



PIDC Board meeting in Rarotonga (Front L-R), Margot Clifford, Susan Pullar (Australia), Tessie Lambourne (Kiribati), Janet Ravula (PNG), Hannah Malloch (New Zealand); Back (L-R) Matt Caper (Secretariat), Api Fiso (New Zealand), George Bogiri (Vanuatu), Auseugaefa Poloma Komiti (Chair), Reg Sanday (Hos), Akuila Ratu (Secretariat), Kave Ringi (Head of Cook Islands Immigration). Missing: Ernest Stevens, representative of small island states.

# 2010 will be an exciting year

2010 is so far proving to be busy, challenging and also very rewarding for your secretariat and our network. In February, we welcomed our new Head of Secretariat, Mr Reg Sanday of Fiji who two weeks after he started work attended the PIDC Management Board meeting, the first for the year, that was held in Rarotonga, the Cook Islands on 16-17 February 2010. The meeting went exceedingly well and was described by PIDC Chairman, Auseugaefa Poloma

Komiti, as the most productive board opmeeting he has attended, Credit for this can go to the hard work put in by Secretariat staff in preparing substantive papers for Board decisions. Another contributing factor to the high level of discussion was the active participation of our new Board members comprising Kiribati, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Nauru, the latter representing Small Island States. Board members from Samoa and Tonga were unable to attend but both

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Calendar of events	
1. Second Management Board meeting: 28th - 29th July, Vanuatu.	
2. Pacific Islands Chiefs and Police conference: 24th - 25th August, Australia.	
3. Document Examination Principles and Applications training: 22nd - 24th September, Fiji.	



Head of Cook Islands Immigration, Kave Ringi

have stated their strong support for future meetings of the Board.

2010 will be an exciting year for the PIDC membership as we move towards implementing the 30 recommendations of the recent Institutional Review of PIDC that was carried out by a team of consultants. You recall that these recommendations were approved in principle by the 2009 Conference. Among the recommendations of note was one that would see PIDC move from comprising a small secretariat servicing our annual Conference to a more formally structured organization with some degree of autonomy over our annual budget, with fully-funded programs addressing members' needs and with Management Board approval, a mandate to attract additional extra-budgetary financing for programs from non-traditional donors. At the Cook Islands meeting the Management Board established a series of sub-committees to address the recommendations of the

**Management Board Sub-Committees**

- 1. Human Resources - PIDC Chair, Australia, NZ & Fiji
- 2. Governance - Australia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, New Zealand (interim Chair) and Vanuatu
- 3. Entity Status - Australia (interim Chair), Kiribati, New Zealand and Nauru
- 4. Members' Contribution - Australia, Kiribati (Interim Chair), Nauru, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea

review. Membership and Chairs for the sub-committees are shown in the table above.

The secretariat has been working hard to prepare discussion papers for the sub-committees whose recommendations will be discussed at the next Management Board meeting to be held in Port Vila, Vanuatu in July.



Ms Mereia Volavola, Head of PIPSO and PIDC HoS, Reg Sanday enjoy a cuppa to mark International Womens Day

## PIDC Secretariat Celebrates International Womens Day

International Womens Day (IWD) falls each year on March 8th. On this day each year, hundreds of International Women's Day events occur all around the world. The events range from small random informal gatherings to large-scale highly organised events. All celebrate women's advancement and highlight the need for continued vigilance and action to uplift the status of women around the world.

This year PIDC staff were invited to celebrate IWD at a morning tea hosted by staff of the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO) who occupy an office next door to PIDC at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Suva. The theme of this year's IWD was "Equal rights, equal opportunities: Progress for all" At the morning tea the Head of PIPSO, Ms Mereia Volavola and PIDC HoS, Reg Sanday spoke on the theme in which he highlighted the contribution women are making to border management systems in the region with many occupying senior positions in various national services, and also in the composition of PIDC's Management Board which has a roughly equal participation rate between men and women.

He said the Secretariat tries to ensure women are equally represented at training workshops and other PIDC events and so ensure that they have equal opportunities to excel.



