

PIDC NEWS



PACIFIC
IMMIGRATION
DIRECTORS'
CONFERENCE

PIDC REVIEW WORKSHOP



PIDC Review members. Back row left to right: Joseph Giramur (Palau), Rosemary Greaves (Australia), Lorraine Tomlinson (New Zealand), Viliami Mo'ale (Tonga), Matthew Gibbs (PIDC). Front row: Ulamanaia Sialoa (Samoa), Mataio Rabura (PNG), Mohamed Kahlil (Fiji), Peter Watters (Australia), Eroni Luveniylai (Fiji), and Tui Koroiveibau (Fiji).

In line with the decisions taken at the 2004 PIDC Annual Conference in Palau, the PIDC Secretariat hosted a Workshop in Nadi to undertake a wide-ranging review of the Organisation and the Secretariat.

Participants were drawn from the PIDC Advisory Committee including: Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Palau, PNG, Samoa and Tonga. The participants were tasked primarily to review the present activities and direction of the PIDC and to develop a new and longer-term strategic plan for the next 5-10 years.

The workshop was facilitated by Andrew McIntyre, Director of MPC Group International, and began with a review and examination of present PIDC activities and current migration related issues. In frank and open discussions over the next two days, the Workshop participants discussed possible future directions for the PIDC and how the organisation could maximise the benefits to its members.

The meeting closed at 5:45pm on Friday 21st; the participants agreed that the Workshop had made a number of significant breakthroughs; however, in order to achieve improvement, it was noted that there needed to be a concise plan for action and responsible parties assigned specific tasks towards achieving these ends.

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PIDC REVIEW WORKSHOP (CONTINUED)



Mataio (PNG) and Tui (Fiji) on day one of the Workshop.

The Workshop participants acknowledged the growing importance of the PIDC on the wider international stage, it was noted with enthusiasm the solid support provided by the participating PIDC members and donors. A decision was taken to capitalise on the advancements of the Nadi Workshop and hold a second Workshop in Brisbane at the earliest possible opportunity. The Brisbane Workshop will be tasked with continuing the momentum already generated and seeing through to completion, or as close to as possible, the development of the PIDC Strategic Plan and Secretariat Work Plan.



Small Group discussions on day two.

THE 9TH INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ASIA PACIFIC CONSULTATIONS ON REFUGEES, DISPLACED PERSONS AND MIGRANTS (APC)



Delegates at the 9th APC Meeting in Nadi, Fiji Islands.

The 9th Inter-Governmental Asia Pacific Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants (APC) meeting was held in Nadi, Fiji from the 4-5 November 2004. Thirty-six participants from Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, China, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Thailand and Vietnam attended the two day meeting. Also present was the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM),

both full members of the APC. The Head of secretariat, Matthew Gibbs, represented the PIDC.

The meeting was officially opened by Mr Alipate Qetaki, Chairman of the Fiji Law Reform Commission. In his address to the delegates, Mr. Alipate reflected on human mobility and migration and noted that during the last decade, globalisation has made the world a much smaller place. He noted that people migrate due to "push and pull" factors. Such factors included: growing economic integration and globalisation, changing geo-political interests in the post cold war era, changing demographic trends and gender roles, increasing trans-nationalism, growing reliance on smugglers, traffickers and other intermediaries.

During the two days, the IOM, Australia, Fiji, the UNHCR and the Asia Pacific Migration Research Network made presentations to the delegates. In an address by the UNHCR, Neil Wright, the newly appointed Regional Representative, addressed concerns regarding asylum issues.



Participants in session on day one.

Mr. Wright noted that the asylum and refugee determination processes needed to be fair and efficient, while contracting States to the conventions needed to address root causes of displacement in countries of origin.

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Entertainment provided by the local Villagers

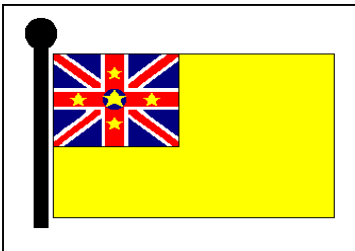
At the conclusion of the presentation from the UNHCR, Fiji noted an example of a recent asylum claim and that the UNHCR had offered to provide training in refugee determination.

The meeting then went on to consider the three themes of the meeting: Human mobility trends; Cooperation, both international and inter-agency, on data Gathering; and building regional capacity for durable solutions.

At the end of the discussions, the participants talked about the need for continuing the sub-regional meetings and the Expert Working Groups that were established in the 1999 during the Fourth Plenary. In line with the non-binding and flexible principles of the APC, participants agreed that the open ended working groups on specific issues could be convened and sub-regional meetings could be held if and when countries considered these would be useful.

The meeting agreed to continue the theme of 2004 "Comprehensive approaches to durable solutions and migration trends" into 2005. Following consultations, the People's Republic of China volunteered to host the APC for 2005.

UPDATE FROM NIUE



Fakalofa lahi atu and a Happy New Year to all members in the region.

