

## **Fiji to be admitted into Non-Aligned Movement**

By Online Editor

1:25 pm GMT+12, 03/05/2011, Fiji



Minister for Foreign Affairs Ratu Inoke Kubuabola

Fiji will be admitted as a member of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) at the end of the month.

The NAM is a group of States considering themselves not aligned formally with or against any major power bloc.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs Ratu Inoke Kubuabola said more talks were expected to take place between Fiji and member countries of the NAM.

Last month Prime Minister Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama opened Fiji's new embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Ratu Inoke said the embassy would not only provide a direct platform to improve and deepen bilateral relations, but would allow Fiji to pursue its 'Look North' policy through direct engagement with the ASEAN group of countries.

Ratu Inoke said Fiji's efforts in joining NAM would help refocus Fiji's relationships

away from its traditional trading partners Australia and New Zealand.

As of 2010, the movement had 118 members and 18 observer countries, and it aims to represent the political, economic and cultural interests of the developing world.

The movement will stage a two-day conference in Indonesia from 23 May.

SOURCE: FIJI SUN/PACNEWS