

PPSCC Working Group Meets in PNG

The successful completion of the 13th Pacific Public Service Commissioners Conference (PPSCC) in Palau led to a decision by the Commissioners and Heads of Public Service for a small working group to meet later this year to decide on a way forward for the Conference. The Pacific Public Service Commissioners Conference has been held each year for the last 13 years with different themes all aimed at improving the performance of Public Service Commissions and public servants. This year all 14 participating countries - Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu—with the inclusion of Timor-Leste, Australia and New Zealand were in attendance. After 13 years, the commissioners and heads of Public Service believed that the conference needed to evolve to meet the modern needs and demands of each PICs. The Conference body decided that the small working group would consist of three (3) member states, one from Micronesia (Republic of Palau), Polynesia (Samoa), and Melanesia (Papua New Guinea). The Director of the Bureau of Public Service System represented Palau in the Small Working Group.

The Small Working Group met in Papua New Guinea from November 26 – November 28, 2016. The three day meeting was very successful and led to a detailed framework that included a renaming the conference to “Pacific Public Services [Leaders] Governance Enhancement Forum.” In addition a Governance Structure, Vision, Mission and Outcomes and Outputs of the Conference were also drafted. The framework includes a possible working relationship with the Pacific Leadership and Governance Precinct, a comprehensive education and leadership training institution (supported by Australia) to build the capacity of PNGs Public and Private sector leaders. The PPSCC Framework also designed the 2017 Conference to be hosted by Papua New Guinea with a theme “Ethical and Values-based Leadership and Governance in the Pacific.”

The Small Working Group is now finalizing the framework and will be discussing it with the Conference members.