

India-Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and Marshal Islands Relations

The Mission in Manila is concurrently accredited to three island countries in the Pacific region namely, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of the Marshall Islands. India also conducts a regular dialogue with the Pacific Islands Forum, of which these three countries are members.

The relations between India and the three countries have developed in the spirit of South-South Cooperation. As per DGFT figures, the total exports of India to the three countries in 2009-10 were US \$ 250,000 and the imports in 2009-10 were US \$ 20,000. Discussions are underway to increase the two-way trade. While such increase is likely to occur, particularly with regard to the importation of Indian drugs and pharma products, it is not expected to be substantial in view of the small population size and high transportation costs.

While scholarships under ITEC will continue to be offered [five for Marshall Islands, 3 for Micronesia and 2 for Palau], it has been recommended that trainers from India are sent on deputation to organize special training capsules for the three island states, so as to increase the footprint of the number of persons to whom training is imparted, on certain specialized subject areas to be decided in consultation with the governments of the three island countries. Such a request has been made by these three governments and Ministry is presently processing a request to conduct a training programme on foreign policy and on protocol.

Republic of Palau



The geographical area of Palau is 458 sq. kms with a population of 20,796 (2009 figures).

India established diplomatic relations with Palau in April 1995. Since then, there have been regular consultations with the political leadership and administrative representatives of the Government of the Republic of Palau.

Development assistance from India has included a grant of US \$ 149,841 for purchase of kitchen equipment for Palau National Hospital, US \$ 100,000 in 2008 for purchase of a boat and two pick-up trucks, US\$ 100,000 in June 2010 for purchase of computers and grant of 2 ITEC scholarships. An amount of US\$ 100,000 has been given as grant-in-aid in August 2011 for IT and computer upgradation in their offices and diplomatic missions.

Palau has been supportive of issues of importance to India, particularly Indian candidature to international organizations. They supported India's candidature for the non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council for the 2011-12 term. Presently, there are about 15 Indian nationals in Palau.

Palau also suffered devastation from Super Typhoon Haiyan which hit it on November 7, 2013.

Next meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum would be held in Palau in 2014.

Federated States of Micronesia



The geographical area of Micronesia is 702 sq. kms with a population of 107,434 (2009 figures).

India established diplomatic relations with the Federated States of Micronesia in 1996 and since then there has been regular interaction with the government and diplomatic officials.

Development assistance from India has included a grant of US \$ 73,145 in 2009 for purchase of machinery for the coconut industry and grant of 3 ITEC scholarships. Grant-in-aid of US\$ 100,000 has been given for a project on upgrading and increasing production of coconut crude oil.

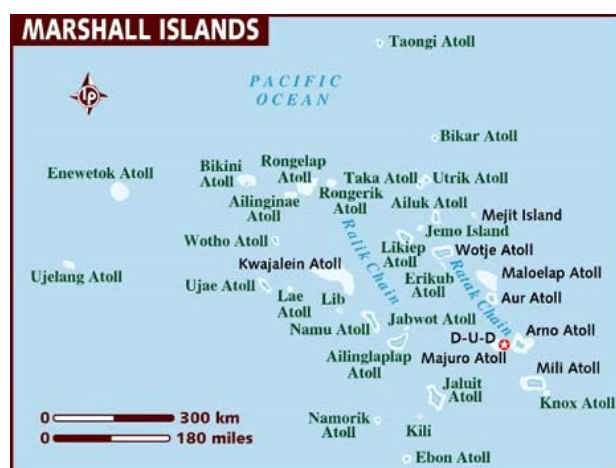
Micronesia has been supportive of issues of importance to India, particularly Indian candidatures to international organizations and supported

India's candidature for the UNSC non-permanent seat in 2011-12. As per information available, there are five Indians in Micronesia.

Ambassador visited the island of Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia from 7-9 September, 2013 and called on the Governor of Chuuk, President of the State Legislative Assembly and visited the Xavier High School.

Dr. Vita Skilling, Hon'ble Minister of Health and Social Affairs and Ms. Anamaria Akapito Yomai, National Child Health Physician, from Federated States of Micronesia visited New Delhi to attend the South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in Asia and the Pacific, organised by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, from 23-25 October, 2013.

Republic of the Marshall Islands



The geographical area of the Marshall Islands is 181 sq. kms with a population of 64,522 (2009 figures).

India established diplomatic relations with Republic of the Marshall Islands in April 1995. Regular interaction takes place with the political leadership and with officers of the Foreign and other ministries.

Development assistance from India has included a grant of US \$ 100,000 in June 2008 for a solar street lighting project in the capital city of Majuro and grant of 5 ITEC scholarships.

Ambassador visited Marshall Islands in May 2013 along with other officials from Embassy of India, Manila and had meetings with Foreign Minister, Chief Secretary, Foreign Secretary and other senior officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Following his meetings and with the declaration of a state of emergency and drought by the President of the Marshall Islands, India provided disaster relief assistance of \$100,000 in 2013. A set of books on contemporary Indian literature was donated by the Ambassador to the College of the Marshall Islands library.

In September 2013, Marshall Islands hosted the Pacific Island Forum in Majuro. Ambassador Amit Dasgupta led the Indian delegation to Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands from 3-6 September, 2013 in connection with Pacific Islands countries' HOMs meeting and to the Post Forum Dialogue Partner's Meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum. During his visit, he called on the Foreign Minister of Marshall Islands, Primer Minister of Niue, and presented books on Indian Parliament to the Speaker of Nitijela [Parliament] of Marshall Islands. On a request from the Government for assistance, India has provided assistance to the tune of US\$ 162,833.10 for the purchase of mini vans, computer and communication equipment.

Hon'ble Wilbur Heine, Minister of Internal Affairs and Mr. Antari Elbon, Director of Radio Marshalls, Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of the Marshall Islands visited New Delhi to attend the South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in Asia and the Pacific, organised by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, from 23-25 October, 2013.

Marshall Islands has been supportive of issues of importance to India, particularly Indian candidature to international organizations. They supported India's candidature for the non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council for the 2011-12 term. Presently, there are about 18 Indian nationals in the Marshall Islands.

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