

The Journey of Māori Economic Development: How the past has influenced present and future advancements for the Māori Economy

Concept Note for a 17th Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues side-event hosted by the New Zealand Government Delegation

April 23, 2018

1:15 – 2:30 pm

CR-08, United Nations Headquarters

Background

The Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty/Te Tiriti) was signed in 1840 between Māori chiefs and the British Crown as the founding document of Aotearoa, New Zealand.

Over the past thirty years, successive New Zealand governments have increasingly sought to build the Crown-Māori relationship by providing formal legal and political means for Māori to seek reparation for breaches of the Treaty/Te Tiriti. The long-awaited settlement of these grievances has resulted in the return of substantial assets including land and fisheries rights as well as financial payments to date for many iwi (tribes), with some iwi yet to reach a settlement with the Crown.

The settlement process has led to the creation of financially strong Māori entities and growth in the Māori asset base as iwi have devoted funds to business and investment opportunities. With an asset base worth NZ\$50 billion (approx. US\$36.8 billion) today, the Māori economy is thriving. Māori are major stakeholders in the tourism and primary industries and are growing their presence in the services and high-tech sectors. Furthermore, Māori are increasingly seeking to expand their international trading partners which is leading to significant international business opportunities for Māori.

This side-event will provide a snapshot of how Māori businesses are taking advantage of the opportunities to grow their businesses internationally based on their indigenous cultural points of difference. This side-event will highlight how the Crown and Māori are working together to grow Māori businesses with examples of the internationalisation of Māori businesses. It will also provide case study examples of how Māori are taking the initiative to drive their own independent business developments both in Aotearoa as well as internationally.

Side-Event Format

This side-event will begin with a presentation by Ms Taria Tahana, Manager Economic Wealth at Te Puni Kōkiri (New Zealand Government agency for Māori development). It will include a combination of an audio-visual as well as a verbal presentation on various viewpoints around Māori Economic Development. The presentation will be followed by a moderated panel discussion on Māori economic development, including current developments and future opportunities and challenges facing Māori businesses. The event will close with a Q&A session followed by a waiata (traditional song) from the panel.

The event will include a range of Māori speakers from the New Zealand government and the Māori business sector.

Moderator

Ms. Taria Tahana
Manager, Economic Wealth
Te Puni Kōkiri (Ministry for Māori Development)

Run of Show

The event opens with a mihi and karakia (opening salutations and prayer in te reo Māori)	1.15 pm
Opening Remarks	1.20 pm
Panellist 1	1.30 pm
Panellist 2	1.45 pm
Panellist 3	2.00 pm
Closing Remarks	2.10 pm
The event closes with a waiata and karakia	2.20 pm
Side-event ends	2.30 pm