



TUVALU NATIONAL LABOUR MIGRATION POLICY

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade,
Tourism, Environment and Labour



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FOREWORD

Tuvalu has a proud history of labour migration. As a seafaring nation, our people are familiar with the benefits and challenges of working abroad – deriving remittances and new skills, but also coping with the challenges associated with being away from family and the community. With the difficulties of creating sufficient work opportunities on our small islands, labour migration is a central plank in the government’s employment agenda. The importance of labour migration as an option for our people is likely to increase further still as climate change continues to batter at our shores and wreak havoc on rain patterns, groundwater and oceans, impacting on subsistence agriculture and other livelihoods options.

For these reasons, I am very happy to be presenting this first National Labour Migration Policy and Action Plan for Tuvalu. Opportunities for labour migration have diversified over the last decade – while seafaring continues to remain a source of jobs, seasonal work in agriculture and potentially opportunities in hospitality, trades, tourism and care work, can also help to provide employment for our workers. Whilst it is not a comprehensive document on climate change induced migration, the National Labour Migration Policy ties together our plans for educating our population, with a better understanding of what opportunities exist abroad helps to ensure that we have a cohesive plan for how to create work for our people. We can also help to ensure growing and engaged diaspora communities in other countries, which can participate in integrating future migrants into different countries and contribute to development back in Tuvalu.

This document is much more than an aspirational list of ideas but a fully-fledged action agenda with specific activities that the government is committed to undertaking over the next five years. As the number of our seafarers has fallen to the lowest levels in a decade, we are at a critical juncture at which we need to urgently prepare for the changing nature of employment opportunities in seafaring and other labour migration schemes, and to compete with workers from other countries.

I would like to extend a sincere *fafetai lasi* to government, civil society and private sector representatives who contributed to this policy. In particular, I am grateful for the tireless work of the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Tourism, Environment and Labour, as well as consultants Professor Richard Bedford and Charlotte Bedford, experts from the leading agency in this work - the International Labour Organization - and Pacific Climate Change and Migration project staff for their assistance in developing the successive drafts and facilitating numerous consultations. Thanks also go to the European Union which, through funding under the Pacific Climate Change and Migration Project, has helped to make the development of this policy possible.



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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
APNL	Alpha Pacific Navigation Ltd
APTC	Australia-Pacific Technical College
DCC	Development Coordination Committee
DoE	Department of Employment, Australia
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FNU	Fiji National University
GFC	Global Financial Crisis
IAU	Inter-Agency Understanding
ITF	International Transport Workers' Federation
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organization
LDC	Least Developed Country
MBIE	Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, New Zealand
MCT	Ministry of Communications and Transport
MFAT	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand
MFATTEL	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Tourism, Environment and Labour
MFED	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
MLC	Maritime Labour Convention 2006
MNR	Ministry of Natural Resources
MEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NLMP	National Labour Migration Policy
NPF	National Provident Fund
NPP	National Population Policy
NZAID	New Zealand Aid
PAC	Pacific Access Category
PACER	Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations
PAISL	Pacific Islands Labour Sending Forum
PICTA TMNP	Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement Temporary Movement of Natural Persons
PNA	Parties to the Nauru Agreement
RSE	Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme, New Zealand
SPBEA	South Pacific Board of Educational Assessments
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPP	Strengthening Pacific Partnerships programme
STCW	Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping
SWP	Seasonal Worker Program, Australia
TMTI	Tuvalu Maritime Training Institute
TNPSO	Tuvalu National Private Sector Organisation
TOSU	Tuvalu Overseas Seafarers' Union
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
USP	University of the South Pacific



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