ITU Emergency Telecommunications Multi-stakeholder Forum for the Asia Pacific, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; 08-10 July 2011

DISASTER COMMUNICATIONS PLAN - PITA

Presented by Mr Ivan Fong; President of PITA
Overview

- Briefly on Disaster Management in the Pacific
  - Environment & Threats
  - Organisations
- About PITA
- Challenges faced by Telecommunications
- Disaster Management Issues
- PITA Regional Plan
- Cooperation & Partnership approach
Environment; Threats

- Blue Continent - 1,000 small islands scattered over 54 million Km of Ocean

- High Risks:
  - RING OF FIRE – earth quakes
  - Large Ocean conducive for Hurricane/Typhoons/Cyclones
  - Rising Sea levels, Wave Activities, Tsunami
  - El Nino/Nina – unprecedented rain and flooding, Land slides
  - Instances of Drought
  - Food Security – rising sea levels
Environment & Threats

RING OF FIRE
Environment & Threats

- We have limited telecommunication technologies & infrastructure, certain degree of inbuilt redundancy and physical diversity that continuously provides contingency capability on International links.
- Many Pacific Islands only have one antenna for all international services.
- Our Islands don’t have additional resources to deal with disasters; many of those with 2 or more satellite antennas would still be severely impaired if one antenna or their international voice gateway failed.
- We are mostly Least Developing or developing countries, remote islands, sparse populations.
- Disasters can also be in isolated regions where it is difficult to restore unprotected local network.
Organisations

- **Community resilient programs** (CRP) - SOPAC
  - Community based Disaster Risk Management (DRM) & Disaster Management Framework (DMF)
  - Awareness/education, Preparedness

- **Role of Telecommunication, Technologies and Infrastructure** – PITA
  - 1st responders for lives and assessment, Public & Business communications continuity, Alert & Monitoring, Space /Satellite Applications

- Disaster & Emergency Management **National Committees/Agencies** (National policies)

- NGOs

- External Technical Aid and relief assistance
Disaster Management Issues

- Disaster planning is a non event until something happens
- Diversity and redundancy is key as existing infrastructure will overload in emergency
- The need to work collectively
- More reliance on external aid, space applications & technologies
  - Connectivity, Back Haul
  - Alerts/Monitoring,
  - Response & Mitigations

Flooding Transmission Station
Wide footprint of Cyclones
PITA Regional Plan

- Membership and countries driven based on past disasters impact on communication networks
- Spirit to assist in times of emergency & disaster (Good Samaritan)
- Telecommunications & Technology driven

1st Steps
- Donation of equipment, expertise, space segment from members
- Formation of a Working Committee on Disaster & Emergency communications plan

Plan
- To develop a regional platform for rapid deployment of required communication systems to areas of disasters & emergencies
PITA Regional Plan

- **Guiding Objectives**
  - Should address domestic and international services
  - To cover loss of terrestrial and/or satellite backbone services
  - Support essential services (Telephony & IP) during an emergency
  - Offers service capacities of up to 10 Mbit/s plus per site
  - Is scalable to support a large number of sites if needed
  - Offers optional emergency access network for government & agencies
  - Employs open standard technology / transparent network architecture
  - Uses standard building blocks for transmission, switching and customer access to interface with or replace existing network infrastructure
  - May be activated automatically or with a minimal level of expertise
  - Is Cost effective to implement
  - Can achieve critical service restoration
PITA Regional Plan

- **Responses/Mitigation**
  - Immediate relief and rapid units in country for first responders (1st 24 hours)
  - Inventory of relief systems & key spares located at strategic locations around Pacific for public and business continuity (RFP) (within 1st 24hrs to 48hrs)

- **Preparedness**
  - Communication & Coordination Plan – for mobilisation
  - Emergency focal points Database
PITA Regional Plan

- Pilot System on hot standby
- Training
- Diversity & Resilience of Back haul, Connectivity & Access
- Collaboration for alert and monitoring

- **Deployment**
  - Available to support national emergencies and disaster management agencies
  - International transportation & National transportation
  - Alternative power sources
Cooperation for Disaster Management

- **Disaster is everyone’s business**
- Regional Mechanism between regional & national agencies (PITA, SOPAC, SPC, ESCAP, APT, ITU, NGOs, etc)
- Private Public Partnership for all areas:-
  - Preparedness, Response, Mitigation
- **Integrating the PITA regional Disaster & Emergency Communication Plan for telecommunication players into other plans for complementary effectiveness and support**
- Assistance from industry, donor governments and agencies for inventory
- Opportunities and strategies for space & ground applications, connectivity, diversity and technology
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Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association

Thank you