



Pacific Immigration Development Community

2023 Regular Annual Meeting

20-22 June, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Agenda item 11: Panel Discussion – Creating and Enabling Foreign Investment Environment through Migration Pathways: Facilitating Investment Through Visa Arrangements

Recommendations

Members are to note migration pathway options that can be adopted to facilitate foreign investment

Purpose

This session provides an opportunity for Members to discuss and share experiences on the utilisation of Visa arrangements to support and facilitate foreign investment in jurisdictions across the Pacific. Visa arrangement such as the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Travel Card (ABTC) have been designed to facilitate the ease of investor movement across jurisdictions.

Background

2. The ABTC is a program that facilitates short term business travel and promotes economic cooperation among APEC member economies. It was designed to simplify and expedite the entry and exit process for business travellers within the APEC region. While the ABTC does not directly enable foreign investments, it plays a vital role in creating an enabling environment for investment by promoting mobility, connectivity, networking, and cross-border facilitation. By simplifying travel procedures and fostering economic cooperation, the ABTC contributes to attracting foreign investment and promoting economic growth within the APEC region.

3. Melanesia Spearhead Group (MSG) Business Visa also promotes business activities for MSG member countries including Fiji, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) of New Caledonia. Recently PNG reactivated Visa on Arrival for MSG countries in November 2022, allowing travellers from countries within the MSG to enjoy streamlined travel to PNG, removing the need to apply for visa before travelling to PNG. This was an important achievement for PNG Immigration and Citizenship Authority (ICA) as it restored international travel arrangement pre-pandemic and encourage post-pandemic travels and business for PNG.

4. Members will be invited to share their experiences and discuss approaches that support and facilitates foreign investment environment in the region.