



## Pacific Immigration Development Community

2022/23 Board Meeting 1 (Teleconference)

26 and 27 October 2022, Apia, Samoa

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### Agenda item 8: RMS Output 3 – A Programme of Immigration Capacity Building

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#### Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to **note** and **welcome** the PIDC capacity building programme update and **encourage** the Secretariat to continue working with members and partner agencies in providing capacity strengthening programmes across the membership.

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#### Purpose

The purpose of this session is to provide a progress update of the training programmes provided or coordinated by the Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC) for its members since RAM 2022 in August.

#### Background

2. The PIDC plays a lead role in coordinating the delivery of immigration and border control related training programmes in the Pacific and works closely with Donors and partner agencies. Members continue to place a high priority on training programmes provided through PIDC and the recent 2022 Regular Annual Meeting (RAM) had reflected on Members' needs and how the organisation and Secretariat could better work with Members to develop its training programme. As such, the PIDC training programme continues to be a core part of the Secretariat's work plan, including coordinating regional training programmes and seeking new training opportunities for Members.

3. During this current reporting period; August – October 2022, the Secretariat has supported members in its ongoing coordination efforts to progress the USP Postgraduate Diploma and Masters in Border Security Courses, the ongoing member capacity building support provided through PIDC's COVID-19 Support programme, the delivery of one online intelligence seminar to assist members strengthen their national capacity to use law enforcement intelligence and is currently in the process of supporting the coordination and delivery of a number of major regional training programmes scheduled for end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and late 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

#### a) USP Academic Programme Update

4. The PIDC – USP Postgraduate Diploma in Border Security (PGDBS) has now been in operation since January 2020. The programme aims to: (a) provide opportunities to PIDC Member Officers in academic training allowing them to obtain an academic award which now is often required to hold executive positions; and (b) strengthen the body knowledge on Pacific Island migration concerns having input from the PICT immigration and border enforcement community.

## **Update**

5. While the course has been on hold since the departure of the former USP lecturer responsible for delivering the Post Graduate Diploma in Border Security Course, with enrolled students given the option of completing their respective courses either through: (a) completing the equivalent level course through the international diplomacy programme to complete their postgraduate requirements; or (b) postponing their studies and to complete their course at the resumption of the PGDBS course when a Border Security academic is recruited by USP to complete teaching the course.

6. However, as part of the Secretariat's responsibility in advocating members interest and in particular PIDC sponsored students, the Secretariat had consequently engaged with partners that were initially part of the creation and development of the PGDBS with the intention of identifying options of supporting the delivery of the course for those currently enrolled to complete their studies. This was in addition to ensuring that USP continued to roll out the PGDBS course in the new academic year in 2023 so that USP could continue honouring its commitment to the delivery of the PGDBS for three cohorts of PIDC funded students as agreed to, in the 2019 PIDC-USP agreement. Following this engagement, and commitment to supporting the needs of our sponsored students USP has consequently confirmed the reengagement of an academic to deliver the PGDBS course in the new academic year.

7. In addition, the Secretariat continues to engage with USP in the upgrading of the Programme to a full online Masters Programme as tasked by the Board in December 2021. While there is an increasing interest in the Border Security Pacific specific Masters level programme, there is at this stage no immediate plans to begin enrolling students into a Master's programme in the new academic year. USP has advised that one of the issues that has held USP back in the development of a Master's programme is the absence of a Coordinator on the ground who can develop this Border Security Masters programme in addition to leading the development of a convincing business case to be approved by USP. The inability of USP to recruit a coordinator is directly impacted by the funding crisis that USP is experiencing due to the Fijian Government's current position. To manage this funding crisis, USP is undertaking a review of programmes with a view to prioritizing offerings, going forward.

8. However, to support immigration officers in the absence of Border Security Masters programme, USP has approved for those students interested in pursuing Masters to register for the Masters in Diplomacy and International Affairs (DIA), an existing USP Course. The Secretariat had negotiated a Research Paper in Immigration and Border Security to be added to the DIA Masters to meet the objectives for Immigration Officers. Ultimately, the recommendation was accepted, and students interested in pursuing Masters in Diplomacy and International Affairs can apply through USP. It is an opportunity for those who have completed their post-graduate diploma with some immigration officers taking up this offer and have begun their Masters in Diplomacy and International Affairs.

### **Proposed Recommendations**

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **note** the Secretariat's advocacy efforts to engage USP to commit to delivering the PGDBS in the 2023 academic year;
- (ii) **note** the ongoing discussions to support the development of a Pacific specific Masters in Border Security programme; and
- (iii) **task** the Secretariat to continue monitoring progress towards the development of this course on an ongoing basis.

