12th Public Service Commissioners' Conference

Alofi, Niue

16th-17th September 2015

"Transforming the Public Service to Meet Modern Day Challenges"

COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The twelfth Pacific Public Service Commissioners' Conference was held in Alofi Niue and hosted by the Niue Public Service Commission from 16 to 17 September 2015. It was attended by Public Service Commissioners and Permanent Secretaries/Chief Executive Officers of the Public Service Commissions/Ministry of the Public Service of Australia, the Cook Islands, Fiji, the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, the Republic of Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, the Republic of Vanuatu, Pacific Island Centre for Public Administration, the University of the South Pacific, Victoria University of Wellington and Saluma Human Resources Ltd. The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat attended as an Observer. Apologies were extended from the Federated States of Micronesia for their inability to attend this conference.

2. The Commissioners expressed their deep gratitude to the Honorable PokotoaSipeli, Acting Premier and Acting Minister Responsible for the Niue Public Service Commission, staff of the Niue Public Service Commission and Government and people of Niue for the excellent arrangements made in hosting the 12th Pacific Public Service Commissioners' Conference and for the warm hospitality extended to them during their stay in Niue.

3. **Transforming the Public Service to Meet Modern Day Challenges**

   The Commissioners welcomed Niue's theme of Transforming the Public Service to Meet Modern Day Challenges. They recognized that despite the Pacific Region's relative isolation that global trends also impacted on the transformation on how public servants work and the expectation of citizens on the delivery of public services and their roles in policy making.

"Transforming the Public Service to Meet Modern Day Challenges"

The Commissioners welcomed the opportunity to discuss the challenges they are faced with in embracing technological innovations to deliver public services and with other constraints such as staff shortages and constrained budgets.

4. The Challenge of Innovation in Small Island States

The Commissioners acknowledged the necessity for public sector agencies and departments in Pacific Island Countries to focus on innovation that improve the delivery of fundamental public services, strengthen the integrity and efficiency of public institutions, embrace new communication technologies and contribute to strengthened regional cooperation.

5. Leadership and Transformational Changes

The Commissioners agreed that some of the principles of leadership discussed may be applied innovatively within the Pacific public sector to address issues such as gender equity and other pressing issues to meet modern day challenges and to achieve transformational changes.

6. Meeting Modern Demands through Evaluation

The Commissioners endorsed the recommendation for the establishment of a community of practice on policy evaluation and supported the efforts by the Pacific Islands Centre for Public Administration indeveloping the capacity of the regional public services in the robust evaluation of policy.

7. Managing Performance in the Public Sector to Meet Modern Day Challenges

The Commissioners agreed that performance management is a relevant tool in order for organisations to have long term survival.

8. Review of the Conference

The Commissioners agreed that the Conference was of significant value to them for networking and sharing of knowledge purposes and recommended that a review be conducted on the benefits of the conference and of the conference protocols and terms of reference, including the issue of funding.

9. Venue and Time of next Forum

The Commissioners welcomed the offer by the Government of The Republic of Palau to host the 2016 Pacific Public Service Commissioners' Conference on dates to be determined.

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17 September 2015