

## **Scoping Report of the ICB4PAC Planning Meeting 26-27 NOVEMBER 2009, NADI, FIJI**

### **1 Executive Summary**

The planning meeting for the ICB4PAC was organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). This was the first event implemented under the ICB4PAC Project which became operational in September 2009.

The objectives of the meeting were as follows:

1. To formally present the project to Pacific Islands stakeholders
2. To solicit input from information and communication technology (ICT) stakeholders regarding the main areas of regional focus (priorities for the project)
3. To identify relevant resources and technical cooperation requirements in the region
4. To determine mechanisms for stakeholders' participation
5. To propose the project plan of action and implementation scheme
6. To identify the key contact point for each country.

A total of 42 participants (Annex 1) from 15 countries, including 6 regional organizations, private sector and academia participated in the meeting. Country participants included Permanent Secretaries, CEOs, Director Generals, Regulators and Assistant CEOs. The number of representatives, their seniority and their active contribution during the two-day meeting demonstrated the importance of this meeting for the recipient countries. All participants stated their

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full support for the project and commitment to work closely with the ICB4PAC Project Coordinator.

The meeting was opened with speeches by the Head of the ITU regional office for Asia and the Pacific, Dr. Eun-Ju Kim, the Economic and Infrastructure Advisor from the Pacific Island Forum (PIFS), Mr. John Budden, Representative of the Delegation of the European Commission for the Pacific, Mr. Bernard Blazkiewicz, and the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Communication of Fiji, Mrs. Taina Tagicakibau on behalf of the Minister, Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaium.

Meeting sessions were chaired by representatives of regional organizations and every effort was made to ensure that the participants contributed to the discussions. This was to ensure that the outcomes reflected the needs of recipient countries.

The PNG delegates requested an opportunity to do a presentation on their current development which was welcomed by the participants. It was considered an excellent presentation as a knowledge sharing exercise for other less developed countries in terms of telecommunication/ICT regulations and legislative framework. The presentation was welcomed because PNG was sharing its experience with other countries.

The delegate of Cook Islands also requested to do a presentation on the PacCERT which was welcomed since it gave all participants an understanding of the way forward for a regional CERT for the Pacific Island countries. It is expected that the ICB4PAC will collaborate where possible with activities of PacCERT.

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During the two days of meeting, a broad consensus emerged on the following:

- a) Name of the project
- b) List of topics
- c) Priority topics
- d) Activities based on the priority projects
- e) Governance of the project
- f) Focal points
- g) Format of the Meeting Report

**1.1 Name of the project:**

The delegation of Samoa raised the issue about changing the name of the project. During discussion of this issue, participants agreed that the initial name of the project (ICBB4PIS – Pacific islands States) may be misinterpreted. Consequently, it was agreed to rename the project as ICB4PAC (Pacific Countries).

**1.2 List of topics:**

The participants agreed on the following list of topics in order of priority:

- 1. National ICT Policy
- 2. Interconnection
- 3. Cyber-security
- 4. Licensing
- 5. Universal Access

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6. Numbering
7. Frequency and Spectrum Management

### **1.3 Priority topics**

While *Frequency and Spectrum Management* had been identified as a priority by the participants; they expressed reservations about the project addressing this issue due to the project's limited duration and the complexity of the issue. Therefore, the ICB4PAC has received the mandate to accommodate the first six top-priority topics taking into account the timing and budget constraints.

### **1.4 Activities based on the priority projects**

It was agreed that Experts are to be recruited to implement this project, and the participants have been advised to inform the ICB4PAC Project Coordinator of any experts with relevant recognized experience in the region that they know of.

It was also agreed that the development of a database to capture legislation of all Pacific island countries for information sharing should be done in partnership with the University of the South Pacific (probably through PACLII – based at the Port Vila Campus) and the Project Coordinator was advised to liaise with the USP, Fiji on this matter.

Recognizing the vast distances between countries, it was agreed that it is more effective to conduct regional workshops rather than multiple national workshops. The national in-country support would take place as a follow-up of the regional activities. Additionally, the participants requested that the ICB4PAC Project Coordinator review the video conference facilities in the region.

