



PACIFIC IMMIGRATION DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE

NEWSLETTER

PIDC Secretariat
c/- Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji Islands

Phone : +679 322 0363
Fax : +679 331 2113
Email : akuilaratu@pidcsec.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

KIRIBATI HOSTS FIRST MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING IN 2011 1

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU CHECKED THE PIDC WEBSITE? 2

NORFOLK VISIT FOR HEAD OF SECRETARIAT 3

OCO 13TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA 3

PACIFIC INTELLIGENCE OFFICER PROGRAMME HOSTED IN NEW ZEALAND 4

PIDC PROJECT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP 4

DEPUTY HEAD OF SECRETARIAT ATTENDS REFUGEE COURSE 5

KATE JOINS UNHCR IN THE PACIFIC 5

ACP DATA COLLECTION METHODS WORKSHOP 6

AVIATION SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION 6

VANUATU SUCCESSFULLY HOSTS FIRST PILOT BORDER PROTECTION TRAINING 7

PALAU IMMIGRATION AIDS FILIPINO FISHERMAN 7

SAMOA AND VANUATU HOST PIDC STAFF 8

PIDC SECRETARIAT STAFF PROFILES 8



Management Board members attending the first Board meeting in 2011

KIRIBATI HOSTS FIRST MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING IN 2011

Kiribati Immigration successfully hosted the first PIDC Management Board meeting in Tarawa, Kiribati on the 18th and 21st February this year. Board members attending this important meeting included the Chair, Mr George Bogiri, the Director General of the Vanuatu Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Vice Chair Mr Mohner Esiel from the Federated States of Micronesia and representatives from Australia, Kiribati, Samoa, PNG, New Zealand and an independent Board Member.

The Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Ms Tessie Eria Lambourne, in opening the meeting welcomed members to Kiribati and expressed Kiribati's pleasure to host the 15th PIDC Management Board meeting. The Secretary highlighted the security threats and issues Kiribati faced as a small island State, emphasizing the immigration implications of the displacement of people as a result of the security threat posed by climate change and sea level rise. She also underlined the challenge

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- i. Second Management Board Meeting : 13-14 July, PNG
- ii. ACP International Migration data collection on environmentally-Induced Forced Migration, Urbanization and Health : 25-30 July, East Timor
- iii. Pacific Islands Chief of Police Annual Conference : 23-25 August, FSM
- iv. Documents Examination and Principle Applications Training : 14-16, September, Fiji
- v. Border Protection Training : August, Kiribati
- vi. PIDC Annual Conference : 01-04 November, FSM

For more information & updates visit:
www.pidcsec.org

faced by border security agencies in Kiribati, in particular the Immigration Division, in securing Kiribati given the scattered nature of its islands over a vast area of water. The limited capacity of the Kiribati Immigration Division was also highlighted with a hope that the presence of Board members in Tarawa will guide their understanding of the border control challenges faced by small island states. She also sought support in capacity building opportunities that would further broaden and strengthen the capacity of the Kiribati Immigration Division and those of fellow small island states.

The PIDC Chair; George Bogiri, expressed the PIDC memberships' gratitude and appreciation to Kiribati for their willingness to host the first Management Board meeting in 2011. He also welcomed members to this meeting and challenged them to seek solutions for the challenges identified. Board members in the two day deliberation discussed immigration related issues affecting the memberships including the PIDC entity status, the upcoming 2011 Annual conference, immigration secondments, immigration training workshops, the Pacific Region Immigration Identity Project and the PIDC Institutional Review. ■

When was the last time you checked the PIDC website?

<http://www.pidcsec.org>

The PIDC website (www.pidcsec.org) was redesigned and re-launched at our annual conference last year. Since then we have been building the site's content and using a number of new features.

We have just created a dedicated legislation page, accessed directly from the homepage. This pulls together all our work in this area and is an accessible resource to support members in the development of legislation.