Ms Rachael Varea, PIDC Office Manager at International Womens Day celebrations



Chairman Asuegafa Poloma Komiti presents cash donation to, George George, President of Aitutaki Island Cyclone Relief Committee

# PIDC Board donates to Cyclone Appeal

On the final day of the Management Board meeting in the Cook Islands Management Board Members passed the hat around and contributed a sum of NZ\$700 for cyclone relief on Aitutaki Island in the wake of destruction caused by Cyclone Pat. In presenting the donation to Aitutaki Cyclone Appeal Chairman, Mr George George, Chairman Auseugaefa Poloma Komiti said the Board hoped the cash would contribute in a small way to

recovery efforts on the devastated island. In his response, Mr George said the donation was testament of the Pacific spirit that “when one of us is down and needs help, we are always there to lend a helping hand to our neighbors to get back on their feet.” The Cook Islands daily newspaper, Cook Island News paid tribute to the gesture by our board members.



Henry Taefu

## Henry marks 30 years with Samoa Immigration

Henry Taefu, Principal Immigration Officer – Border Operation and Citizenship with Samoa’s Immigration Division achieved a milestone by fulfilling 30-years of uninterrupted service on April 21st 2010. Here he is seen standing next to the server for Samoa’s computerized border management system. To mark his achievement Samoa Immigration organized a staff tea party for Henry at which the Head of Samoan Immigration, Togatalima Faafouina Milford praised Henry’s dedication and contribution to his country’s border control system. PIDC sent a congratulatory note to Henry wishing him 30 more years service to his country.

## World Refugee Day marked

As the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) marked World Refugee Day on 20 June, a new report found the number of people forcibly displaced by persecution, conflict and instability around the world had risen by 1.3 million to some 43.3 million - the highest level since the mid-1990s.

The figures, in UNHCR's 2009 Global Trends Report, include 15.2 million refugees and 983,000 asylum-seekers.

The report shows that one out of four refugees in the world is from Afghanistan, with 2.9 million - most of whom are hosted in Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.



2010 WRDay poster

## PNG immigration services now independent

PNG's Immigration Services became an independent entity when Parliament approved its separation from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in May. Foreign Minister, Mr Sam Abal said the separation of the two entities was part of reforms to improve service levels at the PNG Immigration Services. The new entity, now known as the PNG Immigration and Citizenship Service, is an independent statutory authority with its own budget and whose Minister remains the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Speaking at the 26th Australia-Papua New Guinea Business Forum, Minister Abal told participants that as a part of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Immigration service did not get the attention it deserved as an important service of the Government.

**Immigration "the security guard of a nation," the National Newspaper, PNG**

In a rare editorial on immigration, the National Newspaper of PNG likened an immigration service to a front doorman of any nation, a security guard if you like.

It greets every legal entrants into the country at the door. It checks to ensure the visitor is friendly, that he or she brings no threat to humans, animal or plants, that the person is genuine and has the credentials he or she claims to have and

that the country will benefit by that person's presence.

Likewise, the doorman is there to say goodbye to all who depart, ensuring that they are leaving with nothing that is of value to the country.

Of course, the departing or returning citizen must pass through the doorman and suffer checks to ensure he or she too is not bringing threats or taking away valuables from the country. It is from immigrations that a citizen gets travel documents such as passports and travel permits.

This process, which begins at the lodging of visa applications and involves cross agency checks with Labour Department's Work Permits Division, National Intelligence Organisation and, if necessary, police, Internal Revenue Commission and the Investment Promotion Authority on the domestic level as well as with PNG's foreign missions and, possibly, international bodies like Interpol where necessary.

It is a key agency of government . . . PNG is poised for an influx of foreigners such as never experienced before with the commencement of the PNG liquefied natural gas project and other major resource developments.

The demand for visas and entry permits is growing at a rate never

experienced before. There are some 50,000 applications for visas pending.

The service will require additional staff, funding and equipment to perform its functions well. As a statutory authority, it is hoped that that can happen. At the same time, the service can turn over substantial revenue in the various fees applicable. Once, this used to be diluted into departmental revenue. Now, it will have to be fully accounted for and that will tell the nation what it might have been missing out on in the past.

The change should allow the organisation to grow to meet increased demands while, at the same time, providing an environment of professionalism and integrity as minister Sam Abal told Parliament.

The timing is spot on and Abal and his team have to be congratulated for taking the bold initiative., so says the National. PIDC adds its congratulations to the new Immigration and Citizenship Services.

Here during his visit to Papua New Guinea, the first by a Head of Secretariat of PIDC, current Head of Secretariat, Reg Sanday (far right) is seen with Mr Gary Juffa CEO of PNG Customs and Ms Janet Ravula, Acting Deputy Chief Migration Officer of the PNG Immigration and Citizenship Service who is also a PIDC Management Board member.



