

## INAUGURAL PIDC MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING



*Delegates to the 2nd Management Board meeting on the steps of the Parliament House in Apia*

Endorsed at the 2005 PIDC, the newly established Management Board held its inaugural meeting in March this year. A second meeting was convened in Apia, Samoa during July. The Management Board is made up of six PIDC members with representation from Micronesia, Melanesia, and Polynesia and includes the following countries: Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Palau, PNG, and Samoa.

So far, a number of very important decisions have been made at the two meetings and work on the implementation of these decisions is well underway. Some of the more prominent outcomes already actioned from the two meetings include: engagement of the PIDC Research Officer; sign-off on the newly developed PIDC website; endorsement of the PIDC Secondment Programme – about to begin on the 2<sup>nd</sup>

September with the first secondee coming from Tonga; attendance by the PIDC Chair at the APC sub-regional meeting in Bangkok to advocate on behalf of the PIDC; establishment of the Policy Advisory Group (PAG); development of Member Contributions Guidelines to the operation of the PIDC; the PIDC Communications Strategy; host for 2007 PIDC; and the Pacific Regional Identity Protection Project.

In statements about the PIDC, Dr. Lesi Korovavala, who currently Chairs both the PIDC and the Management Board, noted that the organisation is taking steady steps towards implementing the resolutions and decisions from the 2005 PIDC. He also noted the need for all PIDC members to work together in order to realise the full po-

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tential of the region, and to enhance security and improve the economic and social well being in the Pacific - *PIDC Secretariat*



*Mr. Faafouina Milford (Samoa) addressing delegates at the Apia meeting.*



*Dr. Lesi Korovavala and Mr. Matthew Gibbs*



*Staff of Samoa Immigration department*



*Mr. Kila Karo (PNG), Dr. Lesi Korovavala (PIDC Chair) and Mr. Henry Taefu (Samoa)*

## FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARIAT



Bula from the staff at the PIDC Secretariat. This is the first edition for 2006 of our new bi-annual newsletter. It's been a very busy period since the 2005 PIDC in Nadi, Fiji. In light of decisions taken at that meeting, the Secretariat has moved to larger offices within the Forum Secretariat and engaged Ms. Sunnylee Campbell as the PIDC Research Officer. Sunnylee has been kept very busy with preparing the 2006 report on

People Smuggling, Human Trafficking and Illegal Migration as well as reviewing regional legislation, standards and conventions, including compiling the information matrix sent out to members in May.

The PIDC Management Board has so far convened twice this year in Fiji and then in Samoa. At both of these meetings important decisions on the work of the PIDC and Secretariat were made including: development of initiatives to build capacity, strengthen communication networks within the organisation and expose immigration officers from member countries to a variety of experiences.

To emphasise this, Ms. Ouida Kaho from Tonga Immigration is to be the first seconded person to the PIDC Secretariat. It is hoped that Ouida's secondment will be

the first of many to the Secretariat and we are looking forward to her arrival.

In other recent initiatives, Fiji Immigration in cooperation with the PIDC Secretariat, established the PIDC Secretariat Support Group (SSG). The purpose of the SSG is to provide additional support to the Secretariat.

The Secretariat continues to be a focal point for information sharing. This is highlighted with a growing list of countries using the Secretariat as a means of distributing a variety of information to PIDC members.

The 2006 annual PIDC will be held in Wellington, New Zealand and the theme for this year is: "Strengthening border management across the region to contribute to

improved social and economic well being and security in the Pacific". As in previous years, attendance at the annual PIDC continues to grow and we are expecting our biggest turnout yet to this year's PIDC. We look forward to renewing old friendships and meeting new faces at the Wellington PIDC.

## IMMIGRATION NZ TOP JOBS IN THE PACIFIC ANNOUNCED

Three well respected and experienced New Zealand public servants officially commenced their new Branch Manager role with Immigration New Zealand branches in Samoa, Tonga and Fiji in early April. The three Pacific offices represent the offshore arms of the Pacific Division.

