

## Concept Note

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Industry Perspectives for enabling inter-company connectivity</b>
<b>Organisation(s):</b>	<b>Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association [PITA]</b>
<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Theme 3: Enabling Environment: Policy, Regulatory &amp; Financial Frameworks</b>
<b>Speaking Duration:</b>	<b>15 Minutes</b>
<b>Background and Justification:</b>	Liberalisation throughout the region is presenting both government and telecommunications firms with challenges. Approaches to interconnection regulation must be developed and implemented in each country. A survey of alternative approaches to these issues will be useful in developing policy and preparing responses to liberalization. Interconnection outcomes may have an impact on customer access.
<b>Objectives:</b>	The paper will identify regulatory issues relative to liberalization and discuss the costs and benefits of various alternative approaches. The transfer of learning and experience among participants will be useful to all participants. Every country is unique, starting with its own industry structure and legal and regulatory environment. However, experience around the world suggests a number of themes common to most countries. Of course, the consideration of what and/or which issues rank foremost is dependent on the individual market and stage of deregulation.
<b>Scope:</b>	A number of issues will be discussed, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Market liberalization and deregulation are not the same. Moving from monopoly to a multi-party market requires, at least initially, more regulation and not less. This is due to the nature of interconnection – there is seldom a basis for mutual agreement and government or the courts are typically required to arbitrate a solution.</li> <li>2. In many cases, costs must be proven. This is usually done with economic modeling. In some cases, particularly where resources are limited, benchmarking may be a useful alternative or supplement to cost modeling. Alternative cost concepts, modeling approaches and approaches to benchmarking will be discussed.</li> <li>3. The retail pricing regime must be rationalized. This requires analysis of access deficits and universal service funding. General approaches will be discussed.</li> <li>4. Other regulatory issues become more contentious in a liberalised environment: licensing, numbering, spectrum use, co-siting, etc. These</li> </ol>

	issues will also be addressed at a high level of detail.
<b>Expected Outcome:</b>	Examination of access and interconnection issues in detail and depth will assist in developing a platform of commonalities among the PITA membership and regional governments.
<b>Potential Partners:</b>	Both carriers and governments need to develop resources to deal with the issues.
<b>Project Timescale:</b>	Depends on the state of regulation and the market in each country.
<b>Budget (optional):</b>	