COMMUNIQUÉ

13TH PACIFIC PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE
AUGUST 2 – 4, 2016
KOROR, PALAU

1. The 13th Pacific Public Service Commissioners' Conference (PPSCC) was held in Koror, Palau from Tuesday August 2nd to Thursday August 4th, 2016. A total of 27 participants from 16 Pacific Nations attended: Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Also in attendance were representatives from Timor-Leste; Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Islands Centre for Public Administration (PICPA), Pacific Islands Training Initiatives (PITI), The University of the South Pacific and the World Bank. (The full proceedings of the Conference is attached at Appendix 2.)

2. The Conference was funded by the Government of Australia through the Pacific Islands Centre for Public Administration, and the Government of the Republic of Palau.

Resource Management and Sustainability
The Commissioners were inspired by the on-the ground best practices of the Government of the Republic of Palau regarding environmental conservation, while at the same time ensuring the people of Palau continued to benefit from economic development, modernization and globalization.

3. The theme for the Conference was "***Building a Smarter Public Service through Research, Innovation and Strategizing***".

4. The Commissioners expressed their deep gratitude to His Excellency Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, the Honorable Minister of Finance of Palau, Honorable Elbuchel Sadang, staff of the Palau Bureau of Public Service Systems, the Government and people of Palau for the excellent arrangements made in hosting the 13th Public Service Commissioners' Conference and for the warm hospitality extended to them during their stay in Palau and the memorable visits to Ngerulmud and the State of Peleliu.

AGREEMENT ON THE WAY FORWARD

CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

1. Review of the Pacific Public Service Commissioners' Conference

The Conference agreed that:

- Effective and efficient Public Administration is at the heart of the efforts of PICs to improve social economic livelihood of the people
- The Commissioners need a specialized forum such as PPSCC to continue to share and learn from each other's experiences and to bring areas of concern through appropriate forums in the existing regional structure for higher political resolution;

- The way forward for the Conference entails developing more formal governance and institutional structure, the broad framework of which is attached as Annex 1; and,
- A smaller working committee comprising of Papua New Guinea (Melanesia), Palau (Micronesia) and Samoa (Polynesia) and with technical support from the Australian Public Service Commissionand PICPA to meet within three months of the Conference to map out the finer details of the way forward.
- The Conference accepted the offer of PICPA to facilitate such a gathering with necessary financial support following its own due processes.

2. Research on Public Administration

The Conference agreed that the Pacific Islands Centre for Public Administration should consult with and seek approval from the countries that participated in the studies before sharingthe data and Research findings on the:

- Status of Implementation of Performance Management Systems in PICs,
- Status of Development of Socially Safe Workplace Policies*(research name change at the request of PPSCC*) in PICs,
- Use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to improve the Quality of Service Delivery in PICs

with all interested stakeholders through its website and that PICPA extend the subject of the researches to include other interested countries.

3. Gender Mainstreaming

The Conference acknowledged the importance and the necessity of Gender Mainstreaming and other cross-cutting issues in the Public Service. The conference noted the intervention from Solomon Islands highlighting their experience in Gender Mainstreaming. The Conference also welcomed the offer by the Pacific Community to run a Gender Mainstreaming workshop in 2017.

4. Pacific Islands Centre for Public Administration (PICPA)

The Conference noted the impending transition of PICPA from a fully Australian funded entity to an Institute within the University of the South Pacific from July 2017 at the conclusion of the current project cycle. The Commissioners from Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Marshall Islands pledged support for the work of PICPA and hope that a formal relationship between PICPA and the PPSCC would develop in the future.

5. Finding 'Bright Spots' in Resource Management and Sustainability

The Commissioners were inspired by the on ground best practices of the Government of the Republic of Palau regarding environmental conservation, while at the same time ensuring the people of Palau continued to benefit from modernization and globalization

6. Collaboration with Papua New Guinea Initiative

The Conference acknowledges Papua New Guinea's offer of its Pacific Leadership and Governance Precinct as a strategic partner to provide secretarial and other resource support and for this to be explored with PICPA as well.

7. Date and venue of the next conference

The conference accepted with appreciation the offer by Papua New Guinea to host the next conference at a date and venue to be decided.

APPENDIX 1 - PPSCs Way Forward (Draft)

Strategizing for Public Service Excellence

Overarching concept

- Commissioners and other delegates expressed strong support for continuing the PPSCC.
- A 'new brand' for the PPSCC, especially needed in the context of the rationalisation of regional meetings
- Tangible outcomes critical such that Governments'/Ministers see the value in the PPSCC.

Vision	• Public Service Excellence for the people of all PICs (PICTs)
Purpose	• Provide regional strategic direction for Pacific Public (Civil) Services and galvanise, share and advise on good practices in public service delivery.
Focus	• Regional cooperation • Identify partnerships to deliver on priority areas • Adoption of tools/practices that are best for own countries • Targeted priority areas for maximum impact
Enabling environment	• Clear Terms of Reference and governance structure • Effective collective coordinator and advocate • Business case/Policy proposal • Marketing pitch
Principles and Branding	• Add Public Value • Enabling platform • Equity • Access • Strategic foresight • Good governance • Efficient and effective regional public services
Outcomes	• Country performance that exceeds regional public service delivery standards • Increased utilisation of tools to add public value • Tangible outcomes that are evidence based • Repository for public service standards, policies, best practices, innovation and 'bright spots'
Strategies	• Knowledge sharing and Capacity development o HR systems and processes o Policies and regulations o Leadership development o Governance o Monitoring and evaluation o Research and development o Tools • Networking on specific topics • Strategic partnerships • Institutional partnerships • Stakeholder partnerships
Resources	• Donor partners/sponsors • Country Support and contributions • Secretariat to be institutionalized (permanent)
Logistics	• Management board meetings twice per annum • PPSCC held annually (initially) • Advisory and Management Board • Commissioners' commitment to take the case to the Minister