



Pacific Immigration Development Community

2019 Regular Annual Meeting

4 – 6 June, Rarotonga, Cook Islands

PIDC(19)RAM.10

Agenda item 10: Immigration's Role in Large Events

Proposed Recommendations

The PIDC Regular Annual Meeting is invited to:

- (a) **note** the immigration challenges associated with hosting large regional and international events; and
 - (b) **task** the Secretariat to work with Members to develop a set of recommended best practices to support PIDC Members to host future regional or international large-scale events.
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Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to discuss Members' experiences in hosting large regional and international events and the role of immigration in managing the movement of international visitors attending these high-profile events.

Background

2. High-profile events held in the Pacific region such as the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting, Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting and the Pacific Games, make ideal potential targets for terrorist and criminal networks as well as politically motivated groups seeking to disrupt or discredit national activities. Given immigration agencies have a primary responsibility to secure national entry and departure systems, PIDC Members play a crucial role in preventing possible external security threats.

3. For the purposes of national and regional security, security planning for events of these magnitude is essential and begins well over a year in advance. For any host country and city, especially in the Pacific islands, these large events may create a significant logistical challenge with transporting international visitors into the country in the first place posing a complex security issue. For these reasons, immigration agencies are required to collaborate with partner border control authorities nationally and regionally to ensure that the host country's immigration security systems and processes are ready to manage the mass arrivals and departures of international visitors attending these high-profile events.

4. Papua New Guinea and Nauru have been requested to share their experiences in hosting two major international and regional event. Papua New Guinea hosted for the first time the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting which included the major economies from the US, China and Australia and emerging markets in the Asia-Pacific region. Nauru recently hosted in the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting which is highest profile Pacific Islands annual event.

Policy Impacts

5. The discussion outcomes for this session are expected to support and guide the organisation's work in Key Activity Areas 1.1 and 1.2 of the PIDC Strategic Plan 2019-2021 to: (i) enhance collaborations between members and partner organisations; and (ii) enhance national enforcement and investigations capacity.

6. The Secretariat proposes to develop a Model Manual or Guide on key immigration activities to be undertaken when hosting large scale or high-profile events in the Pacific Islands. This resource will focus on key areas of work using the regional context for PIDC Members identifying partner agencies such as the Pacific Transnational Crimes Network as well as the PIDC Profiling Group. While there will be several crucial work areas to be included in the Model Guide, the Secretariat envisages that prioritised timely information sharing between PIDC Members to support the Host Country will be an essential area of collaboration given the current predominantly visa free systems in the Pacific Islands.

7. The Guide will form one of the regional resources developed by PIDC to support Members' activities as and when required. It is envisaged that it can be developed by the Secretariat initially based on the panel discussions and finalised with the support of Members.

Resource Implications

8. There are no specific financial implications identified at this stage. The Secretariat in consultation with the Board will review the outcomes from this session for implementation.