



Pacific Immigration Development Community

27th Regular Annual Meeting

17 – 19 June: Nukualofa, Tonga

Agenda Item 20: 2026 Regular Annual Meeting and Election of Vice Chair

Proposed Recommendations

Members are invited to:

1. endorse the nomination of the incoming Vice Chair for 2025/2026; and
 2. welcome the new Vice Chair and host of the next PIDC Regular Annual Meeting in 2026.
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Purpose

This session seeks to guide Members in the selection of a Vice Chair and agreed host for the PIDC Regular Annual Meeting (RAM) in 2026 as required under the PIDC Constitution.

Background

2. Article 13 of the PIDC Constitution, outlines the process for electing the incoming Vice Chair. In effect, the Vice-Chair is nominated to represent the country seeking to host the next Regular Annual Meeting which in this instance will be the 2026 RAM. The Vice Chair shall be appointed for the period of one year after which they automatically assume the role of Chair at the next RAM. The Vice Chair elected at the 2025 RAM will be responsible for hosting the 2026 PIDC RAM.

3. There are no set criteria to determine which Member is given the annual hosting rights. Hosting the Regular Annual Meeting is voluntary and at every RAM, Members are given the equal opportunity to express their interest to host the next conference.

Benefits of Hosting Regular Annual Meetings

4. The Regular Annual Meeting (RAM) brings together the heads of up to twenty-one PIDC member administrations and a number of invited observers. The RAM provides a unique opportunity for PIDC and the hosting country to raise its profile as an efficient, effective, proactive and innovative immigration body. It also provides a valuable opportunity for increased national government support and commitment for the implementation of planned immigration reforms.

5. The secretariat works closely with the host administration to coordinate the Conference, which provides a forum for discussion and the exchange of a wide range of information on immigration matters, law enforcement and development issues of mutual interest. Matters of importance to member administrations and stakeholders are identified and addressed through the Strategic Plan, which sets a course of action on the issues for the subsequent year.

6. Amongst other major benefits of hosting the RAM, the conference provides an excellent opportunity for the PIDC to present itself as an efficient, effective, proactive body to governments, other government agencies, other regional and global organisations, the private sector, travellers and the general public. The following information outlining benefits and minimum requirements for hosting the Regular Annual Meeting has been prepared to assist any member contemplating hosting the Pacific Immigration Directors (PIDC) Annual Conference of Immigration Heads (the conference).

▪ **Economic Benefit**

7. The following industries (among others) should benefit during the Conference from an influx of between 30-50 or more overseas participants, some with accompanying spouses;

1. Airlines
2. Hotels;
3. Restaurants;
4. Commercial retailers;
5. Handicraft vendors
6. Taxis
7. Tour Companies; and
8. Commercial Banks.

8. With visiting delegations usually hosting at least one function during the Conference, and delegates paying for their accommodation, it is estimated that there is the potential for each participant to inject between US\$1000 and US\$1200 into the economy over the week of the Conference. With forty delegates the potential benefit of the economy is between US\$40,000 to US\$50,000, an amount of some significance to those with smaller economies. This could perhaps turn into an even greater amount if extended visits or return visits are encouraged.

▪ **Tourism**

9. The host country has the opportunity to promote culture, heritage, natural features, recreational options, fauna and flora to the participants. A well run Conference will leave delegates with good memories. It is likely that delegates will pass their experiences to colleagues and friends. This may encourage others to visit the host country and participants may also return with their family and friends for a holiday. As a result of this, the host country can expect to attract more tourists to their shores.

▪ **Exposure**

10. The host country will Chair the Conference and the PIDC for the coming year. This will raise the profile of the country, the immigration agency and its head.

The host country will be able to have more than one delegate at the Conference, possibly including representative from other government agencies. This will give other senior Immigration staff the chance to gain some invaluable exposure to regional issues and to develop networks beyond their shores.

The local media can be invited to cover aspects of the Conference, providing opportunities to inform the public on immigration issues.

▪ **Policy Advocacy**

11. As the host country chooses the conference theme, the host immigration agency is able to focus greater attention locally on priority issues

TIMING

12. The PIDC is a pro-active body with a keen interest in driving a positive regional immigration agenda. The PIDC Annual Conference provides an excellent opportunity to focus attention upon certain key issues which will be addressed at regional events such as the Forum Regional Security Committee (FRSC) Meeting for Law Enforcement Agencies, the Forum Regional Security Committee (FRSC) Meeting, the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) Annual Conference and the South Pacific Chiefs of Police Conference (SPCPC) Annual Conference.

13. These meetings fall at set times during the year, PIDC therefore aims to conduct its Annual Conference in September or October each year. Members contemplating hosting an Annual Conference are asked to keep this in mind when preparing a proposal.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

14. Hosting the conference should not create an undue burden for the host, who should not feel obliged to go beyond ensuring that the following minimum requirements are met, (even some of these could be subject to negotiation):

- Arrange hotel accommodation for up to forty overseas participants, preferably in a moderately- priced, reasonable standard hotel with the capacity to accept **all** participants (***NB: the participants will pay***);
- Ground transport (*arrivals and departures, between accommodation and the Conference venue and to official social events*);
- A welcoming reception, morning and afternoon teas and a farewell function;
- A Conference Room with seating capacity for up to forty participants;
- Space for Conference Secretariat; close to the Conference Room, equipped with:
 - At least two Conference Secretariat support staff;
 - Plenty table space for document sorting;
 - Good quality photocopying facilities;
 - A supply of copy/printer paper;
 - A computer (*with disk drive and CD-ROM drive*) and printer;
 - Basic office equipment (*stapler, hole punch etc*);
 - A lockable cabinet or cupboard
 - A sound system with minimum of four microphones;
 - An overhead projector for transparencies;
 - A projector connected to a computer;
 - A large screen for projected images;
 - A supply of extension cords and adaptors; and
 - A whiteboard;

OPTIONAL ITEMS

15. Apart from the above requirements, the following items might also be considered:

- The host may chose to provide lunches on Conference days but should note that participants will all have per diem allowances to purchase meals as required (*if*

the host does not provide lunches, options should be available and outlined to participants);

- A photographer to take an official photograph at the Opening ceremony;
- A copy of the official group photograph for each participants; and
- The host may provide a shirt/t-shirt or some other memento of the PIDC Conference of their country – this is very much an optional matter!

SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL

16. At each Annual Conference the PIDC aims to confirm the venue for at least two Conference venues and members are in this regard requested to state their interest to hosting these next two annual conferences in 2026 and potentially in 2027. PNG had hosted the 2022 Conference following the reopening of borders after the Covid-19 epidemic. Vanuatu in 2023, Solomon Islands in 2024, and the Kingdom of Tonga to host this year's Conference in June.