



MEETING OF TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSIONS OF COMMONWEALTH PACIFIC COUNTRIES

Held at the Holiday Inn, Waigani; Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
Hosted by the Minister of Education of Papua New Guinea,
Honourable Michael Laimo,
March 13 – 15, 2007

Chairpersons, Commissioners and Senior officials of the Teaching and Public Service Commissions of Commonwealth Pacific member countries meeting here in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on March 14 and 15th, 2007 identified, common issues in relation to the quality and status of teachers in the Pacific, and explored the role of the Commissions in ensuring that positive practices govern the terms and conditions under which teachers operate. In this respect our meeting specifically:

- Shared common concerns about the quality of education in the context of mobility, recruitment and migration of teachers in Pacific countries
- Discussed good practices in human resource management which should be utilised in heightening morale and increasing retention in the teaching profession
- Addressed issues relating to the transferability of Teacher Qualifications and Professional Registration in Pacific countries
- Expanded our knowledge about the Commonwealth Teacher Recruitment Protocol (CTRP) and how it may be implemented in the regional context.

In light of our deliberations over these two days, we recommend that:

- Recruitment of teachers commencing with advertisement through to appointment should be conducted using open and transparent procedures.
- The professional status and rights of teachers are maintained when they move from one country to another and/or one employer to another.
- There should be greater flexibility given to Commissions to enable them to attract and retain teachers, through the creation of incentives.

- Structured induction and orientation of teachers should be undertaken by principals with new and overseas recruited teachers and this should be complemented by on-going mentoring programmes involving senior staff.
- Authorities who recruit and appoint teachers, should recognise that the mobility of teachers is a means towards gaining professional development and experience for the betterment of the education system
- The contribution of female leaders in education should be acknowledged and recognised.
- Possible government to government agreements about migration of teachers in the Pacific region, informed and guided by the CTRP, should be encouraged.
- The establishment of a regional professional registration network should be considered in cooperation with the existing registration authorities of member countries, the Pacific Forum and the Commonwealth Secretariat.
- A common framework of teacher qualifications, comparability and quality assurance systems should be developed.

We close by thanking the Honourable Michael Laimo and the Chair of the Teaching Service Commission of Papua New Guinea, Mr Michael Pearson, and the Papua New Guinea Teachers Association for their wonderful hosting of this meeting. The delegates highly acknowledged the support of the Commonwealth Secretariat in facilitating the regional meeting.

AGREED THIS 15TH DAY OF MARCH, 2007

Papua New Guinea (Chair)

Australia

New Zealand

Samoa

Solomon Islands

Tonga

Vanuatu