

Background Theme 1 & 2

Affordable Access in the Pacific

Pacific ICT Ministerial Forum: Connecting the
Unconnected

17 February 2009, Tonga

Pacific Circumstances



- Large distances
- Small scale and scattered population and markets
- Low level of investments in telecommunications and human resources
- The need of reliable, competitive and low-priced telecom/ICT services

Pacific Plan

- **Goal:** *“Enhance and stimulate economic growth, sustainable development, good governance and security for Pacific countries through regionalism”*
 - *ICT is one of ten sectors identified as priority areas for implementation under the Pacific Plan for 2009 (endorsed by Forum Leaders at their 2008 meeting in Niue)*

- **Regional Digital Strategy** aims to, *inter alia*:
 - Encourage construction of domestic telecommunications and information infrastructure
 - Encourage business/private sector investment and participation
 - Intensify cooperation among member countries
 - Narrow the gap in information infrastructure between advanced and developing countries and urban and rural areas
 - Ensure universal access to public services in telecommunications
 - Etc.

ITU Regional Initiative



- Adopted at the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) in Doha, 2006

- The ITU Regional Initiative (2007-2010) *“The unique telecommunication/ICT needs of Pacific Islands and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Asia-Pacific Region”*, aims to, *inter alia*:
 - Identify innovative low-cost technology options which will work in Pacific’s unique environment;
 - Ensure existence of reliable and uninterrupted satellite communication infrastructure
 - Enhance access to secured and cost-effective ICT services
 - Etc.

Regional Studies/Reports



- ITU regional strategies for contingency planning in satellite communications
(ITU, 2006)
- Satellite services in the Pacific
(Network Strategies, report to Australian Government, 2007)
- Enhancing Pacific connectivity
(ESCAP, 2008)
- Regional telecoms backbone network assessment and implementation options study
(Polyconseil, report to World Bank, 2008)

On-going Efforts

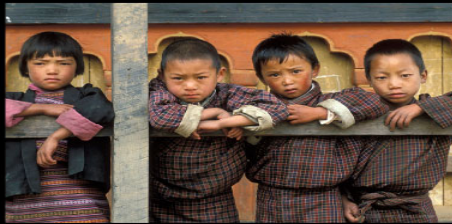
- Pacific Rural Internet Connectivity System (PACRICS)
- ITU-Andorra Project for rural/outer island communications in the Pacific (support by Australian Government)
- ITU-NSN Connecting villages initiative
- South Pacific Islands Network (SPIN) proposal
- O3b Networks "Cellular backhaul and mobile IP trunking over a satellite network"
- World Bank's study of regional connectivity
- ADB's proposed Technical Assistance

Ways Forwards

- *“Delays and obstacles to improving connectivity will continue to disadvantage the Pacific’s growth and access to global opportunities”*

Move forwards to implementing/building infrastructure at both regional and national levels

- **Support** and **Sustain** existing efforts which have a potential e.g. PACRICS while open for other cost-effective solutions for domestic connectivity
- **Maintain** and **Intensify** “regional consensus and cooperation”



Thank You

<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/asp/CMS/Events/2009/PacMinForum/PacMinForum.asp>