Richard Towle

The other largest source countries for refugees included Iraq (1.8 million), Somalia (678,000), Democratic Republic of the Congo (456,000), and Myanmar (407,000).

As in previous years, around four fifths of refugees live in developing countries, with the largest host countries including Pakistan, Iran, Syria, Germany and Jordan.

UNHCR is using the theme, Home, to mark World Refugee Day this year.

Regional Representative, Richard Towle, said: "It is sobering that persistent conflict and insecurity mean so many people are still being forced to leave their countries and so few are able to return home. Each of the statistics in this report tells a human story of loss and tragedy."

UNHCR's Regional Office provides practical advice and support to Pacific Island Countries to encourage the implementation of the humanitarian purpose of the Refugee Convention, and improved legal frameworks and capacity for dealing with refugees in the broader context of migration management.

There are around 20 refugees and asylum-seekers hosted in Pacific Island Countries and, while the Pacific is a long way from many of the places of terrible suffering for refugees, UNHCR hopes that people in the region use World Refugee Day to remember them, and those 42 million people around the world who are unable to go home.

## Identify theft awareness workshop in the Cook Islands

The Cook Islands Immigration Services hosted a Pacific Immigration Identity workshop in Rarotonga in February. Codenamed PRIIP (Pacific Region Immigration Identity Project) Phase 2, the workshop is aimed at training immigration and other agencies dealing with foreign visitors (or intending visitors) on how to identify genuine identity documents from forgeries.

The workshops are being conducted on behalf of PIDC by New Zealand Immigration Services officers, Shaun Evans and Hannah Mallock assisted by Kate O'Brien from Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). Kate from the CBSA explained that there is a market out there for counterfeit documents and the training is to help everyone in relevant industries to identify counterfeit documents.

The workshop adopted a multi-agency approach with Immigration, Customs and Police in conjunction with Health and Quarantine (for Biosafety) as well as Financial Intelligence Units (dealing with international finance) and Business and Trade Investment Boards (dealing with foreign investors)

The team held sessions for two days with Immigration, Customs and Police personnel assigned to airport or port duties and who are effectively front line border control officers.

Criminal elements use counterfeit passports to enter a country or use fake credit cards to obtain credit that they would not otherwise be entitled to.

One day during the workshop was dedicated to the private sector, including banks, financial institutions and travel agencies, all of which require a client to produce official identification



Shaun Evans, resource person for workshop.

in order to do business with them.

For instance, to open a bank account, a person must produce official documents sufficient to establish his or her identity (drivers licence, birth certificate or passport etc). Travel agents are in a similar position, requiring a valid passport for a traveller in order to purchase a ticket.

Pacific peoples are friendly and want to be welcoming and to be nice to people, wherein lies the weak link which can be exploited by the criminal element – whether by chance when the opportunity arises or by those in organized crime.

The PRIIP workshop is part of an ongoing series held in various Pacific Island nations on identifying the tell tale signs of fake identity. Funding for PRIIP is courtesy of the NZ Pacific Security Fund under the auspices of Foreign Affairs in NZ.





*Micronesian region course participants take time out for a group photo.*

# Intelligence Workshops in Micronesia and New Zealand

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) hosted the first workshop under the second phase of the PIDC Pacific Intelligence Officer Programme. It was held in Pohnpei, FSM in April for Micronesian countries, followed a month later by another workshop in Wellington, New Zealand for other Pacific Island countries in the program.

The workshops were a great success and the programme coordinators are confident that the network created during Phase I of the programme, and strengthened by the recent workshops, will be of benefit to all participating administrations and the region as a whole. It is hoped that the sharing of information and the close working relationships will continue.

Phase III of the programme is being considered with requests and suggestions from participants being taken into consideration. The programme

coordinators thank all participants for their enthusiasm, hard work and sense of humour. Running the programme has so far been very enjoyable and has been a great learning opportunity for the coordinators, as well as the participants.

## **Micronesian Workshop**

The FSM workshop was held at the conference room at Yvonne's Hotel in Pohnpei. Customs, Immigration and Police representatives from Palau and the Marshall Islands (RMI) made the trip to Pohnpei. The three programme facilitators travelled from New Zealand.

