



Pacific Immigration Development Community

2024/25 Board Meeting No.2

03-04 March 2025: Apia, Samoa.

Agenda Item 8: Strategic Focus Area 3 – Border Enforcement and Traveller Facilitation

Purpose

To provide a progress update of the Border Enforcement and Traveller Facilitation programmes scheduled for this financial year under PIDC's 2024/25 Annual Workplan and additional proposed partnership programmes initiated through the Secretariat to build members capacities in border enforcement in particular.

(a) PIDC Information Sharing Platform Update

2. This item seeks to update members on the progress to the development of the PIDC Reporting and Information Sharing Platform.

Update

3. PIDC through its partnership with IOM is has progressed the development of a global first web-based regional information Sharing platform (RISP) that collects, tabulates and analyses reported data from members on migration flows that are periodically shared and accessible to all participating countries.

Progress

4. Consequently, Since August 2024, the IOM team has been working with nominated focal points from the 11 pilot countries including Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, RMI, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Nauru, Tonga, PNG and Vanuatu in the provision of non-sensitive data to develop the online platform.

- **Data collection and clarifications:** IOM system developing team completing data collection and clarifications with focal points by end of February 2025.
- **Focal Point Meeting:** IOM and PIDC completed virtual meeting with the 11 countries and continue to work with focal points on an ongoing basis.
- **Presentation at BMIC7:** PIDC shared the challenges and experiences related to information and immigration data sharing in the Pacific, including RISP at the Border Management and Identity Conference held in Bangkok in December 2024.
- **Capacity building training:** IOM and PIDC are currently planning to organize training workshops with a focus on data collection, harmonization and analysis. Taking this opportunity, discussions can be held among the participating countries to develop recommendations for improved migration data management in the region. This workshop is being jointly held with the PIDC National Contact Point Workshop which will also include the non- RISP Pilot countries.

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to **welcome** the progress to the PIDC Regional Information Sharing Platform project.

(b) Capacity Building Partnership Initiatives

5. This item seeks to update members on the progress to its regional efforts in undertaking capacity building initiatives with partner organisations.

(i) 7th Border Management & Identity Conference

6. IOM hosted the 7th Conference on Technical Cooperation & Capacity Building for Border Management and Identity (BMIC) in Bangkok from 09-13 December 2024. The BMIC, now at its seventh edition, is the largest gathering of national government authorities specialized in Immigration, Home Affairs, Border Control, Civil Registration, Customs, Population Management, Justice, Health, Public Security and other agencies with responsibilities in the area of Migration, Border and Identity Management.

Update

7. PIDC members were well represented at the 7th BMIC with Directors and Managers from Australia, Fiji, FSM, Nauru, NZ, Kiribati, Palau, PNG, RMI, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu attending the meeting. Members were able to participate at this conference through funding support from INZ, Australia and IOM. The conference coincided with the ICAO Working Group on travel facilitation seminar where all the aforementioned members were able to also attend and more importantly use the forum to raise the Pacific islands operational realities and the challenges, immigration agencies were experiencing in managing the travel documents of foreigners entering their respective jurisdictions.

8. The conference was an opportunity for PIDC members access the latest information on new border technology developments and processes and systems that immigration agencies were adopting to address evolving global migration issues. Members participating at the BMIC and ICAO Seminar agreed that these global forums strengthened their understanding and knowledge of border management systems, processes and the opportunity to observe exhibitions of the latest solutions and technologies designed to improve facilitation of cross border movements while strengthening national security, and government authorities ongoing efforts to advance border and identity management processes.

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **Note** the strong participation of PIDC members at the 7th Border Management and Identity Conference in Thailand;
- (ii) **Thank** Australia, NZ and IOM for funding support to members participation at the 2024 BMIC; and
- (iii) **encourage** the Secretariat to identify opportunities and best practices that members can consider drawing lessons from in these regional and international forums like the BMIC.

