

## Concept Note

<b>Title</b>	<b>One Laptop Per Pacific Child</b>
<b>Organisation(s):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) One Laptop per Child Association, Inc. (OLPC)</li> <li>2) Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)</li> <li>3) International Telecommunication Union (ITU)</li> <li>4) Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)</li> <li>5) OLPC Friends (Friends)</li> </ol>
<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Theme 4b: ICT Applications</b>
<b>Speaking Duration:</b>	<b>15 Minutes</b>
<b>Background and Justification:</b>	<p><u>CONTEXT:</u> As a region, due in large part to major challenges of low population density and remoteness from major centres. Pacific Island countries have some of the lowest indicators on the adoption and access to ICT, especially in the education sector.</p> <p>***</p> <p><u>MISSION:</u> In 2009, assess the viability of the One Laptop Per Child initiative in Oceania, and its suitability for scaling up from 2010 to 2015.</p> <p>This Concept Note arises out of the 2007 Pacific Island Forum (PIF) in Tonga, where the leaders of 22 nations noted in their joint communiqué</p> <p>"...the potential utility of the One Laptop Per Child initiative and the need for education authorities... to assess the priority to be accorded to it in their countries as a tool for education and disseminating information to rural and remote communities."</p> <p>To this end, the four sponsors of this Concept Note have developed an MOU committing them to work together to:</p> <p>"...expedite the credible, independent evaluation of a scaled-up OLPC programme in Oceania; its potential impacts on education outcomes and broader economic development; and its viability for implementation at scale in (at least) 13 PIF member countries. "</p> <p>Partners will create the OLPC Oceania Technical Working Group to coordinate their work.</p> <p>***</p> <p><u>BACKGROUND:</u> In response the 2007 PIF leaders statement, there has been coordinated action throughout 2008 across the region to introduce the OLPC concept, engage stakeholders, and commence trials of the unique XO Laptop in schools across the region. Key actions include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In January 2008 OLPC Inc. donated 5000 XO laptops to the Pacific (value: USD 1m) and has appointed a regional representative to liaise with stakeholders.</li> <li>2. SPC has partnered with OLPC Inc. to distribute the 5000 laptops according to country-led demand from PIF member countries. It appointed a Programme Coordinator and Expert Consultant to manage this work.</li> <li>3. Up to February 2009, SPC had assisted 5 countries to commence trials: Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Niue, Nauru, and Vanuatu.</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Eight more countries have formally requested SPC to conduct trials: Fiji, FSM, Marshals, Tonga, Tuvalu, Tokelau, Cook Islands, Samoa. These countries have identified schools and are ready and waiting.</li> <li>5. In September 2008, OLPC and SPC released an "OLPC Oceania Concept Note", outlining a strategic framework and multi-stakeholder partnership to deliver One Laptop Per Pacific Child by 2015.</li> <li>6. At their Oct 2008 review, the SPC Committee of Representative Governments and Administrations approved SPC to seek funding to continue the OLPC program.</li> <li>7. In November 2008, OLPC Friends was founded to, among other things, support deployment of trials in the Pacific by coordinating expert volunteers.</li> <li>8. Also in November 2008, the PNG Government announced it would commence an OLPC program as part of a whole-of-government effort to improve Basic Education. It announced an intention to roll-out trials in 25 schools in 2009.</li> <li>9. PNG Sustainable Development Program is seeking SPC assistance to install trials in 12 non-government schools in remote Western Province in Q1 2009.</li> <li>10. In December 2008, due to budget shortfalls associated with the global financial crisis, SPC was unable to renew the contract of the Expert Consultant.</li> <li>11. ACER has identified the need for the integration of credible Monitoring and Evaluation in the trials. In January 2009 it offered to lead this work.</li> <li>12. In February 2009, OLPC Inc. and ITU agreed to a joint effort in the Asia-Pacific, where ITU will coordinate with Governments and relevant agencies to identify requirements and will handle administrative requirements, including facilitating shipping of equipment.</li> </ol> <p><b>There is an urgent need to immediately mobilise sufficient resources to complete the work begun in 2008, in order to meet the requests of PIF member countries and demonstrate progress to Pacific leaders at their next summit in Cairns, Australia, in August 2009.</b></p>
<b>Objectives:</b>	<p>To establish governance, secure funding and mobilise resources to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• complete existing OLPC trials in five PIF member countries and commence trials in eight more at the request of countries and key actors.</li> <li>• provide evidence and frameworks to enable PIF countries to adequately assess whether to take OLPC to scale in their countries and across the region</li> </ul>
<b>Scope:</b>	<p>The following schedule of work will be carried out (with Lead Partner in brackets):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. roadshow to mobilise sufficient resources and donor support (OLPC)</li> <li>2. perform a Literature Review of OLPC Evaluations globally (ACER)</li> <li>3. complete and close project deployment of OLPC trials started in 2008 in 5 Pacific Island countries: Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Niue, Nauru, Vanuatu (SPC/Friends)</li> <li>4. initiate new OLPC trials at the request of 8 more Pacific countries which are ready and waiting: FSM, Marshals, Tonga, Tuvalu, Tokelau, Vanuatu, Cooks, Samoa and (SPC/Friends)</li> <li>5. extend trials in Papua New Guinea to cover 25 schools; (SPC/Friends)</li> <li>6. assist PNG Sustainable Development Programme</li> <li>7. ensure all deployments of the programme integrate robust systems of monitoring and evaluation; conduct formal evaluations of the trials, covering both the effectiveness of the trials in terms of education outcomes and the deployment process itself.</li> </ol>

