

India - Republic of Palau Relations

The Mission in Manila is concurrently accredited to two island countries in the Pacific region: Republic of Palau and Federated States of Micronesia. India also conducts a regular dialogue with the Pacific Islands Forum, of which these two countries are members.

The relations between India and the two countries have developed in the spirit of South–South Cooperation and also through the SIDS forum of the UN. India continues to assist these countries in capacity building and human resource development through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), offering 3 slots for Micronesia and 2 for Palau annually. India gives annual grants of US \$ 200,000 to each of the countries, same as it does to all FIPIC countries.

Republic of Palau



The geographical area of Palau is 458 sq. kms with a population of 20,796 (2009 figures).

India established diplomatic relations with Palau in April 1995. Since then, there have been regular consultations with the political leadership and administrative representatives of the Government of the Republic of Palau. This has seen significant intensification since the initiation of the Forum of India-Pacific Islands Cooperation. President of Palau visited India in August 2015 for the second FIPIC held in Jaipur.

Recent development assistance from India has included a grant of US \$ 167,610, in June 2014, to assist Palau in organizing the 45th Pacific Island Forum and related meetings; and an assistance of USD 50,000 for disaster relief in the wake of Super-Typhoon Haiyan

Palau has been supportive of issues of importance to India, particularly Indian candidature to international organizations. They supported India's candidature for the non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council for 2011-12.

At present the trade between Palau and India is minimal due to Palau's limited market (population of 20,000) and inadequate air-links to major trade transit points (Palau is linked by air to Manila and Guam only). India exported goods, mainly pharmaceuticals, worth US \$ 0.07 Million in 2014-15 (as against US \$ 0.03 Million in 2013-14). Presently, there are about 20 Indian nationals and one Indian restaurant in Palau.

January 2016