

# PIDC NEWS

Immigration News for the Pacific Region

Edition 6: October 2003



PACIFIC  
IMMIGRATION  
DIRECTORS'  
CONFERENCE



## PIDC ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2003



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration in the Kingdom of Tonga, hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual PIDC Conference of Immigration Heads from 10-12 September 2003. Following the opening prayer by Reverend 'Alifeleti 'Atiola His Royal Highness, Prince 'Ulukalala Lavaka Ata, the Prime Minister of Tonga, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Principal Immigration Officer, officially opened the Conference. Mrs. Fekita 'Utoikamanu, Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Immigration, The Kingdom of Tonga was elected to chair the Conference.

There were forty-five participants at the Conference. Delegates from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Niue, Norfolk Island, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, the Kingdom of Tonga (Tonga), Tuvalu and Vanuatu attended the Conference along with observers from Australian Federal Police (AFP), APC Secretariat, Canadian Immigration, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Tonga Customs, Tonga Police, Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), South Pacific Chiefs of Police Conference (SPCPC), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Three private sector firms, the Canadian Bank Note Company, Express Electronics and Informatics made commercial presentations. Sue Bodell represented the PIDC Secretariat.

In his address, His Royal Highness spoke of the issues facing the Pacific Region today. He highlighted the difficulties for Pacific Nations addressing the needs of immigration due to the scattered nature of island nations and the lack of financial resources. H.R.H noted that immigration is complicated further because it is a fine balancing act between the individual's human rights and the rights and benefits of collective groups of states.

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## PIDC ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2003 (continued)

(continued from page 1.) H.R.H highlighted the turbulent times in which we live with terrorism, people smuggling and trafficking and illegal migration a growing problem. He stressed the importance of the need to work together to address these issues and reflected happily on the strong working relationship with our sister organisations the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) and South Pacific Chiefs of Police (SPCPC).

Although nearly two months have passed since our Annual Conference, it is important to recall the important issues addressed at the Conference and the achievements of the preceding twelve months. Our 2003 Annual Conference was a great success not only because of the wonderful hospitality extended to members and observers alike by our hosts, but also because of the excellent turn out of PIDC Member Countries. 2003 saw the largest turn out of member countries since the conference began.



Ainise Bloomfield (Tonga Customs) & Susana Faletau (Tonga Immigration)

We managed to cover a number of important issues to immigration in the Pacific today during our three days of deliberations. Discussions and presentations took place on secure information exchange systems, Advanced Passenger Information (API), contingency plans for mass arrivals, repatriation of illegal migrants, model legislation, integrity in Immigration, institutional strengthening, passports, people smuggling, trafficking and illegal migration, immigration crime and identity fraud, seaports and yachts travelling the Pacific, training and regional law enforcement cooperation.

The Conference received a presentation on Advanced Passenger Information and the benefits to immigration and other border law enforcement processing that this can present. It was decided by the Conference that Advanced Passenger Information could be a very beneficial tool for the use of immigration processing for the Pacific Region. PIDC have determined to research the parameters of a standardised advanced passenger information system that can be used by all Pacific Nations.

A strategy for structured and accredited law enforcement training for the Pacific Region was presented to the Conference. PIDC endorsed this proposal and have committed to participating in a working group to further this concept and assist in the development of a training programme.

Following a decision by the 2002 Annual Conference the PIDC Working Group Meeting of 2003 developed a comprehensive Integrity Programme for Immigration Agencies and presented it to the Conference. The Conference endorsed the Programme and tasked the Advisory Committee with the responsibility for the carriage of this programme for PIDC Members.

This year's conference was an extremely busy and productive event. All appreciated the active participation of all members and observers in discussions and debates on issues of importance to immigration in the region. Our appreciation goes to the Canadian Bank Note Company and Express Electronics for their sponsorship of a lunch function each during the Conference. We were also very appreciative of the hospitality extended to us all in the evenings, with events hosted by the Tongan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration and the Australian and New Zealand High Commissions.



Chair of the Conference, Fekita 'Utoikamanu and Shaun Evans, the Forum Secretariats Law Enforcement Adviser



Conference delegates on a tour of Tonga

The Conference gratefully accepted the offer by Palau to host the 8<sup>th</sup> PIDC in September 2004 and Fiji indicated that with Government approval they would like to host the PIDC Annual Conference in 2005.

