

India-Nauru Relations

Bilateral relations with Nauru have been cordial and friendly. The Indian High Commissioner to Fiji is concurrently accredited to Nauru since 2011, earlier covered by High Commission of India, Wellington. Nauru has an Honorary Consul General in New Delhi.

Nauru was earlier a major supplier of phosphate to India. Nauru had invested in Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (incorporated in 1981) a joint venture between Governments of India and Nauru. GOI has since bought back their shares at the original value.

Former President Kinza Clodumar visited India during April, 1998 to attend the First Assembly Meeting of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The visit was utilized for bilateral exchange of views.

Directly recruited Indian expatriates have held positions in Nauru and their services have been appreciated by Government of Nauru. Shri Sasi Kumar is presently working with the Chief Secretary of the Nauru Government as Director (Administration).

In August 2003, President Rene Harris wrote to our Prime Minister seeking India's help in power plant, water desalination plant, computer system and loan of Australian \$ 10 million. In November 2003, Government of Nauru again requested for deputation of a team of experts in the field of computer, mining of phosphate, power generation and desalination plant. In June 2004, Government deputed a computer expert for a period of 10 days to make on the spot assessment of their requirements and provide suitable guidance to Nauru for necessary repairs, re-operationalisation and replacements etc of its computer system.

India has supplied one 16 seater Mini Van for the use of Nauru Members of Parliament, one 8 seater for the use of the Speaker of the Nauru Parliament and two 30 seater buses for the use of the school children in 2007. Grant-in-aid of US \$ 100,000 was released by our Mission in Suva in 2008 to the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Secretariat for recruitment of teachers for Nauru. Subsequently the PIF Secretariat transferred the amount to Government of Nauru. Under GOI's annual grant of US\$ 100,000 since 2006 and US\$ 125,000 since 2009 projects in Nauru have included construction of Government Expatriate Employees Apartment project out of the grant in aid for the years 2007 and 2008. In December 2012, GOI provided an assistance of US \$ 231533 under GOI's Grant-in-Aid for conversion of seven rooms in Menen Hotel to self-contained units for expatriates. In October 2014, GOI has also approved funds for Conversion of remaining Menen Hotel Rooms to 7 self-contained units for expatriates.

Shri BR Mondal, an audit officer from India worked as Director of Audit, Government of Nauru under ITEC programme from 2008-11. HE the Hon. President Marcus Stephen and the Nauru Parliament acknowledged Indian contribution to their audit.

President Marcus Stephen visited India in October 2010 for the New Delhi Commonwealth Games. Nauru won a gold and a silver medal in weightlifting at the Games. (Nauru has won medals in every Commonwealth Game since it started participating in 1990, including 15 medals (10 by women lifters) in weightlifting at the

2002 Manchester Games. Former President Marcus Stephen has won 7 gold and 3 silver medals in weightlifting at the Commonwealth Games.)

A total of 4 slots were utilised by Nauru for training courses under the ITEC programme in 2012-13. A total of 5 slots have also been offered for 2014-15.

A Nauru delegation led by David Adeang, Minister for Justice, Border and Control, 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. David Adeang, Vice-President, leading a 3-member delegation, visited India on 29 June-2 July 2014 in connection with cooperation in IT and Tourism sectors. During the visit, he paid courtesy call on the Chief Minister and the Minister of Tourism of Kerala.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi hosted the India-Pacific Island Countries Forum Summit in Suva (Fiji) during the visit on 19 November 2014 with the participation of 14 Pacific countries. Nauru delegation was led by the President Hon. Baron Waqa, attended the Summit. The announcements made by Hon'ble PM on 19 November 2014 with respect to Pacific countries (including Nauru) were the following: (i) Setting up of a Special Adaptation Fund of \$ 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 \$ 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.

Useful Resources:

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

High Commission of India, Suva Facebook page:

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

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

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

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