDC Vision and Mission Statement, confirmation of PIDC Values, confirmation of the roles of PIDC Secretariat and PIDC members, confirmation of key activity areas for PIDC in the next 3 years, confirmation of technical priorities required for the new Strategic Plan 2013-2015 and the identification of key performance indicators for the new Plan.

The Secretariat is currently working with Management Board members in finalizing the new Strategic Plan 2013-2015. The new Strategic Plan will be reviewed at the third Management Board meeting before its presentation at the annual Conference in the Cook Islands. ■



Participants at the PIDC Strategic Plan workshop. (Source: PIDC)

COOK ISLANDS IMMIGRATION TO HOST 2012 PACIFIC IMMIGRATION DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE

Cook Islands Immigration has recently confirmed hosting this year's annual Conference from 21st-23rd November 2012 in Rarotonga. The theme for this year's Conference is "Securing Pacific Oceanic Gateways through Effective use of Information". The Management Board has already begun finalizing the 3 days annual Conference programme based on this year's theme. This year's conference agenda puts together a number of discussion items that intends to provide insights and raise awareness on topical immigration issues that are relevant to the Pacific today. The Conference is an annual forum where immigration directors throughout the Pacific will discuss immigration subjects relevant to their work or experiences that members could relate to and consider implementing in their respective jurisdictions on their return. This year's meeting will involve presentations, panel and group discussions. This is to encourage open discussions amongst immigration directors and to provide the opportunity for members to find solutions that are relevant and applicable to the Pacific region. Drawing from the success and compliments of the 2011 Conference, the 2012 conference agenda intends to raise the level of discussions and participation amongst immigration Directors in the region. ■



Kave Ringi – Director Immigration for Cook Islands and current PIDC Vice-Chair. (Source: PIDC)

DEPARTURES AND NEW APPOINTMENTS

In recent months the PIDC family farewelled a number of immigration staff who have moved to new positions and welcomed new members who have joined the PIDC family.

Departures:

Susan Pullar the DIAC Regional Director for the Pacific region based at the Australian High Commission in Suva has completed her 3 year term and has moved to Canberra to undertake a new position. We wish Susan well in her new appointment.

New Appointments:

There have been a number of new appointments in PIDC member countries. We would like to congratulate Mr Mataio Rabura on his appointment as Chief Migration Officer for the Papua New Guinea Immigration and Citizenship Services and welcome him back into the PIDC family.

Mr Uering Iteraera the newly appointed Kiribati Deputy Director for Immigration. Mr Uering is now in charge of Kiribati Immigration while recruitment for the Director position continues.

Ms Zrno Zdenka is the new DIAC Regional Director who replaces Susan Pullar at the Australian High Commission in Suva. ■

LEGISLATION: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PIDC MEMBERS IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION

A comparative analysis of 4 PIDC members Immigration legislation was undertaken over a 6-week period between October and December 2011. These included the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Kiribati, Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Tuvalu. The analysis involved a desk-based study using PIDCs' legislation framework against each country's immigration legislation.

The report looks broadly at the overall structure of each of the members' legislation as well as specifically at the areas where substantial work is required. These areas include but are not limited to the establishment of appropriate visa systems, national policy objectives and its alignment to immigration legislation and national priorities, fraud criterion, carrier obligations, detention and removal powers and such other issues related to establishing secure borders and ports of entry. A number of environmental challenges and the impacts of mass movement of people indicate growing challenges on members' immigration legislations.



Participants in PIDC workshop. (Source: PIDC)

The report indicates significant pressures on labour market in some countries as a result of the expansion of large infrastructure projects. Another challenging environment identified was in relation to modernization and adjustments to the existing immigration system. This includes an extensive maritime border with limited surveillance capability, increasing flows across the sea and air borders and an ongoing demand for skilled foreign labour and investment. Additionally, the reports look broadly at the escalating sophistication of transnational crime.

