



**SOUTH PACIFIC
TOURISM
ORGANISATION**

**Board of Directors Meeting
Ramada Hotel, Port Vila, Vanuatu
26th October 2017**

DIRECTORS' RESOLUTIONS

The meeting of the Directors was attended by the government representatives of American Samoa, China, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and the private sector representative from Fiji Airways.

The Directors discussed issues related to SPTO's policies, activities, work programme and budget since their last meeting in May; and passed the following resolutions for due consideration by the Council of Ministers:

1. 2018 Draft Annual Work Plan and Budget

- a. The Directors endorsed the 2018 Draft Annual Work Plan which will be submitted to the Council of Ministers of Tourism for approval.
- b. The Directors further approved the SPTO Draft Budget for 2018.

2. SPTO Governance Matters

2.1 SPTO Organisation Structure

- c. The Directors approved the SPTO revised organisation structure (organogram 3) that truly reflects the divisional needs and is within the current operational budget.
- d. The Directors further approved the establishment of the Marketing Officer position as per the organisation structure.

2.2 Review of Staff Salary

- e. The Directors approved the updated guidelines for improving the staff salary, as a result of the 2017 Job Evaluation Exercise.
- f. The Directors also approved the proposal to increase the Marketing Manager's Housing Allowance to the level of other divisional Managers.

2.3 Tourism Industry Members

- g. The Directors approved the appointment of the 5 Private Sector Representatives to the Board for the next 3 years (2018-2020) and the representatives are:
 - Air Niugini Ltd, Papua New Guinea

- Turama Pacific, Cook Islands
- Warwick Le Lagon, Vanuatu
- Tahiti Niu Travel, Tahiti
- Fiji Hotels Tourism Association, Fiji

3. Update on the European Development Fund (EDF) 11

- h. The Directors requested the Secretariat to seek other sources of funding to assist with work plan implementation in the absence of EU funding.
- i. The Directors also agreed to submit the update to the Council of Ministers of Tourism meeting and seek the Ministers support for Tourism to be the key driving sector for the Regional Economic Integration programme, under EDF 11.

4. China Belt and Road Funding Proposals

- j. The Directors supported the Secretariat's initiative to tap into China's Belt and Road Funding for regional tourism development work programme.
- k. The Directors further endorsed the Secretariat's Belt & Road funding proposals for the China Pacific Tourism Year (CPTY) 2019 and the China Pacific Tourism Development Initiative (CPTDI) 2019-2023 that will be submitted to the Council of Ministers of Tourism for approval.

5. Terms of Reference (ToR) for a Pacific Regional Tourism Strategy – Aviation Expert

- l. The Directors approved the ToR for the recruitment of an Aviation Expert to undertake a review of the aviation sector and develop high level strategies and priority regional actions for endorsement by SPTO members.

6. Three-Year Strategic Plan for Private Sector Membership and Corporate Sponsorship

- m. The Directors approved the proposed three-year Private Sector Membership Strategy (2018 – 2020) and 2018 Membership & Corporate Sponsorship Work Plan.

7. Affiliate Membership with the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)

- n. The Directors approved SPTO's proposal to submit an application to the UNWTO for affiliate membership.

8. Pacific Tourism Insights Conference (PTIC) – Update

- o. The Directors approved that PTIC be replicated annually during the week of SPTO's October meetings, if proposed by the host country.

9. South Pacific Tourism Exchange (SPTE) 2018 & 2019

- p. The Directors approved the recommendation by the Secretariat and the SPTE Board Sub Committee to convene SPTE 2018 in Adelaide, Australia.
- q. The Directors also noted that more discussions will be held by the Marketing Sub-Committee on options for 2019 which will be submitted to the Board before the end of 2017.

10. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development in the Pacific region

- r. The Directors supported and approved the EIA Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development in the Pacific region.

11. Support for agritourism development in the Pacific

- s. The Directors supported planned regional and national activities by the key partners Technical Sector for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), SPTO, Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and the Pacific Community (SPC) for agri tourism development in the Pacific.
- t. The Directors also approved that the Secretariat develops proposals and seeks funding to support the development and promotion of food tourism in the Pacific.

12. Priorities of Small Island States (SIS) Members of SPTO

- u. The Directors supported the initiative of the SIS members and the Secretariat to establish a SIS committee that will hold regular discussions with regards to SIS priorities.
- v. The Directors approved that the Secretariat develop the necessary project proposals and concept notes in collaboration with SIS members for submission to donors and development partners at the 2018 SPTO Donor Forum in February.
- w. The Directors welcomed the proposal by Wild Film Ltd, titled “Journey” and agreed that interested members will convey their approval to the Secretariat through the signing of the letter of intent.

13. Vanuatu’s Tourism Accreditation Standards

- x. The Directors congratulated the government of Vanuatu on the development of its Tourism Accreditation Standard and noted with appreciation the assistance from Vanuatu to Pacific Island governments in this area.
- y. The Directors further resolved to seek assistance from the government of Vanuatu in the development of their own tourism accreditation programme that will also boost sustainability of the tourism industry.

14. Attendance of CROP Agencies, Donors and Development Partners as Observers in SPTO Board and Council Meetings

- z. The Directors agreed that the Secretariat will invite the attendance of the relevant CROP agencies, donors, development partners as observers in SPTO Board and Council meetings.