

High Commission of India

Suva

India-Kiribati Bilateral Relations

India's relations with Kiribati are cordial and cooperative. Some Indian experts have served in Kiribati under international agencies and earned goodwill for India. The concurrent accreditation of Kiribati was transferred to High Commission of India, Suva in October 2011. Prior to that High Commission in Wellington was concurrently accredited to Kiribati from September 1992.

The two countries are bound together by similar colonial experience and membership of the Commonwealth. A few Kiribati nationals have been trained in India under the ITEC programme. India has donated prosthetic and orthotic components and materials to Tungaru Central Hospital Rehabilitation Centre, amounting to Australian \$ 15982.39 in March 2006. In February 2008, India provided grant-in-aid of AUS\$ 136,207.18 for the up-gradation of Government Printing Press. In June, 2009 India provided grant-in-aid of AUS\$ 315,546 to the Government of Kiribati to fund the purchase of a 500 KW generator and overhead cables to replace old generators in the Kiribati Island. In December 2012, India provided grant-in-aid of US\$ 25,135/- for purchase of Cherry Picker Truck and US\$ 134,502/- for renovation of 3 clinics under the annual grant.

Five slots were utilised by Kiribati for training courses under the ITEC programme in 2011-12 and four in 2012-13. Six slots were offered to Kiribati for 2014-15. Out of ten slots offered to Kiribati for 2015-16, four were utilised. 8 out of 10 training slots were utilized in 2016-17. For the year 2017-18, 20 slots have been offered to Kiribati under ITEC.

Two diplomats from Kiribati attended the training for diplomats of Pacific Island countries organised by the Foreign Service Institute in Nadi, Fiji in May 2015. Mrs Kae Itaka Mackenzie Assistant Protocol Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended 63rd Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) held at Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi from 29 March 2017 to 28 April 2017.

Hon'ble Natan Teewe, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Government of Kiribati accompanied by Mr. Terieata Mwemwenikeaki, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration attended the Ministerial Meeting on "Harnessing the positive contribution of South-South Cooperation for Development of Least Developed Countries" in New Delhi in February 2011.

President of Kiribati, Hon. Anote Tong visited New Delhi on 1-3 February 2012 to attend the 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit organised by TERI. President Hon. Anote Tong again visited New Delhi on 31 January-2 February 2013 to attend TERI's Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS).

A Kiribati delegation led by Hon. Teima Onorio, Vice President visited India in connection with the Second High Level Meeting (HLM) on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in Asia and the Pacific, held in New Delhi on 23-25 October 2013.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi hosted the First Summit Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIIC-I) in Suva (Fiji) during the visit on 19 November 2014 with the participation of 14 Pacific countries. Kiribati delegation was led by President Hon. Anote Tong, attended the Summit. The announcements made by Hon'ble PM on 19 November 2014 with respect to Pacific countries (including Kiribati) were the following: (i) Setting up of a Special Adaptation Fund of US\$ 1 million, (ii) Development of Pan-Pacific Islands Project for telemedicine and tele-education, (iii) Indian Visa on arrival for Pacific Island Countries – “Cook Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, Republic of Nauru, Republic of Kiribati, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Niue, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Fiji and Papua New Guinea”, (iv) Increase in Grant-in-Aid to Pacific Island Countries to US\$ 200,000 annually to be rolled over to provide for a wider scope for our development cooperation, (v) Establishment of Trade Office for Pacific Island Forum countries in India, (vi) Providing complimentary space to Pacific Island Forum countries during exhibitions, organized by ITPO, (vii) Deputation of ITEC experts to Pacific Island countries, including in the areas of agriculture, healthcare and IT, (viii) Organizing Training to Diplomats from Pacific Island Countries, (ix) Starting a Distinguished Visitors Programme for Pacific Island Countries, (x) Holding of the next Summit Meeting of India and Pacific Island Leaders in India in 2015, (xi) Cooperation in the use of Space technology applications for improving the quality of life of people and communications, (xii) Explore possibilities of sharing data for monitoring climate change, disaster risk reduction and management and resource management, and (xiii) Undertake joint research in traditional medicine; developing healthcare facilities for the benefit of people in the region.

While hosting second Summit of Forum for India Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIIC-II) at Jaipur, India, Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the following: (i) the establishment of an Institute for Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Research; and a Network of Marine Biology Research Stations in various Islands. (ii) holding an International Conference on “Ocean Economy and Pacific Island Countries” in New Delhi in 2016. (iii) Goodwill visits by Indian Navy to Pacific Islands will be held and extend support in areas of Healthcare through medical camps on the islands, (iv) the establishment of a Space Technology Applications Centre in any one of the Pacific Islands for the entire region and provide training in space applications. (v) Under ITEC cooperation, Fiji will receive 110 slots while the other 13 countries will double their slots from 119 to 238. In addition, two Scholarships for College Education in India to each of the 13 countries that do not receive them yet, whilst Fiji will continue to receive its existing 33 scholarships. India will also expand its Training Courses for Pacific Island diplomats and offer a two-week Business Management Course at the globally renowned Indian Institute of Management in Bengaluru. (vi) India would train 70 women solar engineers from the islands and provide solar electrification to 2,800 houses – 200 houses in each Pacific Island Country; (vii) the establishment of at least one Information Technology Laboratory in each Pacific Island Country which will not only improve local IT infrastructure but also enable the countries to fulfill India's commitment to provide tele-medicine and tele-education to the Pacific. (viii) The

FIPIC Trade Office in New Delhi will support the development of micro, small and medium enterprises and will extend support for purchase of machinery for coconut processing and enhancing rice and sugarcane yields. The Office will assist in improving Market Access for Pacific Islands.

A Kiribati delegation led by Mr. Teekoa Iuta, Advisor on Asia, visited India to attend 2nd Summit of Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) held at Jaipur on 21 August 2015.

A Kiribati delegation led by Hon. Kobebe Taitai, Minister of Health and medical Services, accompanied by Dr Teatao Tira, Secretary, Ms Ioana Taakau, Chief Pharmacist and Ms Lina Nikuata, Senior Accountant visited India from 25th October to 2nd November 2016 to see medical facilities.

Mr. Banuera Berina, Special Envoy to President attended the First Asian Ministerial Disaster Risk Reduction Conference, in New Delhi from 2 to 5 November 2016.

Mrs Matereta Birita Raiman Auditor General and Mrs Ruti Berenato Executive Assistant from Kiribati National Audit Office attended 23rd Commonwealth Auditor General's Conference, held in New Delhi from 21-23 March 2017.

India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference (IPISDC): Government of India organized the India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference (IPISDC) at Suva, Fiji on 25-26 May 2017. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V.K.Singh (Retd.) hosted the event, in which Mr. Tekena Tiroa, Member of Parliament, Kiribati led the delegation.

India and Kiribati share excellent cooperation on the multilateral forums. Kiribati supported our candidature of Dr Neeru Chadha to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in June 2017.

Third International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Kiribati on 21 June 2017. Kiribati President along with First Lady participated in it.

Useful Resources:

High Commission of India, Suva website: <http://www.indianhighcommissionfiji.org>

High Commission of India, Suva Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/IndianFiji>

Indian Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Suva Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ICCHighcomindSuva>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/HCI_Suva;

YouTube Channel: India in Fiji

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJYT5H3NwEB10MdiXizST2g>

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