

**MINISTRY COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, LABOR, AND IMMIGRATION**

*CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PRICE CONTROL DIVISION*

*P O Box G26, Honiara,*

***Solomon Islands***

**PRESS RELEASE**

***New Regional Network formed to Promote and Address Competition, Consumer Protection and Economic Regulations Matters among Members***

Solomon Islands has joined the competition, consumer protection, and economic regulators from across the Pacific to share intelligence, investigative techniques, and authority best practices, in a newly formed initiative to be called the Pacific Island Network of Competition, Consumer and Economic Regulators or PINCCER.

Founding PINCCER national authorities representing the economies of Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Solomon Islands have already set about establishing the network protocols and focus areas.

The Pacific region is home to several small island developing economies that face common challenges in facilitating fair competition, pricing, and consumer protection. Many of these economies are small and emerging and their authorities are still growing their expertise and resources in these areas.

PINCCER will contribute to building agency capabilities, strengthening the combined agency voice of competition and consumer protection authorities in Pacific Island smaller economies and providing a focused forum to promote well-functioning markets.

This is a great initiative for Solomon Island’s as the responsible Ministry is reviewing its current legislations and regulations. In addition, Solomon Islands is also working on a new National Standards Policy and a Product Packaging and Labelling Policy. These are important Policies for Consumer Protection and also for trade.

The Ministry is looking forward to working closely with member countries to build capacity, share experiences and build a stronger combined Consumer and Competition voice from the Pacific.”

**For any further details and enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact: Mr. Geoffrey Dan Hou’ua, Director of Consumer Affairs and Price Control, Consumer Affairs and Price Control Division on (677) 28459 or email:** **GHouua@commerce.gov.sb.**

****