



Pacific Immigration Development Community
2023/24 Board Meeting 2
14-15 March 2024: Apia, Samoa.

Agenda Item 9: Regular Annual Meeting 2024 Planning

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

- a) **welcome** Solomon Island’s commitment and preparation for the 2024 Regular Annual Meeting;
 - b) **establish** a RAM Agenda Setting Committee and **task** the Committee to develop a draft 2024 conference agenda for Board intersessional endorsement by 28 March 2024;
 - c) **encourage** Solomon Islands to confirm a proposed theme for the 2024 RAM;
 - d) **endorse** the list of Observer organisations and partner organisations to be invited to the 2024 RAM;
 - e) **review** the 2024 Regular Annual Meeting dates in light of emerging clashes with other key regional forums; and
 - f) **task** the Secretariat to send out invitations to the 2024 Regular Annual Meeting by 28 March 2024.
-

Purpose

To brief the Board on preparations undertaken for the 2024 Regular Annual Meeting (RAM) and seek endorsement of specific arrangements.

Background

2. Following the 2023 Regular Annual Meeting in Vanuatu, Members accepted Solomon Island’s offer to host the 2024 PIDC annual conference. The meeting is expected to bring together 21 Heads of PIDC Member administrations and a number of invited regional and international Observer organizations.

(i) Regular Annual Meeting Theme Options and Draft Conference Agenda

3. The accepted PIDC practice has been to allow the host country priority in choosing a conference theme that not only reflects national immigration priorities but is also relevant for the wider PIDC Membership. The previously selected themes have usually been general in nature providing a broad scope for PIDC Members to adapt as required for key domestic issues.

4. Due to the linkages between the meeting theme and agenda, these matters are best discussed together. As such, the Board is encouraged to discuss a meeting theme and finalise an appropriate draft agenda for planning purposes. To promote a sense of ownership to the development of PIDC’s RAM agenda, the Board can consider establishing a 2024 Conference Agenda Committee to discuss and recommend to the Board out of session a draft agenda for endorsement. To assist discussions on the subject, listed below is a list of past annual regular meeting themes.

Table 1: List of PIDC Regular Annual Meeting themes

Year	PIDC Conference Theme
2005	“The Future of Regional Cooperation on Managed Migration in the Pacific”

Year	PIDC Conference Theme
2006	“Strengthening Border Management Across the Region to Contribute to Improved Social and Economic Well-being and Security in the Pacific”
2007	“Working Together to Strengthen Regional Security and Prosperity through Managed International People Movements”
2008	“People on the Move”
2009	“PIDC: Focus on the Future”
2010	“Consolidating PIDC Status as a Valuable Entity”
2011	“Good Governance, Strong Laws, Secure Borders”
2012	“Securing Pacific Oceanic Gateways through Effective Use of Information”
2013	<i>Conference Not Held</i>
2014	“Economic Growth and National Development through Skilled Entry Programs”
2015	“Our Voyage towards Tomorrow”
2016	“New Beginning and Growth”
2017	“Our waka: Advancing approaches to regional migration challenges for a safe and prosperous Pacific”
2018	“Climate Change and Migration”
2019	“Steering the Course: Welcoming Difference, Sharing Solutions”
2020 - 21	<i>No RAM but had online Special General Meeting due to COVID-19 and closure of international borders</i>
2022	“Overcoming Challenges, Building Resilience”
2023	“Labour Mobility to Stimulate Economic Growth”

(ii) RAM 2024 Meeting Date

5. Board members at the Palau Board meeting had endorsed the 2024 RAM to be scheduled from the week beginning 24th June 2024. However, following the release of regional Secretariat calendars, in December 2023 and January 2024 the Secretariat has noted an emerging clash of meeting dates with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) scheduling this year’s FRSC meeting on 27-28 June with the Pacific Regional National Security Conference formerly known as the Pacific Regional Law Enforcement Conference being scheduled for 24-26 June. Where the organizers of both forums have planned to hold this conference back-to-back with the FRSC.

6. The Board with Solomon Islands approval is requested to consider rescheduling our conference to a week earlier to accommodate the need for our directors and members to also participate at both regional forums, in light of critical issues around the Pacific Regional Security Architecture that would be discussed at this year’s FRSC.

(iii) Host Country Planning Update

7. Solomon Islands will be given the opportunity to update Board Members on preparations being undertaken by the Department of Immigration to host the 2024 RAM. Solomon Islands is expected to advise the Board on preparations being undertaken in preparation of the 2024 RAM including (i) meeting venue; (ii) meeting accommodation and (iii) possible RAM programme.

(iv) Invitations and Observer Organisations

8. The Secretariat will be sending out invitations to Members and Observers to attend the Regular Annual Meeting. Observers are currently identified as regional and international stakeholders that traditionally collaborate with PIDC in the region. The Board will be requested to confirm new Observer organisations to be invited to the 2024 Regular Annual Meeting once the draft Agenda has been confirmed. Below is a participant list from last year’s Regular Annual Meeting including other Observer Organisations that were invited:

Table 2: List of Members and Organizations to be invited to 2024 RAM

Members		Observers
1. Australia	12. Niue	<u>PIDC Observers</u>
2. American Samoa	13. Palau	1. Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
3. Cook Islands	14. Papua New Guinea	2. Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police
4. FSM	15. Samoa	3. Oceania Customs Organisation
5. French Polynesia	16. Solomon Islands	4. Forum Fisheries Agency
6. Fiji	17. Tuvalu	5. International Organisation for Migration
7. Kiribati	18. Tonga	6. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
8. Marshall Islands	19. Tokelau	7. United Nations Office Drug and Crime
9. Nauru	20. Vanuatu	8. Pacific Islands Law Enforcement Network
10. New Caledonia	21. Wallis and Futuna	9. Pacific Fusion Centre
11. New Zealand		10. PACER Plus Implementation Unit

Observers to be invited

9. While table 2 outlines the list of PIDC RAM member participants and traditional Observers, PIDC has also normally invited expert speakers and other partner organisations to participate in conferences depending on the conference theme and agenda. The following list of organisations are additional organisations that we have also been normally invited to our conferences that have expressed an interest to join this year’s RAM as Observers:

- (a) NZ Passports/ICAO representative for the Pacific;
- (b) Bali Process Regional Support Office;
- (c) US Immigration and Customs Enforcement;
- (d) Canada Citizenship and Immigration representatives based out of Australia; and
- (e) French Interior Security Attache for the Pacific based out of Canberra.