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Taking into account the time and budget constraints, the ITU-EC Project team has been mandated to balance the regional and in-country support for the 6 pre-selected topics. All six pre-selected topics will benefit from a regional activity aiming at assessing the situation, identifying the best practices regionally and comparing them with international best practices and finally, to prepare guidelines based on agreed policies. From these six topics, two will benefit from a follow-up action consisting of in-country support.

While it is understood that countries are at different levels of telecommunication/ICT development where regulations and legislative frameworks are concerned, it was agreed that a good approach is to share regional best practices and consequently, have countries such as Samoa, Fiji and Papua New Guinea to share their experience with less advanced countries, if they want to.

There was also a concern about using international benchmarking for some models used in telecommunication development in the Pacific Island countries, however, we cannot work in isolation, and we need to consider both regional and international benchmarking and best practices. For instance, there is not enough data on international mobile termination charges in the Pacific at this present time to be used for a regional benchmark and different countries use different models for termination; others use CPP and others use RPP while most are now moving toward cost based termination charges for domestic markets. Therefore, the ICB4PAC initiatives will take into account international best practices and benchmarking where relevant.

### **1.5 Governance of the project**

In terms of governance, the participants agreed that a light structure is suitable and desirable from a cost-saving point of view. They opted for a governance mechanism based on the National Focal Points who will be the representatives of the ICB4PAC in their home countries and the contact persons for the project. This option has been preferred to a Steering Committee.

### **1.6 Focal points**

The participants agreed that each country will appoint a National Focal Point. By the end of the meeting 12 countries had identified and communicated their National Focal Point. Other country participants have committed to report back their Focal Point to the ICB4PAC Project Coordinator immediately after the meeting. The list of the National Focal Points is attached as Appendix 5.

### **1.7 Format of the Meeting Report**

The participants agreed to name the final planning meeting report “Scoping Report”. The structure of the report was also agreed as follow:

- Executive Summary
- Background
- Body of the Report
- Agreed Name of the Project
- Agreed Priority Projects
- Activities
- Focal Points
- Name of the Final Report and the Structure

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- Conclusions
- Recommendations

However, since the Project Coordinator had already drafted the background to the report, it was decided to put the background and detailed planning meeting report as an Annex.

### **1.8 Conclusion**

Feedback from the participants was that the kick-off and planning meeting was “productive” and a “good meeting”. This feedback was proposed and agreed by the participants to form part of the report. The meeting was enjoyed by all and in the end the expected outputs of the meeting were achieved as explained above except for the scoping report. It was agreed to name the final meeting report the “Scoping Report” – the structure of which was also agreed, as shown above. It was agreed at the meeting that the Project Coordinator will draft the scoping report and disseminate it to all participants and focal points on Monday 30 November 2009.

Furthermore, the issue of international best practices and benchmarking was discussed. The consensus was that this project will need to consider international and regional best practices. With regards to interconnection, there is much to be learnt from other regions and therefore, we will not work in isolation but will advise the experts to consider regional and international best practices.

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## **1.9 Recommendations**

The following recommendations are based on the meeting discussions and agreement by the participants:

- A) Regional activities that can fit within the budget and timing of the project are as follow:
- 1) National ICT Policy/Strategy
    - Regional workshop to agree principles and guidelines
    - Transpose outcomes of regional workshop to the national level by way of in-country support
  - 2) Interconnection  
Regional workshop for:
    - International Mobile Termination
    - International Roaming
    - Cost Modeling Training
  - 3) Cyber-security
    - Regional Workshop on model Cybersecurity Legislation
  - 4) Licensing
    - Regional Workshop - Reviewing existing licensing regime taking into account convergence and technology neutrality
    - Transposing results of regional meeting to the national level.
  - 5) Universal Services Access
    - Regional Workshop on the what, why, when, where, and how with contributions from those countries with Universal Services Access policies in place
  - 6) Numbering
    - Regional Workshop on numbering



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7. Based on timing and budget, only two topics will be transposed to the national level. These are topic one (national ICT policy) and topic 4 (licensing).
8. It is also recommended that regional activities for other topics can be combined; e.g. cyber-security and numbering etc.
9. Each country to recommend any experts that they are aware of who can assist in the implementation to the Project Coordinator to build a pool of experts for this project
10. Each country provide a focal point for this project who will be committed to the review of documents such as Terms of References, draft reports, legislation etc.
11. The Project Coordinator to liaise with the USP in terms of building a database to serve as a repository for policies, regulations and legislation for all Pacific Island countries to facilitate knowledge sharing. It will help in any efforts of harmonization in the future.
12. That ICB4PAC will coordinate with regional Internet Safety activities where cyber security is concerned.
13. With regards to the issue of Child protection on cyber space, it was agreed that this issue will be addressed in the cyber-security legislation activity.

