



PACIFIC IMMIGRATION DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE



Annual Report 2013



**“Our greatest asset for growth is undoubtedly
our Immigration Directors and Officials
throughout the Pacific.”**

**AKUILA RATU
ACTING HEAD OF SECRETARIAT**

Contents

Introduction	4
Chair's Foreword	5
Head of Secretariat Overview	6
Members	7
1. Governance.....	8
✘ 2013 PIDC Organisation Structure	9
✘ Management Board.....	10
✘ Secretariat	12
✘ Finance	13
2. Management Board Meetings	14
✘ Meeting 1: Nadi, Fiji – 19 & 20 March 2013	15
✘ Meeting 2: Nukualofa, Tonga – 24 & 25 July 2013	16
✘ Meeting 3: Koror, Palau – 4 & 5 November 2013	17
3. 2013 PIDC Secretariat Work Plan	19
✘ KAA 1: Policy and Legislation Reform.....	20
✘ KAA 2: Data Information Exchange, Research and Analysis ..	21
✘ KAA 3: Advocacy, Liaison and Representation.....	23
✘ KAA 4: Building Knowledge and Expertise	25

Introduction

The Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference (PIDC) is a forum for official Immigration Agencies of the Pacific Region and was established in 1996. The PIDC enables Heads of Immigration agencies to discuss issues of mutual interest and to foster multilateral co-operation and mutual assistance aimed at strengthening Members' territorial borders and the integrity of their entry systems.

The PIDC embraces the vision of the Pacific Leaders expressed in the Auckland Declaration of April 2014 and incorporated in the Pacific Plan for strengthening Regional Cooperation and Integration.

The PIDC membership comprises of 23 countries and territories across the Pacific, including: American Samoa, Australia, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Niue, Norfolk Island, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna.

Our Vision

PIDC is the pre-eminent organisation in the region facilitating capacity and capability development, and effective regional cooperation in managing and securing the Pacific gateways, contributing to regional security, economic growth, sustainable development and good governance.

Our Mission

PIDC Members working together to build and enhance quality immigration and border management practices within the Pacific region.



Our Values

PIDC's approach and work are underpinned by the following values:

✦ Commitment

Members have a stated obligation to the PIDC family and what it stands for

✦ Openness

Within the PIDC membership there is a sense of freedom engendered by the sharing of information and experiences

✦ Family and Teamwork

The PIDC membership has a sense of identity and loyalty to the group

✦ Trust and Respect

There is complete confidence in Members sense of unity and dignity

✦ Integrity

Members are committed to honesty, transparency and ethical behaviour

✦ Innovation and Flexibility

Members are open to new ideas and improvements and encourage the broadening of knowledge and skills

✦ Good Governance

Members are committed to enhancing and maintaining the rule of law in an environment of transparency and accountable decision-making

✦ Rule of Law

Immigration authorities are first and foremost the enforcement agency of the government ensuring the security of the border, and function best in an environment of the legitimate rule of law

✦ Leadership

Leaders in immigration influence others into action by doing what is right the first time and all the time through all the above values

Members will at all times uphold these values and inspire those they serve.

Chair's Foreword

2013 has been an eventful year for our organisation, and most significant is how we have patiently worked together to formalise our legal entity status. Members are anticipating the formalisation of PIDC as a recognised regional organisation in the Pacific region and all eyes will be focussing on the formalisation of a Headquarters Arrangement with our host country.

This year will be the third year that PIDC will be publishing its Annual Report. We are still learning and we will continue to improve and raise the bar high with respect to the reporting standards for ourselves. The 2013 Annual Report is a reflection of the organisation's commitment to its Members and stakeholders and most importantly a statement on its commitment to upholding its core values of good governance, the rule of law and integrity. PIDC has certainly grown from a small gathering of foreign affairs officials and immigration representative from 1996 to the forum it represents today as the preeminent regional immigration agency in the region. The organisation is unique as it is one of the very few regional forums that bring together heads of immigration from around the Pacific to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern. The forum provides the opportunity for Members to share experiences and learn best practises that would be applicable to their respective environments in addition to understanding internationally accepted immigration standards.

This year's Annual Report is about reporting back to our Members on the work that we have undertaken in 2013. Immigration departments are central to PIDC and its work in the region. This organisation was created for the purpose of serving the interests of immigration departments in the Pacific and we have an obligation to report back to them; our members, the owners of this organisation. Members have a right to know what's happening in the organisation, what activities have been undertaken and what programmes they can anticipate being rolled out in the future amongst other important regional immigration issues. The Annual Report provides an instrument for the organisation to bring the Members closer to the work that we do and essentially enable Members to be aware of what's happening.

2013 will be regarded as a busy year where the Management Board, Members and the Secretariat have had to combine our collective efforts to sieve through a number of important governance documents central to the legal entity status processes including, the PIDC Memorandum of Understanding, Constitution, Staff Regulations, Financial



Regulations and Meeting Procedures. The Management Board played a central role in the finalisation of these key documents. It should be noted that the strength of PIDCs' governance process depends on the direction of the Management Board and Members support and responsiveness. The success of our management practise is reflected by the enquiries made to PIDC which indicates that we are on the right track and in spite of our infancy and smallness in size we continue to punch above our weight.

In this regards, appreciation is extended to all Management Board members for everyone's efforts in making 2013 a successful year and to the Secretariat for the hard work they continued to deliver in ensuring that PIDC continued to deliver on our core services to all our Members. In spite of staffing limitations, the Secretariat has continued to deliver outcomes that have benefitted Members.

