



Fiji Islands Revenue and Customs Authority

---

Press Release No: 8/2009

Phone: 3301551

Date : 19 May 2009

Fax : 3315537

---

### LAUNCHING OF CUSTOMS DATABASE

The Fiji Islands Revenue and Customs Authority (FIRCA) launched its new database today at its Suva Customs house. The Chief Executive Officer of FIRCA, in launching the database stated that globalization of trade is the driving factor in which Customs administrations will have to adapt to now and into the future.

The database is part of reforms currently being done in FIRCA to adhere to international standards and it will ensure real time analysis and necessary risk treatments are done on yachts as well as in relation to seizures made.

Present at the launch was the Director of Immigration and representatives from the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), Navy, Health, the Transnational Crime Unit as well as FIRCA management and staff. The CEO invited the stakeholders to be part of an integrated and coordinated border management team that will result in enhanced trade facilitation and management of our borders.

The Acting Head of the OCO Mr. Selwa Nandan also commended FIRCA for the initiative saying that it was a step in the right direction for FIRCA and would be an effective tool in managing risks. Mr. Nandan highlighted the changing role of Customs in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century due to the rapid advancement in Information Technology and emerging security issues.

Mr. Nandan stated that a challenge for Customs is to find the right balance between facilitation and enforcement, and highlighted the importance of managing risk. Customs administrations have two primary objectives – trade facilitation and ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements.

The Customs database currently covers yachts and seizure reports and will be developed continuously to incorporate other relevant functions and processes.

**JITOKO TIKOLEVU**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**-- End --**