



**GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS**  
**OFFICE OF THE MINISTER**  
**INTERNAL AFFAIRS, SPORTS, OMBUDSMAN'S OFFICE**  
**& PUNANGANUI MARKET**

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**MEDIA STATEMENT**

Attn: News Editors/Chief Reporters

**COOK ISLANDS LABOUR WORKSHOP BEGINS THIS WEEK**

In June this year, the Cook Islands became the 186<sup>th</sup> member of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). At the request of the Labour Division (Ministry of Internal Affairs), ILO technical staff will be conducting a workshop this week (Tuesday to Thursday) from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> September.

Workshop topics include an introduction to ILO membership, working together as a tripartite group of government, employer, employee representatives, the establishment of a national advisory board, and the drafting of the Cook Islands Decent Work Programme.

In referring to the ILO funded workshop, Minister for Internal Affairs, Albert Nicholas stated *"Our work force is the back bone of the economy and, as such, we need to address its changing needs. The government is, there, grateful to ILO for making this training possible"*

Participants include representatives of the tripartite members of government agencies, the Chamber of Commerce, the Cook Islands Workers Association, the National Council of Women, and the business sector dealing with labour issues.

ILO is represented by Ms Anne Boyd (Labour Standards Specialist) and Ms Sukarfa Katafono (Senior Programme Officer).

The workshop will be opened this morning at the Cook Islands Red Cross centre by Minister Nicholas.

Honourable Albert Nicholas  
Minister of Internal Affairs

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