	<p>(ACER/SPC)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. assist all 13 pilot countries to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. convene National Stakeholders Consultations on OLPC</li> <li>b. establish a cross-sectoral OLPC National Core Team in each pilot country to take collective ownership, manage in-country coordination and oversee project management; (OLPC/SPC)</li> <li>c. assess the suitability of OLPC to the country's particular needs and goals; and the country's readiness to scale up an OLPC programme (ACER)</li> <li>d. build capacity and systems to take OLPC from trials to scale from 2010</li> </ol> </li> <li>9. convene OLPC Oceania as a broad coalition of actors and stakeholders supporting the harmonious and sustainable roll out of OLPC across the region; (OLPC/SPC/Friends)</li> <li>10. develop a proposal to conduct an appropriate evaluation of the impact of the OLPC program in the Pacific. (ACER)</li> <li>11. prepare an interim report for presentation at the next PIF Leaders Meeting, to be hosted by Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in Cairns in August, 2009. (OLPC, with inputs from all stakeholders).</li> </ol>
<b>Expected Outcome:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. a credible evidence base which donors and PIF countries can use to assess their capacity and readiness to take OLPC from trials to scale, with sustainability, from 2010;</li> <li>2. a monitoring and evaluation framework and country-level M&amp;E baseline model, each tailored to the Pacific context;</li> <li>3. a needs and readiness assessment to take OLPC to scale in 13 PIF countries</li> <li>4. a region- and sector-wide draft Plan of Action to deliver one laptop to every child in basic education across Oceania by 2015, for the consideration of Pacific Islands Forum</li> </ol>
<b>Potential Partners:</b>	<p><u>LEAD PARTNERS:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. SPC</li> <li>2. OLPC</li> <li>3. ITU</li> <li>4. ACER</li> <li>5. OLPC Friends</li> </ol> <p><u>PROGRAM COUNTRY PARTNERS:</u> The governments of 13 PIF countries</p> <p><u>NGO PARTNERS:</u> at the global, regional, national and community level</p> <p><u>DONOR PARTNERS:</u> Key donor and aid organisations of at least five donor countries: Australia, The European Union, Japan, New Zealand, United States</p> <p><u>INTERNATIONAL and INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTNERS:</u> IGOs such as, UNICEF, UNESCO, World Food Programme; development banks such as World Bank and Asian Development Bank</p>
<b>Project Timescale:</b>	<p>Phase I -- 2009, then Phase II -- 2010-2015</p> <p>The work of the TWG should be completed within calendar year 2009, with an interim reporting milestone coinciding with the PIF Leaders meeting in August.</p>

<b>Budget (optional):</b>	<p><b>IMMEDIATE RESOURCE NEEDS:</b></p> <p><b>Partners are seeking donor support and seed funding to immediately attend to three incomplete trials in Papua New Guinea, and to respond to urgent requests from the PNG Government.</b></p> <p><b>USD800,000</b> is urgently sought as a first tranche specifically to cover actions that must be expedited in Q1-Q2, 2009. These funds will enable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SPC to immediately renew the contract of the Expert Consultant and urgently attend to the completion of three trial schools in PNG</li><li>• SPC to engage two more expert ICT field consultants for 12 months</li><li>• ACER to commence work on developing a community level model for integrating M&amp;E into the existing OLPC trials in five countries</li><li>• OLPC to co-host with the PNG government a National Stakeholders Consultation in Port Moresby in March 2009</li><li>• OLPC Friends to source volunteers to support SPC's Expert Consultant in PNG</li><li>• ITU to establish administrative systems to facilitate shipping of equipment</li><li>• Partners to calculate a fully-costed budget sufficient to carry out the full schedule of work itemised above in "Scope". To be presented to PIF member countries at the Forum Education Ministers Meeting in Tonga in March 2009.</li></ul>
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