

## High Commission of India

Suva

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### India-Kiribati

#### Bilateral Relations

India enjoys cordial relations with Kiribati. 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 Forum for India-Pacific Island Countries Summit (FIPIC-I):** Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi hosted the First Summit of Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC-I) in Suva (Fiji) during his visit on 19 November 2014 with the participation of 14 Pacific countries. Kiribati delegation was led by President Anote Tong.

**The Forum for India-Pacific Island Countries Summit (FIPIC-II):** A Kiribati delegation led by Teekoa Iuta, Advisor on Asia, visited India to attend 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit of Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC-II), held at Jaipur on 21 August 2015.

**The Forum for India-Pacific Island Countries Summit (FIPIC-III):** A Kiribati delegation led by President of Kiribati HE Taneti Maamau visited Papua New Guinea to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Summit of Forum for India-Pacific Island Cooperation, held in Port Moresby on 22 May 2023.

**India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference (IPI-SDC):** Under the umbrella of FIPIC, Government of India organized the India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference (IPI-SDC), which was held at Suva, Fiji on 25-26 May 2017. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) hosted the event. Hon. Tekena Tiroa, Member of Parliament led the Kiribati delegation.

**Voice of the South Summit (VOSS):** On 12 January 2023, Minister for Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development, Ruateki Tekaiara, participated in the Environment Ministers' Session of the VoSS held virtually.

**Voice of the Global South Summit (VOGSS 2.0):** Minister for Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development, Government of the Republic of Kiribati, Ruateki Tekaiara, participated in the Environment Ministers' Session at VoSS held on 17 November 2023 virtually hosted by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India Shri Bhupender Yadav. The theme for the session was balancing growth-environment friendly lifestyle.

#### Visits

- 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 H.E. Mr. 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**.
- A Kiribati delegation led by Kobebe Taitai, Minister of Health and medical Services, accompanied by Dr Teatao Tira, Secretary, Ms Ioana Taakau, Chief Pharmacist and Ms Lina Nikuata, Senior Accountant visited India from **25<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016** to see medical facilities.
- Banuera Berina, Special Envoy to President attended the First Asian Ministerial Disaster Risk Reduction Conference, in New Delhi from **2 to 5 November 2016**.
- Mrs Matereta Birita Raiman, Auditor General and Mrs Ruti Berenato Executive Assistant from Kiribati National Audit Office attended 23<sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Auditor General's Conference, held in New Delhi from **21-23 March 2017**.
- Hon. Ruateki Tekaiara, Minister for Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy visited New Delhi in **October 2017** to sign the framework agreement of the ISA and had also attended the Founding Conference of ISA at New Delhi on **11 March 2018**. He also attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) at New Delhi in **October 2019**.
- Hon'ble Michael Bootii Nauan, Minister of Tourism, Commerce, Industry and Cooperative visited New Delhi and Punjab on **10-12 August 2022** to meet copra milling suppliers. On **10 August 2022**, Minister Nauan met with Minister of State for External Affairs, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh.
- Kiribati Minister for Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy, Hon. Willie Tokataake and his 5 member delegations are visiting India to attend the 23rd edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) from 7-9 February 2024 at New Delhi under the broad umbrella theme "Leadership for Sustainable Development and Climate Justice".

**Multilateral Cooperation:** Kiribati has supported our various candidatures:

- i. India's Candidature to Non-permanent seat of UNSC in June 2020.
- ii. India's candidature to Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for 2021-2023 in November 2020.
- iii. Candidature for re-election as a member of the Human Rights Council (HRC). Elections were held in the UNGA session in New York in October 2021
- iv. Election for the International Law Commission (ILC) for the term 2023-27 held on 12 November 2021 in New York for India's candidate Professor Dr. Bimal Prasad.
- v. Election for the post of Vice-president /delegate for Asia in the executive committee of the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO-INTERPOL) for India's candidature of Mr. Parveen Sinha, Additional Director, CBI held in Istanbul, Turkey from 23-25 November 2021
- vi. Candidature for the World Heritage Committee. Elections were held at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention on 25 Nov 2021.
- vii. Re-election to the Council of IMO in Category 'B' for the term 2022-23. Elections were held during the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the IMO Assembly in London on 10 Dec 2021.
- viii. Election to the Council of the IMO under Category B for the biennium 2024-25. The elections were held during the 33rd Regular Session of the Assembly of the IMO in London from 27 November to 6 December 2023.

