



# MFAI Newsletter

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS & IMMIGRATION  
April - June, 2025



## Welcome to our newsletter!

It is with immense pride and gratitude that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Immigration welcomes you to the edition of our newsletter. As the voice of the ministry, this publication will inform and connect our diverse stakeholders and communities across Kiribati and beyond.

We are thrilled to share with you the latest updates within the ministry that will strengthen your understanding of our diplomatic engagement, international partnerships, and the vital work our dedicated team continues to undertake aligned with our Vision and Foreign policy.

In this issue, you'll find:

- Highlights of Kiribati's recent bilateral and regional engagements
- Our diplomatic missions
- Announcements of upcoming initiatives and forums
- MFAI internal happenings

*MFAI team*



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## MFAI UPDATES

April-June, 2025

### Presentation of Credentials (POC) 12th - 13th May 2025



In a recent diplomatic milestone, four nations European Union, France, Malaysia, and Switzerland formally presented their credentials to the Republic of Kiribati, reinforcing international ties and cooperation.

### Pacific Island Forum Secretary General Baron Waqa and H.E. President Taneti Maamau. 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025



Pacific Island Forum Secretary General and Delegation visit Kiribati for consultations on key regional initiatives for 2025

### Customer Service Training for MFAI Staff



4th June 2025, the Public Service Office delivered a Customer Service Training for MFAI staff. The training reflects MFAI's ongoing commitment to continuous improvement and upholding the highest standards of public service.

MFAI extends its sincere appreciation to the trainers from the Public Service Office for their continued support in strengthening the capacity of our public servants and promoting service excellence across the government sector.



Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat team and Government Senior officials from different ministries who attended the consultation held at the Marine Training Centre, Betio.





## MFAI UPDATES

April-June, 2025

## Presentation of Credentials (POC) 12th - 13th May 2025



left to right: **Her Excellency Ms. Barbara Plinkert**, European Union Ambassador to Kiribati. **Her Excellency Ms. Julie Le Saos**, France Ambassador to Kiribati. **His Excellency Mr. Nor Azam Bin Mohd Idrus**, Malaysia High Commissioner to Kiribati. **Her Excellency Mrs. Barbara Anna Gonzernbach**, Switzerland Ambassador to Kiribati.

3<sup>rd</sup> China-Pacific Island Countries (PICs) Foreign Ministers meeting

3rd China-Pacific Island Countries (PICs) Foreign Ministers' Meeting, held May 28-29, 2025, in Xiamen, Fujian Province, China. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (a Political Bureau member) co-chaired with Kiribati's President and Foreign Minister Taneti Maamau, hosting foreign ministers from the 11 Pacific Island nations with diplomatic ties to Beijing



left: H.E. President Taneti Maamau right: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi

## Farewell Reception for Australian High Commissioner



left: **Her Excellency Karen Bray** right: **His Excellency President Maamau**

The Government of Kiribati bid a fond farewell to an esteemed diplomat and distinguished representative of the Commonwealth of Australia, **Her Excellency Karen Bray**, as she prepares to conclude her dedicated service in Kiribati. The farewell ceremony took place on Friday, 25th March 2025, at the State Guest House

Australia's New High Commissioner  
Presentation of Credential, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025



## MFAI UPDATES

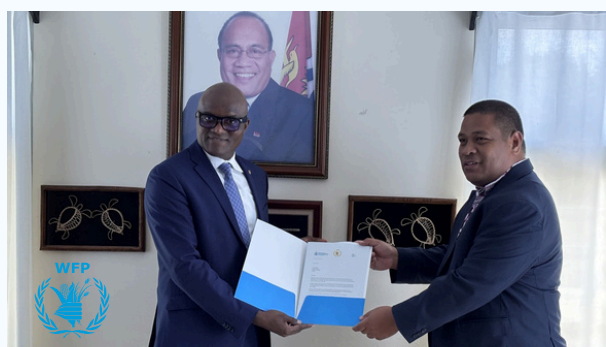
April-June, 2025

### Australia's New High Commissioner Presentation of Credential, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025



Australia's new High Commissioner to Kiribati, **His Excellency Mark Foxe**, presented his credentials to **His Excellency President Taneti Maamau** on April 15, 2025, succeeding Her Excellency Karen Bray, who served from 2023 to early 2025. Following the event, a State welcome reception dinner was graciously hosted by His Excellency President Maamau.

### UN World Food Programme Presents letter of Appointment to Secretary of Foreign Affairs & Immigration



left: **Mr. Alpha Bah** right: **Secretary Uering Itaraera**  
On Wednesday, 25th June 2025, Mr. Alpha Bah, WFP Representative and Country Director for the Pacific, presented his letters of appointment to the Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration (MFAI) in Kiribati.

The WFP's mission in Kiribati focuses on ending hunger by improving access to nutritious, culturally appropriate food and addressing climate-related food insecurity. The Secretary reaffirmed MFAI's commitment to supporting WFP's efforts to strengthen disaster response, local food systems, and community resilience.

Both parties emphasized collaboration to achieve a food-secure, climate-resilient future, highlighting traditional food sources, food localization, and healthy diets as key strategies to combat hunger and malnutrition

### New Zealand's New High Commissioner Presentation of Credential, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025



left to right: **Mrs Gagau** and **His Excellency Patitaoto Gagau** with **His Excellency President Taneti Maamau**.



On the 27th of June 2025, **His Excellency Patitaoto Gagau**, **High Commissioner of New Zealand to Kiribati** presents his credentials to the President of the Republic of Kiribati, **His Excellency Taneti Maamau**.





## MFAI SOCIAL COMMITTEE BUZZ CORNER

April-June, 2025

### Welcome & Farewell



A welcome and farewell small gathering was hosted by the MFAI Social Committee to warmly welcome **Mr. Tearinaki Tanielu, Director of the Multilateral Affairs Division**, upon his return from studies in Australia, and to bid farewell to **Deputy Secretary Mrs. Iaou Kanimako** as she departs to pursue further studies in New Zealand.



The Social Committee has organized staff into three teams Red, White, and Green to take turns providing Wednesday morning tea as part of ongoing fundraising efforts. Additionally, a fundraising 'Happy Hour' is held every Friday, offering staff an opportunity to unwind and socialize after a productive week.

### Multilateral Affairs Division in new uniform



Left to Right: Evelynna Tikau, Tioti Batuaao, Kasey Elliot, Alan Eterom, Toka Taulehia & Director Tearinaki Tanielu



## REFLECTIONS FROM MFAI STAFF

April-June, 2025



**Mrs Iunia Teruta**  
Desk Officer Asia Pacific

“Since May 2025, I have gained valuable experience in the Asia-Pacific Division, enhancing my skills in diplomacy, communication, and coordination while deepening my understanding of regional dynamics. I remain committed to supporting Kiribati’s development goals through effective regional engagement. ”



**Mr Teeta Moantewa**  
Immigration Officer

“Over the past three months, I have successfully reviewed and processed more than 80 visitor visa applications, ensuring full compliance with all legal and procedural requirements. This achievement motivates me to maintain a high standard of performance and take pride in the quality of my work. ”





# Te Mauri Te Raoi Te Tabomoa

*Thank you for reading!*



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