

## **PIF Bulletin #1**

1) Brief background on PIF membership: Pacific Islands Forum is an Association of Heads of State and Governments of the following Pacific Island Countries: Republic of Fiji, Kingdom of Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Tuvalu, Republic of Nauru, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, Australia, New Zealand, Republic of Kiribati and the Federated States of Micronesia. The Forum meets every year and its main office of the Secretariat is in Fiji. Each year, the forum meeting is rotated among its member countries.

2) PIF is an annual high-level meeting that allows heads of governments and leaders from different countries to address regional needs and interests of critical importance.

3) This year's forum is hosted by the FSM National Government. HE President Peter M. Christian is the Chair of the Forum. FSM has a Preparatory Committee established by a Presidential Order which has been coordinating with the Pohnpei State Government, the College of Micronesia-FSM and the private sector on the various logistical needs and venues for the Forum Plenary meeting and all other related meetings.

4) Member delegations of the PIF will be represented by the respective Leaders or the Heads of States (Presidents) or Heads of Governments (Prime Ministers). Some delegations will be headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ambassadors of their respective countries.

5) Expected to attract a large number of delegates, the number of delegates including the Leaders will be around 250 to 300 and they will be arriving Pohnpei before the meetings begin on September 7, 2016. The Forum and related meetings will end on September 11.

6) The Opening Ceremonies for the Forum will be held on September 8, at 4 pm at the PICS Track and Field. The public is invited to witness the opening of this important meeting. All other meetings are closed to the public.

7) As host of these important meetings, FSM National Government regrets the inconveniences that will be caused by the transporting of the Leaders to and from the meeting venues. FSM's success in hosting these important meetings depends greatly on the cooperation by all residents of Pohnpei State.

8) For more detailed information regarding this PIF meeting, please contact the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs at 320-2641.

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