2013 has been a significant and rewarding year for the organisation and the signing of the PIDC by Members is the highlight of the year. Members signing of the MoU marks the trust that members have placed on the organisation and its future.

I can confidently state that the PIDC has completed another excellent year, achieving strong results that continue to reinforce our vision that we are the preeminent immigration agency in the region. The positive outcomes have been the result of the support of the wider Membership and the combined efforts of the Management Board and Secretariat. This should make us feel optimistic about 2014 as we work towards better results this year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Vasie Poila'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Vasie Poila
Chair

Head of Secretariat Overview

2013 has been a busy and challenging year for the Secretariat. However, credit should be given to the Management Board members for their commitment to providing a supportive environment that allowed the Secretariat to make significant strides in 2013 to achieve important milestones against a challenging environment. Against a backdrop of an ongoing legal entity status process combined with staffing limitation, the Secretariat has persevered to successfully achieving its targets for 2013.

One of the biggest challenges has been the legal entity status process where the Secretariat has played a leading role in coordinating the consultation process on the PIDC Memorandum of Understanding and its subsequent signing process. In spite of the challenges to this process, we have been able to finalise key legal entity status governance documents that have been identified as key instruments to the new structures of the organisation. Every Member State has a stake in the organization's success and its development in the future is dependent on Members support. The PIDC is a well-established, essential and effective organization and the move to entity status is seen by Members as simply the next logical step in its evolution. It will strengthen and advance its operational effectiveness and create opportunities for future growth that may not otherwise be available.

Significant milestones of the Secretariat in the last 12 months in 2013 include:

- Three Management Board meetings held successfully in Fiji, Tonga and Palau - March, July and November 2013
- Successful delivery of the inaugural PIDC Regional Workshop on ICT – February 2013
- Coordination of the Memorandum of Understanding and Constitution consultation phase – June 2013
- Delivery of the Joint Border Protection Training Programme in Niue and Tonga
- Joint PIDC/UNODC Trafficking Workshop – July 2013
- Finalisation of the PIDC MoU and Constitution – July 2013
- Operational Secondment Programme in Australia – July 2013
- Advanced Document Examination Training – September 2013
- Operational Secondment with PTCCC – November 2013
- Signing phase of the PIDC MoU – November 2013
- Finalisation of the PIDC Staff Regulations, Rules of Procedure and PIDC Staff Regulations



The PIDC has already had a positive impact on the role and development of immigration officials throughout the Pacific Region. PIDC will continue to exercise influence by expanding and increasing its levels of activity in technical assistance, training immigration officials, supporting research uniquely relevant to the Pacific region, providing expertise in developing a consistent immigration legislative framework and expanding the range of services it provides to its Members.

PIDC is expected to continue developing and growing in its regional role and will continue to play a crucial role in linking systems and procedures across the 23 Member Pacific immigration jurisdictions. Central to the success of all these PIDC initiatives and PIDCs' growth into the future will be Members' role, support and commitment to the organisation.

I must also take this opportunity to thank the small Secretariat staff, specifically made up of the Office Manager and Support Staff who have been the backbone behind the scene ensuring that the different levels of the organisations operational arms continued to function despite the odds. Together the team has been able to progress efforts in the legal entity status process and as we look towards the future anticipating a stronger and efficient Secretariat ably supported by a united PIDC membership that continues to value family and teamwork, commitment, openness, trust and respect, integrity, good governance and the rule of law.

Vinaka Vakalevu

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AkUILA Ratu'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

AkUILA Ratu
Acting Head of Secretariat

PIDC Members



- | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|------------------|---|-------------------|
|  | American Samoa |  | Kiribati |  | Papua New Guinea |
|  | Australia |  | Marshall Islands |  | Samoa |
|  | Commonwealth of Northern Mariana |  | Nauru |  | Solomon Islands |
|  | Cook Islands |  | New Zealand |  | Tonga |
|  | Federated States of Micronesia |  | New Caledonia |  | Tuvalu |
|  | Fiji |  | Niue |  | Vanuatu |
|  | French Polynesia |  | Norfolk Island |  | Wallis and Futuna |
|  | Guam |  | Palau | | |

Governance



PIDC has essentially a 3-tier structure with the top tier comprising the 23 Member countries and territories who are “owners” of the organization. The top tier operates as a conference of Members, comprising representative of each member country and has the ultimate-decision making power in all matters to do with the policy and operation of the Organisation.

The second tier consists of an elected Management Board and its sub-committees. The Management Board acts on behalf of the PIDC to provide governance oversight of the day-to-day operational activity of the PIDC Secretariat and other PIDC sub-committees and responsibilities. The Management Board comprises the Chairperson and the Vice-chairperson as well as one representative from