Delegates expressed their gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga, H.R.H Prince 'Ulukalala Lavaka Ata, the Prime Minister of Tonga, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Principal Immigration Officer and to the Chair, Mrs. Fekita 'Utoikamanu, Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Immigration, The Kingdom of Tonga, who had been instrumental in making it a most successful and enjoyable Conference.

## 14 MORE NEW TRAINING INSTRUCTORS FOR THE PACIFIC REGION



Border Control Training Participants and Instructors

The second round of Border Control Training organised by the Forum Secretariat, was conducted at the Fiji Police Academy in September this year. Another 14 students from around the region attended the one week program. Once again the training focus included a "Train the Trainer" component and Border Control training, which focused primarily on document examination.

The Train the Trainer component was conducted by the Training Productivity Authority of Fiji. The program involved an intense five day course which required the students to make a number of presentations, pass an examination and complete a post course project. On successful completion of all these tasks the students will be registered training instructors.

where conducted as night time lectures, by the Suva based Australian High Commission, Regional Compliance Officer from the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA), Mr. Philip Dale. The lectures were further enhanced by a guest presentation from Mr. Andy Gray, Airline Liaison Officer, British Consulate, Hong Kong.



Conducting lectures by day and night made for a very intensive program which required a lot of dedication from students. The entire group made an enormous team effort to complete the program in Suva, which resulted in the forming of good relationships and effective learning.

The Document Examination sessions



The Forum Secretariat and participants on the program are very grateful to the French Government, the Australian Federal Police, Law Enforcement Cooperation Program and DIMIA, for once again supporting continued Border Control training within the region.

MARK WHITFIELD

## SIGNING OF THE MOU WITH UNHCR



UNHCR Representative Alvin Gonzaga and PIDC Chair, Fekita 'Utoikamanu sign the MOU

PIDC and UNHCR entered negotiations to sign a Memorandum of Understanding in 2001. The MOU provides a basis for PIDC and UNHCR to improve regional consultation in areas of mutual interest. It is to assist in the strengthening of working relationships for the benefit of all participating immigration services and their respective governments. PIDC and UNHCR agree to open avenues for dialogue, enabling a two-way exchange of information, advice and assistance on a range of issues of common interest. These include, but are not limited to, trends in asylum seeker or refugee movements, local capacity to deal with asylum seekers and refugee issues and information dissemination on asylum seekers, refugees and protection issues.

the MOU signed by Michel Gabaudan, Regional UNHCR Representative for Australia, NZ, PNG and the South Pacific to the Conference. Mrs. Fekita 'Utoikamanu, the newly elected Chair of PIDC signed the MOU on behalf of PIDC.



## PACIFIC RIM IMMIGRATION INTELLIGENCE CONFERENCE (PACRIM)



The Pacific Rim Immigration Intelligence Conference (PACRIM) was convened at the Meritus Mandarin Hotel in Singapore from 30 September to 3 October. Representatives from the Member Administrations from Australia, Canada, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Korea, Macau SAR, New Zealand, Singapore and the USA attended, along with observers from Malaysia and the Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference (PIDC) Secretariat.

This year's conference theme was a focus on *"Immigration Approaches to Counter-Terrorism"* and all the participants were asked to include this theme in their presentations on illegal migration and people smuggling within their jurisdiction. In addition to the comprehensive presentations made by all the delegates at the Conference, there were also three special reports on *'Maritime People Smuggling in North Asia (Japan and Korea)'*, *'South Pacific Illegal Migration Trends (NZ and USA)'* and *'Best Practices of an Intelligence Capability (Australia, Canada & HK SAR)'*. There was also a guest speaker from Singapore who presented a comprehensive overview of *'IT for Security'*.

PACRIM provides PIDC with an excellent opportunity to share information with and learn from the experiences of our colleagues around the Pacific Rim. PIDC is an active participant, and are provided with an opportunity to share our own experiences in the Pacific.

PACRIM participants take the opportunity to update members and observers on issues of border security, trends in illegal migration, occurrences of migration fraud and immigration related criminal offending and immigration related impacts on national security. It is an opportunity for participants to share new methods for effective collection, collation, analysis and dissemination of immigration intelligence and also to exchange ideas on new systems and procedures for detection and deterrence of immigration offending. This year's conference was highlighted by a presentation on a futuristic look at the possibilities of IT addressing the concerns of National Security.