I hope everyone had a fruitful and progressive year for 2004. I am now back with the Niue Immigration Office and hope to continue our affiliations with all members through PIDC. In 2004 I was fortunate enough to have been given the opportunity of being seconded to the New Zealand Immigration Service at the Auckland International Airport. This exercise was carried out for a period of 5 months.

I am pleased to inform all members that the secondment was a huge success and the team at Auckland International Airport where I was based was very helpful and generous in sharing their experiences as well as training me at the duties undertaken at the border. While working at the Auckland International Airport I was exposed to the tasks of: Interviews, Decisions (Fairness and natural justice), Uplift waivers and carrier infringements, APP (advance passenger processing), Document examination, Profiling, and Removals.

This opportunity has become beneficial for me in providing an efficient and more effective operation of our office. I have already begun sharing the experience with other colleagues of the Niue Immigration Service in the hope that they too will continue to be effective and efficient at their duties. A special thanks goes out to the New Zealand Immigration team at the Auckland International Airport and the Service Leaders.

I would also like to mention the B&I Managers Ms Janine Parsons and Mr Aaron Baker as well as a special thanks to Susan Egan whom we all have met from time to time with work linkages during the PIDC conferences

Finally I would also like to extend my appreciation to Mr Tony Fuatua the Deputy New Zealand High Commission for Niue and New Zealand Foreign Affairs.

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NEWS FROM THE SOUTH PACIFIC CHIEFS OF POLICE



Greetings from the secretariat of the South Pacific Chiefs of Police (SPCP). The following article is an update on recent changes and future developments within the organisation.

The SPCPC Meeting in Brisbane in 2003 adopted a five-year Strategy and Work plan that will guide the organisation in supporting its 21 members. There was recognition that to give effect to the new initiatives the Secretariat would require greater resources as well as a new capability to develop and maintain strategic projects. The New Zealand Police and Australian Federal Police undertook to review the role of the Secretariat. So what does this all really mean?

The Secretariat function increases from the one full time position of Secretariat Officer and a portfolio position of Secretary provided by NZ Police, to make both of these full time positions with an Executive Support Officer added to the mix. This gives the Secretariat the ability to actively promote the role of the SPCPC and to support the Chairman and members in a more comprehensive way. This aspect is jointly funded by NZ Police and by NZAid.

A new Projects Office has been established as part of the Secretariat. The AFP have provided a full time Program Manager and also fund a full time project officer seconded annually from one of the member countries. Further funding has been provided by NZAid for additional project officers from the members to work on specific projects.

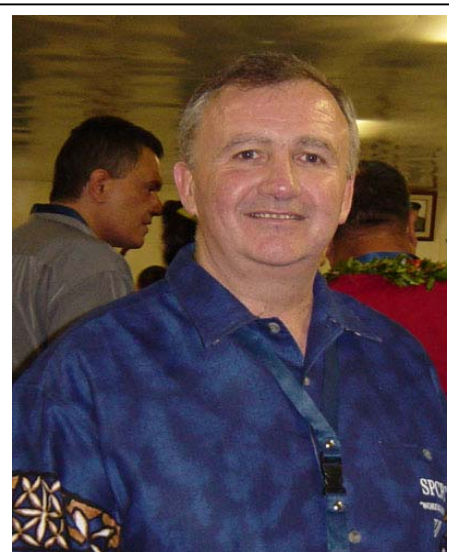
Part of the change in emphasis was the relocation of the Secretariat which has moved to the NZ Police Commissioners Office in Wellington. This provides all the support of the Commissioners Office for administration, financial management, HR management etc, while still allowing the Secretariat to be a distinct entity.

All this has meant some changes in personnel. Ted Cox and John Manning have continued with NZ Police in Auckland and Margaret Waipara's part time support to the SPCPC has now concluded. Margaret continues to work for NZ Police in the Deputy Commissioners office. NZ Police have filled the role of Secretary has been taken up by Cam Ronald, the Secretariat officer by Paula Stevens, and the Executive Support Officer by Chris Wilding. The project team is comprised of Chris Barnes from AFP LECF and the full time project officer for 2004/05 is Lautoa Faletau from Tonga Police.

The major areas of work for the project team are the development of Integrity Models, support to the Women's Advisory Network (WAN) and the development of a major proposal for enhanced cooperation on border management in the Pacific. The Secretariat team will support the project group and also advance the role of the SPCP. Some 30 projects or work areas are currently being scoped.

You may have noticed a subtle change of name - the word Conference has been dropped by the 33rd meeting at Tonga and consideration is now being given to a name that reflects all of the Pacific members, which is of course wider than just the South Pacific. This will be an interesting debate and one faced by all the regional organisations at some stage.

The contact points for the SPCP are spcpc@police.govt.nz
Or phone 64 4 470 7126.

