



Executive Committee, Rarotonga

2 September 2021

UPDATE ON THE CICC BICENTENNIAL ASSEMBLY 2021

Kia orana,

The CICC Executive regrets to announce that the above programme scheduled for next month, 24–31 October, is amended as follows:

- 1. The bicentenary is scaled back from 3 days (Monday – Wednesday) to the main day of Tuesday 26th.**
- 2. The assembly is deferred to 2023 on Rarotonga, the dates to be confirmed in due course.**

The decision was not an easy one for the Executive to make. It took into account a number of prevailing issues related to the on-going Covid-19 pandemic around the Pacific, including Australia and New Zealand from where a lot of people had planned to attend the back-to-back once-in-a-lifetime gathering. This is in addition to a whole lot more people within the Cook Island who had also planned to attend. The Executive's decision was guided by those developments as well as recent decisions made by the local pandemic task force and Cabinet.

The Executive is mindful of the heaps of preparations including costs by Aitutaki and all those who had planned to come to Aitutaki for the events. But there really was no other viable option, things were simply beyond the Executive and everyone else's control. To this end, the Executive therefore wishes to register its much appreciation to everyone on Aitutaki who has for the past years spend much time and effort preparing for the events. The same message also goes to all those outside of Aitutaki – i.e within the Cook Islands, New Zealand and Australia – who had organised to be in Aitutaki.

Although both events are directly impacted by the change of plan, the Executive nevertheless trusts that all will go well with the much-reduced bicentenary programme, and look forward to the re-scheduled 2023 assembly.

Kia orana e kia manuia.

Sincerely,

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Nga Mataio
General Secretary