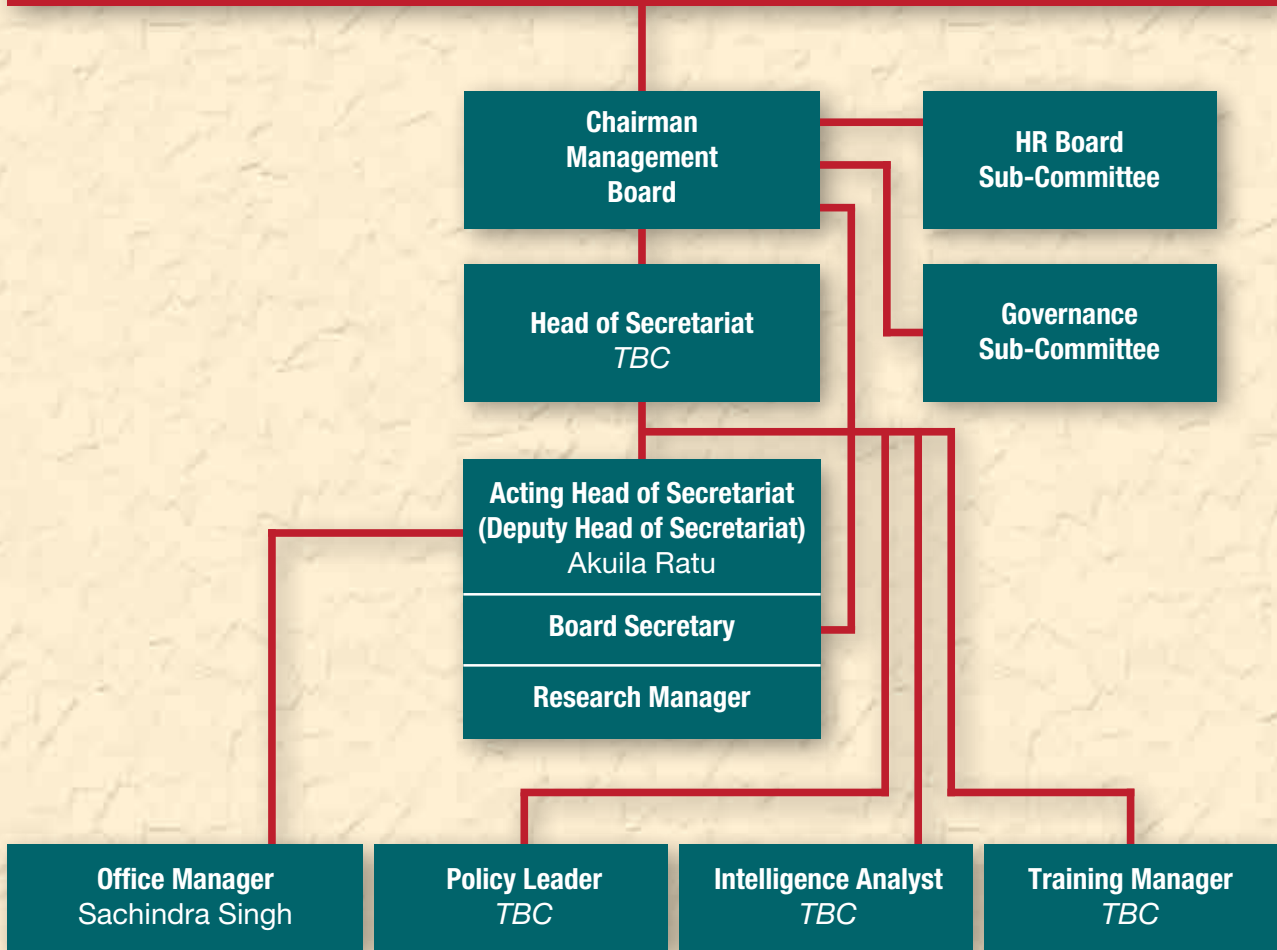
each of the Principal Donor countries, and one representative from each of Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia and the Small Islands States.

The third tier is formed by the Secretariat, currently headed by the Acting Head of Secretariat with the support of the Office Manager and Temporary Support Personnel.



Organisation Structure

23 Member Countries of the PIDC



Management Board

The Management Board is the advisory arm of the PIDC. This comprises selected members whose functions are determined by the PIDC Strategy Plan and also include overseeing the operations of the Secretariat, implementing policy and decisions from each Annual Meeting and developing and recommending Annual Work Plans and Strategic Plans every 3 years. The Management Board also has the power to convene workshops and work groups as required.

The Management Board members for 2013 included Cook Islands (Chair), Papua New Guinea (Vice Chair), Fiji (Melanesia), Samoa (Polynesia), Federated States of Micronesia (Micronesia), Kiribati as the representative of Small Island States, Australia and New Zealand (major donors).

The sub-regional distribution of the Management Board has allowed for a fair share of representation at this important forum for our organisation.



Management Board Members



Ms. Vasie Poila
Chair
(Cook Islands)
Acting Immigration Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Cook Islands.



Mr. Uering Iteraera
(Small Island States Representative)
Deputy Immigration Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Kiribati.



Mr. Mataio Rabura
Vice-Chair
(Papua New Guinea)
Chief Migration Officer, Papua New Guinea Immigration and Citizenship Services Authority (PNGISA).



Ms. Nina Martin
(Donor)
Director-Pacific and PNG Section, International Cooperation Branch, Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP), Canberra, Australia.



Mr. Nemani Yuniwaqa
(Melanesian Representative)
Immigration Director, Ministry of Defence and Immigration, Fiji.



Mr. Shaun Driscoll
(Donor)
National Manager, Intelligence, Risk & Integrity Division, Immigration New Zealand (INZ), Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Wellington, New Zealand.



Ms. Vaosa Epa
(Polynesian Representative)
Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Samoa.



Mr. Jenkins Mariur
(Micronesian Representative)
Director of Immigration Palau.

Secretariat

Mr. Akuila Ratu Acting Head of Secretariat

Akuila joined the Secretariat in 2007 and currently holds the position of Deputy Head of Secretariat that encompasses the roles of the Board Secretary and Research Manager.