FSM Customs, Immigration, National Police and State Police exceeded expectations by providing a total of 11 representatives. This brought the number of attendees to 19, including one officer who had arrived from Palau to work for six months at the FSM Transnational Crime Unit (TCU). He hadn't even had time to look at his new home as he

spent his first week in Pohnpei at the workshop.

The session started with a revision of Phase I followed by presentations on the usefulness of information reports and spreadsheets. A module on report writing was then held. The participants split up into their country groups to tackle real life issues. As the number of attendees from FSM was too high for a single group, they split into two groups that each dealt with a different problem.

Heads hurt, internet lines were running hot and keyboards whirred until Thursday night. By Friday every group had prepared a report, which was presented to the workshop. Lively discussions were had and feedback was provided, which was then incorporated into the reports. Upon return to their home countries, each group presented the report to the heads of Customs, Immigration and Police.



### New Zealand workshop

This workshop was hosted by Immigration New Zealand in a rather cold and wet Wellington. The 23 participants came from the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu as well as the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) and Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference (PICP) secretariats. Although the visitors to New Zealand were accommodated close to the workshop's venue, the short walk still caused several shivers.

As in FSM, the Customs, Immigration and Police representatives received a number of presentations. Also as in FSM, attendees at the Wellington workshop tackled real life tasks in their country groups. Phones were ringing, urgent requests were made to home and other agencies and information was collected, collated, evaluated and analysed at an amazing rate!

By Friday afternoon most reports were finished and the first presentations were made and well received. More presentations were held on Saturday morning followed by discussions and feedback.



PIDCs HoS, Reg Sanday (seated far right) is welcomed to Samoa Immigration by Head of Samoan Immigration, Togatalima Faafoiina Milford (seated centre) and his senior staff

### PIDC advocacy and outreach programme

Since joining PIDC the Head of Secretariat has been advocating and raising the profile of PIDC in the region especially with member Immigration Departments and other national immigration stakeholders. Countries visited so far include: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. Three incountry outreach programme fall under PIDC's Conference-approved

Advocacy and Outreach Strategy that seeks to raise PIDC's profile in member countries. Under this strategy the HoS has also paid courtesy calls on Heads of Regional Missions located in Suva to brief them about PIDCs work to improve border management in the Pacific Region. As part of the Advocacy and Outreach Strategy, Akuila Ratu, PIDC Deputy Head of Secretariat and Research Manager has also visited Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall islands in June.

## First operational secondments to Australia Immigration

Mr Fred Onesmas of Vanuatu Immigration and Ms Bhavna Ben Naidu of Fiji Immigration completed a PIDC pilot secondment program with Australian Immigration. The secondments, from 24 – 28th May 2010, were hosted by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC). The two officers were selected by PIDC from a list of applicants from member countries. The secondees spent two days with DIAC's Canberra office, two days at Brisbane Airport and one day at the Brisbane seaport. They spoke highly of their experience and spent their time learning about immigration procedures, reviewing policies, immigration legislation, MOUs and border security functions used at Australian airports and seaports. Their visit was coordinated by Ms Susan Love of DIAC.



Fred Onesmas of Vanuatu Immigration and Ms Bhavna Ben Naidu of Fiji Immigration with DIAC Officers.

