



**MSG Secretariat**  
Melanesian Spearhead Group



**MSG Skills Movement Scheme (SMS) Implementation Round Table Meeting**

The MSG Secretariat hosted a Roundtable Meeting on the Skills Movement Scheme (SMS) at the Secretariat Conference Room in Port Vila, Vanuatu on 24 March 2014. The Workshop was co-funded under the MSG-Pacific Integration Technical Assistance Project (PITAP) funding arrangement with the EU and jointly administered by the Pacific Islands Secretariat (PIFS) and MSG Secretariat.

Mr. Peter Forau, Director General of the MSG Secretariat welcomed and expressed the Secretariat's gratitude to the official delegates and representatives of the Front de Liberation Nationale Kanak Socialiste (FLNKS), Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu as well as the representative of the Secretariat of the Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA) for attending the meeting.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Forau stated the objective of the meeting was to socialize the SMS Scheme to employers and recruitment agencies for them to utilize for their benefit as well as to effectively implement it. He also encouraged participants to articulate their views on the best way forward for collaborations and identifying areas of improvement towards realizing the Leaders vision of having an integrated framework to facilitate movements of skilled professionals within the MSG region in view of enhancing improved livelihoods of the people through new employment opportunities and sharing of skills in key demanding areas that contribute to socio-economic development. Mr Forau urged participants to constructively discuss practical issues and way forward on advancing the SMS Scheme. He further pointed out the importance of the Outcomes of the meeting which would assist the Secretariat and the members in the implementation of the scheme.

Key topics presented and discussed during the meeting include: Overview of MSG Skills Movement Scheme by MSG Secretariat; Pacific Qualifications Framework (PQR) and Pacific Register of Qualifications and Standards (PRQS) by the South Pacific Board of Educational Assessment (SPBEA); Employer Perspectives on Labour Migration and Development by employers from each of the MSG Countries; Recruitment Agencies Perspective on the MSG SMS by recruitment agencies from each of the MSG Countries and; Recap on discussions and proposed way forward to facilitate SMS.

As a first of its kind meeting, the Secretariat was able to gather perspectives from the MSG Member States on their recent experiences, benefits and challenges particularly faced by recruiting agencies on the recruitment of people from the MSG countries. Representatives also shared their experiences and perspectives of the MSG SMS and its operation, including suggestions for further improvements.

Specific issues were captured and a Way Forward was developed for further advancement of the Scheme. The Outcomes of this meeting will be presented to the Trade and Investment Subcommittee when they meet on 16-17 April 2014 in Port Vila.

The meeting resulted in useful exchange of information, contacts and networking amongst officials and recruitment agencies from the four Member States. The Secretariat staff was also

able to meet and make contact with different recruitment agencies and officials to forge and enhance networking, continued information sharing and dialogue.

**Authorized for release by the Director General**

**25 March 2014**