India - Kiribati Relations

India's relations with Kiribati are cordial and cooperative. Some Indian experts have served in Kiribati under international agencies and earned goodwill for India. The concurrent accreditation of Kiribati was transferred to High Commission of India, Suva in October 2011. Prior to that High Commission in Wellington was concurrently accredited to Kiribati from September 1992.

The two countries are bound together by similar colonial experience and membership of the Commonwealth. A few Kiribati nationals have been trained in India under the ITEC programme. India has donated prosthetic and orthotic components and materials to Tungaru Central Hospital Rehabilitation Centre, amounting to A\$ 15982.39 in March 2006. In February 2008, India provided grant-in-aid of A\$136,207.18 for the up-gradation of Government Printing Press. In June, 2009 India provided grant-in-aid of A\$ 315546 to the Government of Kiribati to fund the purchase of a 500 KW generator and overhead cables to replace old generators in the Kirimati Island. In December 2012, India provided grant-in-aid of US\$ 25,135/- for purchase of Cherry Picker Truck and US\$ 134,502/- for renovation of 3 clinics under the annual grant.

Kiribati has been chosen for implementation of the 'Hole-in-the-Wall' project of installing computers for children in communities.

Kiribati has been supportive of our candidatures for various international organisations. Kiribati had co-sponsored the G-4 resolution on the reform of the United Nations Security Council in 2005.

5 slots were utilised by Kiribati for training courses under the ITEC programme in 2011-12 and 4 in 2012-13. Six slots were offered to Kiribati for 2014-15. Ten slots have been offered to Kiribati for 2015-16. Two diplomats from Kiribati attended the training for diplomats of Pacific Island countries organised by the Foreign Service Institute in Nadi, Fiji in May 2015.

Hon'ble Natan Teewe, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Government of Kiribati accompanied by Mr. Terieata Mwemwenikeaki, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration attended the Ministerial Meeting on "Harnessing the positive contribution of South-South Cooperation for Development of Least Developed Countries" in New Delhi in February 2011.

President of Kiribati, Anote Tong visited New Delhi on 1-3 February 2012 to attend the 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit organised by TERI. President Anote Tong again visited New Delhi on 31 January-2 February 2013 to attend the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) organised by TERI.

A Kiribati delegation led by Teima Onorio, Vice President visited India in connection with the Second High Level Meeting (HLM) on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in Asia and the Pacific, held in New Delhi on 23-25 October 2013.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi hosted the Forum for India-Pacific Island Countries (FIPIC) Summit in Suva (Fiji) on 19 November 2014 during his visit to Fiji with the participation of 14 Pacific countries. Kiribati delegation was led by President Anote Tong. The announcements made by Hon'ble PM on 19 November 2014 with respect to Pacific countries (including Kiribati) were the following: (i) Setting up of a Special Adaptation Fund of \$ 1 million, (ii) Development of Pan Pacific Islands Project for telemedicine and tele-education, (iii) Indian Visa on arrival for Pacific Island Countries -"Cook Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, Republic of Nauru, Republic of Kiribati, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Niue, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Fiji and Papua New Guinea", (iv) Increase in Grant-in-Aid to Pacific Island Countries to \$ 200,000 annually to be rolled over to provide for a wider scope for our development cooperation, (v) Establishment of Trade Office for Pacific Island Forum countries in India, (vi) Providing complimentary space to Pacific Island Forum countries during exhibitions, organized by ITPO, (vii) Deputation of ITEC experts to Pacific Island countries, including in the areas of agriculture, healthcare and IT, (viii) Organizing Training to Diplomats from Pacific Island Countries, (ix) Starting a Distinguished Visitors Programme for Pacific Island Countries, (x) Holding of the next Summit Meeting of India and Pacific Island Leaders in India in 2015, (xi) Cooperation in the use of Space technology applications for improving the quality of life of people and communications, (xii) Explore possibilities of sharing data for monitoring climate change, disaster risk reduction and management and resource management, and (xiii) Undertake joint research in traditional medicine; developing healthcare facilities for the benefit of people in the region.

International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Kiribati on 21 June 2015.

A Kiribati delegation led by Teekoa luta, Advisor on Asia, visited India to attend 2nd Summit of Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) held at Jaipur on 21 August 2015.

Useful Resources:

High Commission of India, Suva website: http://www.indianhighcommissionfiji.org High Commission of India, Suva Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/IndiainFiji Indian Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Suva Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/ICCHighcomindSuva

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