



# NEWSLETTER

## PACIFIC IMMIGRATION DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE

Level 5, FNPF Place, Suva.  
Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji.  
Phone : +679 331 2017  
Fax : +679 331 2113  
Email : akuilaratu@pidcsec.org

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(L-R) Edward Brown, Hon. Henry Puna, Zdenka Zrno, Akuila Ratu



Hon. Henry Puna endorses PIDC MoU

## Cook Islands Prime Minister Signs PIDC Memorandum of Understanding in Fiji

The Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference welcomed its newest member following the signing of the PIDC Memorandum of Understanding by the Cook Islands Prime Minister, the Honourable Henry Puna on 21 November 2014 at the Sofitel Fiji Denarau Resort and Spa in Nadi, Fiji.

The historic occasion was attended by senior officials from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Fiji Immigration and the PIDC Secretariat.

In his opening address, Mr Edward Brown, Fiji's Deputy Immigration Director, welcomed the Cook Islands Government back into the PIDC membership noting that like Fiji, Cook Islands was one of the founding members of the PIDC. Mr Brown said the MOU signing signified the value of the relationship and recognition of the role that PIDC plays in bringing together states and territories of the Pacific regions towards a common interest of protecting the Pacific's borders. He further added that PIDC's strength lies in its unity and collective efforts in working together to address national, regional and global border control issues in the Pacific in spite of its limitations.

The Cook Islands now joins 16 Pacific states and territories that have signed including Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Norfolk Island, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Wallis and Futuna.

Seventeen countries have now signed the PIDC Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to PIDC establishing its legal entity status under a Headquarters Arrangement with the Fijian Government.

The PIDC provides the opportunity for Pacific Immigration agencies and partners to come together to support the development of effective and efficient border management, facilitate bona fide travel, address irregular migration and combat people smuggling, human trafficking and irregular migration in the Pacific region.

Most importantly, PIDC encourages its Members to share experiences, ideas and lessons that strengthen our collective ability to manage the borders in the Pacific region.

## PIDC Secretariat Corner



**Akuila Ratu**  
*PIDC Acting Head of Secretariat*

Bula Vinaka and a warm Pacific greeting to all our members and friends from around the Pacific. The New Year 2015 is already dawning on us and as we look towards this New Year with anticipation, we shouldn't forget how the year 2014 has been for our organisation.

For the first time since 1996, we hosted our first Annual meeting very early into the year in PNG from April 29 to 1st May 2014. This marked the beginning of a new Conference meeting schedule for the membership. In the past, our conferences had usually been hosted between the months of September – December. The early scheduling of our Annual Conference dates had been aligned with the organisations new reporting timeline under PIDCs' new Constitution and Financial Regulations.

Congratulations to Papua New Guinea Immigration Citizenship Services Authority (PNGICSA) for successfully hosting the 2014 Conference. Who can forget the hospitality and the rich cultural experiences that all Conference participants enjoyed in the beautiful township of Madang and the once in a lifetime experience of setting foot on the shores of an active volcanic mountain.

One of the most memorable moments of the 2014 Conference was the ceremonial signing of the PIDC Memorandum of Understanding by 15 member countries participating at the Annual Conference. It marked the culmination to the ongoing growth of the organisation as we continue to lay the foundations of becoming the pre-eminent organisation on migration issues in the region. Our Conference hosts PNGICSA had put in a lot of effort and work to prepare for the long anticipated conference setting new standards that other aspiring hosting nations will now have to measure up to.

PIDC has been involved in capacity building programmes and this newsletter issue highlights some of the training programmes that were undertaken during the year. The issue also introduces new training programmes that are being supported by PIDC. We also introduce the new Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection Principal Migration officer who will be based at their Suva office working with members in the region. There is also a story on the refresher course that Fiji Immigration has successfully developed for its officers.

The newsletter has been published with the intention of not only raising awareness on the work that your organisation continues to implement throughout its membership but it also provides an avenue for Members to share lessons and experiences on best practices. This is why I would like to encourage Members to send in articles to the Secretariat which can be published in future PIDC newsletter issues.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Chair Mr Mataio Rabura, for PNG's involvement and guidance since assuming the Chairmanship role. We would also like to thank all Management Board members for their continuous support to the Secretariat as we look forward to another successful year in 2015.



## PIDC Operational Secondment Programme

The Australian Department of Border Protection (DIBP) successfully hosted this year's Operational Secondment Programme in Canberra and Melbourne from August 25-29, 2014. The two successful candidates from Samoa Ms. Faaeteete Lene and Mr. Burton McKay from the Marshall Islands respectively were selected following an intensive selection process by the PIDC Management Board Selection Committee.