Mr. Sachindra Singh Office Manager

Sachindra joined the Secretariat in 2011 and oversees all the administration and finance operations for the Secretariat.



Finance

PIDC's financial reporting period is from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013. This report is based on the PIDC's Work Plan, Personnel related costs, costs of Members' attendance at the PIDC Management Boards and Annual Conference and Expenses related to the administration of the Secretariat.

Funding for PIDC activities is reassessed on an annual basis and is subject to an internal annual review process with respective donor institutions.

2012-2013 Financial Year Summary

Category NZ\$	Budget 12/13	Expense 12/13	Variance
Personnel, Member Travel and Other Costs	351,986	190,354	161,632
MB & AC Organisation	60,000	22,988	37,012
General Administration	72,014	50,727	21,287
Work Plan Expenses	193,000	77,972	115,028
Total	677,000	342,040	334,960

Overall, expenditure for the 2012/13 financial year was \$334k under spent. This was primarily a result of the Secretariat's inability to recruit against staff vacancies in light of Legal Entity Status processes that are still being finalised. The postponement of Work Plan related activities until the Secretariat is at full staffing capacity has also seen the Work Plan expenses under spent.

In addition to the financial summary, Australia committed to funding a regional PIDC Information Communication Technology Workshop in Australia and the PIDC Operational Secondment Programme that involved two Immigration officers from Fiji and Palau. Australia also co-funded with New Zealand and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in 2012 and 2013 the Document Examination, Principals and Applications (DEPA) Training.

Management Board Meeting



✠ **Meeting 1: Nadi, Fiji – 19 & 20 March 2013**

✠ **Meeting 2: Nukualofa, Tonga – 24 & 25 July 2013**

✠ **Meeting 3: Koror, Palau – 4 & 5 November 2013**





Meeting 1: Fiji 19 & 20 March 2013

The 20th Management Board meeting of the Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference (PIDC), the first in 2013, was convened in Nadi, Fiji on 19 and 20 March 2013 and attended by representatives from Cook Islands (Chair), Australia (Donor), Melanesia (Fiji) Micronesia (Marshall Islands) Small Island States (Kiribati), New Zealand (Donor) and Polynesia (Samoa).

ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Management Board discussed in detail PIDC constitutional documents that were crucial to the process of establishing PIDC as a legal entity. The discussions centred on a Headquarters Arrangement, an MOU, a Constitution. Additional key documents include Rules of Procedure, Staff Regulations and Financial Regulations which will be discussed in detail at the July Management Board meeting. There was general agreement that work was being progressed in establishing PIDC as a legal entity.

Secretariat Report

Management Board noted with appreciation the PIDC Secretariat's report on its ongoing work programme

and its commitment to successfully completing additional tasks set out by the Management Board. The Board acknowledged with appreciation Australia and New Zealand for their support to PIDC. The Board encouraged Board members to continue assisting the Secretariat in delivering its outcome. The Board supported the reprioritisation of the Secretariat's Work Plan agreeing to reallocate resources to priority key activity areas beneficial to Members.

2012 Annual Report

Management Board endorsed the 2012 Annual Report noting the value of the report to Members. The Board noted the significance of the report in ensuring that PIDC continues to uphold its values of transparency and accountability to its Members. The report highlights the achievements of the organisation in 2012 and provides Members an insight into the activities of PIDC.

PIDC Workshop on Information, Communication and Technology for Practitioners

Management Board acknowledged in appreciation PIDC's successful workshop on information, communication and technology for practitioners in February this year

(2013) and supported the findings of the workshop. The Board established a Sub-Committee to progress recommendations from the Workshop. The Management Board was appreciative to the support offered by Australia to implement this regional workshop. There was general agreement that PIDC needed to utilise immigration ICT expertise in the region more and continue having open discussions on ICT issues in the region.

PIDC/ACP Joint Research Project

Management Board welcomed the progress update of the joint research project between PIDC and the ACP Intra-Migration Facility. Research findings from this collaborative work will be useful in understanding the direct and indirect factors influencing irregular migration in the region.



Meeting 2: Tonga 24 & 25 July 2013

The 21st Management Board meeting of the Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference (PIDC), the second in 2013, was convened in Nukualofa, Tonga from 24 – 25 July 2013 and attended by representatives from Melanesia and Acting Chair (Fiji), Australia (Donor), Micronesia (Palau) Small Island States (Kiribati), New Zealand (Donor), Polynesia (Samoa) and Tonga (Host Country).

ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

PIDC Legal Entity Status

Management Board progressed discussions on PIDC constitutional documents that are crucial to the process of establishing PIDC as a legal entity. The discussions centred on a Headquarters Arrangement, an MOU, a

Constitution, Staff Regulations, Financial Regulations and Rules of Procedure. There was agreement that work is being progressed in establishing PIDC as a legal entity and these documents are to be finalised prior to the Annual Conference.

Secretariat Report

Management Board noted with appreciation the Secretariat's report on its ongoing work programme and its commitment to successfully completing additional tasks set out by the Management Board. The Board encouraged Board Members to continue assisting the Secretariat in delivering its outcomes. The Board welcomed the publication of the Strategic Plan, 2012 Annual Report and Management Folder for wider distribution to members including for advocacy purposes with relevant stakeholders.