(i) Northern Pacific Intelligence Strengthening Support Initiative

9. PIDC in consultation with the INZ Hakili Matagi programme with funding support from UNODC Pacific is planning to schedule an intelligence training course to support PIDC members from the northern Pacific (RMI, Palau and FSM) to assist their jurisdictions to detect, measure, investigate, prosecute and prevent the use of identity fraud at the border through intelligence led approaches thereby contributing towards reducing immigration identity fraud in the Pacific region.

10. The course is currently planned for 26-30 May in Palau. The training is to advance the knowledge and skills required to perform the roles and duties of an Immigration intelligence practitioner, supporting immigration intelligence operations within the organisation and in the Pacific. The course will be based on scenario and conversational learning, tactical practices, which is designed for intelligence practitioners.

11. The three PIDC members from the northern Pacific have been specifically targeted for this training as no intelligence specific course has been developed and delivered for the northern Pacific immigration officers since 2014 in addition to the training supporting the PIDC Information sharing network objectives.

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **welcome** the partnership with UNODC and the INZ Hakili Matagi programme to support PIDC's capacity building programme for its northern Pacific members; and
- (ii) **encourage** the Secretariat to continue working with partner to explore new opportunities of working together to support members capability, expertise and knowledge at the domestic level.

(ii) PIDC National Contact Point and Reporting and Information Sharing Platform Workshop

12. As part of the development of the PIDC Reporting and Information Sharing Platform (RISP) project pilot phase, a regional workshop for the RISP participating countries focusing on data collection, harmonization and analysis was initially scheduled as part of the projects work programme. However, taking this opportunity, PIDC in consultation with IOM agreed to include in the workshop programme sessions for National Contact Points (NCP) as majority of the RISP Focal points were also NCP. In addition, UNODC has agreed to fund the participation of non-RISP pilot countries which consequently provides an opportunity to non-RISP countries to also access the IOM capacity building opportunity on data collection, harmonization and analysis.

13. In this regard, the joint RISP and NCP Workshop will bring together senior officers from across the Pacific to draw on their experiences and strengthen regional efforts in sharing targeted information. This joint workshop is intended to:

- a) support the secure and sustained real time sharing of immigration specific information between Members and partner organisations to support tactical and operational decision-making;
- b) ensure shared information where appropriate is communicated to frontline immigration officers in order to support tactical and operational decision- making; and
- c) assist PIDC Members where appropriate by providing information to support profiling and intelligence activities at the national level.

14. The regional workshop will be hosted in Brisbane from 28 April – 02 May 2025.

(c) PIDC – IOM Joint Research Update

15. PIDC, in partnership with the IOM had secured approval through an IOM Development Fund to jointly undertake a study into how the Pacific immigration and border management policies and practices are facilitating and limiting access to Pacific regular labour pathways.

16. The overall objective of the research project is to contribute to facilitating effective immigration and border management practices to enable safe, orderly, and regular labour migration including alternative safeguards in the Pacific region. IOM in consultation with PIDC had finalised the TOR advertised the consultancy widely across the region in January 2025 and is currently undergoing a shortlisting process to select the approved consultant to lead the research programme. The table below shows an indicative workplan deliverables and timelines for the course of the research programme.

Proposed Workplan:

Activity	Timelines
Development of TOR, Recruitment of Consultant	Nov 2024 – Jan 2025
Starting the project	1 April 2025
Kick off meeting and submission of inception report	April 2025
Desk review and preparations for field survey	April – May 2025
National consultations and field survey in 3 countries	May – June 2025
Draft Development, review and validation	June – December 2025
Report preparations	Jan – Mar 2026
National Dissemination	Mar – May 2026
Report Launch	June 2026
Capacity building trainings	2026

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **Note** the progress to the joint PIDC-IOM regional research project; and
- (ii) **encourage** the Secretariat to continue working with IOM on the successful completion of the regional research project.