



Pacific Islands Tax Administrators Association

16th Annual PITAA Heads Meeting

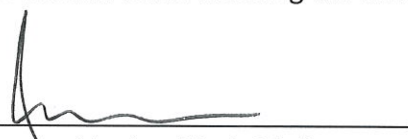
MEETING COMMUNIQUE

16th – 18th September 2019

**International Convention Center
Majuro, REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**

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1. The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Division of Customs, Revenue & Taxation hosted the 16th Annual PITAA Heads Meeting at the International Convention Center in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands from the 16th – 18th September 2019.
 2. The Meeting was attended by delegates from fourteen of the sixteen PITAA member countries. The members present were Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Apologies were received from Niue and Tokelau.
 3. Also in attendance were observers from regional and international organizations. These were Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Center (PFTAC), Autonomous Region of Bougainville, BearingPoint, DataTorque, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank Group (WBG), New Zealand Inland Revenue (NZIR), Oceania Customs Organization (OCO), Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) Revenue Statistics, the Delegation of the European Union in the Pacific (EU), the United Kingdom HM Revenue & Customs and Sapere Research Group.
 4. The Meeting was officially opened by the Chief Guest, Honorable Brenson S. Wase-Minister for Finance, and in his opening address acknowledged the meeting as an excellent opportunity for delegates from various countries in the Pacific regions to come together, network and share ideas to improve the administration of limited domestic tax bases in ways that will enable the private sector to lead the development of economies. He further acknowledged development partners who provide technical assistance to ensure compliance with international standards and the PITAA Secretariat for its continued collaboration and support.

5. The meeting endorsed the appointment of Republic of the Marshall Islands as Chair for the 2019 PITAA Annual Heads Meeting. As Chair of the Heads Meeting, RMI is also the PITAA Executive Committee Chair for 2019 till the handover in 2020 Annual Heads Meeting.
6. PITAA members acknowledged the launch of the “*Revenue Statistics in Asia and the Pacific 2019 publication*” and encouraged more participation from members.
7. At the PITAA Members Closed Session, members:
 - a. approved the 2020 PITAA Secretariat budget;
 - b. approved the 2019-2020 work plan;
 - c. noted Samoa’s interest to host the 2020 Pacific Managers Development Program;
 - d. approved the new compilation of the TIER membership in accordance respective country GDP which will be reviewed every three years effective from 2021;
 - e. approved the increase in PITAA Secretariat remuneration effective from October 2019 as per the Working Group recommendation and noting the engagement of an external consultant to assess and recommend the market value of the Secretariat positions;
 - f. approved the re-appointment of the Head of Secretariat- PITAA, Ms. Koni Ravono, for the next three years- 2019 – 2022.
 - g. approved the new PITAA Executive Committee TIER representatives as follows:
 - TIER 1 – PNG
 - TIER 2; Tonga and
 - TIER 3- Cook Islands
 - h. approved the formal nomination mechanism for hosting PITAA annual Heads meeting as Option 3 by Expression of Interest effective from 2022.
8. The meeting acknowledged presentations from Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Center, BearingPoint, DataTorque, Data Tech International (DTI), International Monetary Fund (IMF), New Zealand Inland Revenue Department (NZIRD), Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) Revenue Statistics, VAT Global Forum, Tax Inspectors Without Borders and the United Kingdom HM Revenue & Customs, World Bank Group (WBG) and Sapere Research Group.
9. The 2020 and 2021 PITAA Annual Heads Meeting will be held at Vanuatu and the Kingdom of Tonga respectively.


Ms. Ann Marie Muller
Chair- 2019 PITAA Annual Heads Meeting
18th September 2019