

Concept Note

Title	Regional Emergency & Disaster Communications System
Organisation(s):	PACIFIC ISLANDS TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION [PITA]
Theme:	Theme 5: Emergency Communications and Disaster Relief / Climate Change
Speaking Duration:	15 Minutes
Background and Justification:	<p>Unexpected natural and manmade disasters can occur any place, any time. An immediate response to organize and coordinate recovery operations rapidly is essential to save lives and restore the community infrastructure. These critical emergency activities depend upon the readily availability and access to telecommunication resources to support urgent communications</p> <p>The Pacific region consists of thousands of islands scattered over approximately 54 million square kilometres of ocean most of which are with very basic communications access or none. Most of the scattered islands do not have resources to deal with disasters threatening human life and basic needs for life preservation and who will require relief assistance and possible evacuation. This also applies to larger islands with remote rural communities having limited or no access and major geographical constraints</p> <p>In the event of disasters, communicating information for relief assistance, evacuation and recovery operations becomes crucial and of utmost importance.</p>
Objectives:	The objective of developing emergency systems is to have available at a few central locations such as in New Zealand for instance, disaster emergency communications packages capable of connecting directly to satellite and other infrastructures to allow both local communication within the relief operations, inward and outward access by voice and internet, that is transportable by Airlift or Ship for emergency and recovery communications, to critical locations where delays can cost lives
Scope:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To develop a regional disaster emergency communications package, to be transportable and easily deployable to any country in the Pacific region. 2. Further development of more than one disaster emergency communications packages with considerations of sub regional coverage for better responsiveness 3. Incorporate new technologies of smaller satellite terminals than VSATs with added inbuilt features of multi-line and internet access, such as with Inmarsat BGAN 4. In partnership with ITU, assist administrations of the Pacific Island Countries in developing a “National Emergency Telecommunications Plan” aiming at facilitating the deployment and use of telecommunications/ICTs in all phases of disaster management through expert assistance regional seminars, workshops
Expected Outcome:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries equipped with easily transportable Emergency & Disaster communication system, faster responses for effective mitigation programs and saving of lives

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabling environment (i.e. national emergency telecommunications plan and application of the Tampere Convention) for deployment and use of telecommunications/ICTs in disaster management
Potential Partners:	Telcos and Service Providers, Regulatory Department, Governments of the Pacific Island countries and donor governments and bodies such as Australia, USA, NZ, ITU, SOPAC, EU, PIFS, World Bank and others.
Project Timescale:	6-18 months
Budget (optional):	