The attachment exposed the officers to data collections, incident reports and log, intelligence, advanced passenger processing, border systems and processes, legislations to keep all fraudulent passports for training purposes and policies to guide immigration work at the borders.

The Operational Secondment Programme was established to:

- ✘ Expose Seconded Immigration Officers' to a specific range of experiences in a busy airport environment
- ✘ Expose officers to, in particular, border control work whereby the processes of document examination and timely decision making are of prime importance
- ✘ Assign an Airport Liaison Officer/Supervisor to work with the officers as mentor and trainer

- ✘ Cement and build upon previous training experiences
- ✘ Allow the seconded immigration officers to be present and observe during real time profiling, passenger assessment and document examination; and
- ✘ Build capacity in the Seconded Officers' home organization



*Ms. Faaeteete Lene (Seconded Officer Samoa), Burton McKay (Seconded Officer Marshall Islands), Forensic Document Examiner (Canberra DIBP)*

“Massive”, that is the word that came to my mind, when I was first given a brief overview of the structure of the Australia Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP). Having more than 3000 employees alone in Melbourne, honestly the size of the building offices that housed these employees were intimidating and it amazed me that there were so many different divisions yet each division plays a crucial role in the success of Australia's Border Security.

Hence, Australia Immigration has invested a lot in smart technology to assist and improve its border and in office processes. My favorite session would have to be with the Biometrics Division in Melbourne. We were given a demonstration on the functionality of the Biometrics system.

The Secondment Programme was a very intensive programme and we had a lot of different divisions to visit during our stay in Canberra. Thus I was very appreciative of the fact despite our busy schedule; the DIBP also managed to include a tour of the Canberra Parliament House in our programme. The wealth of knowledge and

skill obtained during this secondment would not have being possible without the assistance of the PIDC and DIBP.

Coming from a small island nation I had high expectations of the Host Country but DIBP had gone far beyond my expectations. I have learned so much and understand that change is inevitable and sometimes it can determine the overall success of any department. This experience has been beneficial to our department and it is my hope that this programme will continue for other future nominations.



*Ms. Faaeteete Afioga Lene (Immigration Officer - Samoa)*

This was a lifetime experience for me as an Immigration Officer and Supervisor in charge of airport and seaport border security. The entire set up at DIBP is well prepared, highly organized and quite impressive at the border level. The passenger screening process at the airport and utilizing the Airline Liaison Officer from other ports to carry out Advance Passenger Processing (APP) are just some of the processes that can assist us immensely if they are implemented in our country. It was an interesting learning experience and I am grateful that small island countries such as the Republic of Marshall Islands had the opportunity to participate in this exceptional program.

*Ms. Jessica Chislet (Country Officer International Cooperation Branch - Secondment Supervisor), Burton McKay (Seconded Officer Marshall Islands) in front of the Canberra Parliament House.*



## Fiji Immigration Senior Officers Undergo Refresher Training

The Fiji Immigration Department's Research and Development section conducted a refresher course for its Senior Immigration Officers at the Southern Cross Hotel, Suva, Fiji from 02-05 September 2014.

The Assistant Immigration Officers' Course (AIOC) was organised to upgrade the immigration officers' knowledge and skills to meet the ever increasing demand of the public and to be cohesive in their approach towards service delivery.

Like every other country, Fiji's shores are vulnerable to foreign intrusion and the Fiji Immigration Department continuously strives to ensure that the necessary training is facilitated for all its officers to effectively maintain a close watch over Fiji's borders and monitor movement of Fiji's visitors to her shores. (Source: Fiji Immigration)



*Fiji Immigration Officers concentrating in the training course*



*Fiji Immigration's Manager Permits, Visa, RSD, Trafficking Unit, Mr Naibuka Vuli addressing Immigration Officers at the course*



**Christine Deegan**  
Principal Migration Officer  
(Integrity)

## Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection (Fiji) Welcomes New Principal Migration Officer - Integrity

Ms. Christine Deegan has been appointed as the Principal Migration Officer (Integrity), First Secretary (Immigration) for the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) Australian High Commission Suva.

Her role includes managing immigration capacity building initiatives, stakeholder engagement, training strategies, analysis and risk-based support to visa decision makers and contributes to managing the movement of people across the border.

Christine has a background in fraud and immigration malpractice previously working as the Director of Operational Integrity responsible for allegation management, business monitoring sanctions, infringements or civil action and the analytical and liaison team which was the conduit and coordination point for offshore and onshore visa caseload integrity support.

