



ONPA ATTENDS THE 4TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ANTI-CORRUPTION AUTHORITIES (IAACA)



L-R National Public Auditor Haser Hainrick and Secretary of Justice Maketo Robert

The conference theme is “United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) Chapter IV: International Cooperation”. The UN member countries agreed to cooperate with one another in every aspect of the fight against corruption, including prevention, investigation and prosecution of offenders. UN countries are bound by the Convention to provide specific forms of mutual legal assistance in gathering and transferring evidence for use in court and to extradite offenders. Countries are required to undertake measures which will support the tracing, freezing, seizure and confiscation of proceeds of corruption. The conference emphasized that corruption is no longer a national or domestic issue but transnational and borderless crime. That means implementing and strengthening the international cooperation by implementing the UNCAC given that it is the strongest legal instrument to fight corruption.

The following issues were discussed during the breakout workshops:

1. Extradition and Transfer of Sentenced Persons
2. Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters
3. Transfer of Criminal Proceedings and Law Enforcement Cooperation.
4. Joint Investigations and Special Investigative Techniques

The conference took place in Macau, China from November 2-5, 2010. Delegates from all over the world attended. FSM delegates include the FSM National Public Auditor Haser Hainrick, Secretary of Justice Maketo Robert and Chief Investigator Sophia Pretrick. Representing from the other Pacific island countries include Palau, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, and Tonga.

“It is the world’s vulnerable who suffer first and worst by corruption such as theft of public money or foreign aid for private gain. The result is fewer resources to fund the building of infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and roads.” by UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon.



Corruption Effects

1. Undermines democratic institutions
2. Slows economic development
3. Contributes to government instability

Way Forward

1. Strengthen joint investigation efforts
2. Promote international Cooperation
3. Promote integrity, honesty and ethics in government
4. Strengthen legal framework for anti-corruption efforts
5. Strengthen crime prevention work