We continue to use the 'Members Area' to share information and meeting papers that are intended solely for members. This area has also been redesigned to make the information within it more accessible with a user-friendly side menu that appears upon sign in.

The website also plays a role in making the Secretariat more accountable to its members and two new features are helping with this.

The website now has a 'PIDC Updates' section on the homepage for information and news specifically related to PIDC. If you visit the site frequently you will see that we update this regularly with short articles on the meetings Secretariat staff have attended on behalf of members and their relevance to members. If you would like to add your own update, then simply email the text you want uploaded to the Secretariat.

The second new feature is an easy-reference calendar that can be accessed through the 'Events' menu on the homepage. We are now adding meetings, training courses and country visits to this calendar. You can view the events month-by-month or view all the events in a list form.

Visit the website www.pidcsec.org and explore these new features and the other resources you will find there. If you have any suggestions for how we can change or improve the website further, please contact the Secretariat. ■



NORFOLK VISIT FOR HEAD OF SECRETARIAT



(L-R) Reg Sanday, Head of Secretariat, Mr Owen Walsh, the Administrator of Norfolk Island, and Mr Cissard Alan Buffet, Head of Norfolk Customs and Immigration

The Head of Secretariat (HoS) visited Norfolk Island in late April and met with senior officials of the administration, including the Administrator Mr Owen Walsh, the Chief Minister and Minister for Finance & Immigration, Mr David Buffet and the Head of Immigration, Mr Cissard Alan Buffet. Other persons met include the Chief Executive Officer of Norfolk Island Public Service, Mr George Plant and Deputy CEO, Mr Bruce Taylor.

The Norfolk Islands, in the southwest Pacific south of New Caledonia, is an administered territory of Australia and has been a long standing member of PIDC. In the past it has hosted previous annual conferences of PIDC and meetings of the Management Board but has not attended conferences in recent years. The Head of Secretariat was able to clarify issues about PIDC's membership including the policy of annual membership contributions which currently is voluntary. The HoS was hosted to a lunch by the Administrator and his senior staff including a visiting officer from the Australian Auditor General's Department in Canberra. ■



Participants at the 13th OCO Annual Conference. (Photo courtesy of OCO Secretariat)

OCO 13TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The HoS represented PIDC at the 13th Annual Conference of the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea in early May. The theme of the meeting was 'knowledge is a catalyst for excellence in customs.' Customs are a key stakeholder in immigration as they man the front-line of borders in many Pacific Island states. PIDC is an official observer of annual OCO Conferences. The HoS updated the conference

on PIDC's work over the past 12 months since the last annual conference held in Apia, Samoa in 2010. Other regional law enforcement agencies updated the OCO Conference on their past year's work including the Forum Secretariat's Law Enforcement Unit, the Pacific Islands Chief of Police and the SPC's Maritime Program. The Conference discussed various governance modalities that will be finalized at the next annual conference. ■

PACIFIC INTELLIGENCE OFFICER PROGRAMME HOSTED IN NEW ZEALAND



Participants at the Phase III Intelligence Training for the Southern Pacific region.

Phase III of the Pacific Intelligence Officer Programme for the South Pacific was hosted by Immigration New Zealand in a cold and wet Auckland. The course was for the southern Pacific region and 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.

Customs, Immigration and Police representatives in their country groups analysed flights from and to their countries, used risk management tools to assess threats that they face. One of the most

important findings emerging out of this assessment was the value of data entry at our borders. This allowed immigration analysts the ability to forecast and identify high risk flights and address their roles including putting in place border control processes.

Group assessments were presented on Friday with varying styles of presentations filled with Pacific Island flavours to make the presentations colourful. This included impromptu traditional dances, songs and those with businesslike approach to their presentations.

Phase III was a great success and the programme coordinators are confident that the network created during this intelligence training programme, will benefit all participating administrations and the region as a whole. It is hoped that the sharing of information and the close working relationships will continue in the future. ■



The Samoa Intelligence team presenting their findings.



