



Agenda item 20: Seasonal Employment Schemes

Recommendations

The PIDC Regular Annual Meeting is invited to:

1. **note** presentations made by New Zealand;
 2. **welcome** the success of the New Zealand Regional Seasonal Workers Scheme which has been operating for 10 years in the Pacific; and
 3. **encourage** members to adopt best practises in the management of labour mobility schemes in the region.
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Purpose

1. To discuss the 10 years of success and lessons of the NZ Labour Mobility Scheme in the Pacific.

Background

2. The NZ Regional Seasonal Employment (RSE) scheme is regarded as world-leading and plays a key role in supporting industry growth in New Zealand, while providing Pacific Island workers with invaluable experience and the chance of being able to send money back to their communities at home.

Benefits to the Pacific

3. The ready supply of labour in the Pacific is one of the regions comparative advantages, although much of the labour is engaged in the informal sector or underemployed. This access to international labour markets therefore is an important economic opportunity for Pacific Islanders and their communities.
4. The opportunity for Pacific Island nations to send small numbers of workers overseas can have a significant development impact both economically and socially. Temporary migration contributes to increased remittances, which are an significant source of income in the Pacific. Remittances are not only the lifeblood of many Pacific families, but also a source of foreign exchange and tax revenue for governments. Research shows that remittances can contribute to poverty alleviation, provide a stable income, increase savings, investment and education, and lead to better housing, health care and nutrition.

Financial Implications

5. There are no financial implications identified for activities discussed under this agenda item although Members may propose specific activities as a result of discussions.

Conclusion

6. This session provides an opportunity for NZ to present an in-depth discussion on their experience in successfully delivering the RSE and share lessons in managing and monitoring their seasonal workers scheme.