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## 1.10 Annexes

### Annex 1 Full List of Participants

<b>No</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1	Mr. Aberaam	Bwanouia	Kiribati	Telecommunications Authority of Kiribati	Chief Executive Officer
2	Mr. Allen	Wilbur	Marshall Islands	Ministry of Transportation and Communications	Permanent Secretary
3	Mr. Appi	Criden	Nauru	Department of Transport & Telecommunications	Director of Telecommunications. (Regulatory)
4	Mr. Atipayakoon	Wisit	Thailand	ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific	Pacific Focal Point
5	Mr. Azhar	Azhar	Australia	IMPACT	
6	Prof Babulak	Eduard	Fiji	University of the South Pacific	Professor of Computing Science and Information Systems
7	Ms. Baniala	Dalsie	Vanuatu	Office of the Telecommunications Regulator	Regulatory Administrator
8	Mr. Bazzanella	Sandro	Switzerland	ITU-EC Project	Project Manager
9	Mr. Blazkiewicz	Bernard	Fiji	European Commission	Representative of the Ambassador and Head of EC in the Pacific
10	Mr. Budden	John	Fiji	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat	Economic Infrastructure Advisor
11	Mr. Chin	Takkon	Palau	Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce	Chief Division of Communication
12	Christopher	Fred	Fiji	PITA	Manager
13	Crook	John	Vanuatu	Office of the Telecommunications Regulator	Telecommunications Regulator
14	Defreitas	Donnie	Samoa	Office of the Regulator Samoa	Regulator
15	Dillon	David	Fiji	Digicel	
16	Gulo	Kila Vai	PNG	Papua New Guinea Regulatory Authority	Director
17	Iduhu	Henao	PNG	Ministry of Communication and Information	Secretary
18	Kapun	Norman	Nauru	Department of Transport and Telecommunications	Director For ICT
19	Kim	Eun-ju	Thailand	ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific	Head of ITU Regional Office
20	Laukon	Cathney	Marshall	Ministry of Transportation	Director,

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			Islands	and Communications	Telecommunication Department
21	Lowe	Robert	Australia	AUSCERT	
22	Ludah	Eriel	FSM		
23	Maata	Eweata	Kiribati	Telecommunications Authority of Kiribati	Manager Administrations/Legal Counsel
24	Mokoroa	Mac	Cook Islands	Prime Minister's Office	Chief of Staff
25	Puhana	Charles	PNG	Papua New Guinea Telecommunication Authority	Director General
26	Purcell	Gisa Fuatai	Fiji	International Telecommunication Union	Project Coordinator
27	Sa'aga	Taimane Tony	Samoa	Ministry of Communications & Information Technology	Manager ICT Secretariat
28	Simati	Opetai	Tuvalu	Government of Tuvalu	Acting Director ICT
29	Sovaleni	Siaosi	Fiji	SOPAC	ICT Project Manager
30	Taga	Andre	Vanuatu		
31	Tagicakibau	Taina	Fiji	Ministry of Public Enterprises, Tourism and Communications	Permanent Secretary
32	Thomson	Ian	New Caledonia	Secretariat of Pacific Communities	ICT Project Manager
33	Tuiloma	Jonati	Fiji	Department of Communication	Acting Director
34	Tukutama	Carlos	Niue	Telecom Niue	Technical Manager
35	Tune	Teakai	Kiribati	Ministry of Communications Transport & Tourism Development	National ICT Policy Officer
36	Uherbelau	Victorio	Palau	Office of the President	
37	Vakata	Fe'ao	Tonga	Ministry of Communications and Information Technology	Acting Secretary
38	Vanualailai	Jito	Fiji	University of the South Pacific	Head of School of Computing, Information & Mathematical Sciences
39	Vector	Philip	Australia	IMPACT	
40	Vuti	Wilson	Vanuatu	Ministry of Infrastructure & Public Utilities	Director General
41	Ingram	Graham	Australia	AUSCERT	General Manager
42	Uzumma	Erume	Fiji	Pacific Island Forum	Economist