PIDC PROJECT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

A project management workshop was held for PIDC Secretariat at Holiday Inn, Suva on 7th June facilitated by Project Manager Shirly Narayan. The project management process is aligned to the PIDC Strategic Plan 2009-2012 and reflects the work arising through the four Key Activity Areas (KAA) of the Plan. The workshop aimed to adopt the new project management system introduced at PIDC and revise the individual work plans for staff. The workshop provided an opportunity for the Secretariat staff to plan and define their activities in a project

management format and undertake assessment tools to see the benefits of the outcomes of their activities. The workshop also provided the platform to discuss the views of PIDC staff and an avenue to discuss the changes occurring at PIDC.

The outcomes of the workshop include finalization of the project plans for each of the projects undertaken by PIDC and revision of the individual work plans in light of the changes proposed through the workshop. ■

DEPUTY HEAD OF SECRETARIAT ATTENDS REFUGEE COURSE

The PIDC Deputy Head of Secretariat, Akuila Ratu, attended the 59th Course on International Refugee Law from 21-25 March. The course was organised by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.



Akuila Ratu (at the back) with participants at the refugee course

The course was attended by government officials, and UN and NGO personnel responsible for dealing with refugees, migration, and issues relating to internally displaced persons (IDPs). Attendees came from all over the world.

The course focused on:

- Promoting law, principles and policies relating to the protection of persons in need of protection;
- Developing a common understanding among participants on how these legislations and policies can be promoted and implemented at the national level by a variety of stakeholders;

- Enhancing the skills of participants in developing and applying principles and standards in conformity with principles of international law;
- Developing a positive attitude among participants towards the protection of refugees and other uprooted people.

The knowledge and experience gained through the course will be applied to the work of PIDC over the coming year. In particular, the PIDC will produce a policy brief relating to asylum and refugee issues for its members to raise awareness and lead policy discussion. ■



*Kate Gordon, UNHCR's
Liaison Officer for the
Pacific*

KATE JOINS UNHCR IN THE PACIFIC

The PIDC would like to welcome Kate Gordon, UNHCR's recently-appointed Liaison Officer for the Pacific, based in the Regional Office in Canberra.

Kate comes to the Pacific with rich UNHCR experience in Asia, Europe, the former Soviet Union and Middle East. She is looking forward to building on the work of Dr Lesi Korovavala, during 2009 and 2010, to provide PICs with support and technical assistance on refugee and asylum issues in the region.

Within broader migration management processes, UNHCR is able to help PICs identify refugees who

need protection and to provide States with 'real time' advice and technical support in managing these cases as soon as they are identified. UNHCR is also able to provide advice on how PICs can shape their national immigration and legal frameworks to manage these challenges in cost-effective ways that also reflect humanitarian principles.

As co-lead of the Pacific Protection Cluster, UNHCR also provides support to PICs to help them respond to complex natural and man-made emergencies in the Pacific, where protection considerations are important in any regional response to those in need.

Kate can be contacted on +61 2 6281 9112, Fax: +612 62603477. The UNHCR Regional Office's after hours hotline number for immigration and border officials in the Pacific is: +61 408 619 052. ■

ACP DATA COLLECTION METHODS WORKSHOP



Participants listen attentively to discussions at the Data Collection Methods Workshop.

Akuila Ratu, PIDC Research Manager recently attended the first of a series of training workshops planned in 2011 by the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Observatory on Migration. The training was held in Senegal, Africa from April 11-15, 2011.

Thirty-six participants from pilot countries across the African continent, the Caribbean and the Pacific attended the one week programme. Participants discussed issues around migration, data collection methods on ACP migration, including diasporas and South-South remittances. Participants were also introduced to the latest migration data collection and analysis software that analysts can use to further analyse migration data.

