



Fiji to host Engaging with the Pacific meeting next week

By Online Editor

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Fiji will host the Engaging with the Pacific meeting in Nadi next week.

A government statement said Heads of State, Prime Ministers, ministers and senior government officials are expected to attend the meeting.

It is the second such meeting to be hosted by Fiji in the hope to engage Pacific leaders in open discussions, highlighting the challenges faced by the Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDS).

Under the theme 'Strengthening Partnership Among Pacific SIDS' the biennial conference aims to promote regional collaboration by piecing together diverse perspectives and uniting them in joint action to fight against issues such as climate change, human trafficking, drug trafficking, immigration and custom issues and cooperation.

Deputy permanent secretary for Foreign Affairs, Sila Balawa said the meeting this year would be bigger and better.

Twenty countries have indicated their intention to attend the Nadi meeting.

"Our Pacific island brothers in Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Wallis & Futuna, French Polynesia Kiribati and Timor Leste have confirmed their participation," he said.

"Others are likely to confirm their delegates and numbers before Monday next week but most of those confirmed have indicated that some head of state, government leaders and foreign ministers will be coming."

Meanwhile, Fiji has also invited development partners from Japan, Morocco, Indonesia, Malaysia, India, South Africa, Korea, Bhutan and China who have all confirmed their participation.

The meeting will be held in Nadi from 01 – 02 September.

SOURCE: MINFO/PACNEWS