

PIDC NEWS

Immigration News for the Pacific Region

Edition 5: July 2003



PACIFIC
IMMIGRATION
DIRECTORS'
CONFERENCE



BORDER CONTROL TRAINING 2003



Control Training Participants pictured here with the French Ambassador to Fiji, HE Mr. Jean-Pierre Vidon.

19 –30 May, Suva, Fiji

The Border Control Training was officially opened by the French Ambassador HE Jean-Pierre Vidon, at the Forum Secretariat Malolo Bure. 15 course participants from Immigration and Customs Administrations around the Pacific Region attended the course; most of them had attended the course that was held in 2002.

This years training was organised by the new Forum Law Enforcement Training Coordinator, Mark Whitfield. Out of the 15 participants who attended, 10 were from Immigration Administrations in New Caledonia, Fiji, PNG, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Samoa and Vanuatu.

The Fiji National Training Council directed the first week of the course. Training was conducted by Mere Tuisawau. She took the course participants through the 'Training of Trainers Module I – Instructional Skills' Workshop. This will help the participants with skills on how to conduct border control training or workshops in their respective workplaces in their home countries.

The second week of the course was run by Philip Dale, a DIMIA representative from the Australian High Commission, Mike Lynch the Melanesian Counter-Terrorism Project Officer and Mark Whitfield the Forum's Law Enforcement Training Coordinator. They took the course participants on subjects related to border control and transnational crime, including practical components where participants prepared programs for delivery at national levels. They also covered subjects such as identifying fraudulent passports, tickets and associated documents.

The course participants had a chance to tour the Suva wharf and see the work carried out by Fiji Customs and Immigration officers when clearing foreign vessels that arrive in Fiji. At the end of the course the participants were given Certificates of Attainment from the Fiji National Training Council for completing the 'Training the Trainers Module I' and passing the prescribed requirements.

Tara Savou – PIDC Secretariat

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15 NEW TRAINING INSTRUCTORS FOR THE PACIFIC REGION

There are now 15 new qualified Training Instructors in the Pacific Region following the conduct of the Border Control Training Program 2003 at the Forum Secretariat in May 2003.

Course participants completed one week of the Fiji National Training Council "Train the Trainer" program. This concluded with a written examination, a comprehensive training project and the delivery of lessons to the group. This is an accredited course and participants can now officially call themselves Training Instructors.

The second week of the program involved a series of presentations from Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMIA Australia) and training development activities. This phase was aimed at developing document examination skills and then practicing the skills needed to teach them back in the work place.

Frontline document examination equipment was issued to the participants and will also be sent to other regional partners.

The program was funded through the French Government and the Australian Federal Police Law Enforcement Cooperation Program. The Forum Secretariat coordinated and administered the program.

The challenge for organisations, who attended this program and others like it, is to now get those participants out into the work place to pass on these valuable skills. Such activities require strong management support and leadership. The benefits will be an increase in the skill level of employees which can lead to a greater success rate in detecting fraudulent documents at the borders which will help to make life tough for criminals in the Pacific region.

Mark Whitfeld, Forum Secretariat.



BORDER TRAINING 2003

Bula!

My name is Billy B Guporo of Solomon Islands Immigration and I was a participant to the last year Border control course and the recent one on 19th-30th May 2003 organised through the Forum Secretariat. Through these training courses I can say that the Pacific island nations have open a new chapter in the millennium by coordinating regional border control cooperation in which for decades never exists.

During this two border control-training courses the regional member states including Solomon Islands have benefited a lot. Among these beneficiaries for examples:

- Establishing links with other Pacific Islands member states.
- Share and exchange of expertise and experiences on border control related issues within the region and commonwealth member states.
- Attend training conducted through Forum Secretariat with funds made available by other Commonwealth countries.

From this two training courses I have acquired skills to train other colleagues and even broaden my knowledge on border control related duties and how to be more efficient and

effective. Such similar training must be conducted continually and other Customs issues must be included especially drug and other related issues.

Also I am delighted to say that the Forum Secretariat had recognised the work of border control within the region and as well as the Commonwealth by conducting joint regional training for member states last year and this year also. Hence each member states should continue to have their candidates attend advance training annually in order to continue the chain of training in their home state.

