



16th June 2025

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PRESS RELEASE

The Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC) will be hosting its 27th Annual Conference in Tonga from 16 to 20 June 2025.

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 in Suva from 28 to 30 October 1996.

PIDC forum discuss issues of mutual interest and to foster multilateral co-operation and mutual assistance, aimed at strengthening member's territorial borders and the integrity of their entry systems. It can offer considerable benefit to the collective membership. It continues to promote cooperation and coordination between members of the PIDC to support and develop high quality immigration standards and services across the region, as well as adopting and implementing standards for collection, verification and for the timely exchange and reporting of immigration data as required from time to time through agreed initiatives.

PIDC also assist in establishing appropriate cooperative mechanisms including the effective exchange of information, to the extent permitted under Members' domestic legislation and administrative procedures, to contribute to the effective management of irregular migration and serious immigration related organised crime issues including people smuggling and human trafficking across the region to name a few.

The cooperation is not limited to immigration issues as PIDC works closely with a range of national and regional bodies which have complementary aims to our own. Agencies involved in policing, customs, bio-security such as the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP), Oceania Customs Organization (OCO), FFA, PIFS and the Pacific Fusion Centre. PIDC also works closely with international agencies such as IOM, UNHCR, UNODC, Bali Process and other agencies in order to assist PIDC members to be more effective in administering their responsibilities as immigration agencies.

The PIDC Annual Meeting brings together all the Directors and Heads of Immigration of up to twenty-one (21) PIDC member countries as well as invited observers.

PIDC theme for this year is **“Understanding the complexity of Migration Today: Protecting our Blue Pacific Continent and People”**.

The theme reflects the regions response to the evolving nature of mobility in the Pacific. It underscores the need to deepen our collective understanding of the diverse drivers and impacts of migration, while ensuring that migration governance promises the protection of pacific people, cultures and sovereignty. The theme reaffirms the regions commitment to safeguarding its shared oceanic identity and advancing the Pacific’s coordinated efforts that promote dignity, resilience and security across the pacific.

The meeting will commence with a PIDC Management Board Meeting on Monday 16th June; and then the Annual Conference from Tuesday 17th to Thursday 19th June 2025 and a director’s retreat on Friday 20th June.

Ends