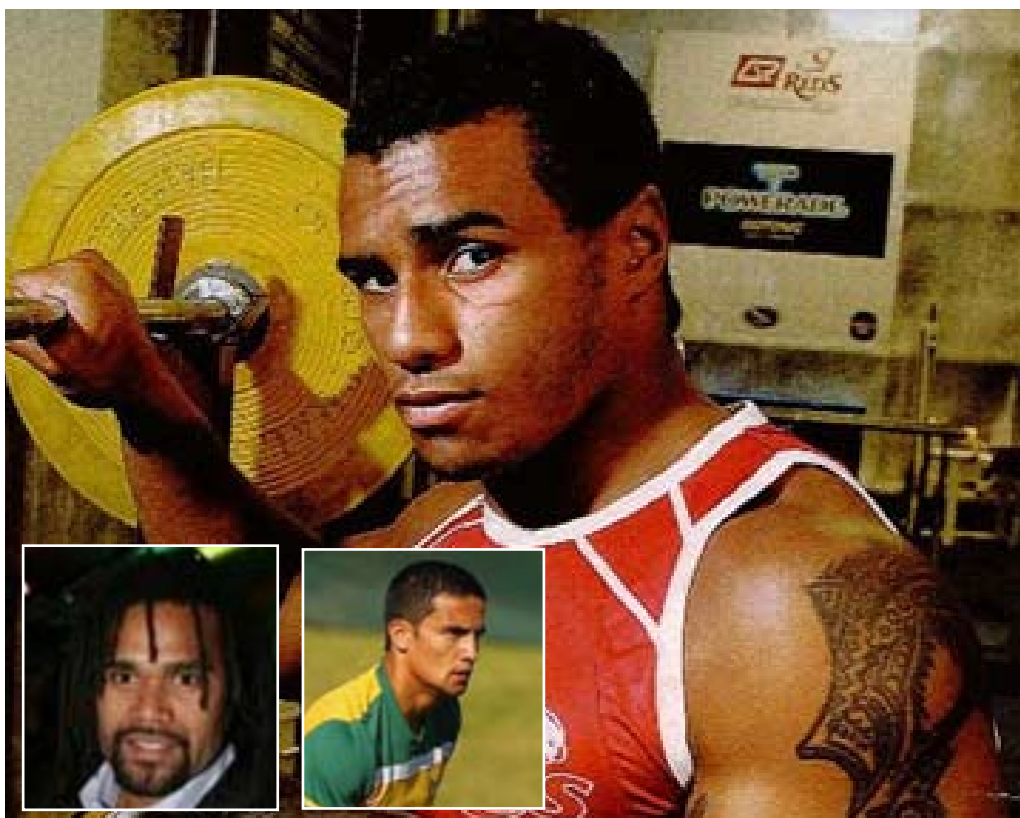
## Sport, a window to migration issues

The recent soccer World Cup in South Africa showcased a number of players from all over the world who play for clubs outside their home countries.

When Tim Cahill plays for Everton in England or when Christian Karembeu was winning the European Champions League with Real Madrid in Spain, it is easy to forget that Cahill was born in Australia to a Samoan mother or that Karembeu was born in the Society Islands in New Caledonia.

The same is true in rugby. Players such as Queensland Reds captain, Will Genia (pictured) who was born in Papua New Guinea, are among many Pacific Islanders playing for clubs in Australia, New Zealand, England, France, Japan and elsewhere. This is something that is familiar to us – the idea of top sportspeople taking their skills overseas to develop their own talent, to earn a better wage, and to improve an overseas club's performance. Also familiar to us are the benefits from wages sent home, and the know-how that such sportspeople can bring back to their home countries and communities further along the line.

These benefits of skilled migration can also apply to doctors, lawyers, mechanics, carpenters, teachers, and many other jobs. However, under existing immigration practice it can be difficult for people to develop their skills overseas or for employers to improve their business or services by bring in a skilled worker



Will Genia. Insert: Christian Karembeu and Tim Cahill.

from another country.

The development of a Temporary Movement of Natural Persons (TMNP) scheme under the Pacific Island Country Trade Agreement may provide a solution to this with the scheme seeking to make it easier for certain categories of Pacific Islanders to travel and work in the region. The PIDC secretariat circulated to members a background brief on the proposed scheme and an update in March.

This is an important period in which the scheme will begin to be finalised and it is vital that immigration departments contribute their skills and knowledge to national discussions. Further decisions will be taken on the nature of the scheme at the Pacific Trade Officials and Ministers Meeting in August/September.

If you would like a copy of the information previously circulated on the PICTA TMNP, please contact the PIDC secretariat.

## Immigration's role in responding to disasters

The PIDC secretariat recently published and circulated a policy brief on the role of immigration in disaster response. The brief was the result of a collaboration between PIDC and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and is intended to raise awareness and encourage engagement between immigration departments and disaster management offices on the issue.

As Helga-Bára Bragadóttir from IFRC commented, "We believe it's really important that national agencies, like immigration, get involved and are prepared to respond to a disaster in a coordinated way with the rest of government.

This brief is a great way to get the message out and initiate discussions."

Having appropriate immigration legislation, policy and procedure in place can make a big difference to the time it takes for overseas disaster response personnel to enter a country, or to the time spent in country, for example, processing or renewing visa or permits. This in turn can make a very real difference to those affected by a disaster. The policy brief is available on the PIDC website ([www.pidcsec.org](http://www.pidcsec.org)), the IFRC website ([www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)) and the Pacific Disaster Net ([www.pacificdisaster.net](http://www.pacificdisaster.net)), as well as in hard copy from the PIDC secretariat.