

Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference NEWSLETTER



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2006



Delegates at the 2006 PIDC in Wellington, New Zealand

The 2006 PIDC was convened in Wellington, New Zealand from October 17 - 19 at the Te Papa Tongarewa Museum. Thirty-eight participants from 17 countries attended the Conference including: American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, The Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Participating Observers included: Anti-Money Laundering Assistance Team (AMLAT), Inter-Governmental Asia Pacific Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants (APC Secretariat), Canada Border Services, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community Regional Maritime Programme (SPC - RMP). Deputy Secretary for Immigration New Zealand, Dr. Mary

Anne Thompson, opened the meeting. In her address, Dr. Thompson noted the movement of people was an important global phenomenon that brought many benefits and challenges to the Pacific. She stressed that working together was an imperative for the future if the Pacific were to keep abreast of changing technologies, and to keep ahead of the increasing sophistication of those involved in illegal activities in the Pacific. The Honourable David Cunliffe, Minister of Immigration, NZ, delivered the keynote address. Mr. Cunliffe opened with the reminder that immigration was first and foremost about people. He stressed the need for complementarity of security measures across countries in light of the heightened threat of international terrorism, illegal migration and transnational organised crime, noting the importance of conferences such as the PIDC to facilitate effective dialogue between countries on these issues. The 10th annual PIDC discussed a number of

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important issues. The Department of Labour – Immigration, presented a perspective on identity fraud in New Zealand and the implications of identity fraud for the Pacific and included a discussion on the future development of Biometrics for New Zealand. Digitalstream provided an introduction to the newly developed PIDC Website and provided ideas for the future development and security of the Website. In closed session discussions, the PIDC considered the movement and management of third country nationals in the Pacific region. A number of members noted the difficulties surrounding the care, management and return of third country nationals and requested the Secretariat to continue to gather information and report to the Management Board. New Zealand introduced the Pacific Region Immigration Identity Project (PRIIP), a project intended to strengthen the capability of PIDC member jurisdictions to manage identity fraud and share information on identity issues between PIDC members. The project envisaged three phases beginning with a needs analysis and stocktake involving several Pacific islands. A report was provided by Tonga as the first secondee under the new Secondment Programme. The Secondment Programme was endorsed by the PIDC as an excellent opportunity for PIDC member jurisdictions to expose their immigration officers to a wider range of experiences and for the value the

programme added to the Secretariat. Fiji introduced the Secretariat Support Group initiative intended to provide additional resources and assistance to the PIDC Secretariat. The PIDC endorsed the Fiji initiative and encouraged other member jurisdictions to establish the SSG concept within their own government immigration agencies. Finally, Fiji introduced discussion on the benefits and challenges of generating revenue through charging for immigration services, recognising the value of bilateral support and capacity enhancement. The PIDC endorsed the 2006/07 Work Plan, which included convening two Management Board meetings and meetings of the Policy Advisory Group (PAG) and one Working Group to discuss regional exercises in conjunction with the Management Board meetings. The PIDC noted the 2006/07 Research Plan, which included areas of unique research on immigration issues on: care, management and return of third country nationals; care of asylum seekers and refugees; and human trafficking. Other decisions for action included: implementation of the first phase of the PRIIP; continuation of the secondment programme; implication of official recognition. Participants expressed their gratitude to the government of New Zealand and the Secretariat for hosting a very successful PIDC, with a special note of thanks to the Chair.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PIDC SECRETARIAT



Bula vinaka to all our PIDC members and friends from around the Pacific. The year has almost come to an end and it has been our busiest year so far. Right from

the beginning, our respected Chair Dr. Lesi Korovavala, made clear his high expectations of the Secretariat to implement the 2005/06 Work Plan. We began 2006 with the first of three Management Board meetings in March under the new PIDC organisational structure agreed to at the 2005 PIDC in Fiji. Important decisions taken at that meeting included moving the hosting of other Management Board meetings to different jurisdictions within the Management Board membership. Following on from that decision, the second Management Board meeting was convened in Apia, Samoa. Immigration Samoa set a new standard as hosts of the Management