## Annex 2 Synthesis of Country Report

### COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS ICB4PAC PLANNING MEETING 26-27 NOVEMBER 2009

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## **1 Introduction**

Senior officials of the Pacific Island countries were requested to provide contributions for the planning meeting explaining what the priorities are for their countries that could be addressed by the ITU-EC project for the Pacific Islands, the ICB4PAC. A list of the proposed topics, selected by the ICB4PAC project team and the ITU regional office for Asia and the Pacific Islands was sent to the participants to assist with their preparations for the meeting.

The Project Coordinator called every country and discussed the project and in particular the topics with either the Director or CEO of the Ministry, Regulator or Assistant Director. Content of the conversation were recorded to help with the analysis. Written Contributions from Samoa, Kiribati, Nauru, Tuvalu, Marshall Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu were received before the meeting. Others sent their contributions by email while others explained their priorities and current situation over the phone.

This summary of country contributions starts with General Comments, followed by specific comments on the list of proposed topics, interviews with some regional organizations, priority topics, conclusion and recommendations. The comments are in the order of which they were received.

## **2 Country Contributions**

All the Pacific Island country recipients of this project were contacted by telephone to make sure that they have received information that was sent out from the ITU office in Geneva and from the Project Coordinator. In particular, the telephone calls were also made to ascertain which of the 8 proposed topics are relevant to the countries, regardless whether they have an independent Regulator or not.

In addition to the phone calls, meetings were held with others including Fiji and delegates from other countries that attended the two meetings in which the presentation to introduce the project was done Nadi and Sydney in October and November 2009 respectively. Country contribution provides comments on the proposed list of topics to be covered by the project and the developments currently taking place in each country.

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The proposed list of topics to be covered in this project includes:

- 1. National ICT Policy/Strategy**
- 2. Frequency/Spectrum Management**
- 3. Numbering**
- 4. Universal Access**
- 5. Cyber Security**
- 6. Licensing**
- 7. Interconnection**
- 8. Cost Modeling**

The numbering of the topic list is referenced in the analysis on table 1.

## **2.1 General Comments:**

### **2.1.1 Samoa**

Samoa correctly points out that telecommunication/ICT development in the recipient countries of this project are at different levels. For instance, Samoa, Papua New Guinea and Fiji have already experienced in telecommunication liberalization while others are still contemplating the move towards liberalizing the sector. Samoa also pointed out that the structure of the regulatory frameworks are also at varying levels with some countries having independent regulators while other countries continue to have regulatory matters integrated into the Ministries. This means that the needs and priorities of all the 15 recipient countries for this project will differ.

Samoa proposes that issues of telecommunication and ICT should be treated differently because some countries still treat telecommunication distinctly from ICT although increased convergence and service integration will mean that the treatment of the two issues will make it difficult to be treated separately.

### **2.1.2 Kiribati**

Kiribati provides full support for this project and acknowledges the assistance of the ITU regional office in providing TA to conduct training on SMS4DC software, ACMA and many more which Kiribati hopes will continue with this project. Kiribati then moves straight to the list of topics as summarized in section 3.

### **2.1.3 Nauru**

Nauru has recently established the office of the Regulator and provides full support for this project. Because each country is at a different stage of development Nauru believes that it will be a difficult task to prioritize a list to

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suit a general consensus. Therefore, the contribution addresses only the list of proposed topics. But in discussing the project with the Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications, he stated that a National ICT Policy for Nauru would be a good start and at the same time, assist the new Regulator with the work that needs to be done for the country especially where regulatory matters are concerned.

**2.1.4 Vanuatu**

Vanuatu also has full support for the project and the proposed topics. While the topics are all relevant to Vanuatu, it proposes 2 more topics to be considered for the list. These are:

- Dominance/market power and managing anti-competitive behaviour
- Internet Governance and associated technical arrangements

Vanuatu has recently set up its new office of the Interim Regulator. They are looking forward to attending and contributing to the planning meeting.