## **International Solar Alliance:**

- Mr. Ruateki Tekaiara, Minister of Infrastructure and Sustainable Development of Kiribati signed the framework agreement of the ISA at New Delhi in October 2017.
- Hon. Ruateki Tekaiara, Minister for Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy from Kiribati attended the Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance (ISA) and 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly and at New Delhi on 11 March 2018 and 31 October 2019 and respectively. The Kiribati Government ratified the Amendments to the ISA Framework Agreement on 20 December 2020.
- Hon. Willie Tokataake, Minister for Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy, Republic of Kiribati attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the ISA in New Delhi from 28 Oct-03 Nov 2023.

**Solar Energy Cooperation:** Refresher training for 43 solar mamas from seven Pacific Island Countries was completed successfully in Fiji on 10 September 2016, as a part of US\$ 1.5mn GOI project of 'solar electrification of 2800 houses in 14 PICs'. Five Kiribati solar mamas have been completed six-months long training in India since 2012. Solar electrification of 200 houses in Kiribati is ongoing.

## **GOI Assistance**

- **2007-2008:** India provided grant-in-aid for the up-gradation of Government Printing Press – US\$120,677/-.
- **2009-2010:** In June, 2009 India provided grant-in-aid 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 - US\$253,794/-.
- **2012-2013:** Towards purchase of cherry picker truck – US\$25,135/-.
- Renovation of three medical clinics – US\$134,502/-.
- **2017-2018:** India provided AUS\$ 1.48mn (Eq. US\$ 1.1mn) to Kiribati for 'Solar Efficient Lighting for Urban District of South Tarawa in December 2017. The project stands completed.
- **2021-22:** Responding to the appeal of the Government of Kiribati seeking offers of support to assist in its national efforts to manage the first Covid-19 outbreak in the Pacific Island country, the Government of India sent medical supplies worth USD 21,000/- including Pulse Oximeters, Swabs with VTM, Specimen bags for swabs, PPE kits (Surgical masks, Gloves, N95 masks, Shoe covers, Hair caps) and emergency Covid-19 medication supplies in February 2022.

**ITEC:** Five slots were utilised by Kiribati for training courses under the ITEC programme in 2011-12 and four in 2012-13. Six slots were offered to Kiribati for 2014-15. Out of ten slots offered to Kiribati for 2015-16, four were utilised. 8 out of 10 training slots were utilized in 2016-17. All 20 slots were utilized in 2017-18. 20 slots were offered in 2018-19 and 3 slots was utilized. All three slots were utilized in 2019-20. In the year 2018-19 and 2019-20, 7 candidates have been trained under ITEC programme in the course of Solar Energy for Master Trainers from ISA member countries. All Three slots were unutilized in 2020-21 & 2021-22, owing to the prevailing Covid situation. In 2022-23, 10 slots have been utilised till date .

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. Mrs Kae Itaka Mackenzie Assistant Protocol Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended 63rd Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) held at Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi from 29 March 2017 to 28 April 2017.

**Culture:** Under 'Namaste Pacifika', a Festival of India, Ms. Meera Das Group did performance in Kiribati on 11 November 2017, which was enjoyed by more than 2000 strong crowd.

## **International Day of Yoga (IDY)**

- The 8<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Kiribati on 22 June 2022 at the Bairiki Square in Kiribati with the help of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Government of Kiribati.
- The 9<sup>h</sup> International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Tarawa, Kiribati on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 in collaboration with Government of Kiribati

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**January 2024**