

## India-Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and Marshal Islands Relations

The Mission in Manila is concurrently accredited to three island countries in the Pacific region namely, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of the Marshall Islands. India also conducts a regular dialogue with the Pacific Islands Forum, of which these three countries are members. During PIF 2012 that was held in the Cooks Islands, the Indian delegation was led by the Minister of State of External Affairs, the Hon'ble E. Ahmad. Indian ambassadors accredited to the Island states also participate in the Forum, along with high level representatives from the Ministry of External Affairs.

The relations between India and the three countries have developed in the spirit of South-South Cooperation. India enjoys excellent relations with each of the three island states. As per DGFT figures, the total exports of India to the three countries in 2009-10 were US \$ 250,000 and the imports in 2009-10 were US \$ 20,000. Discussions are underway to increase the two-way trade. While such increase is likely to occur, particularly with regard to the importation of Indian drugs and pharmaceutical products, it is not expected to be substantial in view of the small population size.

While scholarships under ITEC will continue to be offered [five for Marshall Islands, 3 for Micronesia and 2 for Palau], trainers from India are also going to be sent to organize special training capsules for the three island states, so as to increase the footprint of the number of persons to whom training is imparted on certain specialized subject areas to be decided in consultation with the governments of the three island countries. Such training capsules are likely to commence from 2013.

The three island countries send high level and ministerial representatives to various international and other meetings/conferences organized in India.

### 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 on matters of mutual interest.

Development assistance from India has included a grant of US \$ 149,841 for purchase of kitchen equipment for Palau National Hospital, US \$ 100,000 in 2008 for purchase of a boat and two pick-up trucks, US\$ 100,000 in June 2010 for purchase of computers and grant of 2 ITEC scholarships. An amount of US\$ 100,000 has been given as grant-in-aid in August 2011 for IT and computer upgradation in their offices and diplomatic missions.

Special focus in training programmes is likely to include the legal sector.

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 the 2011-12 term. Presently, there are about 15 Indian nationals in Palau.

## Federated States of Micronesia



The geographical area of Micronesia is 702 sq. kms with a population of 107,434 (2009 figures).

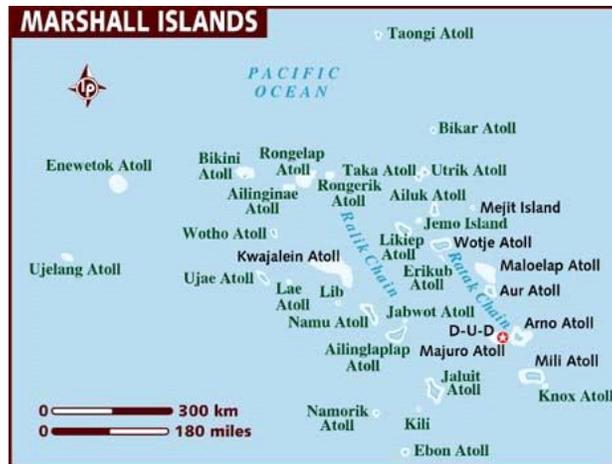
India established diplomatic relations with the Federated States of Micronesia in 1996 and since then there has been regular interaction with the government and diplomatic officials on matters of mutual interest.

Development assistance from India has included a grant of US \$ 73,145 in 2009 for purchase of machinery for the coconut industry and grant of 3 ITEC

scholarships. Grant-in-aid of US\$ 100,000 has been given for a project on upgrading and increasing production of coconut crude oil.

Micronesia has been supportive of issues of importance to India, particularly Indian candidatures to international organizations and supported India's candidature for the UNSC non-permanent seat in 2011-12. As per information available, there is one Indian family in Micronesia.

## Republic of the Marshall Islands



The geographical area of the Marshall Islands is 181 sq. kms with a population of 64,522 (2009 figures).

India established diplomatic relations with Republic of the Marshall Islands in April 1995. Regular interaction takes place with the political leadership and with officers of the Foreign and other ministries on matters of mutual interest, particularly on developmental issues.

Development assistance from India has included a grant of US \$ 100,000 in June 2008 for a solar street lighting project in the capital city of Majuro and grant of 5 ITEC scholarships. Following the declaration of a state of emergency and drought by the President of the Marshall Islands, India provided disaster relief assistance of \$100,000 in 2013.

In September 2013, Marshall Islands would be hosting the Pacific Island Forum in Majuro. On a request from the Government for assistance, India has provided assistance to the tune of US\$ 162,833.10 for the purchase of mini vans, computer and communication equipment.

A set of books on contemporary Indian literature was donated, through the Public Diplomacy division of the Ministry of External Affairs, to the College of the Marshall Islands library. This was the first set of books the College had on India. Since the library of the College will become a 'public library' shortly, the books

are likely to assist in a broader understanding of Indian culture and thought. A set of books on the functioning of the Indian parliament and the Indian constitution would be gifted to the Marshall Islands parliament during the Pacific Island Forum in September 2013.

Marshall Islands 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 the 2011-12 term. Presently, there are about 15 Indian nationals in the Marshall Islands.

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