Christine has an BA (Hons) in Law from the University of Adelaide and BA in Arts majoring in Politics and recently

completed the Graduate Diploma of Public Service Management with Flinders University South Australia.

Christine's regional responsibility spans Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Palau, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna.

She cites some of the challenges she has in her regional role as the geographical spread and extensive travel, ensuring that she gives each location the same energy and attention and being able to quickly share information with other interlocutors relating to people movement in particular unlawful travel, people smuggling, human trafficking and maritime smuggling.

Christine is excited to learn from the member countries in the PIDC and to work together to strengthen borders and contribute to intelligence sharing networks and training programmes. When asked for her advice to Immigration Officers in manning their respective borders she says *"create good people-to-people links and share your experiences and expertise."* She looks forward to being a part of the PIDC membership family.

(Source: Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection)

## Pacific Regional Immigration Identity and Intelligence Programme (PRIIP)



*Participants at the Cairns training course in November 2014*



*Participants at the Auckland training course in August 2014*

In 2014, the Pacific Region Immigration, Identity and Intelligence Programme's (PRIIP/INTEL) training programme completed the delivery of three courses on Round One and Round Two of the Level One programme.

### Introduction to Intelligence (1)

The first Level One programme Intelligence course was held in Auckland from 23-17 June 2014 and included 13 participants from the customs, immigration and police agencies of Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu.

### Border Security

In addition, the Border Security Course was held in Samoa from 06-17 October 2014 and was also attended by the same participants as in course one from the customs, immigration and police agencies of Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu.

The Samoa course was managed and delivered by Patricia Welch Project Manager (PRIIP/INTEL) and assisted by Ms Cordula Plassmann from New Zealand Customs and Ms Kerri Hyndman from New Zealand Police.

The course facilitators were also fortunate to have the assistance of the New Zealand Police advisor to PTCCC, Senior Sergeant Aaron Holloway for the first week of the course and Mr Bimbo Eresi from Solomon Islands Customs to assist as a mentor for the two week course. Mr Eresi had previously participated in the original PRIIP programme and had subsequently delivered Intelligence training to his colleagues in the Solomon Islands.

Throughout the week, the country groups were mentored, coached and applied Intelligence and Risk Analysis methodology to their collected information to create an Intelligence product and a presentation.

The assignments completed were specifically targeted for delivery to the participants' clients in their home country. The participants demonstrated the ability to apply appropriate intelligence and risk methodology to produce products and presentations which will be of value in their home countries. The topics covered in the course were current tactical, operational or strategic areas of interest which could be further developed or acted on in their home country.

### Introduction to Intelligence (2)

Round Two of the Level One programme with a focus on Introduction to Intelligence was held in Cairns from 07-13 November 2014 and included 15 participants from the customs, immigration and police agencies of FSM, Palau, Marshall Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Cook Islands.

The course was coordinated and facilitated by Patricia Welch Project Manager PRIIP/INTEL assisted by Ms Cordula Plassmann from New Zealand Customs and Ms Kerri Hyndman from New Zealand Police. The course introduced the participants to the intelligence analysis cycle with a focus on the importance of information collection and how intelligence can support investigations, profiling and operations and vice versa.

The course facilitators were fortunate to have presentations from the Principal Intelligence Advisor, Department of Immigration and Border Protection and the Manager APC Office, Australian Federal Police, Cairns. The focus of the presentations was *"How Intelligence Informs the Border and Vice Versa, with a Focus on Collection"*.

The post course work is designed to consolidate and implement the knowledge delivered on the course and to produce information to be developed into Intelligence on the Border Security course. In the spirit of the PRIIP/INTEL programme outcomes participants are to select a topic (relevant to all three agencies) and as a group develop and collect against a collection plan. The information collected will then be used on the Border Security course to be held in July 2015.

*(Source: Pacific Region Immigration, Identity and Intelligence Programme/Immigration New Zealand)*

## PIDC Board Meeting Update

The Management Board comprising of annually selected members meets regularly to oversee the operations of the Secretariat and implement policy and decisions from each Annual meeting. Since their election at the PNG Conference, Management Board members have successfully met in July and November 2014.

Management Board discussions this year has focused on progressing discussions on the Headquarters Arrangement with the Fijian government and the organisation's legal entity status transition plans. Discussions have been ongoing with relevant government agencies on the finalization of the Headquarters Arrangement.

To date, 17 Members have signed onto the PIDC Memorandum of Understanding and the Board continues to encourage former Members to sign onto the MoU as the organisation embarks on its new journey under this MoU.