Annual Conference

Management Board agreed to postpone the Annual Conference to 2014 as this will have the benefit of moving the meeting cycle in line with the financial planning and reporting cycle required under the new Constitution. The Secretariat has been subsequently tasked to advise Members and Observers on the changes to the meeting dates. Management Board agreed that the theme of the 2014 Annual Conference would be "Economic Growth and National Development through Skilled Entry Programmes"

PIDC/UNODC Human Trafficking Workshop

Management Board acknowledged in appreciation PIDC and UNODC's successful workshop on human trafficking. The workshop achieved its objectives of strengthening criminal justice responses to trafficking in persons in the Pacific through national capacity building and to enhance regional cooperation amongst states. There was general agreement that the workshop introduced new concepts that were not familiar to the region especially on the need for Law Enforcement Agencies and NGOs to work more closely and the importance of understanding the traumas of trafficking victims.

PIDC Document Examination and Principal Application (DEPA) and Facial Comparison Training

Management Board welcomed the continuation of the DEPA and facial comparison training programme and thanked Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat for the continued support and funding of this Annual training programme.

Pacific Regional Immigration Identity Project and Pacific Customs, Immigration and Police Intelligence Officer Programme (PRIIP/INTEL)

Management Board welcomed the successful recruitment of Patricia Welch to lead the PRIIP/INTEL programme noting that the new PRIIP/Intel Project Manager will start in her new role in October and will be consulting with the Secretariat and Members on the new structure of the PRIIP/INTEL programme. Management Board thanked NZ in appreciation for continuing its commitment towards this training programme.



Meeting 3: Palau 4 & 5 November 2013

The 22nd Management Board meeting of the Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference (PIDC), the third and final in 2013, was convened in Koror, Palau from 04 – 05 November 2013 and attended by representatives

from Cook Islands (Chair), Papua New Guinea (Vice Chair), Australia (Donor), Fiji (Melanesia), Kiribati (Small Island States), New Zealand (Donor), Palau (Micronesia) and Samoa (Polynesia).

ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

PIDC Legal Entity Status

Management Board discussions centred on the progress achieved in Members efforts to sign the Memorandum of Understanding and encouraged all Members to progress national processes to sign the MOU. The Board agreed that central to the formalisation of PIDCs' legal entity status was Members commitment to signing the MOU and the Fiji government's endorsement of the Headquarters Arrangement. There was a sense of optimism that all requirements to obtain PIDCs' legal entity status would be finalised before the 2014 Annual Conference.

Secretariat Report

Management Board noted with appreciation the Secretariat's report on its ongoing work programme and its commitment to successfully achieve its targets set out in its Annual Work Plan and overarching Strategic Plan. The Board encouraged Members to continue assisting the Secretariat in delivering its outcomes. The Board also welcomed comments provided by Members on specific areas of the Secretariat's progress report in light of its reporting commitments to programme donors.

2014 Annual Conference

Management Board welcomed in appreciation PNG's commitment to host the 2014 Annual Conference from 31st April to 2nd May 2014 in Kokopo, East New Britain. Members anticipate the Conference to bring together immigration experts in the region to discuss prevalent immigration issues that Member countries are now exposed to in the 21st century especially with the 2014 Annual Conference theme on "Economic Growth and National Development through Skilled Entry

Programmes" underpinning general discussions. The 2014 Conference will also be a significant occasion in PIDCs' short history as it will also mark the ceremonial signing of Members' recognition and agreement for PIDC to formally transition into its new legal entity status form.

PIDC Training Programmes

Management Board recognised the value of PIDC training programmes in strengthening capacities of immigration departments throughout the region focusing discussions on PIDCs' training plans in 2014. Management Board noted the provision of different regional training programmes and the need to establish a common register recording all immigration training participants in a Secretariat data base. There was general consensus on the benefits of regional trainings to all immigration departments and there was a need for more coordination amongst all law enforcement agencies in the region. In light of the positive discussions in regional programmes, the Board endorsed the continuation of PIDCs' core training programme in 2014 and also noted the growing interest shown by other regional and international law enforcement organisations to work with PIDC on regional training initiatives.

Deportation from the Pacific via New Zealand

Management Board noted the general deportation procedures under New Zealand's immigration legislation. The 2009 NZ Immigration legislation requires that any person who has been deported/removed from any country are not permitted to travel to or through NZ at any time unless permission is sought from Immigration New Zealand before travel. The Board also noted the need for countries effecting the deportation to notify countries receiving the deportees in advance of their arrival.



2013 PIDC SECRETARIAT WORK PLAN





Key Activity Area I: Policy and Legislative Reform

✦ Legislation Development

This is an area of PIDC work that is currently been put on hold due to staffing limitation. However, the Secretariat is not stopping Members from seeking assistance from PIDC on any specific issues on policy and legislative development and reform. In light of this capacity limitation, the Secretariat continues to address any legislative enquiry on a case by case basis. Recently, the Secretariat finalised a reporting template that member can use to lodge their enquiries or proposals with the Secretariat. The Secretariat however continues to address enquiries on a case by case basis and will identify and coordinate the most appropriate approach to respond to specific requests. This includes seeking expertise from within the PIDC membership, regional and international experts that would be familiar with immigration policy issues. However, to date there has been minimal records of enquiry by Members on legislative and policy assistance since the review of 4 members' legislation was finalised.

✦ Coordinating Legal Entity Status Discussions

The Secretariat continues to play a coordinating role in facilitating discussions on legal entity status documents crucial to the process of finalising PIDC's status between Board members as well as with other PIDC members. To date the Board has progressed discussions on:

1. PIDC Headquarters Agreement
2. Governance documents:
 - PIDC Constitution
 - Memorandum of Understanding
 - Staff Regulations
 - Financial Regulations

Following the First and Second Management Board meeting, the Legal Entity Status Sub-Committee had incorporated and finalized comments from all Board members into the draft MOU and Constitution. Consequently, the Draft Constitution and MOU had also been circulated to the wider PIDC membership on 16th May 2013 inviting the whole membership to provide comments on the draft Constitution.