Mr Lauano Ati Ilaoa (for Apia), Mr Aminiasi Ikamafana Tameifuna (for Nuku'alofa), and Mr Michael Carley (for Suva), were officially welcomed into their new roles by Service International Group Manager Mr Tofilau Kerupi Tavita. "As part of the Department's



*Mr. Michael Carley, Branch Manager, Suva*

commitment to improving our business in the Pacific, we identified the need to appoint people at the top who can project the value New Zealand places on its relationship with the Pacific, while protecting and promoting New Zealand's interests and keeping those at the forefront," said Mr Tavita.

All three appointees have been in the public service both in New Zealand and in the Pacific for a large part of their careers, giving them a wealth of experience and knowledge, and the networks to be effective in their new role.

"The Pacific Division has moved

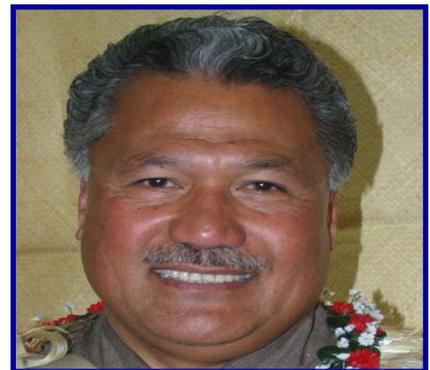
into a new era of service delivery," said Mr Tavita.

"Branch Managers are now expected to lead the delivery of excellent customer services, while establishing useful networks and relationships with Pacific stakeholders that benefit both New Zealand and Pacific states."

"Therefore, a proven track record of engaging effectively and meaningfully with a wide range of stakeholders – from government officials to customers was a key factor in our decision." -Susan Egan, Immigration NZ



*Mr. Lauano Ati Ilaoa, Branch Manager, Apia*



*Aminiasi Tameifuna, Branch Manager, Nuku'alofa*

## NEWS FROM POLICE AUX FRONTIERES



*Mr. Raymond Manuake, Mr. LE CAM and Minister George Wells*

Mr. Gilles LE CAM, Director of Immigration and Border Control, New Caledonia and Wallis & Fu-

tuna [Police Aux Frontières de Nouvelle-Calédonie, Wallis et Futuna (PAF NCWF)] visited Vanuatu from 19 -23 April 2006 as part of an exchange programme between the immigration agencies of the two countries.

During Mr. LE CAM's visit he looked into ways of organising the exchange of civil servants, for training purposes, between New Caledonia and Vanuatu immigration agencies, and to enhance cooperation in immigration control and security in ports and air-

ports. He also discussed options of opening two direct air links between Vanuatu (Luganville on Santo Island and Tanna), and New Caledonia.

Following Mr. LE CAM's visit, a ministerial delegation from Vanuatu visited New Caledonia from 30 April to 7 May. The delegation was headed by Vanuatu's Minister for Interior Affairs, Mr. George Wells. He was accompanied by the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Arthur Caulton, Mr. Ben Kalo, Mr. Serge Laloyer, Mr. Johnson Waya-

bat, and Commander Willy Vira. The Consul of Vanuatu, Mr. Raymond Manuake, joined the delegation later on May 4.

As a result of these exchanges, a civil servant from PAF NCWF who specialises in border control training, will do a short term stint

with Vanuatu Immigration following which an officer from Vanuatu Immigration will travel to Noumea. – *Christine Capron, PAF NCWF*



*Ministerial delegation with Mr. LE CAM*

## REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON GENDER, CONFLICT, PEACE AND SECURITY



*Delegates at the Gender, Conflict, Peace and Security Workshop at the Mocambo Hotel, Nadi*

A Regional Workshop on Gender, Conflict, Peace and Security organised by the Forum Secretariat in collaboration with AusAID, UNDP Pacific Sub-Regional Centre (PRSC), UNIFEM Pacific, the International Women's Development Agency (IWDA), and FemLINK Pacific was held from the 15-17 June in Nadi, Fiji.

The organisers of the workshop

noted that the primary purpose was to raise awareness and understanding of gender issues in conflict, peace building and security in the region in order to facilitate a shift towards more gender responsive security frameworks at national and regional levels, in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 (Women Peace

and Security).

The PIDC made a presentation on *Gender Dimensions of People Movement in the Region*. Since the PIDC does not currently collect gender specific data, the presentation focused on people smuggling, human trafficking and illegal migration in the region as reported to the Secretariat by its members. The presentation was well received by participants at the workshop, most of whom were not aware of the PIDC.