The Conference was hosted by the newly formed Immigration Checkpoints Authority (ICA) of Singapore, and all the delegates were unanimous in their praise of ICA for planning and organising an excellent and productive 2003 PACRIM Conference. PACRIM 2004 will be hosted by Canada.

## UPDATE FROM NIUE



In early January 2004 I will be on temporary leave from my post as Senior Immigration Officer for a period of one year. I will be undertaking studies at the Auckland University of Technology.

To date no confirmed decision has been made on my replacement for the duration of my leave, however any communication with Niue Immigration can be channelled through to the Chief Immigration Officer who is John Tohovaka. There are no changes to the contact addresses given and I believe once a replacement has been confirmed, Mr John Tohovaka will be advising the Secretariat.

I would like to say that it has been a great pleasure working and meeting all officials and counterparts from the region. I thank you all for providing assistance to our office throughout my term and would like to say it has made my job easier with such help given. My special thanks to the PIDC Secretariat Sue Bodell for all her assistance and hard work with the 6<sup>th</sup> PIDC conference and throughout the year whenever we have needed assistance. I would also like to thank Tonga, Cook Islands, NZ, Fiji and Australia for all their assistance into matters I have needed clarification on while I have been working with this office.

In September we were presented with a lap-top which has been of great use to this office by DIMIA, I would like to extend our gratitude to Leisa Bradley and Alan Brooke who worked on getting the equipment to us.

I look forward to working with everyone again in 2005 and wish all counterparts in the region a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish Sue Bodell the best of luck for her future endeavours and once again thank you, aue tolou Sue.

Patricia Kulatea

### Editors Note:

**On behalf of the PIDC Secretariat I would like to wish Patricia all the best for her studies and stay in New Zealand, we look forward to your return to PIDC in 2005!**

## NEWS FROM THE OCO SECRETARIAT



**Oceania**  
Customs Organisation

The OCO Secretariat dedicated a large part of the third quarter of 2003 to important meetings, to following up core Customs issues and to the implementation of the OCO SP / WP 2003 – 2005.

In July, the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) in Honolulu, invited the OCO, to participate at a Conference titled "Island State security 2003: Oceania at the Crossroads". Focussed on Security issues in the global context, this Conference aimed to analyse and assess the terrorist and transnational organised crime threats in the Pacific region under an academic perspective. The Head of the OCO Secretariat, Marc Jannier, highlighted in his presentation the steps taken by the OCO to address the issue and the first outcomes achieved in collaboration with the regional Law Enforcement sister organisations such as PIDC and SPCPC, and the Forum Secretariat.

The invitation to the 7<sup>th</sup> PIDC gave the OCO Secretariat the opportunity to strengthen the outstanding ties between PIDC and the OCO and to underline their excellent co-operation this year in areas of common interest. The outcomes of the FRSC which were endorsed in August 2003 by the Forum Leaders meeting in Auckland is evidence of the necessary, fruitful and continued collaboration of the regional LE agencies in synergy with the Pacific Islands Forum.

To permit all PIDC members to derive benefit of the use of CAPERS Information sharing system, the OCO endorsed PIDC members continued access to this secure database on a trial base. To continue the experiment will enhance both intelligence collection and analysis and also the awareness of the necessary information sharing within the region for an increased operational efficiency of all LE agencies.

The LE Training Project developed by the Forum Law Enforcement Training Co-ordinator, Mark Whitfeld, and presented to the PIDC 2003 represents a inovative approach to training and will be included in the agenda for the next OCO Annual Conference 2004.

The important changes undergone in the global security situation and the already strong commitment of the OCO in the areas of terrorism and transnational organised crime, justify the further development of the collaboration between the OCO and other LE agencies at all levels. The OCO Secretariat thereby contacted Interpol in order to consider the possibility of co-operation between the OCO, the OCO members and this global organisation.