### **b) COVID-19 Support Programme Update**

9. The COVID-19 PIDC Support Programme was approved at the Special General Meeting in July 2020. It focused on three main areas including providing Members with: (a) Communication Packages to help adapt to the new virtual communication reality; (b) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) specifically for Immigration Officers as a backup stock; and (c) policy development support integrating COVID-19 safe measures.

10. The programme is for two years, and during the first year Members received Communication Packages and PPE, whilst the second year included additional projects supporting Member's operations and additional supplies of PPE upon request. The Secretariat continues to implement activities relating to PIDC's response to and recovery from, the COVID-19 pandemic following approval by Australia on 12 October 2022 to roll over unspent fund at the end of the 2021/2022 financial year into 2022/2023 financial year.

### **Progress Update**

11. The Secretariat has worked on completing the following procurements for the Members:

- a) **Badges and badge holders** for Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, and Tuvalu. FSM requested badge holders only.
  - i. FSM (100) – received full order of badge holder in August;
  - ii. Samoa (30) and Tuvalu (12) – completed badge and pending dispatch;
  - iii. Solomon Islands (50) and Tokelau (12) – remaking badge expected to be completed in the next month; and
  - iv. Niue – pending approval of final badge art work.  
The badges and badge holders will improve immigration officers' professional look and identification at the borders.
- b) **Uniforms** (package varies depending on Member's request) for Cook Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.
  - i. Cook Islands – received full uniform order (polo t-shirts, shirts, long pants, hi visibility vests and jackets);
  - ii. Samoa – received full uniform order (shirts, long pants, caps, epaulettes, and shoes); and
  - iii. Solomon Islands and Tuvalu – still production expecting shipment to be

dispatch in end of October/early November.



12. The Secretariat has also undertaken bi-laterals with 4 Members including the Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Nauru, and Vanuatu to confirm request for additional support. Now working with the aforementioned Members to put together relevant details in order to begin procurement for requested items.

### Policy Support

13. The Secretariat is progressing the integration of the Model COVID-19 SOPs into other PIDC related activities. This includes the SOPs Support to be provided to Tuvalu, Samoa and Tokelau for this financial year. Currently reviewing the Consultants' Terms of Reference to include such work in incorporating COVID-19 provisions into SOPs.

14. The programme continues to provide newsletter articles for the PIDC Quarterly newsletter to raise awareness of the COVID-19 Support Programme.

### Resource Implications

15. Australia has approved the roll over of remaining funds. The spending so far is within budget. The Secretariat continues to work with the Members to advance as much as possible in providing support as requested with the remaining funds.

### Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **welcome** the activities undertaken by the Secretariat to implement the PIDC COVID-19 Support Programme;
- (ii) **encourage** Members where a priority and also where possible to incorporate activities and services provided by the PIDC COVID-19 Support Programme into national budgets; and
- (iii) **task** the Secretariat to continue to deliver the remaining and new activities utilizing the roll over funds in an effective manner.

### c) Australia Border Fundamentals Course Update

16. PIDC continues to support the delivery of Australia's regional International Border Cooperation Programme (IBCP) for this financial period. The Australian Border Force

continues to work closely with members on the successful coordination and delivery of Board Control specific trainings. While Australia has successfully completed the delivery of their first Pacific online border fundamentals course with Tonga and Nauru, Australia is exploring other online training opportunities that can be provided to the membership.

17. The purpose of these courses is to reinforce basic skills required as front-line border security officers and industry, whilst building and strengthening relationships domestically and internationally.

**Proposed Recommendations**

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **note** the update provided by Australia and the work undertaken to date; and
- (ii) **encourage** the Secretariat to continue working with Australia in supporting the coordinated delivery of its capacity building programme in the region through its IBCP

**d) Hakili Matagi Update**

18. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) funds Immigration New Zealand's Pacific Security Team to deliver a five-year immigration support programme, Hakili Matagi, to seven partner countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, and Tonga). Where each partner country has a partnership agreement that outlines what support is provided under Hakili Matagi and in line with the partner's priorities.

19. Hakili Matagi agreements and activities include capacity development in:

- operationalising joint border activities
- compliance management
- intelligence gathering
- data capture and analysis
- profiling and risk assessment
- organisational management and professional development
- immigration legislation and policy development

20. INZ continues to engage with Australian Home Affairs and the Pacific Immigration Development Community to ensure work plans complement each other as Pacific borders continue to reopen and normalise operations.

**Proposed Recommendations**

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **note** the update provided by NZ and the work undertaken to date; and
- (ii) **encourage** the Secretariat to continue working with NZ to support the ongoing Hakili Matagi work and priorities in the region.