Recommendations endorsed by delegates at the workshop included providing an annual update on Gender, Peace and Security issues during the annual Forum Regional Security Committee (FRSC) meeting. On the collection of data, it was noted that a gender perspective be integrated into all situation and conflict analyses and subsequent programming at national level - *PIDC Secretariat*.

## FORUM REGIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING 2006

The 2006 Forum Regional Security Committee (FRSC) meeting was held at the Macambo Hotel, Nadi,



Fiji from the 19 - 20 June. Representatives from Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu attended the meeting. The meeting was also attended by guests from American Samoa, the Commonwealth Secretariat, Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical

Weapons (OPCW), Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference (PIDC), Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP), Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI), and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Regional Maritime Programme (SPC RMP).

The Secretary General, Mr. Greg Urwin opened the meeting welcoming all participants. He noted that the work undertaken by the FRSC over the last few years was

reflected in enhanced regional cooperation, and the ongoing coordination among security-related agencies. He also spoke briefly on the Pacific Plan, noting the FRSC had a key role to play as far as the security pillar of the Plan was concerned.

The assessment on "Trends in Transnational Organised Crime in the Pacific" was based on data collected from the PIDC, OCO, SPC RMP, and the Pacific Transnational Crime Network (PTCN). Issues highlighted in the report included people smuggling and human trafficking, where it was noted that the region was being

used as a transit area for people smuggling with the potential for growth in human trafficking. While the Committee once again noted that data collection from the region was disappointing, delegates particularly noted the high quality of reporting from the PIDC.

On the implementation of decisions from the 2005 FRSC, the Committee was advised that the concept of Advance Passenger Information (API) had been endorsed by members of the PIDC, and that this issue was being handled on a bilateral basis within the region.

The PIDC presented a report updating the Committee on its recent activities, with the Committee agreeing to note the role and responsibilities of the PIDC in regional immigration and security matters - *PIDC Secretariat*.



## SECURITY IN PACIFIC ISLAND PORTS



*Mobile cranes being assembled in the Port of Suva*

The Regional Maritime Programme (RMP) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) is the region's lead programme providing technical advice and assistance to the maritime sector in the Pacific Islands region. The work of the programme covers Maritime Legislation and Regulations; Maritime Information; Maritime Training (to comply with international conventions); Maritime Security as well as strengthening the various national maritime institutions, including maritime administrations, port authorities, shipping companies and training institutions. The programme has been in the forefront of ensuring that Pacific Island Countries (PICs)

are provided with adequate training and assistance that would allow them to meet their international obligations and maintain their compliance status which is essential to sustainable development, poverty alleviation, trade security as well as employment security in the region.

The International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, that came into effect on 1 July 2004, applies to passenger ships, cargo ships of 500 gross tonnage and upwards (including high speed craft and offshore mobile rigs) engaged on international voyages, and port facilities serving such ships. The Code does not apply to

warships, naval auxiliaries or other ships owned or operated by contracting governments and used only on non-commercial service.

The functional requirements of the Code include gathering and assessing information with respect to security threats and exchanging such information with appropriate contracting governments; requiring the maintenance of communication protocols for ships and port facilities; preventing unauthorised access to ships, port facilities and their restricted areas; preventing the introduction of unauthorised weapons, incendiary devices or explosives to ships or port facilities; providing means for raising the alarm in reaction to security threats or security incidents; requiring ship and port facility security plans to be based upon security assessments; and requiring training, drills and exercises to ensure familiarity with security plans and procedures.

Implementing the ISPS Code requirements was a difficult task for many PICs with limited human and financial resources but they admirably completed this task. RMP worked with PICs during the im-

plementation process of the ISPS Code by assisting with surveys, assessments and security plans for regional port facilities and ships. As yet, international terrorists have not targeted Pacific Island ports, although potential threats have been identified.

At the request of PICs, after the local security plan was developed, implemented, tested, modified and validated, it was then audited by RMP in conjunction with the Pacific Islands Maritime Association (PacMA) and with observers from Maritime New Zealand, Australia's Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) and the United States Coast Guard to assess compliance with the new ISPS Code. RMP/PacMA has almost completed a full round of auditing of major ports in the region. Two countries which have been audited have also completed their correc-

tive actions on the non-compliances found and have been found to be fully compliant with the ISPS Code after a follow-up audit.