The ACP Secretariat based in Brussels had organised the workshop intending to:

- Promote an objective of understanding of diasporas, south-south remittances and the impact of migration on development;
- Fill gaps in knowledge and data on migration;
- Enhance national capacity in policy-relevant migration data collection;
- Standardizing data collection and analysis software throughout pilot countries and pilot regions;
- Train resource persons for future capacity building activities for both national and regional; and
- Improve the quality of statistics in ACP countries.



At a special aviation security forum for Pacific directors of civil aviation in Suva, a key item under discussion was the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Declaration on Aviation Security, issued in October 2010.

ICAO was established through the International Convention on Civil Aviation (also known as the Chicago Convention) in 1944. Most PIDC members are signatories to this Convention, which is very relevant to immigration.

Annex 9 to the Chicago Convention deals with facilitating the entry and departure of people and specifies a series of international standards, which signatory countries are obliged to meet, and recommended practices.

It is this annex that establishes the requirement for machine-readable passports and sets recommended practice for machine-readable visas and other travel documents, as well as biometrics. A supplement (Doc 9303) lists all the technical specifications for these documents to ensure international compatibility.

The Annex also identifies recommended practice for arrival and departure cards, processing times on arrival and departure (normal passengers should be cleared within 45 minutes of disembarking; departure formalities should take no more than 60 minutes), advanced passenger information systems, and the processing of crew members.

Other significant principles established by Annex 9 relate to inadmissible persons and deportees, including removal procedures, the provision of letters of identity where required, and who is responsible for costs incurred.



Passengers arriving at Kiribati Airport

In particular, the Annex establishes that a country shall accept for examination a person being returned from their point of disembarkation after having been found inadmissible if this person commenced their journey from its territory; and, that a person shall not be returned to the country where they had earlier been found inadmissible. It is this international principle that prevents inadmissible people being repeatedly bounced from one country to another.

The ICAO Declaration on Aviation Security brings renewed focus to these issues with an emphasis

on security. In complying with the declaration, immigration shares a significant responsibility for enhancing travel document security, reporting lost and stolen passports, detecting fraud and screening passengers.

The Chicago Convention is one of the number of international instruments that are relevant to immigration. To find out more, you can access a newly produced register of these instruments and their relevant articles through the 'Legislation' section on the PIDC website. ■

VANUATU SUCCESSFULLY HOSTS FIRST PILOT BORDER PROTECTION TRAINING



Participants at the Pilot Border Protection Training that was hosted recently by the Vanuatu Government.

The Vanuatu Government successfully hosted the first pilot Border Protection Training in Port Vila from 26-27 January 2011. The Vanuatu Border Protection training was delivered to a multi-agency audience, bringing together all the Vanuatu agencies that work to manage the border to help foster a shared sense of responsibility. Participating agencies in the Vanuatu programme included Customs, Immigration, Police, Airport Security, Quarantine, Transnational Crime Unit and Patrol Boat. The two-day Border Protection training

included topics on profiling, passport/document examination, ticketing, imposter recognition, questioning, body language, scenario, baggage search and risk management. Participants had commented that the training was relevant and useful and recommended the course to counterparts in their departments and other law enforcement agencies. Participants agreed that the skills, knowledge and value of attending the Border Protection training would assist them in performing their work better. ■

PALAU IMMIGRATION AIDS FILIPINO FISHERMAN



Reg Sanday the PIDC Head of Secretariat, with the rescued Filipino fisherman.

A Filipino fisherman, Mario Lisondra, 27 from Bislig City, Mindanao drifted for 2-months in his small boat and was picked up 500 miles from his home in the Palau EEZ by a Taiwanese fishing boat that delivered him to Immigration authorities in Koror, Palau. His arrival in Koror coincided with the visit of PIDC Head of Secretariat, Reg Sanday to Palau. The fisherman explained that he survived on rainwater and small fish he caught from his boat. When he was picked up by the Taiwanese fishing vessel in Palau waters he was frail, hungry and shivering from the cold. Palau Immigration contacted the Filipino embassy in Koror who are arranging for his medical checks and rehabilitation before he is repatriated back to Mindanao to rejoin his wife and daughter. ■

SAMOA AND VANUATU HOST PIDC STAFF



Shirly Narayan in discussion with James Narwayeng of Vanuatu Immigration.

