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TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES TO BE ASSESSED BY TSRA SPONSORED GROUP

Six Indigenous tourism entrepreneurs from the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area will explore opportunities for business development and expansion in Darwin this month.

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) hosted group will attend the first Pacific Asia Indigenous Tourism Conference between 28 to 30 March 2012. .

Members of the group will include Dirk Laifoo from the Prince of Wales Island based Lax Charters and Tours; Betty Tekahika from the Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Indigenous Cultures; Iama Island Traditional Owner, Frank David; Daniel Takai from McDonald Charter Boats; Fraser Nai, TSRA member for Masig and a Director of Kailag Enterprises and Punsand Bay Resort operator, Jacki Mulholland.

The group will be accompanied by TSRA Culture, Art and Heritage Portfolio Member, Philemon Mosby, from Poruma Island.

The group was selected on the basis of current or proposed involvement in tourism after expressing interest in attending the conference.

The conference has been organised by the Australian Tourism Export Council, Tourism NT and the Pacific Asia Travel Association with support from the United Nations World Tourism Organisation.

The Asia Pacific region has the greatest concentration and variety of Indigenous people and cultures in the world.

Conference organisers believe tourism will provide an important opportunity for communities to restore, protect and promote Indigenous cultures.

TSRA Chairperson, Mr John 'Toshie' Kris, said tourism had been identified as one of the key industries with the potential to provide economic stability and growth in the Torres Strait.

Mr Kris said the industry would stimulate economic activity across the region, generate advanced training and business skills and increase the scope for Torres Strait Islander business ownership and management.

"The Northern Territory and the Torres Strait share many similarities including remoteness, seasonal changes that impact on visitors and cultural aspects all of which are both selling points and challenges for the respective regions to deal with."

“This conference will help increase the appreciation of tourist activities that may be appropriate in the Torres Strait region and knowledge of running successful tourism ventures in remote communities,” Mr Kris said.



Dirk Laifoo



Fraser Nai



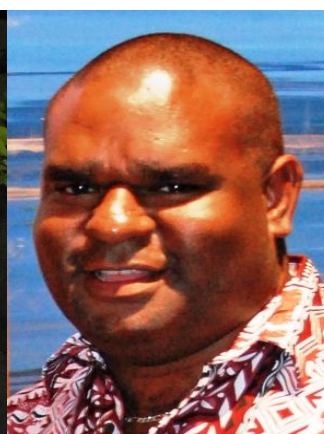
Betty Tekahika



Frank David



Jackie Mulholland



Cr Philemon Mosby



Daniel Takai

(Higher resolution images available if required)

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