



PACIFIC IMMIGRATION DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
Information Sharing Working Group Meeting
11 – 12 February 2019

Outcomes

The PIDC Information Sharing Working Group (ISWG) met in Apia, Samoa from 11 - 12 February (Agenda attached as Attachment One) and Members were represented by Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Palau, Samoa, and Vanuatu. Tuvalu sent in their apologies as flights were cancelled out of Funafuti due to bad weather.

2. The Working Group meeting was hosted at the PIDC Secretariat Office in Apia and chaired by the PIDC Secretariat.

➤ **Activities**

3. The Working Group:

a) Update on Memorandum of Arrangement Signature of Members

4. **Noted** that the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Kiribati, Niue, Tonga, and Tuvalu have advised they are undergoing internal processes to sign off on the Memorandum of Arrangement for Information Sharing (MoA) with the intention to be in a position to sign the MoA at or prior to the 2019 Regular Annual Meeting in June.
5. **Tasked** the ISWG to engage with Members yet to sign the MoA to determine if support was required noting that the Secretariat had undertaken preliminary discussions with these Members.

b) Establishment of regional network of accredited contact points

6. **Discussed** the progress in establishing the Accredited National Contact Points Network since the 2018 RAM noting:
 - a) FSM and Niue are the remaining Members yet to provide National Contact Points (NCPs) to the Secretariat noting also that both FSM and Niue have yet to sign the MoA;
 - b) a current list of registered NCPs and National Administrators (NAs) provided by the Secretariat (Attachment Two);
 - c) the ISWG will look to support efforts to establish the NCPs by:
 - (i) encouraging FSM and Niue to submit NCP nominations; and
 - (ii) assisting the Secretariat to develop an accreditation process for NCPs.
 - d) that the Bali Process Regional Support Office (RSO) has a number of useful training materials on information sharing which PIDC may be able to use with support from RSO for developing the proposed NCP training programme; and
 - e) the importance of establishing information sharing systems and processes and agreed that these would support the cultural shift in information sharing amongst immigration agencies in the Pacific when the NCPs became fully operational.

c) Possible Communication Platforms

7. **Discussed** the viability of three secure platforms and reviewed the strengths and weaknesses of the All Partner's Access Network (APAN), PIDC Website and Google Suite as information sharing platform options Members could use to share sensitive or restricted information.

8. **Agreed** that there is a need to future proof information sharing systems and platforms and the sustainability of these systems.

APAN Presentation

9. **Acknowledged** in appreciation the update briefing provided by: (a) Graham Barbara of the PTCCC and Jane Archuleta of JIATFW outlining the APAN system features and its flexibility to meet varying need requirements specific to immigration departments in the Pacific; and (b) Tevita Tupou of Oceania Customs Organisation regarding the system's adoption and application by their membership.

10. **Welcomed** the establishment of an APAN test room for PIDC and agreed for ISWG Members to trial the APAN system to develop a comparative results table between the three platforms (APAN, PIDC Website and Google Suite).

PIDC Website

11. **Noted** that while the system is quite effective in uploading information, it is not user friendly and has Requests for Information (RFI) limitations when coordinating requests for information amongst Members.

12. **Noted** that RFIs would be circulated through email platforms.

Google Suite

13. **Noted** the advice provided by the Secretariat that Google storage was secure and reliable as information was stored securely in a cloud-based system.

d) PIDC Profiling Group

Activity update report

14. **Welcomed** the activity report highlighting the high level of activity occurring in sharing of information amongst Members using the WhatsApp platform.

15. **Agreed** to encourage Members that are yet to join the PIDC Profiling Group to do so and recommended that Members should prioritise recommending operational officers working at ports of entry (airport/wharf) throughout the PIDC Membership.

16. **Noted** and **welcomed** the increasing use of WhatsApp by the Profiling Group and **noted** the Secretariat's intention to strengthen its administration support of the WhatsApp Platform.

17. **Requested** the Secretariat as the administrator of the Profiling Group to consider improving the management of the group and the WhatsApp platform by developing:

- a) a formal registration process for national representatives (approval process, introduction, etc);

- b) entry templates to standardise information;
- c) a protocol on entry of logs;
- d) guidelines to support users of the WhatsApp platform;
- e) a review of how to improve administration of the Profiling Group; and
- f) a training package for the Profiling Group to be developed and delivered in line with the NCP package).

PIDC Profiling Group Terms of Reference (ToR)

18. **Recognized** the need to amend the ToR to distinguish between the roles and functions of NCPs, the Profiling Group and the ISWG.