There is no international requirement for ports to undertake an external security audit. This is an initiative that PICs and RMP have developed themselves to assist PICs meet the increasingly complex legislative and compliance-driven international safety and security regimes.

The security audit regime has identified gaps common to PICs in certain areas where expertise or knowledge is lacking so RMP has since implemented intervention training courses or workshops specific to these highlighted areas such as ISPS Code Drills and Exercises, Designated Authority Responsibilities and Risk Manage-

ment for Advanced Auditors. RMP also has plans to extend intervention training to encompass Basic Security Guard Operations and Port Facility Security Officers Responsibilities. In addition, since there have been changes to security personnel in ports and maritime administrations as well as training institutes, RMP will be running another basic maritime auditors course to enable PICs to conduct internal audits to assess their own compliance with international requirements.

This existing initiative must be supported and allowed to grow, with the Pacific both driving the process and monitoring the results. This will ensure that within the ports and maritime administrations of the PICs there is buy-in at all levels - *Regional Maritime Programme, Secretariat of the Pacific Community.*

## PACIFIC REGIONAL TERRORISM, TRANSNATIONAL CRIME AND BORDER SECURITY SEMINARS



*Presenters with the organisers of the seminars*

This series of seminars which were conducted in Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga respectively was a joint initiative involving the UK High Commission in Suva, the PIFS Law Enforcement Unit and the Pacific Transnational Crime Network (PTCN). Each of the seminars involved presentations by high level law enforcement practitioners from the Australian Federal Police,

Australian Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA), Fiji Police Force, New Zealand Police, Royal Tonga Police, UK – Immigration, Police and National Criminal Intelligence Service, United States - Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the French National Police. The theme of the seminar series was

*“Transnational Crime in the Pacific – A call for Regional Collaboration”*

During the three day seminars, presentations were made on various aspects of terrorism and transnational crime. These included the *London Bombings, Illegal Immigration and Identity Fraud, People Smuggling Operations, Terrorist Investigations, Regional Snapshot of Irregular Travelers - Successes and Challenges, and Chinese Organised Crime – Organisational Structures and Threats facing the Region.*

The Fiji Seminar was held at the PIFS Fale from 27 - 30 January. The seminar was open to participants from Fijian law enforcement agencies: the Fiji Police Force, Immigration Department, Fiji Customs, and the DPP's office.

When asked about his views and the benefits of the seminar, Tui Koroiveibau of Fiji Immigration said: “The current seminar series will only be beneficial if the Fiji

contingent do something about it, that Fiji has to take it from here by arranging a meeting between the law enforcement agencies and the responsible ministry on the issues raised where we can iden-

tify our strengths and weaknesses and prepare contingency plans for terrorist attacks and also plan for a migration policy to curb Asian and other transnational criminal activities. One thing that has come

out loud and clear during the seminar is that we cannot be complacent anymore and be confined to our own agencies and jurisdictions” – *John Tanti, Forum Secretariat; PIDC Secretariat*

## FAREWELL TO MR. PETER WATTERS



The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) and the PIDC paid farewell to Peter Watters who retired from immigration at the end of June. In a long and distinguished career spanning some 36 years, Peter served in a number posts around

Australia and around the world including: Ankara, Pretoria, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Manchester and London.

Peter's last position prior to retirement was in Brisbane where he had responsibility for visa and other related activities in the region covering the Pacific Islands. As the Regional Director for the Pacific, a major focus for Peter has been the growth and development of the PIDC. Peter noted that a highlight of his career in the immigration field was being a part of the PIDC as it grew to become an organisation that is the respected voice on immigration and border management matters amongst Pacific Island countries.

In the last 3 years the PIDC has experienced a major growth in recognition around the region and within the wider international community. Peter's strong support of the PIDC and his commitment to the development of the organisation has been a foundation for the recognition the organisation enjoys today both within the region and on the wider international stage.

On behalf of the PIDC and the staff at the Secretariat, we wish Peter the very best in his retirement and we would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Peter's replacement to the Pacific, Mr. David Stewart.