Board. The meeting concluded after two excellent days of discussions, members were then treated to more of Samoa's famous hospitality including a wonderful trip around the island. During the year, the PIDC was represented by Dr. Korovavala at the APC Workshop in Thailand to discuss the implications of the GCIM report. In September, Dr. Korovavala made a statement on behalf of the PIDC at the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development. In the build up to the 10th PIDC, the Management Board met for a third time just prior to the commencement of the PIDC in Wellington. This was a chance to review the work over the last 12 months and see that all arrangements were in place for a successful annual conference. Leading up to the 10th PIDC, our hosts New Zealand had been putting in mountains of work to prepare for the long anticipated conference. For PIDC members, this meeting, more than any other, was seen an opportunity to showcase the development of the PIDC over the last 10 years. It was an opportunity to demonstrate the commitment of members to the ongoing development of the organisation with the aim of establishing the PIDC as the

pre-eminent organisation on migration issues in the region. By the end of a very full three days, all those who attended agreed that the 10th PIDC was the most successful to date. New Zealand takes over from Fiji as Chair of the PIDC for 2006/07 and, in a change with Papua New Guinea, Samoa will be hosting the 2007 PIDC in Apia to coincide with the South Pacific Games. Our friends from PNG will host the 2008 PIDC and the first of two Management Board meetings in 2007. So, as you can see, it's been a very busy year for the PIDC, the Management Board and the Secretariat. We would like to

thank Fiji for all the hard work put in over the 2005/06 year, particularly Dr Korovavala, for his strong involvement and guidance to the Secretariat. We would also like to thank New Zealand for hosting such a successful 2006 conference and we look forward to another busy year with Api Fiso, Group Manager of the Border Security Group, as Chair. Finally, on behalf of the staff at the PIDC Secretariat we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR OF PIDC



I would like to thank everyone that participated in the recent PIDC annual conference in New Zealand. The openness of members sharing both successes and failures provided an excellent basis to learn from each other and move forward as a region. It was considered

by all as one of the most successful conference to date and a number of important decisions were taken. I would like also to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude for the work and commitment to PIDC of the outgoing Chair, Dr Lesi Korovavala, CEO of Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration of Fiji. The PIDC has increased significantly in recognition and capacity over the last 12 months. The PIDC vision states that the PIDC is to be owned by Pacific member countries; I will encourage as Chair that each member country participate fully in PIDC. The PIDC family is built on partnerships based on trust and confidence. The commitment and dedication of PIDC member countries, including sharing information on risks and threats, is vital to strengthen the PIDC and thus border security in the region. Working together is an imperative for the future if we are to keep abreast of changing technologies and keep in front of the increasing sophistication of those wanting to undertake illegal activities in the Pacific. There are a number of PIDC initiatives planned in the upcoming year which will contribute to building stronger border security in the Pacific region. These initiatives include: PIDC Secondment Programme; Pacific Region Immigration Identity Project (PRIIP); Research on the movement and management of third country nationals in the Pacific re-

gion; and Immigration table top exercise. By way of background on the new Chair of the PIDC; Toomata Apineru Fiso has been elected Chair of PIDC for the upcoming year. He is the Group Manager Border Security Group in Immigration New Zealand. This group is responsible for border security, immigration intelligence, profiling, compliance operations, removals, fraud investigations, worldwide verification of on-shore and offshore applications for New Zealand permits and visas. Prior to this he was an Inspector and a Strategic Pacific Advisor in the Office of the Commissioner of Police. Throughout his recent career he has held positions that have focused on trans-national crime, organised crime, security matters and developing strategic and operational responses to these issues and threats to the border. He has spent 17 years of his 23 year police career in the Criminal Investigation Branch in various operational intelligence and investigation roles, including as the Intelligence Manager in the National Bureau of Criminal Intelligence and, prior to that, as the Officer in Charge of the National Organised Crime Unit and the Wellington Asian Crime Unit.



Api Fiso (left) and outgoing PIDC Chair Dr Lesi Korovavala

PHOTO GALLERY FROM THE 2006 PIDC IN WELLINGTON



PHOTO GALLERY FROM THE 2006 PIDC IN WELLINGTON



ITS NOT JUST ABOUT FISH!



The Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP) have agreed to a project to support the Pacific Patrol Boat (PPB) Program and to encourage wider multi agency use of these important EEZ assets. The Chiefs of Police at their annual meeting in Palau in August heard proposals from the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and the PICP Secretariat to encourage greater use of the patrol boats which are operated by the police services. Nine countries operate the PPB's under a programme administered by the ADF Defence Cooperation Project. A further three Pacific countries have patrol boats which are operated by the military. The PICP Secretariat will run a 12 month programme to actively encourage the best possible deployment of the patrol boats. An important finding of the discussions was that policing the EEZ of each country is "not just about fish". The role of the patrol boats operated by the police services includes the requirement to deal with all of the potential illegal activity at sea including IUU fishing; maritime terrorism; drugs, arms and human trafficking; illegal immigration; and the prevention of ship-sourced maritime pollution. A prime objective will be for the police patrol boats to work in a multi agency way. There have already been some examples of countries having immigration, customs and other agency staff join various patrols. For example, FSM have used a multi agency working group in planning patrols so that the time spent at sea has a range of interests and is not just focused on one activity. This will soon be incorporated into a Combined Law Agency Group (CLAG). The PICP programme will be supported by a project officer from Palau who will work with the Secretariat at Wellington for up to six months in 2007. The project officer will bring

together instances of "best practice" and share these with the other services. For instance, the use of the newly trained drug detector police dogs in four countries under the New Zealand Pacific Police Dog programme, through taking a drug dog and handler on patrol and used on board vessels when they are searched, is seen as a simple yet compelling extension of both programmes. Greater use will be encouraged of the intelligence held by the Pacific Transnational Crime Network and the Transnational Crime Units in some of the countries. Training in examination of identity documents will be offered. Opportunities to undertake briefings before sailing and to learn of the results of patrol boat missions will be encouraged. A proposal to establish a National Surveillance Committee using the Combined Law Agency Group (CLAG) principles in FSM offers the chance for all FSM agencies who have an interest in the EEZ to contribute to the mission planning and the deployment of the vessels. The opportunity for officers from other than the Police, such as TCU, Customs and Immigration, to join patrol boat activities will be encouraged. The first steps have already been taken! Federal Agent Anita van Hilst of the AFP, who is seconded to the PICP Secretariat, attended the ADF hosted patrol boat commanders workshop in Brisbane in early November. She outlined the PICP plans to the patrol boat commanders and to the Australian Maritime Surveillance Advisers in each country. Anita and Inspector Paula Stevens, the PICP Secretariat Officer, attended the Micronesian Maritime Surveillance and EEZ Enforcement Seminar in Palau from the 20th to the 22nd of November. This important seminar joined both the operational and Government agencies together, as well as the regional organisations such as the transnational crime network, to learn of each others interests and activities. Contact the Pacific Islands Chief of Police Secretariat on picp@police.govt.nz for further information.



SECURITY GUARDS TRAINED FOR SEAPORT ACCESS CONTROL



In mid October 2006, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Regional Maritime Programme (RMP) conducted a train-the-trainer course for seaport security officers from the Pacific Islands region to enable them to provide in country training for their seaport access control security guards so as to better meet standards for effectively implementing the International Maritime Organization's International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code. Content was geared towards appropriate subject areas and simple but effective methods of identifying, deterring and mitigating various factors that could result in a security incident. Practical tips focussed on promoting awareness to achieve preparation and communication. The training stressed that security guards were not to be trained to fight or similarly respond to security threats but rather to have knowledge of

persons who could pose a threat and to be able to recognise suspicious vehicles or devices as well as to know how to conduct searches. In addition reporting channels and what to report on plus pertinent checklists were discussed at length. Means of unauthorised access and restricted area cautions were aligned to the ISPS Code. Unaccompanied luggage and crowd management and control also factored into the training package. RMP is currently in the process of printing pocket-size flip cards depicting checklists and practical tips for the regions seaport security guards. In addition to the training manual prepared by RMP staff, agencies dealing with border control issues were invited to make presentations on subject areas that needed collaborative effort with port security personnel. The subjects covered by officials from quarantine, immigration, customs and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat's transnational crime unit helped the trainees to see how the roles and duties of seaport security guards could assist in monitoring with collaborative linkages to border control agencies. The general feedback from participants was that the concept of training their security guards with the material provided and some assistance from RMP would help improve the security of their seaport facilities. In this age of increasing global security initiatives, the Pacific Islands region is forging ahead with pragmatic approaches to share intelligence and at the same time maintain compliance with international standards.

