



15th Annual PITAA Heads Meeting

COMMUNIQUE

11th – 13th September 2018

**Tanoa International Hotel
Nadi, FIJI**

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1. The Fiji Revenue & Customs Service hosted the 15th Annual PITAA Heads Meeting at the Tanoa International Hotel in Nadi, Fiji from the 11th – 13th September 2018.
 2. The Meeting was attended by delegates from twelve of the sixteen PITAA member countries. The members present were Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Apologies were received from Tokelau, Federated States of Micronesia, Niue and Timor-Leste.
 3. Also in attendance were observers from local, regional and international organizations. These were Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Center (PFTAC), Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade- Suva, Data Torque, Delegation of the European Union in the Pacific, INSPUR Group, Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations (CIAT), International Monetary Fund (IMF), New Zealand Inland Revenue (NZIR), New Zealand Customs Service (NZCS), Oceania Customs Organization (OCO), Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) Revenue Statistics and Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes (Global Forum).
 4. The Meeting was officially opened by the Chief Guest, Mr. Visvanath Das- Chief Executive Officer- Fiji Revenue & Customs Services (FRCS), and in his opening address urged the Heads of Administrations to rethink and re-evaluate how to do business and look at the horizon in terms of trends, best practices, risks and pragmatic solutions which fit in the respective administration's context. He further elaborated on the utilizing the PITAA Secretariat as the machine to push forward the regions agenda and exchange information.

5. This year's meeting allowed an opportunity for the PITAA Heads only to discuss PITAA Secretariat operational matters resulting in key endorsement on:
 - a. The PITAA Strategic Plan;
 - b. PITAA Work Plan with the inclusion of in-country visit of the Head of Secretariat;
 - c. 2019 PITAA Secretariat budget;
 - d. Finance & Human Resource Policy- Version 1; and
 - e. Signing of the Network of Tax Administration Memorandum of Understanding

6. PITAA Heads urged the PITAA Secretariat to:
 - a. explore the mechanism of having a regional exchange of information framework;
 - b. explore the possibility of increasing members annual subscription- this held to the formation of a Working Group consisting of Papua New Guinea (TIER 1 representative), Tonga (TIER 2 representative) and Cook Islands (TIER 3 representative);
 - c. explore the opportunity of having an e-learning platform for the region; and
 - d. re-evaluate the remuneration framework in line with regional recruitment packages and develop a Performance Management System for annual assessment purposes.

7. The Meeting noted presentations from stakeholders present. Specifically, the PITAA Heads were encouraged to continuously engage, collaborate and exchange information. Presentations were from:
 - a. Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Center (*Lessons and Priorities for Revenue Mobilization in Small States and Revenue Administration Reforms in PICs – an overview of 2017-2018 Achievements*);
 - b. Canada Revenue Agency Knowledge Sharing Platform (*Compliance and Capacity Development- KSP online platform for members registration*);
 - c. Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit (*Tax Strategies and Tax Administration Partnership*);
 - d. Fiji Revenue & Customs Service (*Tax Strategies and Taxing of High wealth individuals*);
 - e. Global Forum (*Work in the Region*);
 - f. Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations (*Tax Revenue Mobilization- Global trends and lessons from Americas*);
 - g. International Monetary Fund (*Introducing VAT- Critical Steps and Milestones and Improved Data for Efficient & Effective Tax System Management*);
 - h. New Zealand Inland Revenue Department (*Compliance /Data Analytics / Data Mining/ Risk Assessments and VAT Strategies: NZIRD Context*);
 - i. Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (*Revenue Statistics Publication – Asia Pacific and BEPS Minimum Requirement and Inclusive Framework*); and
 - j. Pacific Managers Development Programme Update.

8. The Meeting allowed opportunities for bilateral discussions between PITAA Members and stakeholders.
9. The PITAA Heads were sincerely appreciative to the Observers presence, support and stressed the importance of partnership for the continuous improvement and modernization of the tax administrations in the Pacific region.
10. The Heads confirmed that the 16th PITAA Annual Heads Meeting in Republic of the Marshall Islands in 2019. Noted the intentions of Vanuatu hosting in 2020 and the Kingdom of Tonga in 2021.



Mr. Visvanath Das

Chair- 2018 PITAA Annual Heads Meeting

13th September 2018
