

NEWS RELEASE

LOUISE WITTWER JOINS THE BOARD OF THE SMALL COUNTRIES FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CENTRE



On the 1st October 2020 Louise Wittwer became a director of the Small Countries Financial Management Centre (SCFMC).

Louise was until very recently Commissioner, or Chief Executive of the Cook Islands' Financial Supervisory Commission.

Welcoming her to the Board, SCFMC Chairman Stephen Pickford said:

“We are very pleased that Louise has agreed to join the SCFMC and along with my fellow directors, I look forward to working with her as we continue the development of the Centre and its activities. Louise’s experience, expertise and knowledge of the Pacific Region will be of particular value, as will her extensive leadership experience in financial regulation and supervision.”

He continued:

“We have recently received a very positive independent evaluation report on the activities of the SCFMC and our flagship executive education programme, which we will be releasing publicly very shortly. That, together with the challenges all organisations face with the Covid-19 pandemic, make this an interesting and demanding time for us, so we are particularly pleased to further strengthen the Board with Louise’s appointment.”

Louise commented:

“I am delighted and honoured to be joining the Board of the SCFMC. I have thoroughly enjoyed my association with the SCFMC since I attended the Small Countries Financial Management Programme in 2011 and it is particularly rewarding to now have the opportunity to play an active role in assisting with the ongoing enhancement of the Centre. I bring extensive South Pacific Financial Supervisory and Regulatory experience to the table. To many of us in the Pacific the SCFMC represents a shining light, delivering exceptionally high quality, professional development training programmes, significantly aiding in small island financial sector capacity building.”

Background Information on Louise Wittwer

Ms Wittwer was appointed Commissioner of the Cook Islands Financial Supervisory Commission in December 2015.

Prior to that, she spent several years with Audit New Zealand, and forensic accounting firms in London and Wellington, before moving to the Cook Islands in 2002. She was General Manager of Cook Islands Trust Corporation for her initial three years in Rarotonga before joining the Cook Islands Audit Office as their Audit Advisor in 2005.

She joined the Financial Supervisory Commission as Manager Offshore Services in 2009 and was promoted to Deputy Commissioner in 2012.

Louise is a New Zealand qualified Chartered Accountant, United States qualified Certified Fraud Examiner and a member of the New Zealand Institute of Management. She plans to remain in the Cook Islands for the medium term and is looking to widen her experience, whilst expecting to continue to undertake projects for the Cook Islands Government.

Louise is also an alumna of the Small Countries Financial Management Programme (SCFMP), attending in 2011.

Background Information on the SCFMC

The SCFMC is a charity registered in the Isle of Man and a company limited by guarantee. It was established by the Isle of Man Treasury in June 2009. It receives the majority of its funding from the Isle of Man Government's International Aid budget.

The purpose of the SCFMC is to contribute to the growth and prosperity of small countries through capacity building in the government financial sector. Capacity building is a key means to deliver the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

More particularly, the SCFMC, through its Small Countries Financial Management Programme (SCFMP) contributes directly to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

Goal	Description
17. Partnerships for the Goals	Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals.
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international co-operation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
5. Gender Equality	Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life.

The SCFMC is established with the objective of reducing poverty and improving financial governance through the promotion of education relating to the government financial sector in small countries or countries whose economy or infrastructure has been adversely affected by wars or conflict. It does so by the organisation and provision of targeted executive education and technical training programmes and materials conducted by practitioners and academics to provide improved skills, deeper understanding and general best practice around financial regulation, risk management, and broader management of government financial activities, targeted at senior public sector officials from small developing countries.

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