The Secretariat at the end of June 2013 collated received comments and submitted members views to the Chair of the legal Entity Status Sub-Committee for consideration and incorporation into the final draft which was endorsed by Board at its second meeting in Tonga. Additionally, the Secretariat had undertaken facilitating the following:

- Sent out a formal notification advising Members on the closing date on the membership consultation phase of the draft governance documents
- Follow up on PIDCs' Headquarters Agreement with the Fiji government
- Facilitate discussions on the Membership Subscription formulae
- Obtain formal response from New Caledonia on MOU and Constitution clauses relating to New Caledonia



Key Activity Area 2: Data Collection, Research, Analysis and Information Exchange

✧ **PIDC Website**

The Secretariat continues to update the PIDC website on a regular basis. There are still areas for improvement and the Secretariat continues to invite Members to make recommendations on what needs to be included in the website. Members are continually encouraged to contribute to the website to promote a sense of website ownership amongst Members.

✧ **PIDC Immigration Intelligence Bulletin**

The Secretariat continues to send out its monthly Immigration Intelligence Bulletin. The PIDC Immigration Intelligence Bulletin is a service that is highly appreciated by Members and law enforcement agencies on our distribution list. Members are continually encouraged to consistently submit monthly intelligence reports. There continues to be an increase in identity fraud cases occurring throughout the region and Members continue to monitor this movement trends by irregular travellers in the Pacific.

✧ **PIDC Transnational Crime Assessment**

The Secretariat presented a brief summary of immigration areas based on the executive summary report of the immigration assessment that was made by Dr Peter Munro of the Intra-ACP Migration Facility. The report identified a number of key immigration issues that law enforcement agencies were requested to anticipate as a matter of priority in 2013. These include:

- People Smuggling and Human Trafficking crimes continue to be committed in the region;
- Trafficking in Persons linked to labour and sexual exploitation;

- Asia continues to be the main source region for most cases related to human trafficking, people smuggling and immigration fraud activities;
- Trafficking and Smuggling infrastructures have been established in a number of Pacific Island States to support people smuggling and human trafficking related activities; and
- Contacts with civil society organisations to be enhanced to obtain information regarding victims of trafficking.

✧ **Joint PIDC/UNODC Trafficking Workshop for Criminal Prosecutors**

The United Nations Office on Drug and Crime-Vienna Office and PIDC successfully co-partnered a criminal justice training workshop regarding trafficking in persons for Pacific Island States. The workshop was hosted at the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat Office in July 2013. There were 40 participants from Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tonga, Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia. Participants were represented from Law Enforcement Agencies, Ministry of Social Welfare, Women, Children and Poverty, Non-governmental organisations, regional and international organisation that had an interest on trafficking issues.

This was the first ever PIDC organised workshop which combined participants from law enforcement agencies, other Government agencies and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOS). Law Enforcement in the Pacific tends to view NGOs suspiciously and this was an opportunity to better understand the different roles of participants and establish strong networking systems

between law enforcement agencies and NGOs. The training has assisted in changing the perspective of Law Enforcement Agency participants who now realise the need to work more closely with NGOs.

✦ **Joint PIDC-Intra ACP Migration Facility Research**

The PIDC in partnership with the Intra-ACP Facility expert in the region undertook a joint research in the Pacific on Irregular Migration. PIDC and the Intra ACP Migration Facility conducted a joint assessment of irregular migration in the Pacific region. The assessment, *Responding to Irregular Migrant Populations in the Pacific*, was expected to assist PIDC Members to appreciate the extent and dynamics of irregular migration in the region and provide strategies to manage the irregular population and flow.

✦ **UNODC Voluntary Reporting System on Migrant Smuggling and Related Conduct**

The PIDC through the Secretariat has been supporting and contributing to the development of the VRS-MSRC since 2011. The VRS-MSRC is an internet-based, secure IT solution that collects, analyzes and shares information on migrant smuggling, irregular migration and other related conduct. The VRS-MSRC will securely provide participating states with up-to-date information at the click of a button! The VRS-MSRC seeks to establish information on the following issues with regard to irregular migration, migrant smuggling, and related conduct assessing: quantitative assessment of flows, major routes used, fees paid, means of transport & methods used, profiles of irregular & smuggled migrants,

profiles of migrant smugglers and criminal justice response of states.

At the most recent 7th Bali Process Ad Hoc Group Senior officials meeting in Sydney, several countries—USA, New Zealand, Indonesia, Pakistan, and the Maldives – expressed their support of the VRS-MSRC. The Co-Chairs at that meeting also encouraged all Bali Process members to participate in the VRS-MSRC.

PIDC through the Management Board had also stated its support to this voluntary reporting system and encouraged Members to participate in the reporting system. The system is user-friendly and will assist members' intelligence at the strategic and operational level.

The Secretariat also participated recently at the first workshop on the VRS-MSRC hosted by UNODC in Bangkok involving countries from the Asian region. Representing the Pacific region and ensuring that issues and challenges faced by the Pacific region were highlighted in this forum.

✦ **2012 Annual Report, Strategic Plan 2013-2015 and Management Board Folder**

The 2012 Annual Report and Management Board folders had been endorsed at the first Management Board meeting while the new Strategic Plan was endorsed at the 2012 Annual Conference in the Cook Islands. These documents intend to raise our standards as we continue working towards the organisation's vision as the pre-eminent immigration agency in the region.