NEW UNIFORMS FOR VANUATU IMMIGRATION



Senior Sergeant Samuel Garae (Left) and Elian Tasavi

On October 25, 2006 Vanuatu Immigration officers gathered to witness the launch of the new uniforms purchased by the Ministry for officers of the Immigration department. The new uniforms are part of a campaign by the government to lift the image of border management in Vanuatu and to raise the profile of those working at the borders. As part of the campaign, officers are redoubling their efforts at the front line to ensure the security of the border and ensure that only genuine visitors are admitted. The government of Vanuatu hopes that in future, advances in border management systems, such as Advance Passenger Information (API) systems will be available to further enhance the control of the border in Vanuatu. In an effort to enhance working relationships, Samuel Garae became the second participant in the PIDC Secondment Programme.

PACIFIC REGION IMMIGRATION IDENTITY PROJECT



Globally there are new and increasingly sophisticated risks in illegal migration. Illegal activities such as identity fraud and people smuggling are increasing. PIDC member countries have noted an increased level of immigration identity fraud in gaining entry, residency and citizenship to Pacific Island countries. Increasingly sophisticated false or altered travel and identity documents are being developed. There are trends towards the use of genuine travel documentation that has been only minimally altered and therefore making detection very difficult. Impostors have also been detected travelling on genuine unaltered documentation. It is believed that past successes using this method has led to an increased emphasis on obtaining legitimate travel documents and therefore the theft of passports and other documentation is becoming more commonplace. Essential to border management is the establishment of a process to collect, collate, analyse and disseminate data. Reliable and timely data will counter threats and risks arising from illegal migration and other organised crime activities. Gaps in information collection make it impossible to give a quantitative analysis of illegal people movement in the Pacific. Addressing border security including immigration issues such as identity fraud is highlighted as a regional priority in the Pacific, and is central to the Pacific Plan's goal on security. Stronger regional cooperation among security related agencies on security issues is an expected method to address issues such as identity fraud, people smuggling and transnational organised crime. The Pacific Region Immigration Identity Project was given approval by PIDC members at the annual conference. The project will entail three phases commencing early 2007:

Phase one – scoping, analysis, and recommendations.

- Will entail consultation and needs analysis including a stocktake of capabilities and the identification of possible risks and recommendations for strategies in phase two. The needs analysis will form the basis for prioritising capability building in Immigration agencies' identity management services at the border including enhanced capability to detect, collect, and manage identity fraud information, in a coordinated approach.

- This is likely to include the identification and implementation of a database solution, between jurisdictions, where immigration identity fraud information is collected, analysed and disseminated.
- No more than five countries will be canvassed for the purposes of this project.
- A project team will undertake activities outlined in phase one, in five Pacific Island countries. These persons will be chosen on the basis that they have existing linkages with the countries and/or their job entails liaison with Immigration agencies and other agencies in the Pacific region. The project team will spend one week in each country. This will enable sufficient time to undertake key activities i.e. present package on identity fraud, undertake a needs analysis, and hold discussions with each Immigration agency therefore establishing a benchmark of capability, risk/issues, and any current successes and/or innovative solutions.

Phase two – implementation of recommendations of phase one and identify any new risks.

Phase three – ongoing support and further sustainability.

- Will entail a review, assessment, and evaluation to obtain a true measure of prevention, detection mechanisms and regional cooperation.

Enhanced identity management services will mean PIDC members are in an improved position to face new and sophisticated challenges that arise in identity fraud. This capability will benefit the participating jurisdictions in terms of addressing identity fraud that contributes to border security, but also contributes to wider security issues such as transnational crime and people smuggling. This will also help strengthen border security in the Pacific region through taking a practical approach to enhancing regional border security.

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Immigration New Zealand