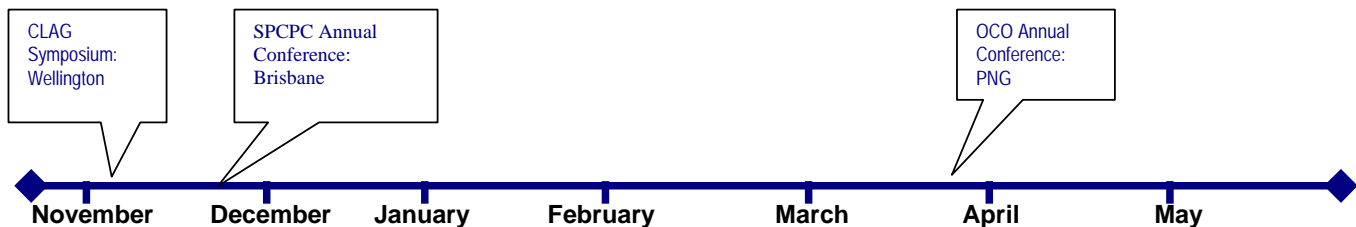
On behalf of the 23 OCO members the OCO Secretariat wishes to thank warmly Ms. Sue Bodell, the Head of the PIDC Secretariat for her outstanding collaborative spirit and all the work undertaken for the good of both the PIDC and the OCO. We all wishes her a good settling in back to the NZIS at the end of the year and welcome her successor to the PIDC Secretariat.

**Mark Jannier – OCO Secretariat**



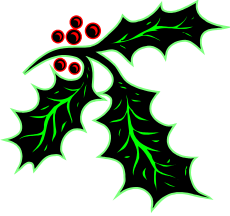
Marc Jannier – Head of OCO Secretariat in Tonga for the PIDC Annual Conference

## REGIONAL EVENTS



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## UPDATES FROM THE PIDC SECRETARIAT



Bula once again from the PIDC Secretariat !

As this will be the last newsletter for this year and also the last one for both of us at the Secretariat , I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Fiji Immigration Department for giving me the opportunity to be attached to the Secretariat. It has been a fruitful and challenging 6 months since starting here in April this year.

I was fortunate to work with Sue on a number of important issues that the Secretariat was tasked with, particularly the formation of the draft Code of Conduct, the draft Model Contingency Plan for Mass Arrivals, the quarterly newsletter and the day to day tasks of the Secretariat. This has further enhanced and broadened my knowledge in regards to Immigration matters within the region which is sure to help me in my work with the Fiji Immigration Department.

Furthermore I also wish to thank Sue for all the knowledge she has imparted to me during the time we work together and the spirit in which she has conducted her work has greatly enhanced the PIDC to remain a focal point for collaboration with other regional and international bodies, in fostering multilateral co-operation and mutual assistance aimed at strengthening territorial borders and the integrity of entry system within PIDC member countries. I wish her all the best on her return to New Zealand.

Tara Savou 29/10/03



Bula All,

As Tara has already pointed out above, this will be the last PIDC News from the current Secretariat. Our secondments to the PIDC Secretariat will both come to an end just before Christmas, when we will return to our respective Immigration Services.

Like Tara, I would also like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all those who have been involved with the PIDC and the PIDC Secretariat over the past two years. It has been an exciting and challenging 24 months, setting up the Secretariat and trying to keep up with the ever changing demands on immigration and law enforcement in the Pacific. The experience has been made a lot easier through the constant support and encouragement of PIDC Members, Members of the other specialist law Enforcement Organisations and their Secretariats namely the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Ocenai Customs Organisation (OCO) and South Pacific Chiefs of Police Conference (SPCPC) and all the other individuals and organisations associated with the PIDC.

I would also like to express my thanks to the Australian Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) and the New Zealand Immigration Service (NZIS) for their efforts and support in setting up, establishing and running the PIDC Secretariat for the benefit of all PIDC Members. This year the Fiji Immigration Department added their support to the re-establishment of the Secretariat in Fiji, not only through their day to day support and assistance as the local PIDC Member, but also by seconding a staff member to the Secretariat.

Tara has been a valued asset to the Secretariat, bringing new ideas, dedication and enthusiasm to her role. I would like to thank Tara for all her hard work over the past six months and Fiji Immigration for releasing such a valued employee to the PIDC Secretariat. I wish her well for her return to Fiji Immigration.

During my term I have been fortunate enough to visit many beautiful islands in the Pacific, meeting many interesting people and making lots of new friends. I have greatly enjoyed my time at the Secretariat and once again would like to thank all those who have helped make it such an enjoyable experience.

Sue Bodell



From Sue and Tara  
At the PIDC Secretariat

PIDC News is produced by the Pacific Immigration  
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The next edition of PIDC News is due for publication in  
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Comments and articles (preferably with pictures) for  
inclusion should be sent by the end of December 2003  
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