19. **Agreed** that PIDC Profiling Group name is suitable as the information shared is tactical and is used by Members to profile Persons of Interest entering their borders.

20. **Agreed** that the ToR needed to:

- a) differentiate real time tactical operation information from intelligence reporting;
- b) include a glossary reference to support the real-time exchange of information;
- c) refer to the tactical information provided in the profiling group; and
- d) be updated to reflect the operational nature of the officers that take part in this group.

e) Data Collection Update

21. **Welcomed** the completion of in-country missions to Palau and the Solomon Islands noting that FSM is scheduled for April 2019.

22. **Noted** the improvement that the data collection country support programme has made to the Solomon Islands and Palau immigration data management systems and processes.

23. **Noted** in particular the establishment of a data collection summary using the PIDC data collection template that supported Palau immigration's ability to manage people movement data when their border management system experienced technical issues.

24. **Noted** the interest and request from Fiji to be included in the PIDC Data Collection Programme.

f) Revised Information and intelligence information sharing framework

25. **Agreed** that the revised ISWG framework concepts are good and recommended if the revised framework could also:

- a) ensure profilers to remain operational and should only be required to identify needs that are recommended to the ISWG;
- b) ensure the profiling group not be given responsibility to develop or lead capacity development programmes as this responsibility should be left to the Secretariat or ISWG to coordinate;
- c) allow for representatives of the Profiling Group be included in the ISWG meetings where an active participant is invited to represent their views and interests; and

- d) include the illustrative diagram of the PIDC Information Sharing network submitted to ISWG Meeting to provide better clarity regarding operations.

g) Declaration of Partnership between OCO, PICP and PIDC

- 26. **Welcomed** the ongoing coordination work and activities that continues to promote joint border control initiatives.
- 27. **Encouraged** the Secretariat to continue supporting the partnership programme that is being coordinated by the law enforcement agencies in the region.

h) Integration of social media into PIDC information sharing activities

- 28. **Noted** the endorsement of the social media policy by the Board and advice provided to guide the development of a Facebook account for PIDC.
- 29. **Recommended** the Secretariat remain aware of the difficulty of managing these social media pages, and questioned whether the Secretariat has the resources to manage this.
- 30. **Recommended** there should be protocols developed around responses in communication in social media to avoid security issues or concerns.

i) Fusion Centre Update

- 31. **Noted** that the Fusion Centre had identified a focus on high level fused information to support strategic thematic information for a high-level audience.
- 32. **Noted** that the establishment of a Pacific Fusion Centre Reference Group that includes PIDC provides real opportunity for PIDC to further contribute to regional law enforcement discussions.
- 33. **Discussed** that whatever the Fusion Centre intends to deliver in the region should complement existing information sharing activities and programmes being delivered by law enforcement agencies in the Pacific.
- 34. **Agreed** that the Fusion Centre should avoid: (a) duplicating existing work programmes; (b) increasing the existing workload of Members; and (c) decreasing scarce resources available to the law enforcement community.
- 35. **Agreed** that there are opportunities for the Fusion Centre to advance the objectives of the work of the PIDC ISWG and agreed for the Secretariat to explore provision of further information through the dissemination of questions provided by Australia DFAT to Members for their direct input.

j) Proposed amendment of ISWG Terms of Reference

- 36. **Welcomed** the proposals to strengthen the ISWG Terms of Reference to reflect the changes and responsibilities of the ISWG.
- 37. **Agreed** to maintain the original Members of the ISWG as PIDC needs continuity in the early stages of setting and building structures to its information sharing network.

38. **Noted** that NZ would provide a revised edition of the draft TOR and circulate to Members for review and comments.

39. **Tasked** the ISWG Members to review the TOR and provide comments for discussion prior to seeking Board approval.

40. **Tasked** the Secretariat to review the proposed changes and provide a Briefing Paper as to what changes were being proposed and how it would impact the PIDC Membership by identifying the pros and cons of the proposed changes.

➤ **Actions**

41. In advance of the PIDC Board meetings scheduled for March 2019, the Working Group agreed on the following:

- a) ISWG Members to provide comments to the Profiling Group revised Terms of Reference;
- b) INZ would review the ISWG Terms of References for the Secretariat to circulate to ISWG Members for review and comments;
- c) The Secretariat would review the proposed changes and provide a Briefing Paper as to what changes were being proposed and how it would impact the PIDC Membership by identifying the pros and cons of the proposed changes; and
- d) ISWG Members to use the APAN system during the trial period and provide comparative assessments on its utility against the PIDC website and google suite as information sharing platforms.

