



New Regional
Representative
Richard Towle.

Introducing Richard Towle

Richard Towle took up the post as UNHCR Regional Representative for Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the South Pacific on 22 March 2007.

Richard is a New Zealander who joined UNHCR in Hong Kong in the early 1990s when he worked in a variety of capacities with the Vietnamese boat people, then moved to the London office of UNHCR. He has since held various senior legal roles in the Department of International Protection at UNHCR headquarters in Geneva and has been involved in the UNHCR development of policies and operations relating to human rights, internally displaced persons and asylum-migration issues. His other UN experience includes a role as Chief of Mission for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, from 2001 to 2003.

More recently, Richard was a Member of the New Zealand Refugee Status Appeal Authority, during a temporary absence from UNHCR. Prior to joining the UN, he was a Deputy Chair of the Hong Kong Refugee Status Review Board, after working as a lawyer in New Zealand specialising in refugee and human rights issues.

Ref:- <http://www.unhcr.org.au/pdfs/UNHCRnewsletter07.pdf>