In a phone discussion with the Director General, Mr. Wilson Vuti, of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities, he stated that one of their many priorities is developing a National ICT Policy that will address the issue of Competition. Regulatory matters as far as he was concerned should be addressed by the Office of the Interim Regulator with the assistance of the Ministry. One of the keys issues facing Vanuatu is the limited number of skilled and experienced staff to deal with policy development let alone regulatory and legislative matters.

**2.1.5 Fiji**

During a meeting with the Permanent Secretary and the Acting Director of the Department of Communications, the Permanent Secretary stated their full support for this project because the need for training in all aspects of telecommunication/ICT development in Fiji is very high. While there is much development going on in Fiji, she needs to establish a regulatory framework that supports the opening of the sector to competition, which has already started with the mobile sector. Fiji has recently appointed a new Regulator within the Ministry of Communications who is working towards establishing an independent Regulator.

During a meeting with the Minister, he advised that Fiji now has a Spectrum Management plan, but he needs a technical person to assist Fiji in implementing the plan. He advised that challenges in Fiji that he hopes some can be addressed by this project include:

- appropriate regulatory institution for competitive markets;

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- rationalization of prices and tariff rebalancing;
- licensing and spectrum management; and
- USO matters and rural telecommunications development.

The Minister further stated that the Fiji Government is committed towards developing the telecommunications markets and the strategies that have been identified for national development as outlined in the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) and the National Export Strategy. The strategies that are identified for developments in the information and communications technology include –

- telecommunications services liberalization and competition;
- pricing and tariff rationalization;
- restructure of regulatory framework; and
- provision of access to all communities

**2.1.6 Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)**

All topics are relevant however FSM must first establish a national ICT Policy/Strategy and establish policy directives to provide guidelines on how FSM can benefit from telecommunication/ICT. For this reason, FSM has prioritized the proposed list of topics as follows with number 1 given the highest priority:

1. National ICT Policy/Strategy
2. Interconnection
  - a. National
  - b. International (Gateway but in a broader approach it may also cover submarine cables & associated landing station issues)
3. Universal Services\Access
  - a. Definition: Scope of concept
  - b. When funds are available, develop an investment (spending) policy that meets the USO objectives as defined in the above definition
4. Frequency/Spectrum Management
  - a. Frequency Table: Developing harmonized regional/national frequency allocation table
  - b. Assessment of the existing spectrum management regimes and developing proposals/work plan for improvements (if required)



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- c. SMS4DC (software) – Train the trainer and assistance in the installation/customization (this can be also grouped with above actions)
  - d. Spectrum pricing: Assistance in spectrum pricing, developing harmonized spectrum fee schedule
  - e. Spectrum Monitoring: Assistance in developing monitoring system
- 5. Cybersecurity
    - a. Cyber Legislation
    - b. CERT
  - 6. Licensing (convergence & technology neutrality)
  - 7. Numbering Plan
  - 8. Cost Modeling

The President's Directive is to move towards liberalization of FMS Telecom including Privatization of FMSTC and creation of a new Corporation to run the SFOC to attain equity for Telecom Competitors. This means that current monopoly law will be replaced by new legislation for liberalization.

Broadband Connectivity for all states (submarine fiber optics etc.) accommodating all e-applications is another directive from the President. This shows that FSM now has the political will to move ahead with planned telecommunication/ICT development. E-Government, Distance Education and Tele-Health are three very high priorities for the FSM for ICT Development programs.

The successful implementation in June 2009 of three school based community access telecenters in three remote rural communities will serve as models for universal services into rural villages and remote island communities in the FSM.

***2.1.7 Papua New Guinea***

Papua New Guinea also fully supports this project and all the topics proposed to be covered. The Secretary of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Mr. Henao Iduhu stated in a phone conversation that while they have had an independent Regulator established for some times now, they still need capacity building support for ICT policies, regulation and legislative frameworks. He stated that all the topics are relevant and they

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need capacity building in all these topics to ensure that Papua New Guinea can achieve a fully functional legislative framework.

