



Pacific Islands Tax Administrators Association

19th Annual PITAA Heads Meeting

MEETING COMMUNIQUE

Monday 22nd – 23rd August 2022

9.00am – 5.00pm

Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi, FIJI

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1. The 19th PITAA Annual Heads Meeting was conducted in a hybrid mode with physical and virtual attendance from Monday 22nd August to Tuesday 23rd August, 2022.
 2. The Meeting was attended by delegates from ten (10) of the sixteen (16) PITAA member countries. The members present were (1) Cook Islands, (2) Federated States of Micronesia, (3) Fiji, (4) Kiribati, (5) Nauru, (6) Niue, (7) Palau, (8) Papua New Guinea, (9) Solomon Islands, and (10) Vanuatu. Samoa, Timor-Leste, Tonga and Tuvalu joined the meeting virtually. Apologies were received from the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Tokelau.
 3. Regional and international partners in physical attendance were: Asian Development Bank (ADB), Bearing Point Caribbean, Data Torque, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC). In virtual attendance were representative(s) from Asia/ Pacific Group of Money Laundering (APGML), Australian High Commission in Fiji, Australian Taxation Office (ATO), Data Tech International (DTI), Network of Tax Organizations (NTO), and Organization of Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD).
 4. The keynote address was delivered by the Fijian Ministry of Economy representative, Ms. Momina Beg, Head of Taxation – Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (FRCS). In her opening remarks, Ms. Beg highlighted the benefits of FRCS' technological investments. The meeting also had opening remarks from International Monetary Fund Senior Economist, Mr. Vincent de Paul Koukpaizan and the proxy to chair of PITAA, Mr. George Mow from Fiji Revenue and Customs Service.

5. Fiji was endorsed to Chair the 2022 PITAA Annual Heads Meeting and the PITAA Executive Committee of 2022-2023. Vanuatu was endorsed as Vice-Chair.
6. The PITAA Secretariat presented its reports for the year. Members:
 - a. noted the PITAA Executive Committee update.
 - b. noted the PITAA Secretariat Administration update.
 - c. noted the PITAA Secretariat Capacity Building update
 - d. acknowledged Papua New Guinea's advice of resuming payment for the PITAA Training fund in 2023.
 - e. endorsed the PwC recruitment report and the appointment of Mr. George Mow as the new Head of Secretariat from 3rd October 2022 to 2nd October 2025 and that the remuneration of the HoS will be based on the recommendations of the PITAA Head of Secretariat Recruitment Report. Members emphasized the need for specific Key Performance Indicators for the new Head of Secretariat when he assumes office in October 2022.
 - f. acknowledged and endorsed Papua New Guinea's interest to host the 2023 PITAA Annual Heads Meeting and Vanuatu's interest to host in 2024.
 - g. approved the 2023 PITAA Secretariat budget.
 - h. endorsed the creation of the Working group to assess PITAA's future sustainability. The Working Group members are:
 - Papua New Guinea
 - Fiji
 - Cook Islands
 - i. endorsed the renewal of term deposit with ANZ bank for 12 months.
7. The meeting included a panel discussion featuring the Heads of Tax Administrations from Cook Islands, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Niue, and Solomon Islands.
8. There were presentations relating to the theme from representatives of Inter-Americans Center of Tax Administrations, African Tax Administration Forum, Revenue Statistics Division of the Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development, Tax Inspectors Without Borders, Australian Taxation Office, International Monetary Fund, Asia Pacific Group for Money Laundering and the Asian Development Bank.

9. Members noted the impacts of COVID-19 on tax administrations, in particular the need for digitalisation and increased regional collaboration and partnerships with development partners, to address the emerging tax challenges in the region.



Mr. George Mow

Chair - 2022 PITAA Annual Heads Meeting

Fiji Representative

23rd August 2022