Reg Sanday, Head of Secretariat (HoS) and Shirly Narayan (Project Manager) visited Samoa and Vanuatu to introduce the proposed PIDC project management formats and apply some assessment tools on selected PIDC activities.

Reg and Shirly visited Samoa between 4-11 April and the visit included orientation of Shirly and presentation of her Terms of reference and some of the tools for strengthening project management at the Secretariat. The presentation was attended by Senior Immigration officers, the Director of Immigration and the CEO of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Samoa was keen to see the benefits and usefulness of the project management focus flow into PIDC's work in the future. Meetings were also held with individual staff of Samoa Immigration to gauge the benefits of PIDC programs and to analyze gaps that may need to be addressed. A needs assessment was also undertaken to find out the impact of selected PIDC programs in Samoa.

The HoS and Project Manager also visited Vanuatu between 15-17 May to undertake a post evaluation of the Border Protection Training held in Vanuatu in January 2011. Meetings were also held with the PIDC Chair to brief him on July Management Board agenda and other developments within PIDC such as proposed application of project management methods to activities at PIDC. Vanuatu has recently passed and gazetted a new Bill for the Immigration Act No. 17 of 2010 which highlights some changes to

PIDC SECRETARIAT STAFF PROFILE



What was your last position before you joined PIDC?

I was employed by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat as a Finance Assistant.

When did you join PIDC?

I started at PIDC on 8th June 2011.

What is the best part of your current work?

I like being multi-tasked and this position at the Secretariat requires a lot of multi-tasking.

What have been your main career highlights?

Being employed by an organization that is in its developing stage and knowing that the ground work that I will be doing will contribute towards the future of this organization is the biggest highlight of my career so far.

Who inspires you?

My inspiration comes from Mahatma Gandhi: "Be the change you want to see in the World."

What are some challenges you see in your position?

Two challenges I see in this positions are:

- 1) Aligning our funders financial system with PIDC's system so that PIDC is fully aware of it resources and will be able to fully utilize these.
- 2) Perfecting policy and procedural documentation of PIDC to help serve its members better.

What do you plan to improve in the Secretariat?

I will try to improve the financial and administrative policies and procedures that will allow the secretariat to fully and effectively use its resources. At the same time, align the accounting system and the way we keep records to that of the secretariats work plan.



What was your last position before you joined PIDC?

I was working for the Department of New South Wales Health, Australia in various roles managing projects for sectors including Drug and Alcohol, Prison Hospitals project and managing projects for the Executive Department in the Prison.

When did you join PIDC?

I joined PIDC in January 2011.

What is the best part of your current job?

I like the challenging nature of my role which aims to introduce a change management

process at PIDC with the concept of managing PIDC activities on a project basis.

What have been your main career highlights?

During one of my initial jobs, I was able to bring about a behavioural change in the target children population in few schools in Suva and as a result of this, there was a new Policy implemented through the respective Ministry. Another highlight of my career involves an improved service delivery to members of few communities in the Northern and Western Fiji. Another significant achievement through my career has been undertaking the inscription of the Area Health Service Plan for the NSW Prisons in Australia and developing a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the same.

Who inspires you?

Nelson Mandela – "it always seems impossible until it's done"

What are some challenges you see in your position?

Bringing about a change is always a challenge. Ensuring that the new way of business for PIDC in term of project management is interesting and accepted.

Aligning the activities from the PIDC work plan to the Strategic Plan.

What do you plan to improve in the Secretariat?

I envisage placing appropriate systems and procedures in place for the Secretariat to enable them to improve their accountability and efficiency. I am also working towards aligning the activities undertaken at PIDC to their Strategic Plan. I also plan to build project management capacity into the Secretariat and members for them to undertake the execution, monitoring and evaluation of their projects in a timely and professional manner.