



FACT SHEET

GENERAL BACKGROUND

The Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference (PIDC) is a forum for official Immigration Agencies of the Pacific Region. It was established in 1996 as a result of an initiative taken by the first PIDC, sponsored by the Forum Secretariat and held at the Forum Secretariat headquarters, Suva from 28-30 October 1996.

The principal objective of the PIDC is to promote consultation and cooperation among Immigration agencies within the Pacific region. The Conference also provides for exchange of ideas, the dissemination of information and the provision of technical assistance.

PIDC remains a focal point for collaboration with other regional and international bodies such as the Forum Secretariat, the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP), Interpol, PACRIM, IATA, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and relevant United Nations agencies.

In 2005 the members of PIDC adopted the 4th PIDC Charter that outlines the mission, aims, objectives and responsibilities of the PIDC.

ABOUT THE PIDC

The annual PIDC Conference provides a forum for the heads of Immigration agencies to meet and discuss issues of mutual interest and to foster multilateral cooperation and mutual assistance. The multilateral cooperation and mutual assistance is aimed at strengthening participant's territorial borders and the integrity of their entry system.

The PIDC Charter opens up membership of the PIDC to all Official Immigration agencies within Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia and includes Australia and New Zealand. Membership in the PIDC is open to the following countries:

American Samoa	Nauru
Australia	New Zealand
Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands	New Caledonia
Cook Islands	Niue
Federated States of Micronesia	Norfolk Island
Fiji Islands	Palau
French Polynesia	Papua New Guinea
Guam	Samoa
Kiribati	Solomon Islands
Marshall Islands	Tonga
	Tuvalu
	Vanuatu
	Wallis and Futuna

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

At the 10th PIDC held in New Zealand, PIDC members discussed a wide range of immigration related issues, including:

- ❑ Immigration Legislation: a Comparative Analysis of Immigration Legislation in PIDC Jurisdictions;
- ❑ Movement and Management of 3rd Country Nationals;
- ❑ Secure Information Communication Systems;
- ❑ Advance Passenger Information;
- ❑ Integrity in Immigration;
- ❑ Institutional Strengthening;
- ❑ People Smuggling, Trafficking and Illegal Migration;
- ❑ Immigration crime and identity fraud;
- ❑ Training; and
- ❑ Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation.

PIDC MANAGEMENT BOARD

During the 2005 Annual PIDC Conference the existing Advisory Committee was dissolved in favour of the establishment of a PIDC Management Board and Policy Advisory Group. The purpose of the Management Board is to progress issues between conferences and to provide direction and guidance to the PIDC members on immigration related issues. The 2006/07 PIDC Management Board comprises of: Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Palau, PNG, and Samoa.

The Management Board has so far convened once in 2007 and will meet again in May this year, with a third meeting to be held just prior to the Annual Conference in August. Important outcomes from recent Management Board meetings include:

- ❑ Establishment of a secondment program from immigration agencies in the Pacific to the Secretariat.
- ❑ Working Group established to convene an exercise involving the movement and management of 3rd country nationals in 2008.
- ❑ The Pacific Region Immigration Identity Management Project (PRIIP). New Zealand, in conjunction with the PIDC, has begun with the first phase of the PRIIP.
- ❑ 2007 Report on People Smuggling, Human Trafficking and Illegal Migration

The Management Board will report back to the 2007 Annual Conference in Samoa, on the progress achieved on these issues.

PIDC SECRETARIAT

At the 2001 conference held in Rarotonga, the Cook Islands, the need for a PIDC Secretariat was discussed and it was considered that the PIDC would be greatly enhanced by the establishment of a full time Secretariat.

Australia and New Zealand offered to co-fund a PIDC Secretariat for an initial 12-month period and it was decided to co-locate the PIDC Secretariat with the OCO Secretariat in Brisbane, Australia. The PIDC Secretariat opened in January 2002.

With the OCO Secretariat's move to New Caledonia at the end of November 2002, consideration had to be given to a new home for the PIDC Secretariat. Following discussions with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat it was decided that the PIDC Secretariat would be co-located at the Forum Secretariat offices in Suva, Fiji. The PIDC Secretariat moved to Fiji at the beginning of December 2002.

PIDC STRATEGIC PLAN

At the 8th PIDC in Palau, it was recognised that the PIDC was now a maturing organisation. It was therefore decided that a complete and wide-ranging review should be undertaken of the organisational structure, direction, and membership.

In January and March 2005, members of the PIDC Advisory Committee met to develop a new strategic plan including a work plan for the PIDC Secretariat.

The new PIDC Strategic Plan and Work Plan was adopted at the 2005 PIDC in Nadi, Fiji. In addition, a dedicated Research Officer has also been engaged to implement the PIDC Research Plan, designed to provide

high quality research and analysis to help inform PIDC policy and processes.

CORE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

Recently, the Management Board decided that a review of the core skills and knowledge required for immigration officers in the region to undertake their roles should be undertaken.

In a phased approach, the PIDC Secretariat has begun a project to provide information to PIDC members on courses and content from other immigration agencies and training providers. The project is to be discussed at the upcoming Management Board meeting in Samoa.

ANNUAL CONFERENCES

2007 To be hosted by Samoa from the 15-17 of August to coincide with the 2007 South Pacific Games.

2006 Held in New Zealand from the 17-19 October. 38 participants from 17 countries including 8 observer organisations.

2005 Held in Fiji 30th August to 01st September. 35 participants from 18 PIDC member states including 12 observer organisations

2004 Held in Palau 8-10 September. 38 participants from 17 PIDC member states including 9 observer organisations.

2003 Held in The Kingdom of Tonga 10 – 12 September. 45 delegates attended on behalf of 16 PIDC member states including 10 observer organisations.

2002 Held in Niue 17 – 19 September. 27 delegates attended on behalf of 10 PIDC member states including 9 observer organisations.

2001 Held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands 13-15 November. 21 participated from 13 PIDC member states including 9 observers.

2000 Held in Norfolk Island 30 October – 1 November. 15 delegates participated from 11 PIDC member states including 3 observers.

1999 Held in Norfolk Island 6-8 December. 15 delegates attended on behalf of 13 PIDC member states including 3 observers.

1997 Held in Samoa during April. 12 member states were represented.

1996 Held in Suva, Fiji Islands 28-30 October. 14 member states were represented.

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