This report in its analysis has highlighted gaps and issues in the current legislation of the 4 PIDC members and provides initial direction and focus for further work in reviewing members' legislations. The report is now available to members on the PIDC website. ■

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT (PIFS) HOSTS THE 3RD MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE DRAFTERS' TECHNICAL FORUM IN SUVA, FIJI



PIFS hosted the 3rd Meeting of the regional Legislative Drafters' Technical Forum from 23-25 July in Suva. The overall objective of the meeting was "to reinvigorate the regional network of Pacific legislative drafters and regional legislative drafting assistance providers; and discuss ways to develop the capacity and skills of Pacific legislative drafters".

The meeting was attended by parliamentary counsels, senior legislative drafters, solicitors

general, senior government lawyers from Forum member countries and representatives of national, regional and international organisations that provide assistance to forum member countries including PIDC.

During the 3-day meeting, participants shared information about their countries' respective approaches to, and experiences of, providing legislative drafting services to their governments. ■

FIJI IMMIGRATION LAUNCHES ITS "FIJIAN HOST" PROGRAMME



Launch of "Fijian Host" Programme. (Source: Fiji Immigration)

Nadi International Airport is Fiji's gateway to the world and the services visitors receive at this gateway is essentially their first and last impression of the country. It is for this reason, that the Prime Minister initiated a capacity building programme on frontline customer service with the vision of establishing Fiji as an internationally recognized tourist destination.

Fiji's tourism industry is world renowned for its welcoming tradition commonly known in the Pacific as Fiji's Bula spirit. The tourism industry has contributed significantly to the country's economy and is Fiji's fastest growing industry in terms of

employment creation and foreign exchange earnings. The industry provides employment directly and indirectly to an estimated 45,000 people.

Frontline officers become crucial not only in the role they play in security at our borders but being the face of Fiji to arriving and departing visitors. Their signature Bula spirit leaves behind lasting impressions that last a lifetime for all visitors entering Nadi International Airport.

The Minister of Tourism, Attorney General Mr. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum launched the "Fijian Host" programme at the Sheraton in Nadi on 6th July 2012 and in his address reiterated how frontline law enforcement officers at our international gateway provide the first and last Impression of Fiji to Visitors. Each agency has different roles to play at the border, but we all work together to facilitate passenger movement. We should continue to maintain and strengthen our security standards but at the same time show the world what Fijian hospitality means. Participants recognized the need to treat all visitors equally and the importance of not differentiating tourists by their color, ethnicity or nationality.

The launching of the "Fijian Host" programme intends to raise the standards of Fiji's customer service amongst all frontline officers working at Nadi International Airport. The training included participants from Fiji Immigration, Fiji Revenue and Customs, Air Terminal Services, Bio-Security Authority of Fiji, Ministry of Health, Airports Fiji Limited, Border Police and TYCO Security.

The training program successfully complements government's vision of making Fiji an internationally recognized tourist destination. ■



Participants at "Fijian Host" Programme. (Source: Fiji Immigration)

TRAINING PROGRAMMES PROIVING SUCCESSFUL

Border Protection training involves customs, immigration and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat who have been financially supporting this course. The course is an introduction to customs and immigration skills. The most recent training was held in Kiribati in July. PIDC was able to secure the services of an INZ trainer based at Auckland Airport International who successfully delivered the immigration component of the combined training in Kiribati. The training was attended by 20 participants from a number of different agencies including front line officers from Immigration, customs, Police officers, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Bio-Security (Quarantine) Authority and travel agents from Tobaraoi local travel agency and Air Pacific. The joint training approach highlighted the value of agencies working together. This was commented on positively by workshop attendees. Participants were able to draw upon the trainer's respective expertise and sought advice on other areas such as management of the border processing activity, transnational organized crime and even issues of integrity and transparency. There was also a clear willingness to learn from each others experience as participants shared their experiences in their workplaces.