While Papua New Guinea has not yet submitted its written contribution, it was clear that they still have issues with Interconnection and cost modeling as well as a legal framework for resolving interconnection and modeling issues. They are looking forward to this project to ensure that concrete action can be possible to help them with their efforts in developing cost structures and a legal framework of resolving issues. Others issues that are of concern to the Papua New Guinea can be found in section 3.8 of this report.

***2.1.8 Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)***

Marshall Islands provided only general comments because they stated that all the topics are of relevant to them. Their only concern is whether this project with a time frame of two years will be able to address all the proposed topics. They support regional workshops and training and especially where their country can have specific in-country training for staff. RMI also provided only general comments because of the relevancy of the proposed topics to them.

While the RMI has a National ICT policy they are trying to ascertain whether to review it to include competition or whether they should put in place a regulation first before the NICT plan is reviewed. There is also a need to incorporate the many telecommunication and ICT developments that have been carried out by other sectors. For instances, the basic government need for standardization, daily backup etc. Such important topics can be addressed in the national ICT policy. Competition is another big issue in the RMI as they move towards liberalization and establishing an office for an independent Regulator.

***2.1.9 Palau***

In a phone call with the Chief of the Communication Department, he stated that he is looking forward to this project to assist Palau with capacity building on all the proposed topics as they consider all the topics as equally critical and important for Palau. He mentioned that while Palau is not yet a member of ITU, they have received some assistance in the past from ITU. They are especially interested in addressing the issue of acute shortage of skills and expertise and resources that can help in improving the sector.

Of great importance to Palau are the review and improvement of its national ICT Policy, regulatory and a legislative framework to help with competition, interconnection and modeling, numbering, frequency and spectrum issues.

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Palau also raised the issue of e-Applications such as e-Government, e-Education etc., and asked if it is possible to include this topic in the list of topics. The Project Coordinator advised that there is no problem with adding this topic to the list but the list will have to be agreed at the planning meeting. Also, there are no equipments covered under the project, and this is why partnership with other donors is important.

**2.1.10 Cook Islands**

Cook Islands have commenced work under the e-government initiative and recognize the opportunity this initiative offers for improved Government operations and services. Progress however has been hindered with the lack of resources and expertise. Given these negative impacts, it is crucial that organizations proposing to offer assistance to ICT developments consider areas in funding and capacity building. As such, if this project is intended to provide some relief for continuity or commencement of planned developments, then Cook Islands definitely support it. With plans to liberalize the Telecommunication sector, the Cook Islands welcome the proposed list of topics and suggests for inclusion of e-government and internet governance to the proposed list.

**2.1.11 Tuvalu**

In discussing the project with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communication, he stated that Tuvalu welcomes this project and looks forward to supporting the project. In discussing the proposed list of topics, he suggested that concrete actions is what is needed for Tuvalu, and while the regional workshops and training can be of great importance, it is even achievable when country assistance is provided.

In Tuvalu's contribution, it listed the topics in order of priority as follow:

- National ICT Policy
- E-Government
- Cyber-legislation
- Interconnection

**2.1.12 Tonga**

During a phone call with the Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Communication, who is also the Chairperson for the Pacific ICT Task Force, he stated that it is important for the project to have a mechanism where by a follow up by way of providing TAs to countries is put in place to ensure that countries have the assistance with developing and finalizing policies,

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regulations and other relevant legislation. He mentioned that outputs at the national level can only be achieved using TA because Administrations in most Pacific Island countries have only a limited number of staff in their policy divisions as well as regulatory bodies.

In relation to the list of proposed topics, he mentioned that all the topics are relevant to their Administration and of equal importance.

***2.1.13 Solomon Islands***

Both the Permanent Secretary and Director of the Ministry of Communications are attending the planning meeting. According to the Deputy Director through a telephone call, this is how important this project is to the Solomon Islands. At the moment he said, there are so many developments in the telecommunication ICT area in their country but lacks policies, regulatory and legislative framework. The Solomon Islands have a rural connectivity project called PFnet funded by the EU with a timeframe of 5 years. As of now, the government has no strategy to ensure that the administration of these telecenters will be sustained once the EU funded aspects of the project end. For example, the salaries of the telecenter administrators and technical support.

The topics that are of priority to the Solomon Islands include National ICT policy, Frequency and Spectrum management, Interconnection and Cost Modeling, Numbering followed by the rest of the topics.