Discussions are not only limited to schedule meetings as there are normally on-going out of session discussion forums relating to other PIDC issues and operational matters. 2015 is anticipated to be another busy year with the Board's first meeting scheduled for February 2015.



*Management Board Members that attended the second board meeting for the 2014-2015 schedule in Suva, Fiji*

## Australia's DIBP Hosts Annual DEPA / FICPA Training in Fiji



*Participants and DIBP trainers at FICPA training workshop*

This year's Annual Document Examination Principles and Applications (DEPA) Training / Facial Image Comparison Principles Application (FICPA) Training was successfully delivered by the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) in Nadi, Fiji from 06-10 October 2014. Unlike previous years, this year's training programme was funded solely by Australia.

*The course covered subject areas including: forensic decision making process, correct use of document examination equipment, demonstration of equipment and practical exercises, identification of paper and security*

*features, hands on examination of documents to detect fraud and recording methodology for examination and results.*

The training also included the Facial Image Comparison (FIC) module providing officers working at the border with advanced skills in detecting imposters.

Participants that attended the training included immigration officers from Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

## Border Protection Training Update 2014



*Samoa Law Enforcement Officers scrutinising documentation during the Border Protection Training*

### Overview

The Border Protection Training is a joint initiative funded by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, and supported and coordinated by Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference (PIDC), Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection and Immigration New Zealand which aims to enhance the capacity of Forum Island Countries to effectively manage their borders.

The overarching objective of the Border Security Training is to deliver in-country training to multi-agency participants and equip them with the basic front-line skills to manage their borders effectively. The project is a coordinated whole of regional approach by border management agencies to adequately maintain border security and integrity.

The training is delivered by technical experts from the above agencies and targets the full spectrum of people working in border protection, including staff from immigration, customs, police, quarantine, civil aviation, ports and fisheries authorities, and airlines. It provides front-line skills training to law enforcement officers and explores avenues for increased collaboration amongst border agencies and private sector staff.

Since 2011, this training has been delivered in 11 Forum Island Countries: Vanuatu, Republic of Marshall Islands and Federated States of Micronesia in 2011; Cook Islands, Kiribati and Palau in 2012; Tuvalu, Niue and Tonga in 2013; and Nauru, Samoa in 2014. A total of over 350 plus law enforcement officers from the above FIC's have attended the training.

Arrangements for similar training to be delivered in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea in 2015 are already underway.

### Nauru Border Training

In collaboration with the Secretariat, PIDC, OCO, and Australian Department of Immigration & Citizenship (DIAC) have developed a joint three-day training to enhance border management for relevant agencies in Nauru. The training held on the 15 – 17 April 2014 and attended by 18 officers who were from Police, Customs, Immigration, Civil Aviation, Fisheries, Prosecutors Office and Nauru airlines.

During the three day workshop, a range of topics were delivered including: Passenger Profiling, Passport/document Examination, Tickets and Boarding Passes, Imposter Recognition, Questioning and Body language, Note-taking, Baggage Search, Risk Management, Drug Identification, People Trafficking & Human Smuggling, Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism Activities.

Overall the workshop was well received and beneficial to the Nauru national law enforcement agencies. Feedback from participants indicated an overwhelming approval of the content of the course and stated that it was relevant and useful to the work they were doing.

Participants acknowledged the need to focus on raising awareness and the importance for national agencies to work together to coordinate their efforts when managing or performing their responsibilities at the border given the limited resource available.

### Samoa Border Training

From 28 July to the 01 of August 2014, PIFS and the following partner agencies; Immigration New Zealand (INZ), New Zealand Custom Services (NZCS), New Zealand Aviation Security Service (NZASS), Australia Federal Police (AFP); Pacific Transnational Crime Coordinating Centre (PTCCC), Pacific Regional Immigration, Identity & Intelligence Programme (PRIIP) delivered with support from the Samoa Government the Border Security Training and Money Laundering Investigations training.

The training was delivered over three days in Apia and was attended by 21 participants who were from the Police, Immigration, Port Authority, Quarantine, Central Bank of Samoa and Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre. The training was officially opened by the Attorney General of Samoa.

The assistance of the partner agencies was specially requested through the Forum Regional Security Council (FRSC) by Samoa officials in preparations for the UN Small Islands Development States (UNSIDS) meeting to be held in Samoa at the end of August to early September 2014. The training was timely for the officers in preparations for the UNSIDS meeting.



*Participants and trainers that attended the Nauru Border Security Training*



*Participants that attended the Samoa Border Security Training*

(Source: Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat - Law Enforcement Unit)



# 2014 PHOTO GALLERY

