

- Oceania Customs Organisation Annual Conference
- Regional classification of occupations and jobs
- New SDD staff



18th Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) Annual Conference

The 18th OCO Annual Conference was held in Funafuti, Tuvalu from 1 to 3 June 2016. Attending the conference on behalf of the Pacific Community (SPC) was economic statistician Nilima Lal, who mentioned customs records as the main and generally preferred data source for the compilation of international merchandise trade statistics. She also referred to the urgent need for regionalising the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System to enable all countries to use the latest standard. SPC is pleased that the conference “agreed to establish a working group comprising relevant technical agencies and members to explore available options to address Harmonized Coding System deficiencies”. The purpose of the conference was to look at OCO operations and adoption of latest developments by Pacific customs organisations. Host country, Tuvalu, was most hospitable and the conference was a great success.

Regional classification of occupations and jobs common in Pacific Island countries and territories just released

The Statistics for Development Division (SDD) of SPC has released the Pacific Standard Classification of Occupations 2016 (PACSCO 2016), which it has compiled in collaboration with the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Fiji Bureau of Statistics. It has been derived from the International Standard Classification of Occupations 2008, the custodian of which is the International Labour Organization.

PACSCO 2016 has been developed to better reflect the world of work in the Pacific region, while also facilitating comparison of occupation statistics regionally and internationally. It includes a number of occupations that are unique but significant to the Pacific region.

A major use of PACSCO 2016 will be classifying occupation information collected in population censuses and other surveys. It can also be used for designing training programmes to match skill requirements in the labour market.

The classification is contained in two volumes:

Volume 1 presents the structure and definitions of all groups in PACSCO 2016.

Volume 2 contains the index of occupational titles.



Introducing new SDD Staff



Ofa KETUU

The Pacific Community Director-General, Dr Colin Tukuitonga, has announced the appointment of Dr 'Ofa Ketu'u as the organisation's new Director of SDD. Her appointment follows the retirement of Dr Gerald Haberkorn, who has left SPC after 19 years of service.

Dr Ketu'u brings significant technical expertise in economic and social statistics, and more than 20 years of experience in leadership positions within the Pacific region.

She joins SPC from Statistics New Zealand, where she twice led the development and implementation of the New Zealand Census Pacific People Strategy. She also guided teams through structural and system changes at Statistics New Zealand.

She has also led the Client Services and Liaison Group; Agriculture Production Survey and Business Register Teams at Statistics New Zealand. She has also resumed the role of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

Lead Consultant analysing and disseminate the 2015 Tonga National Agriculture Census at end of 2015.

Dr Ketu'u, of Tonga, has a PhD in Development Studies from Auckland University and a Master of Science in Economics from the London School of Economics. Her PhD looks at cultural practices and its impact on economic performance of Pacific people.



Gloria MATHENGE

Gloria Mathenge has joined SPC as a Social statistician (CRVS). She holds a Bachelor of Science in Population studies and MSc Public health. She is a Kenyan citizen.

Gloria told SDD News a bit about herself:

I joined SPC from the Economic commission for Africa, based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where I had worked for four years as a Research Fellow and consultant, and as a member of the secretariat of the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS). Prior to that I had worked on short-term assignments for JICA, UNICEF, the Government of Kenya, and two non-governmental organisations.

Joining SDD: I had heard a lot about SPC's CRVS programme from my former office in Addis. We had a lot of respect for the CRVS work in the region, and had borrowed some of our strategies and programmatic approaches from SPCs work. However I had never thought that I would sometime work in this part of the world. I must admit that I still wake up and wonder how I got myself here... so many miles away from home 😊 .

On the professional front, the work that I am engaged in has, in some respects, been similar to my work in Africa, but with a number of different approaches, which gives me scope and opportunity to learn much more.

In the few days I have worked here, I have pondered a question:

"Why would very small countries not have a proper system for registering births and deaths?" From my initial feeling that, "I could fix this at a go," I've quickly

appreciated the unique challenges posed by the geographic, economic, social and cultural context of the region, which makes Pacific Island countries not so different from what Nigeria, Ethiopia and Kenya would face and work to fix.

My experience: It's getting close to three months now in New Caledonia. I have also had my first feel of the region, having travelled to Tonga, via Fiji and Wallis last week. Besides the sky-blue beautiful ocean, which I realise I can never have enough of, I have loved the warmth of the people, and mostly the beauty of the culture that I see especially through clothing, and the Lapas! The flowers! And the beautiful shell necklaces! Pacific Island people have struck me as having a very strong cultural identity, which I very much admire.

I have enjoyed my stay so far and I look forward to a wonderful stay over the next three years.

I would like to thank my colleague, Karen, for her kindness in helping me settle in so quickly. I am grateful to the entire SDD team too for the warm welcome.

Merci!



Billy SOMERS

I have recently joined the SDD team from the National Statistical Office of Papua New Guinea, where I've worked as an ICT Officer for two years. I came on board to assist with regional data dissemination through content creation and publishing on the SDD and PRISM websites, as well as providing ongoing support to Pacific NSO staff to sustain effective data dissemination and improvements of PRISM-managed websites. Apart from that, I like drawing, practising coding and playing football.

Contact:

Ofa Ketuu

Director, Statistics for Development Division
Ofak@spc.int

Useful links:

www.sdd.spc.int

PACSCO 2016

Volume 1: presents the structure and definitions of all groups in the PACSCO 2016

http://www.spc.int/DigitalLibrary/Doc/SDD/Regional_Standards_and_Classifications/PACSCO_2016_Volume_1_Structure_and_definition.pdf

Volume 2: contains the index of occupational titles

http://www.spc.int/DigitalLibrary/Doc/SDD/Regional_Standards_and_Classifications/PACSCO_2016_Volume_2_Index_of_occupational_titles.pdf