



FIFTH REGULAR SESSION
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Second Session
Busan, Republic of Korea
7-12 December 2008

STAFF ACCOMMODATION

WCPFC5-2008-FAC2/13
10th November 2008

Introduction

1. The availability of suitable expatriate staff housing in Pohnpei has been monitored by the Commission because of its impact on expatriate staff recruitment and retention as well as the housing allowance paid to staff. This paper provides a brief status report.

Current status

2. Existing expatriate and support staff are adequately housed, although at least two are actively seeking to improve their accommodation. A search is now underway to identify and secure accommodation for the Vessel Monitoring System Manager who will take up his position in January 2009. He may need to be temporarily located until adequate long term accommodation is found.

3. There is noticeable increase in demand for expatriate accommodation linked to the increase in the number of development assistance consultants, regional and international organisations staff including SPC, UNDP, and religious organisations as well as diplomatic staff. A number of commercial construction projects have also attracted expatriate workers and project management staff.

4. Conversely it appears there are few new houses being built so the housing situation remains tight. A number of apartment projects are either under early construction or well into their planning phases but these will take some time to become available for occupancy. Unfortunately the scarcity of housing together with concerns about education is likely to somewhat mitigate the Commission's attraction for staff with families.

5. The Executive Director has not varied the housing allowance payable to staff.

Recommendation

6. The Committee is invited to note the status of housing stock for Secretariat staff in Pohnpei.