Key Activity Area 3: Advocacy, Liaison and Representation

✦ National, Regional and International Representation

During the 2012-13 period, the Secretariat has been involved in the following forums as part of its advocacy, liaison and representation programme:

- (a) A/HoS undertook Advocacy visit to PNG – March 2013;
- (b) A/HoS participated in the Australian Federal Police Child Sex Exploitation in Travel and Tourism Symposium – Fiji, May 2013
- (c) A/HoS met with the NZ Wildlife Enforcement Group representatives in Suva, Fiji - May 2013;
- (d) A/HoS attended the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) Annual Conference in Nukualofa, Tonga – May 2013;
- (e) A/HoS hosted the Joint Border Protection Training Coordinating Committee meeting at the Secretariat office in Suva, Fiji – July 2013;
- (f) Secretariat coordinated and assisted in facilitation of the PIDC/UNODC Workshop in Suva – June 2013;
- (g) A/HoS met Intra ACP Migration Facility Representative from Brussels – June 2013
- (h) A/HoS participated in Pre-FRSC and FRSC Meeting – June 2013.
- (i) A/HoS participated in the Annual Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police Conference, Cook Islands – August 2013
- (j) A/HoS participated in UNODC VRSMC workshop Bangkok – August 2013
- (k) A/HoS met with Bali Process RSO Head and Staff at Bangkok Office – August 2013
- (l) A/HoS opened Annual 2013 DEPA Course for regional participants in Nadi, Fiji
- (m) A/HoS participated in Niue Border Protection training programme and advocacy outreach programme with Niue immigration officials.

- (n) A/HoS meeting UNHCR Regional Representative Mr Rick Towle paying a courtesy call at the Office on 22 October 2013
- (o) A/HoS represented PIDC at the Regional Labour Mobility Workshop, 28-30 October 2013.

Due to staffing capacity limitation and under the advice of the Board the Secretariat is adopting an advocacy programme that ties other PIDC commitments together into one mission. For instance, combining the joint border protection training programme with our advocacy visit is in line with this strategy. This strategy maximises opportunities, resources and the Secretariat's limited staffing capacity. However, the Secretariat continues to liaise and work closely with Members, regional and international organisations to strengthen our working relations as we continue to collectively work towards protecting and improving our border control processes and systems.

✦ Bali Process Regional Support Office Meeting

The Secretariat while attending the UNODC funded VRS-MSRC workshop in Bangkok also used the opportunity to meet the Bali Process newly opened office and officials of the RSO in Bangkok. The meeting was an opportunity for the Secretariat to discuss with RSO officials issues of mutual interest including opportunities of working together to strengthen future partnerships that will benefit our Members in the region.

A number of the core objectives of the Bali Process are also reflected in the PIDC Strategic Plan with a more specific focus for the Pacific region. In this regard, our direct involvement with the Bali Process RSO will benefit our Members who are part of the Bali Process but also for

non-Bali Process members in the region. The strengthening of our relationship with the Bali Process RSO means that this provides the opportunity to:

- Developing a more coordinated regional approach in the areas of information and intelligence sharing, cooperation amongst regional law enforcement agencies in the Pacific and the Asian region;
- Strengthening the complementary role we provide to the Bali Process and this provides an opportunity for better coordination of regional immigration programmes;
- Allows PIDC to being informed and updated on all Bali Process decisions and regional programmes, ensuring that there aren't any duplication of efforts in the region;
- Provides the mechanism to continually monitor PIDC regional approaches and best practices are in line with Bali Process standards;
- Enables PIDC to monitor Bali Process discussions therein on matters of direct interest to PIDC Members and identifying the complementary role we can offer to support this decisions in the Pacific; and
- The PIDC network will be instrumental in disseminating Bali Process information to members in the Pacific and we can provide supporting mechanisms to Members in the Pacific to support progressing Bali Process mandate in the region.

Benefit to Bali Process

PIDCs' relationship/partnership with the Bali Process RSO is expected to also directly benefit the Bali Process and its members. Most importantly this will:

- Strengthen relations between regional and national law enforcement agencies in the Asian and Pacific region which could boost the efficiency and effectiveness of regional cooperation and approaches. Records show that with proper coordination, partnerships among complementary organisations like PIDC and the Bali Process will be of considerable advantage to all participants amongst the two complementary organisations;
- Provide the opportunity to capitalize on this complementarity where PIDC and the Bali Process can work together to strengthen training, immigration knowledge and expertise of Member countries in the Pacific;
- Establish a focal point for the Bali Process through the PIDC with the Bali Process members in the Pacific region;
- PIDC will be able to assist the RSO and Bali Process to monitor Bali Process work programmes or initiatives with its Members in the Pacific; and
- Ensure that there is no duplication of work programmes in the region and resources are utilized appropriately.

