



**Pacific Immigration Development Community**  
2024 Regular Annual Meeting  
25-27 June, Honiara, Solomon Islands

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**Agenda Item 12: Panel Discussion – Changing Travel in the Pacific - Balancing Security and Facilitation: Pacific Experiences and Lessons.**

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**Recommendations**

Members are invited to consider a range of evolving operational issues emerging as a result of the changing travel landscape in the Pacific, and to consider regional solutions to address the challenges of changing travel in the Pacific.

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**Facilitator:** Dion Chambers

**Panellist:** PNG, Australia, Fiji/UN CT Travel Programme, ICAO, IOM & CBN

**Objective**

This session intends to:

- Discuss future thinking and strategy for immigration agencies in managing changing travel methods and patterns.
- Explore technology options, solutions and collective regional approaches to adopting potential solutions as part of membership future planning.
- Understand how agencies can be future-ready or planning to reach national and regional development goals and visions.

**Overview**

The visions of the invisible, adaptable, connected and digital borders are, for the most part, still that. Traveller experiences at major airports, from Heathrow to Sydney and Bangkok to Los Angeles and into the Pacific indicate change even though long queues and slow movement still plague air travel. While there have been some successes with measures like introduction of new technologies, trusted trader programs and free trade agreements. Arguably, some countries have applied new technologies, especially concerning passenger arrivals and targeting, but scaling this success is still a challenge.

Naturally, border security measures vary significantly from country to country. Despite this variation, strategic thinking across different border agencies does share some common concerns in the Pacific like sustaining costs of new technologies. Despite this variation, strategic thinking across different border agencies does share some common concerns. Many mid and senior-level officers focus on ensuring that, their officers, and their organisations are future-ready. This focus has ensured that there are always plenty of tough questions to ask. These questions however tend to converge on budgets, technology and how to prepare for the future.

Current and emerging border management leaders are firmly focused on being 'future ready' and proactively seeking opportunities to shape the necessary change. One thing we can be sure of is that leaders will face a protracted period of rapid change and instability. They'll need to focus their agency's modernisation efforts on increasing adaptability in this context. And the only way they can achieve this is through new approaches and solutions.