



Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference
Suva, Fiji: 16-19 April 2018

PIDC DATA COLLECTION WORKSHOP

Introduction

The Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference (PIDC) Data Collection Workshop was held in Suva, Fiji at the Novotel Lami Conference facility from 16-19 April 2018. The Workshop was coordinated and facilitated by the PIDC Secretariat with support from Immigration New Zealand (INZ), Australian Border Force, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the European Union - African Caribbean Pacific Migration Action Plan through the International Organisation for Migration (EU-ACP/IOM).

The Workshop was attended by 16 participants, representing the immigration departments from the Governments of Australia, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

The PIDC Secretariat and representatives from Australia UNODC and the EU-ACP/IOM facilitated sessions of the workshop.

The Workshop was opened by the PIDC Head of Secretariat Mr. Ioane Alama. The Head of Secretariat welcomed participants and provided a brief overview of the Workshop programme. He reinforced the objectives of the workshop on the need to strengthen member's data management processes as we sought to improve information sharing amongst immigration agencies in the Pacific. This would be the first data workshop PIDC has held with members and provided an opportunity for participants to map out members data collection capacity, limitation and opportunities to improve. In addition the forum provided an opportunity for membership networking, knowledge sharing, and cooperation as members worked towards strengthening immigration networks in the region.

Objectives

The objectives of this workshop was to build the capacity of Members to collect immigration data and support national and regional information collection and analysis with specific outcomes being:

- Agree on common immigration data sets to be recommended for collection by Members;
- Introduced to Microsoft Excel for collection, storage and analysis;
- Introduced to Immigration statistics and links to organizational and annual reporting;
- Agree to begin collecting information using Excel Templates to inform PIDC Intelligence products;
- Understand broader data sharing arrangements, such as, when to use APAN within the PTCCC (e.g. for criminal deportee data); and
- Review the ISWG National Contact Point Network and provide feedback for

recommendations.

WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Supplementary activities through the PIDC typically arise from ideas generated at workshops, which are presented in the form of an Outcomes Summary – a document formulated by workshop participants and agreed upon for publication on the PIDC website.

The Outcomes Summary represents a tentative plan for future action (e.g. further workshops and other collaborative projects) and in-principle agreement to the high-level concepts discussed throughout a workshop.

All plans for future action, such as workshops, projects and other activities, must be endorsed by the PIDC Board. Although the Outcomes Summary does not represent a firm commitment to future action, it does represent in-principle agreement to progress the ideas contained in the Outcomes Summary.

Outcomes as agreed upon by Data Collection workshop participants

The PIDC Data Collection Workshop from 16-19 April:

- a) **welcomed** the holding of the inaugural PIDC Data Collection Workshop noting the importance of this work to domestic immigration agencies;
- b) **agreed** that information was a vital resource for the management of immigration activities essential for managing border operations, measuring performance, identifying and prioritising threats and developing national policies and legislative frameworks;
- c) **acknowledged** and **thanked** in appreciation the Resource Persons and experts from UNODC, the Australian Department of Home Affairs and the EU-ACP/IOM.
- d) **welcomed** the update provided by the Secretariat on various activities of the ISWG and **acknowledged** the work undertaken by the working group;
- e) **noted** the need for continued support and training in this area to assist Members develop effective sustainable systems aligned to capture data important for immigration purposes;
- f) **acknowledged** the importance of mapping out of existing national and regional information flows
- g) **noted** the importance of ensuring that domestic information and intelligence products were developed to meet the needs of Members and Stakeholders to support national decision makers at the policy, operational and tactical level;

- h) **noted** the proposed MoA and identified a core group of immigration data sets to be collected and the need for standardisation to promote harmonisation of processes and interoperability;
- i) **welcomed** the proposed National Contact Point Network developed by ISWG and supported its endorsement through the 2018 Regular Annual Meeting;
- j) **acknowledged** that members data collection capacity and limitation influenced members ability to share information in the region.
- k) **recognised** members' respective data collection limitations and **agreed** to take a regional approach through the PIDC to support immigration departments in seeking solutions to strengthen data collection in the PIDC membership.
- l) **endorsed** the importance of the PIDC Secretariat continuing to coordinate the sharing of immigration related information and noted the utility and usefulness of the current information products that it provided to Members;
- m) **recognised** the value mobile applications have in supporting the coordination of sharing information in real time;
- n) **agreed** to be part of a 1 month trial period to share information on a "Whatsapp" platform and tasking the Secretariat to review its impact for further consideration by the PIDC Board and membership;
- o) **agreed** that the PIDC Excel Prototype provided members a very useful alternative platform for developing databases to support Member's national priorities;
- p) **agreed** to work with the Secretariat in using the PIDC Excel Prototype to establish where possible a systematic data collection tool for selected data fields to meet their national and regional reporting priorities;
- q) **encouraged** the PIDC to support Members data collection national priorities to improve contributions to PIDC's regional reporting responsibilities; and
- r) **encouraged** participants to take back lessons and recommendations from this workshop to their home nations to progress data collection processes and systems that will improve and strengthen their capacity to share information.

Future Work

The PIDC Secretariat will look to:

1. advance the establishment of the PIDC Contact Points network to facilitate the sharing of

immigration related information throughout the PIDC membership;

2. where possible support members in strengthening national data collection capacity to strengthen member's ability to share information and more importantly to improve the PIDC contact networks ability to exchange quality immigration information in real time;
3. continue to seek ways to improve the usefulness of the intelligence products provided by the Secretariat to support Members' decision making processes.