## DIMA INTELLIGENCE TRAINING



*First group of participants with DIMA trainers at the Fiji Immigration conference room*

In April this year, a number of Fiji Immigration officials from various divi-

sions went through two weeks of intensive training. The training covered various aspects of intelligence from information gathering through interviews, analysing and interpreting their findings, rating the levels of confidentiality when disseminating the material and also ensuring that all relevant authorities and law enforcement bodies are notified appropriately and timely.

The second phase of the training dealt with processing raw data or information to create intelligence reports, forming pictorial images such as graphs etc. This training was well appreciated by the officers who now have an increased understanding of how to make reporting more precise and factual, and above all easier to col-

late. DIMA instructors Mr. Ian Branston and Mr. Damien Pollard told the participants that they would be better equipped to tackle the uprising issues associated with Immigration and people movement - *Nunia Kamikamica*.



Mr. Ian Branston and Mr. Joe Ravatudei



Second group of participants with Ian Branston at the Fiji Immigration conference room

**A Regional Immigration Intelligence Training** was held in Suva, Fiji from 19 – 23 June 2006. This training was attended by 10 participants from five Pacific Island countries including Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga and the Fiji Police Force. The wide range of participants provided an excellent platform for relationship building and a fun time was had by all.

The main objectives of the training were to build capacity in intelligence writing, learning 'operational language', identifying the differences between intelligence and information, how to analyse and collect data for intelligence reports, understanding interviewing techniques and last but not the least, the importance of sharing information and who you share information with. This training covered a wide spectrum of immigration-related issues from terrorism, people smuggling/trafficking to entry refusals and fraudulent travel documents around the world by and large and how it is targeting the Pacific region. Intelligence however, plays a key role in immigration work by reducing uncertainty and thereby reducing risk. By doing so, we were taught how to take pieces of

information received from SANDA (*Sources and Agencies which can be tasked to get the information that we need; ie. Informants, open source, other agencies and government department*) and generate them into an intelligence piece of work through an Intelligence Cycle process, whereby information is directed, collected, collated/processed and disseminated. Another significant feature of the course is the usefulness of how this information is stored and recorded for future references. As this training is part of an ongoing immigration training programme

organised by PIDC, it was a great privilege to be part of this knowing that this is for the benefit of all Pacific Island nations in sharing information and for the safety of our borders. As the saying goes "Our border is your border, your border is our border".

This training would not have been possible without the help of instructors Ian Branston and Damien Pollard the two intelligence experts from Australia's Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs – *Meipo Rarotanga Fau, Samoa Immigration*.



Regional participants with Mr. Damien Pollard and Mr. Ian Branston

## IMMIGRATION NZ COMMITTED TO STRENGTHENING REGIONAL BORDER SECURITY

Immigration New Zealand  
TE RATONGA MANENE



Immigration New Zealand's review last year of its operations and connections with key 'stakeholders' in the Pacific identified opportunities for making a greater contribution to regional border security, as well as ways to improve the delivery of its visa services.

New regional border security initiatives being implemented as a result include the following:

Establishment of the new position of Regional Liaison Officer, Border Security Group, based in Immigration NZ's Branch in Apia. The role involves actively working with regional immigration counterparts, other local 'stakeholders', and regional forums such as PIDC. The position is also responsible for developing, through consultation, Pacific Security Fund immigration project proposals.

The role of the Branch Managers in Apia, Nuku'alofa and Suva expanded to include formal connection with regional immigration counterparts and the new Regional Liaison Officer; and active engagement with New Zealand visa offices located at the Rarotonga, Tarawa, Noumea, Niue, Honiara, and Port Vila overseas posts. These responsibilities are being supported through the establishment of a new position in each of the three Pacific branches of a New Zealand seconded, Second-in-Command (2.I.C) to handle the caseload and day-to-day Branch operations.

Establishment of the new position of Regional Integrity Advisor, Suva Branch. The role includes fraud and verification work on visa applications, document examination, providing training to NZ and other immigration staff in the region, liaison with airlines operating out of Fiji.