Another training programme that continues to up skill and raise immigration document expertise in the region is the annual Document Examination and Principal Application (DEPA) training. This year's DEPA course will be hosted in Samoa from September 3-7. The training includes a 2 day facial comparison course which is proving successful since it was introduced in the 2010 training package. DIAC under the umbrella of the PIDC has been delivering this programme since 2007 and a large number of immigration officers have received expert training from this programme. Their ability to interdict false documents throughout the region is largely influenced by the skills and knowledge they acquire from such training programmes. Funding for this annual course is normally provided by DIAC, INZ and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat. ■



Border Protection Training in Kiribati. (Source: PIFS)

PIDC AND INTRA-ACP FACILITY TO UNDERTAKE JOINT RESEARCH WORK

PIDC in March 2012 welcomed the collaborative research work that the Secretariat will jointly undertake with the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Intra-Facility on Migration in the Pacific. Research findings from this collaborative work will be useful in understanding the direct and indirect factors influencing irregular migration in the region. The joint Intra-ACP Migration Facility and PIDC irregular migration populations' research intends to improve understanding of irregular migrant populations in Pacific members, including the causes, effects, issues and challenges; and identify appropriate responses to address the issue of irregular migration.

A detailed and comprehensive analysis report on irregular migration in the Pacific will be developed proposing a range of recommendations for governments

and regional organisations in the region to consider. The evidenced-based report will be utilised by the Pacific ACP countries, and the wider PIDC membership. This will enable members better understand the trends and indicators of irregular people movement as well as strategies that can be adapted to reduce irregular people movement. The reports can also be used by governments to develop or amend their immigration policies towards irregular migrants and identify the support needs of migrants (if any). ■



PIDC OPERATIONAL SECONDMENT PARTICIPANTS SHARE EXPERIENCE

Australia recently hosted two officers from Tonga and Kiribati Immigration departments in this year's operational secondment from 21-25 May. The program included two days attachment in Canberra for background briefings, followed by three days at Melbourne Airport and seaport. The two seconded officers, Mr Tupou of Tonga Immigration and Mr Kaara of Kiribati Immigration share their work experience from the week long programme.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my one week attachment in Australia, especially this being my first trip out of Kiribati. DIAC officers who coordinated and facilitated our week-long programme were very friendly, approachable and always willing to share their work experiences with us. Coming from Kiribati, the whole experience was an eye opener and it helped me understand why we need to strengthen our border control processes to prevent irregular and illegal people movement." Mr Kaara Baretati Kannangaki, Kiribati Immigration.

"The one week work attached in Australia was a very pleasant experience, especially the great working environment and DIAC staff in Canberra and Melbourne who were very friendly, approachable and always keen to help. There was a very high level of professionalism and expertise in their respective subject fields. One of the most important lessons I learnt was observing border control agencies especially immigration, customs and quarantine working together cooperatively to protect their borders." Mr Vaipulu Tupou, Tonga Immigration. ■



Mr. Kaara and Tupou in Canberra, Australia during the Secondment Program. (Source: DIAC)



Tupou and Kaara undergoing a briefing session with DIAC official. (Source: DIAC)

PIDC MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION FUND

The PIDC Membership Contribution Fund was established in 2005 following an agreement by members to make annual voluntary contributions of a minimum of \$1000 Australian dollars to support PIDC operation. Management Board at its most recent meeting in Palau this year approved and endorsed amendments to the fund rules. The new amendments provide more flexibility to how members can seek to use the fund and is targeted at assisting members. The

current guideline limits the use of the fund to PIDC operations which is quite general in definition. Members are expected to directly benefit from the fund and are encouraged to take ownership of the fund by contributing more consistently. The fund's ability to assist members will now depend on members contributions.

PIDC members seeking to make their membership contributions this year are to finalise this on or before the annual Conference that will be hosted by Cook Islands Immigration in Rarotonga. Please contact the Secretariat or the members area of our website for further information on the fund. ■

PHOTO



GALLERY