2013 Forum Regional Security Committee Meeting

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) annually hosts the Forum Regional Security Committee (FRSC) meeting. The FRSC is an important driver of the work performed by the Forum Secretariat. Coordinated by the Political Governance and Security Programme, the FRSC's annual meeting draws together representatives from Member Countries, representatives of all the Regional Law Enforcement Secretariats such as OCO, PIDC, PILON and PICP as well as representatives of other CROP agencies such as SPREP, SPC and FFA. The annual meeting of the FRSC is the principal regional forum on political security and governance issues and allows Members and stakeholders to:

- Discuss reports compiled by the Forum Secretariat and Regional Law Enforcement Secretariats on regional security issues such as civil unrest, transnational crimes and terrorist related activities;
- Identify and discuss both internal and external security threats that affect either the security or sustainable economic development of the region;
- Promote cooperation between Members and the Regional Law Enforcement Secretariats to encourage coordinated responses to the identified threats.
- Identify key priority areas to enhance the capacity of Members and their National Law Enforcement Agencies to respond to National security threats; and
- Coordinate regional responses to the identified threats and concerns.

The FRSC traditionally meets in early June of each year and prepares recommendations for the annual Forum Officials Committee Meeting.

Outcomes

There were major outcomes that were agreed upon on all areas of discussion at the Forum Regional Security Committee Meeting. However, there were a number of outcomes that specifically required our continued support and involvement and this included:

- Our continued support to the ongoing production of the Pacific Transnational Crime Assessment
- Law enforcement members to increase cooperation both internally and within the region
- Develop collaborative projects to address issues in the 2013 Pacific Transnational Crime Assessment
- Endorsed the ongoing activities of the Working group for Strengthening Information Management
- Encouraged forum countries to utilise the WGSIM to strengthening national law enforcement information management review mechanism to strengthen national capacities to combat crime.



Key Activity Area 4: Building and Sharing Knowledge and Expertise

✦ Training of Immigration Staff in the Region

The PIDC Training programme continues to be a core part of the Secretariat's work programme including coordinating regional training programmes and also seeking new training opportunities for our Members. The PIDC Secretariat has to date coordinated and facilitated training for immigration staff in the multi-faceted tasks of border control including:

- Operational Secondment Programmes;
- Advanced Document Examination and Principal Application course;
- Joint Border Protection Training Programme;
- People Smuggling, Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration; and
- Information, cCommunication and Technology Training.

✦ Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Workshop for Practitioners

The ICT Practitioners Workshop was held in Canberra from 19-21 February 2013. The Workshop was coordinated and facilitated by the Secretariat and the Australian Department of Immigration (DIAC). The Workshop was an outcome of the 2012 Annual PIDC Conference in the Cook Islands. The Workshop was attended by 30 participants, representing the immigration departments from the Governments of Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The representatives from Australia's Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), Immigration New

Zealand (INZ), Fiji Immigration, Samoa Immigration, PNG Immigration Citizenship Services Authority and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) facilitated sessions of the workshop and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) participated as an Observer.

✦ Joint PIDC/UNODC Trafficking Workshop for Criminal Prosecutors

The UNODC Vienna Office together with the Pacific Immigration Director Conference partnered to co-organise a criminal justice training workshop regarding trafficking in persons for Pacific Island States. Following consultation and endorsement by the Board, PIDC and UNODC hosted the workshop for criminal prosecutors at the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat Office in July 2013. There were 40 participants from Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tonga, Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia. Participants were represented from Law Enforcement Agencies, Ministry of Social Welfare, Women, Children and Poverty, Non-governmental organisations, regional and international organisation that had an interest on trafficking issues.

This was the first ever PIDC organised workshop which combined participants from law enforcement agencies, other Government agencies and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs). Law enforcement in the Pacific tends to view NGOs suspiciously and there haven't been records of strong networking systems between these two

organisations in the past. The training has assisted in changing the perspective of Law Enforcement Agency participants who now realise the need to work more closely with NGOs. There were a number of recommendations which were suggested for UNODC to consider including:

- Having a second phase follow-up workshop on trafficking discussing and identifying actions implemented since the first workshop
- The Need to include Church representatives to present on restoration case studies;
- Extension of invitation to more NGO's in the future
- To include in future workshops participants from source, transit and destination countries; and
- Future workshops to also discuss money trails.

✦ **PIDC Operational Secondment and PTCN Secondment Programme**

Two officers from Fiji and Palau were selected by the Management Board following an intensive screening process. The programme continues to be a success and based on positive responses from participants, the programme has been highly recommended for future participants. Additionally the Secretariat has been able to coordinate the first attachment programme for immigration officers to the PTCN Headquarters in the Pacific. Fiji Immigration participated in this one month attachment in Samoa. The Secretariat is now

in discussions with the PTCN Headquarters for other future attachment opportunities for immigration officers in the region. This will be discussed in detail in agenda 4.

✦ **Short Term Attachment with Fiji Immigration**

Two DEPA course participants from Tuvalu and Kiribati were given approval to participate in a short two day attachment with Fiji Immigration at Nadi International Airport. Due to their late departure dates, Fiji Immigration agreed to host these two officers from Kiribati and Tuvalu to take part in daily operational responsibilities at Nadi Airport with Fiji Immigration officials.

The short term experience exposed the officers to a busy airport environment in the Pacific region that dealt with irregular travellers that they were also experiencing in their home countries. The short term exposure is expected to raise their understanding of immigration border control and the need to be vigilant in their duties and responsibilities.

✦ **Support Staff**

The Secretariat in consultation with the Management Board recruited a Short Term Support Staff on 25th November 2013 to provide support to the Acting Head of Secretariat and Office Manager's role.



“...the Pacific region can, should and will be a region of peace, harmony, security and economic prosperity, so that all of its people can lead free and worthwhile lives”.





Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference
FNPF Plaza
Level 5, Victoria Arcade, Suva

Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji

Phone: +679 331 2017
Fax: +679 331 2113
Email: info@pidcsec.org
Website: www.pidcsec.org