



Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference

Majuro; 19 - 21 July 2016

COMMUNIQUÉ

The 19th Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference (PIDC) was convened in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, on 19 – 21 July 2016. The theme of the conference was “New Beginning and Growth”. 18 Member countries attended: Republic of the Marshall Islands (Chair), Australia, Cook Islands, Republic of Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Nauru, Niue, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna.

The conference also welcomed representatives of observer organisations from the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Canada Immigration and Citizenship.

OPENING

The Conference was opened by the President Hilda Heine. She welcomed delegates and official observers to the 19th Pacific Immigration Directors Conference.

President Hilda Heine reminded delegates that the need to improve border security and protect borders against irregular migration while simultaneously facilitating the movement of people were national objectives which every sovereign country shared.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR

The Chair, Mr Damien Jacklick welcomed participants and acknowledged that PIDC becoming a Legal Entity through its Headquarters agreement with the Samoa Government, aligns perfectly with this year's conference theme 'New Beginning and Growth'. Our strength lies in our unity and collective efforts in working together to address national, regional and global border control issues in the Pacific despite our limitations.

ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE 19TH PACIFIC IMMIGRATION DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE

RELOCATION OF THE PIDC HEADQUARTERS

Members were pleased at the milestones achieved including the signing of the Headquarters agreement between PIDC and the Government of Samoa, the new opening of the Secretariat in Samoa and the recruitment of the new PIDC Head of Secretariat Mr Ioane Alama. Members also acknowledged the role of Samoa in granting the PIDC the ability to realise its full potential as a Regional organisation and the affording of Diplomatic privileges.

SECRETARIAT REPORT

Highlights included agreement to relocate, signing of the PIDC Headquarters agreement and the appointment of a Transition Manager to support that relocation, participation in the Joint Customs/ Introductory Intelligence Training Programme, Tonga returning to the membership, and the delivery of four Board meetings in the 15/16 calendar year.

PIDC BOARD REPORT

Members noted the achievements of the Board during this challenging business period of 2015-16. They wanted to acknowledge the appreciation of the work undertaken by the Transition Manager Jane Mcloughlin. Her commitment was something to be admired and went a long way to assisting the Board and HR Committee in progressing the PIDC Headquarters Agreement. Members also thanked Fiji for its guardianship of the PIDC since its inception in 1996 and looked forward to the new beginnings and growth of PIDC in Samoa. Members also thanked the outgoing Chairmanship of the Board by Vaosa Epa for her leadership and commitment throughout this relocation process and officially farewell her from the PIDC family. Her expertise and contacts will remain an invaluable source for PIDC so ongoing friendships will continue.

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF SECRETARIAT

The Members welcomed Mr Ioane Alama as the new Head of Secretariat. The HR sub-committee of the Board undertook a transparent and accountable process leading to the final selection of the best candidate to the position.

PIDC MEMBER COUNTRY REPORTS

Member country reports were thematically arranged based on the experience and strengths of each country according to emerging trends and members' requests. Members agreed the importance of data sharing and agreed that Information sharing arrangements need to be established. The Secretariat was tasked to survey members on their information sharing requirements and capabilities to support and information hub between members and the establishing of information sharing MOUs.

PIDC FUNDING

Members recognised the financial support provided by Australia and New Zealand during the transition process and thanked their commitment for funding for the next three years.

BRANDING OF PIDC

Members agreed that with the regionalisation of PIDC it was also a pertinent time to consider the rebranding of PIDC from a Secretariat/ Conference to a formalised regional status. The Secretariat and the Board was tasked to collate the suggestions from member countries and bring the finalised brand to the next conference.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

PIDC governance and new legal entity status – members agreed to maintain the status quo in terms of Board Governance and management. It was noted that this may be reviewed at the next conference.

Training Needs Analysis – members were pleased to workshop and conduct the analysis of training needs of members and identify training models that is suitable including secondments to more advanced member countries, and to Pacific Regional Intelligence and Identity Programme. It was also noted that further consideration be given to capacity building in Governance and Strategic management within the Immigration area with the view of not solely focussing on border security measures only.

Managing Movement of Third country nationals –members were consistent in their support for an Information hub to be managed by the secretariat and the provision and sharing of information between members as transit countries and the recipient country in the management of Third country national.

OBSERVERS

Presentations were made by representatives from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police(PICP), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, the Canada Border Services Agency, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Guest speakers from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and UNODC,

ELECTION OF NEW BOARD

The new Board elected for the 2016/17 year comprised - Marshall Islands(Chair), New Zealand (Vice Chair and Principal Donor), Palau (Micronesia), Vanuatu (Melanesia), Tuvalu (Small Island States), Cook Islands (Polynesia), Australia (Principal Donor). The subcommittees of the Board for Governance are: Vanuatu, Cook Islands, NZ and Australia; Human resources: Marshall Islands, NZ and Tuvalu; and Audit and Risk – Palau, Australia and NZ.

CLOSING

Delegates conveyed their appreciation and thanks to the Government of Marshall Islands and Director of Immigration Mr Damien Jacklick and his staff for organising and hosting a successful Conference – Kommol tata from all of us.

The organisations that hosted dinner functions, namely the Minister of Justice and Immigration, the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection and Immigration New Zealand were gratefully acknowledged.

The Conference welcomed the invitation by New Zealand to host the 20th Pacific Immigration Directors Annual Conference to be held in Samoa in 2017 and noted Fiji's invitation to host in 2018.

Majuro, Marshall Islands

21 JULY 2016