



## Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference

Port Vila, Vanuatu: 19-20 October 2010

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### COMMUNIQUÉ

The 14<sup>th</sup> Pacific Immigration Directors Conference (PIDC) meeting was convened in Port Vila, Vanuatu on 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010. The theme of the conference was “Consolidating PIDC status as a valuable entity”. Forty five delegates from Vanuatu (Chair), Australia, Cook Islands, CNMI, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and representatives from the Oceania Customs Organisation, Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Republic of Maldives Immigration and Emigration Department attended the two day meeting.

#### OPENING

Delegates were formally welcomed by Mr Simion Poilapa, the Chief's Representative for Efate Island where the capital Port Vila is located. The Chair thanked him for his warm words of welcome.

Opening the Conference, Vanuatu acting Prime Minister and Minister for Internal Affairs Mr Moana Kalosil extended a warm welcome to delegates. He noted the role PIDC continues to play within the membership in strengthening legislation, operations and border control systems and he encouraged PIDC to continue to raise awareness on critical immigration issues in addition to capacity building. He encouraged delegates to use the Conference to discuss immigration issues to strengthen Members' ability to better manage their borders.

The outgoing PIDC Chair and former CEO for Samoa's Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Auseugaefa Poloma Komiti, expressed his appreciation of the work that has been achieved during his term with the PIDC. On behalf of the PIDC membership, he expressed appreciation for Vanuatu's hosting of this 14<sup>th</sup> PIDC meeting, reflecting the cooperative values of the PIDC family.

The incoming Chair, Mr George Bogiri, noted that the 14<sup>th</sup> PIDC meeting had representatives from 19 of the 23 PIDC member countries. He also referred to the challenges for the PIDC, including the implementation of the PIDC Institutional Review recommendations. He thanked the outgoing Chair for his leadership and guidance to the organization and wished him well for the future.

## **ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE 14<sup>TH</sup> PACIFIC IMMIGRATION DIRECTORS CONFERENCE**

### **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

PIDC members thanked Vanuatu for hosting the 2010 conference and endorsed the nomination of Vanuatu as Chair for 2010/12. The conference also endorsed the nomination of the Federated States of Micronesia as Vice-Chair for 2010/11.

### **MEMBER COUNTRY REPORTS**

Written country reports were submitted and presented by Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, CNMI and Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

These reports will be analysed by the Secretariat to identify training and capacity building needs. Members also noted the importance of coming together to share knowledge and experiences with counterparts and other law enforcement secretariats and agencies from the Pacific and beyond.

### **2010/11 ANNUAL WORK PLAN**

PIDC members endorsed the Annual Work Plan for 2010/11, and in particular noted the need for Members to be supportive and where possible to assist the Secretariat in implementing its activities.

### **STRENGTHENING INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

PIDC members recognised the benefits derived from immigration information and intelligence and encouraged commitment to information exchange amongst members via the PIDC Immigration Intelligence Bulletin.

### **TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

PIDC members reflected on the need to establish a training needs analysis to allow for more targeted training programmes in the membership. Members also expressed appreciation of Australia's offer to provide a full time Training Manager at the Secretariat in 2011.

### **PIDC FUNDING**

PIDC members were appreciative of the funding assistance and support Australia and New Zealand continued to provide to PIDC and its membership. Members recognised the support Australia and New Zealand have provided since the establishment of the PIDC and thanked them for their commitment to the organisation.

## **OBSERVERS**

Presentations were provided by representatives from the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The OCO briefed the meeting on the progress of work it continues to deliver in the region, also noting the collaborative work OCO continues to implement with PIDC and other law enforcement agencies in the region

The PIFS provided an update on the outcome of the Forum Regional Security Committee meeting and the collaborative work it continues to undertake in the region with other law enforcement agencies including the PIDC. PIFS also provided an update on the Pacific Islands TMNP

The PICP Secretariat acknowledged the collaborative work it continues to progress in the region with PIDC and other law enforcement agencies. PICP also updated members on the programmes it continues to implement within its membership and also highlight common issues faced in the region.

IOM provided an overview of the work that it continues to implement in the region.

UNHCR briefed the meeting on its programme to assist PIDC members to enhance their understanding of refugee and asylum issues and capacity to manage individual cases.

UNODC provided an overview on its programme in the Asia/Pacific region to enhance data collection.

## **CLOSING**

The Conference expressed its gratitude to the Government of Vanuatu and the staff of the Department of Immigration for hosting and organising a very successful PIDC. Thanks were extended to the outgoing Chair, Auseugaefa Poloma Komiti, for guiding the organisation in the three year term he had acted as Chair and contributing greatly to the overall success of PIDC.

The Conference expressed its appreciation for the continued work of the Secretariat in organising the Conference.

The Conference expressed appreciation to the Federated States of Micronesia for offering to host the 15<sup>th</sup> PIDC. The members elected the management board for the 2010/11 year consisting of Australia, Cook Islands, Federated State of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu with Poloma Komiti as the Independent Member.

The high level of representation, diverse and active participation and positive steps taken to progress the objectives of PIDC at this Conference was further evidence that the organisation continues to grow as the pre-eminent immigration organisation in the Pacific region. The 2009/10 year saw a consolidation of core work, the successful recruitment of a Head of Secretariat, an expansion in the area of advocacy and outreach and the continuing implementation of the Institutional Review, all of which made this year's Conference highly successful.

**Port Vila, Vanuatu**  
20 OCTOBER 2010