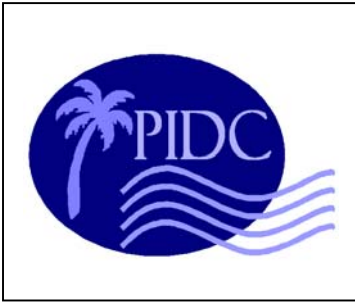


Cam Ronald - Secretary - South Pacific Chiefs of Police (SPCP) Secretariat

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AN UPDATE FROM THE PIDC SECRETARIAT



Bula and Namaste. Since our last Newsletter in October, there has been no respite from work at the Secretariat. At the beginning of November, the Secretariat was invited by the Association of South Pacific Airlines (ASPA) to inform the delegates of the development of Advance Passenger Information (API) systems in the Pacific region. During the presentation, participants were informed of the recently completed Institutional Strengthening Project in Samoa including the development and incorporation of API into their new border management IT systems. It was explained that the Samoa model was seen by many in the region as a good Pacific example and could be used as a template for other countries in the region to emulate. Harmonisation of policy, legislation and information systems was also pushed as key to development in the region.

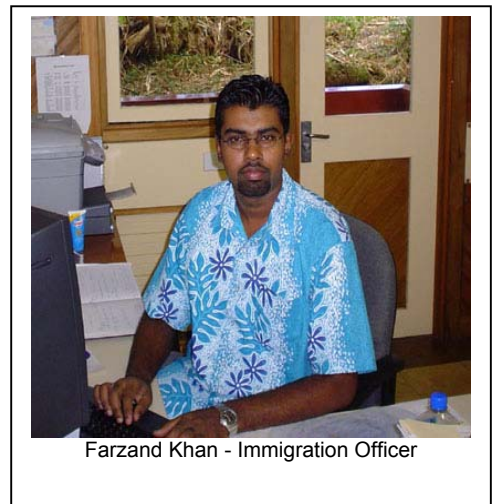
In other news, American Samoa has announced that they will be holding a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Full Scale Exercise (FSE) scheduled for the 15 to 19 February. Fifteen PIDC member countries have pledged support, where requested, in order to make the exercise a success.

The Oceania Customs Organisation will be hosting its annual conference in Guam on the 7-11 March. The PIDC will this year be represented by Palau, current Chair for the PIDC, and will be presenting an update of PIDC activities over the last 12 months to the delegates.

As noted earlier in the Newsletter, the PIDC will host the second of two Workshops tasked to review the PIDC and Secretariat. The Workshop will this time be held in Brisbane and is intended to continue the momentum generated from the first Workshop in Nadi.

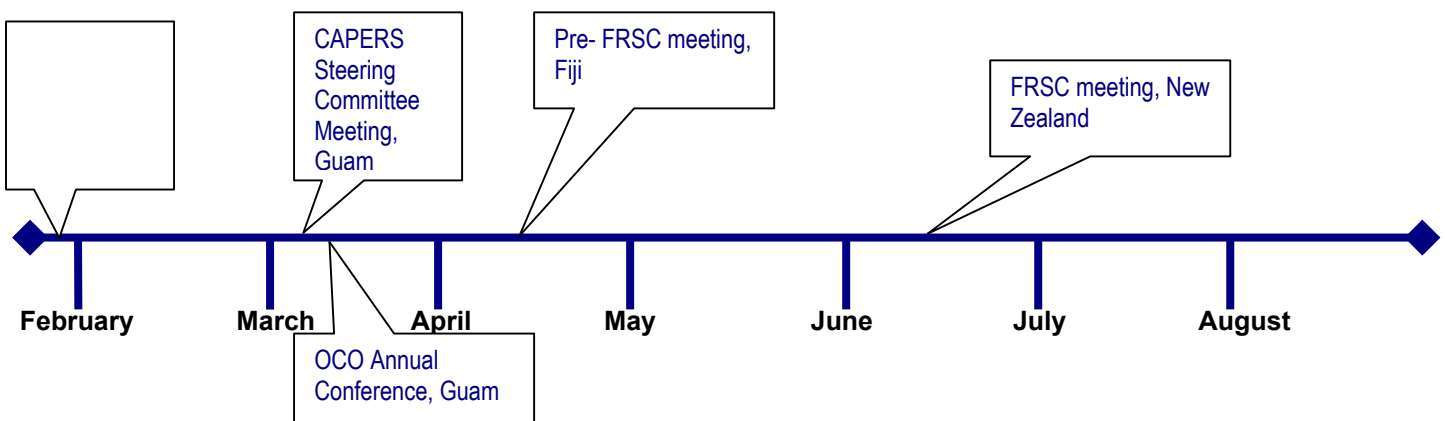
Farzand Khan has returned to Fiji Immigration after spending almost eight months with the PIDC Secretariat. On behalf of the PIDC I would like to wish Farzand all the best for the continuation of his career with Fiji Immigration.

Finally, The Secretariat is in the midst of its organisational review and we hope to have completed this in the near future and we will be able to report on the results shortly afterwards. I look forward to renewing acquaintances and meeting the new additions to the region during the coming year.



Farzand Khan - Immigration Officer

REGIONAL EVENTS FOR 2005



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