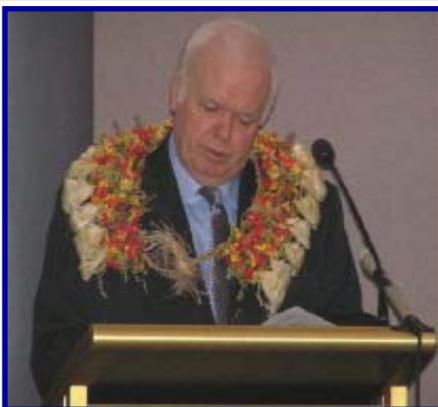
Contribute to: strengthening of the PIDC Secretariat; working with the Informal Working Group on Border Management Issues

(IWGBMI); and the development of the joint training in Border Management proposal.

Develop a strategy for delivering Border Security training to NZ and other immigration staff in the region.

These initiatives recognise that all Pacific region immigration agencies are facing the same challenges - the desire to attract more tourist revenue involves facilitating the entry of bona-fide visitors while at the same time managing an increasing risk of illegal migrants; ever improving quality of counterfeit travel documents and visa/permit labels; third country nationals involved in organised crime syndicates looking to set up business in this part of the world etc. The focus therefore is on putting in the people and resources to enhance the sharing of knowledge, information and skills to help strengthen border security, to mutual benefit - *Susan Egan, Immigration NZ*

## THE PACIFIC PLAN AND PIDC



Mr. Greg Urwin

The endorsement of the Pacific Plan by Forum Leaders in Papua New Guinea in October 2005 signalled a new era of regional cooperation and integration.

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Secretary General, Mr Greg Urwin, says significant progress has been made in the Plan's ongoing development and acceptance, and the implementation of its individual initiatives.

"The efforts of regional organisations and development partners have advanced many Pacific Plan priorities, underpinned by the policy oversight of members through the Pacific Plan Action Committee."

Mr Urwin says the establishment of national policies and mechanisms for regionalism is now ac-

knowledged as the most critical element in ensuring the best possible connections are made between national priorities and regional decisions and resource allocation.

"Partnerships with regional bodies such as the PIDC have been particularly important for the strengthening of regional security," says Mr Urwin. "Better harmonisation and information sharing among law enforcement providers and development partners is improving efforts to strengthen border security, bio-security, mentoring for national financial

intelligence units and combating trans-national crime.”

Mr Urwin says these efforts are supported by regional law enforcement training, coordination and attachments, the sustainability of which remains a critical challenge.

A Working Group on Border

Management Issues (WGBMI), comprised of PIDC, Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community’s Maritime Programme, and the Forum Secretariat, is identifying issues impeding the capacity of law and order agencies to work collaboratively and efficiently.

“WGBMI has identified fundamental strategies to improve border management legislation, communication, infrastructure, capacity development and governance.”

Says Mr Urwin: “So far, there have been achievements in many priority areas identified in the Plan, such as border security.” - *Pacific Plan Office, Forum Secretariat.*

## STATEMENT FROM PIDC CHAIR



*Dr. Lesi Korovavala, Chair of the PIDC*

In the last 18 months, the PIDC has grown enormously in recognition within the Pacific and is striving towards its place as the pre-eminent organisation on migration issues in the region. The new Strategic Plan endorsed in 2005 has set the platform for the further development and enhancement of the organisation. At the heart of the Strategy is the PIDC Vision that seeks to link,

strengthen and enhance the activities of members so that they can contribute to sustainable social and economic development in the Pacific.

In order to achieve these goals, we must all recognise the complex challenges before immigration agencies in the Pacific, particularly where internal and external elements are targeting Pacific Island countries in order to exploit perceived weaknesses. To combat the threats of transnational organised crime, fraud, corruption and terrorism, it is important that PIDC members develop trust in their neighbours by forging meaningful and collaborative relationships. In the end, the region is only as strong as its weakest link and it is the responsibility of each PIDC member country to protect not only their own sovereignty but also to protect the sover-

eignty of their Pacific Island neighbours.

While we recognise certain limitations within our own organisations, the PIDC approach will remain one of incremental steps where PIDC members will build from what they have. In the PIDC’s combined efforts, the movement forward of the members will be based on complementarity. In doing so, PIDC work will be action-based and driven by its members.

The PIDC Management Board has now met twice this year and its members are working hard on behalf of the PIDC to achieve the goals set by the membership. We are now well placed to make the Wellington PIDC a very successful and productive meeting in October.

## PIDC 2006

will be held in Wellington, New Zealand from

**17th to 19th October**