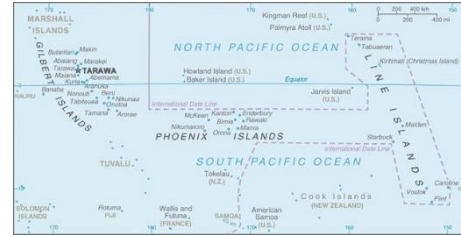
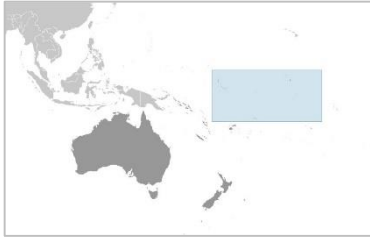




KIRIBATI



INTRODUCTION

The Gilbert Islands became a British protectorate in 1892 and a colony in 1915. They were captured by the Japanese in the Pacific War in 1941. The islands of Makin and Tarawa were the sites of major US amphibious victories over entrenched Japanese garrisons in 1943. The Gilbert Islands were granted self-rule by the UK in 1971 and complete independence in 1979 under the new name of Kiribati. Kiribati joined the UN in 1999 and has been an active participant in international efforts to combat climate change.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Taneti MAAMAU

Head of Government

President Taneti MAAMAU

Government Type

presidential republic

Capital

Tarawa

Legislature

unicameral House of Assembly or Maneaba Ni Maungatabu (46 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 811 sq km

Land: 811 sq km

Water: 0 sq km

Climate

tropical; marine, hot and humid, moderated by trade winds

Natural Resources

phosphate (production discontinued in 1979), coconuts (copra), fish

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

small, growing, environmentally fragile, Pacific island economy; major financial support from remittances, aid, and phosphate mining fund; tourism and fishing industries; poor business climate; inadequate anticorruption efforts; poor fiscal management

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$270 million (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$2,300 (2020 est.)

Industries - fishing, handicrafts

Agricultural products - coconuts, roots/tubers, bananas, vegetables, taro, tropical fruit, poultry, pork, nuts, eggs

Exports \$84.75 million (2013 est.)

fish/fish products, ships, coconut oil, copra (2019)

partners: Thailand 53%, Philippines 17%, South Korea 10%, Japan 9% (2019)

Imports \$107.1 million (2016 est.)

refined petroleum, netting, raw sugar, rice, poultry meats (2019)

partners: China 20%, Fiji 19%, Australia 12%, Taiwan 11%, South Korea 11%, New Zealand 7%, Japan 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

113,000 (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

1.05% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

I-Kiribati 96.2%,

I-Kiribati/mixed 1.8%,

Tuvaluan 0.2%, other 1.8% (2015 est.)

Language

I-Kiribati, English (official)

Religion

Roman Catholic 57.3%, Kiribati Uniting Church 31.3%, Church of Jesus Christ 5.3%, Baha'i 2.1%, Seventh Day Adventist 1.9%, other 2.1% (2015 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 56.3% of total population (2021)

rate of urbanization: 2.77% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