Lastly I would like to thank His Excellency the French Ambassador in Suva, Law Enforcement programme coordinator and AFP for funding and the training resources for this course. My sincere appreciation also to Ms Mere Tuisawau of the Fiji National Training Council for conducting the Train the trainer's course, Mark Whitfield-LET Coordinator, Chris- DIMIA, Philip – Australian Embassy in Suva and Loraini of the Forum Secretariat and all my colleagues from around the region who attend this course.

Billy B Guporo - Solomon Islands

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ATTACHMENT AT FIJI IMMIGRATION



Mr Ioane Awerika and Ms Teaa Tominiko from Kiribati Immigration were attached with the Fiji Immigration Department during the month of May. During their weeks of training they were able to observe and be trained in the operational aspects of the Fiji Immigration Department. They went through the Research and Development Unit, Permit, Passport and Visa to name a few. They were also able to visit the PIDC



Secretariat office here in Suva on 13th May 2003 and learn about the work currently being undertaken by the Secretariat.

The two visiting officers also joined the Immigration staff for their second Induction course in Nasau, Sigatoka, which they enjoyed very much. They were able to learn about border control work at the Immigration Department based at Nadi International Airport, which it is hoped will update their skills and assist them in performing their Immigration duties when they return to Kiribati.

Tara Savou –PIDC Secretariat

REPORT FROM THE PIDC SECRETARIAT

Bula from the PIDC Secretariat!

The PIDC Secretariat has been quite busy during the last two months with a number of tasks undertaken. We have developed the "*Attempted Clandestine Arrival Report*" and the "*Fraudulent Visa and Passport Report*", which have been forwarded to all member countries and we hope that all members will use these forms.

The Secretariat will be using these reports to develop a database and to analyse data received for the use of all PIDC Members. Also being developed by the Secretariat is the Immigration Contingency Plan for Mass Arrivals.

PIDC was represented by the Secretariat at the Pre-FRSC meeting in Nadi, from 1-2 May, where by a number of regional law enforcement papers for the FRSC Meeting were drafted. At the FRSC meeting in Nadi from 18-20 June, the Secretariat tabled our PIDC report and the report on "*People Smuggling, Trafficking and Illegal Migration in the Pacific: A Regional Perspective*".

The second Expert Working Group Meeting was held from 5-6 May at the Forum Secretariat. The group is coordinating the development of a regional framework including the Model Legislation to address Terrorism & Transnational Organised crime. A seminar was also held at the Forum Secretariat from 19-20 June, that was attended by Tara Savou from the PIDC Secretariat, where by the Australian Federal Police presented an overview of the "West African Organised Crime".

The Secretariat is also preparing itself for the PIDC Annual Conference 2003 in Tonga from 10-12 September and we are looking forward to meeting all members there. We look forward to working with you all through the remaining months of 2003.
Tara Savou – PIDC Secretariat

PIDC News is produced by the Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference Secretariat.

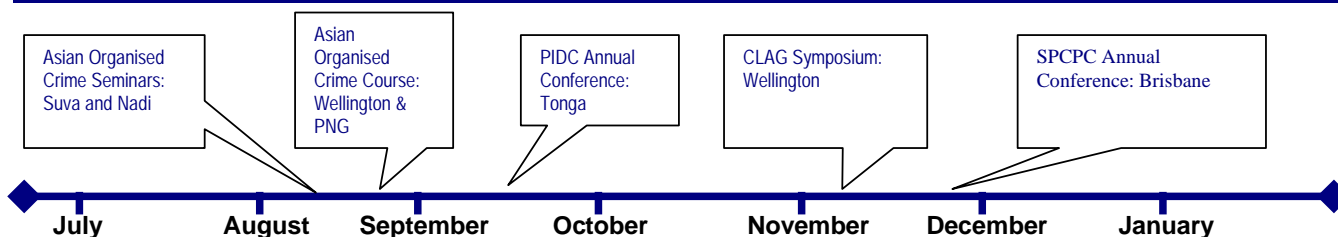
The next edition of PIDC News is due for publication in October 2003.

Comments and articles (preferably with pictures) for inclusion should be sent by the end of September 2003 to the PIDC Secretariat at:

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REGIONAL EVENTS



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