➤ **Key Messages**

42. The two-day discussions on the PIDC Regional Information and Intelligence Sharing Network reaffirmed a number of key messages including:

- a) Members need to adopt common systems and processes to share information and drive the success of the PIDC Regional Information and Intelligence Sharing Network;
- b) Members need to identify an information sharing platform that will promote ownership by Members and encourage and sustain trust to openly share information at all levels within the Membership and partner organisations;
- c) the support and active participation of Members in the Profiling Group is complementing the cultural shift to recognizing and understanding the value of sharing information within the PIDC network; and
- d) the success of the Network depends on the leadership and support of Members' involvement in sharing information in the region.

43. The Working Group thanked the PIDC Secretariat for hosting the Meeting in Apia and committed to advancing the proposed work activities.



***Pacific Immigration Development Community
Information Sharing Working Group***

Meeting 11 – 12 February 2019
Apia, Samoa

	Activity/ Issue to be Discussed	Comments/ Agency	Outcome/ Purpose
1	Opening of the Working Group Meeting	PIDC Secretariat	Logistics discussed
2	Endorsement of Agenda	ISWG	Agenda endorsed
3	Outcomes of PIDC ISWG Apia Meeting 1 – 3 October 2018	ISWG	Outcomes noted
4	Matters arising	ISWG	Update provided on actions undertaken
5	Key Activities		
<i>a</i>	Regional Memorandum of Arrangement on Information Sharing (MoA)		
	i. Update on signature of Members	ISWG	Timetable developed
	ii. Establishment of regional network of accredited contact points	Secretariat	NACP Table shared, issues identified and next steps prioritised
	iii. Development of simple guidance for information sharing processes aligned to the MoA	New Zealand and Secretariat update	Processes and forms scheduled/ finalised
	iv. Development of templates for 'Requests for Information' (RFI) to enable Members to request access when required.	New Zealand and Secretariat update	Recommendations for Board finalised
	v. Possible communication platforms		
	• APAN	JIATFW	ISWG to review platforms and advise Board and RAM19
	• PIDC Website	PIDC	
	• Google Suite	PIDC	
<i>b</i>	PIDC Profiling Network		
	i. Activity update Report	Secretariat Update	Report and Revised TOR finalised for Board endorsement
	ii. Revised Draft ToR	ISWG	

c	PIDC Data Collection Update	Secretariat Update	ISWG Update
d	Revised Information and Intelligence Information Sharing Framework	ISWG	Revised Draft Framework discussed
e	Declaration of Partnership between OCO, PICP and PIDC	Secretariat Update	ISWG Updated
f	Integration of social media into PIDC information sharing activities	Secretariat to provide update	Possible recommendations discussed
g	Australia Update on Fusion Centre	Australia and PIDC Secretariat to provide update	Possible recommendations discussed
6	Proposed Amendment of ISWG Terms of Reference	ISWG	Possible amendments to ISWG ToR identified for Board and RAM19 Endorsement
7	Next steps for Pacific Immigration Development Community Regular Annual Meeting 2019	ISWG	Timelines set for remaining work and report to RAM19 to be completed
8	Other Business	ISWG	TBC
9	Closing of ISWG Meeting	ISWG	
Site visit to Samoa Immigration to view BMS			



Pacific Immigration Development Community

Accredited Network of National Contact Points

	PIDC Member	NCP	NA
1	Australia	Gavin Watters	Andrew Rose
2	Cook Islands	Chere Arthur	Kairangi Samuela
3	Fiji	Paula Cavasiga	Nemani Vuniwaqa
4	Federated States of Micronesia		
5	French Polynesia	Steve Leontieff	Philippe Babdor
6	Kiribati	Uering Iteraera	Peniita Kabubuke-Garisau
7	Nauru	Darlene Dabana	Rajeev Keerthiyil
8	New Caledonia & Wallis And Futuna	Gilles Despaux, Angélique Sutter,	Jean Francois Coulson
9	New Zealand	Catherine Parton	Rebecca White
10	Niue		
11	Palau	Wally Loveylson	Flavin Misech
12	Papua New Guinea	Wellington Navasivu	Solomon Kantha
13	Republic of the Marshall Islands	Mercyba Balos	Damien Jacklick
14	Samoa	Siaopo Pese, Mose Faapuea	Agafili Shem Leo
15	Solomon Islands	Johnson Oge	Christopher Akosawa
16	Tonga	Telesia Faikava	Mahe Tupouinua
17	Tuvalu	Salasopa Puti	Leilani Saitala
18	Vanuatu	Stephen Willie	Jeffrey Markson