

## Marshall Islands Chamber of Commerce

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### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Marshall Islands Resort

Meeting called to order by President Jack Niedenthal at 12:01 P.M. Approximately 50 members and guests were in attendance. The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, August 14, 2007.

- **Minutes** – approved electronically prior to the meeting
  
- **Guests**
  - Hon. Luamanuoa Winnie Laban, Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, NZ
  - Fred Muller, Secretary Resources and Development, RMI
  - Hon. James Matayoshi, Rongelap Mayor
  - Clyde Bishop, American Ambassador
  - Robert Chang, Third Secretary. Taiwan Embassy
  - Gilbert Ullrich, Chairman, New Zealand Pacific Business Council
  - Richard Maugueret, Executive Officer, New Zealand Pacific Business Council
  - Chris Cocker, Trade Commissioner, Pacific Islands Trade and Investment Commission
  - Graeme Roberts, General Manager, Beca International Consultants Ltd
  - Ray D. Mann, Managing Director, Mann Exports
  - Athol McQuilkan, Director, Mayfair Group Limited
  - Ruth Sami, Microbyte Systems Limited
  - Paul Hancock, Export Manager, Tegel Foods Ltd
  
- **Chamber President's remarks**

I would first like to welcome and recognize the NEW ZEALAND PACIFIC BUSINESS COUNCIL (NZPBC) PACIFIC MISSION DELEGATION to the Marshall Islands. I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the Honorable Minister Winnie Laban, Hon. Mayor Matayoshi, Secretary of R & D Fred Muller, Hon. Ambassador Clyde Bishop and members of the Diplomatic Corps from the US and Taiwan, government officials, the general public in attendance, and of course our Marshall Islands Chamber of Commerce membership.

Just to give the visiting delegation a little background of our organization, the Marshall Islands Chamber of Commerce is made up of around 50 local businesses, which employ

approximately 2,000 Marshallese employees with a reported 15,000 to 16,000 dependents. The Chamber is a non-aligned, Non Government Organization (NGO).

Our purposes are

- \* To develop, encourage, promote, and protect the commercial, professional, financial, and general business interest of the Marshall Islands
- \* To promote the civic interest and the general welfare of the community of the Marshall Islands
- \* To extend and promote the trade and commerce and to develop and protect the industry of the Marshall Islands
- \* To encourage the development of the transportation and communication facilities and the various natural and human resources of the Marshall Islands
- \* To procure and support laws and regulations desirable for the benefit of business in general
- \* To provide a forum for the reflection of sentiments of the business community regarding matters affecting it's interest; and
- \* To promote and preserve the practice by businessmen and their employees of sound traditional business ethics.

In accordance with the preamble to the chambers' Articles of Incorporation, the Marshall Islands Chamber of Commerce's mission is to be a representative media for business in the Marshall Islands and is to concern itself with the social and economical development of the Marshall Islands.

We very much appreciate the visit by the delegation from New Zealand today. This is our regular Chamber meeting, we meet once a month, while the Executive Council usually meets once a week or as needed. I know this delegation represents numerous business sectors from New Zealand, so without further ado, I would like to ask that the honorable Minister Laban introduce her delegation... After the introductions of our guests from New Zealand, since we are all buyers and sellers, we want there to be time for informal discussions.

Thank you.

- **Minister Laban remarks**

Minister Laban defined the role of government versus the private sector. It is her government's wish to broaden the American/Pacific Island trade and to raise Pacific Island nations' exports to New Zealand as compared with their imports from New Zealand. For example, as of the year ending April, 2007, New Zealand exported 63 million dollars worth of merchandise to the Marshall Islands while at the same time the Marshall Islands exported \$5,000 to New Zealand.

- **New Zealand Pacific Business Council remarks**

Chairman Gilbert Ullrich discussed the history and current efforts of his organization. Each member of the delegation rose to introduce him/herself and made brief remarks.

The Chamber President mentioned that the delegation's contact information for the New Zealand Pacific Business Council would be placed on the Chamber's Web site.

- **Committee Reports – deferred**

Government Relations – Jerry Kramer

Business and Trade – Neal Skinner

Financial Services – Jim McLean

Tourism – Bill Weza

Communications – David Strauss

Education – Carlos Domnick

Health – Dr. Alex Pinano

Environment – Don Hess

Membership and Public Relations – Liz Rodick

Special Projects – Sam Smith

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM to allow Chamber members and guests to discuss business.

Minutes prepared by:

Jim McLean

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Approved with Corrections \_\_\_\_\_