Solomon Islands support the objectives of the ICB4PAC and endorse the outcome of the recent meeting held in Nadi, Fiji. We are moving into competition. Competition in mobile services will commence in April 2010 and full competition in April 2011. As such we have capacity building requirements in telecom policy and regulation, which we are pleased to note, will be addressed by the ICB4PAC project.

Solomons has a national telecommunication policy, new telecommunications Act (2009) supporting competition, but no national ICT policy framework.

With reference to Frequency and Spectrum management, the Permanent Secretary stated that if there is interest from other Pacific Island countries and ITU concurrence, Solomon Islands would like the ITU to conduct a workshop on its SMS4DC software at one of the regional workshops. We are moving into competition (April 2010), he stated and so we urgently need training on this software to upgrade our spectrum management data. If this is not a priority by other countries then fine we'll work our way around this.

#### **2.1.14 Niue**

The Minister of the Ministry of Communications attended the CTO/ITU forum on 16 September 2009 in Nadi where a presentation of this project was conducted by the Project Coordinator. He stated that the Niue Islands with only a population of 1,500 people are in a critical situation now because of the lack of skilled and experience staff in addressing many telecommunications and ICT issues in the country. While our country is very small, he said it is still a country with many needs to be addressed so that the citizens can experience low cost telephone calls to the rest of the world now experienced by other country. As such, he fully supports the project and would make sure someone is sent to the planning meeting to voice Niue's issues.

More importantly is the issue of convergence stating that such a small country should have one mobile phone that can provide many services especially where roaming is concerned. Right now he mentioned he had about 4 or 5 SIM cards so that what ever country in the Pacific including NZ and Australia he goes to, he can still keep in contact with his senior staff. This is an important issue in the Pacific Islands he hopes this project will be able to address. He specifically requests the project to look at a mechanism where one SIM card can be used in many countries of the Pacific Islands, especially where big players like Digicel and Vodafone do business.

The key priorities for Niue include the following:

- National ICT Policy/Strategy
- Regulations for Licensing etc.
- Cost modeling including tariff re-balancing

These are the priorities that the Government of Niue hopes the ICB4PAC will address for them.

#### **2.1.15 Timor Leste**

It has been extremely difficult to make contact with Timor Leste, but finally on 15 November 2009, with the assistance of EU and UNDP offices in Dilli, the Project Coordinator received a phone call from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Communication.

In discussing the project he expressed his thankfulness to the proposed project because this is what Timor Leste needs now. The list of proposed topics he said are all critical to his Administration and wishes assistance from the project. When asked to priority the list, he said a National ICT policy would be his priority to ensure that all other sectors have a guideline to

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develop their own sector policy. At this moment he said development is fragmented and each sector has its own ICT developments with its own policy where as there should be a high level policy where every sector can be guided in developing its own ICT policy. Then he moves on the issue of Interconnection, Cost modeling and numbering as very important for Timor Leste.

## **2.2 Analysis of the Responses**

It has been extremely difficult to ascertain the best method to use for this analysis. Many different models were tried to at least show what topics are rated as a priority by the countries but since some countries provided only general comments, it has not been easy to do a proper analysis. There are only 6 countries that provided comments on each topic. Other countries provided general comments saying that all the topics are important for their country, while others just sent a contribution saying that they agree with all the topics. These are some of the issues that made this analysis difficult.

However, a simple method has been adapted to give a rating to what the countries see as a priority based on whether a country has started work on a topic or not. For instance, a rating is based on the whether a country sees a topic as critical because they need it and does not have one in place, or whether they need it and have started work on it, or there is one in place and needs improvements and so on. The priority rating on the table below is from 1 – 5 with 1 being the highest priority. The topic numbers on the table below refers to the list of proposed topics on page 2. Priority rating descriptions are as follow:

- 1 = critical (it is a need and the country does not have one in place)
- 2 = critical (it is a need and country has started some work on it)
- 3 = exists but needs improvement
- 4 = exists and needs to be reviewed
- 5 = exists and does need assistance from the project

Where there are no ratings for a country, it is because the general comments and telephone interviews did not capture enough information to determine the rating. It is expected that the countries will help complete this rating.

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<b>Country</b>	<b>Topic 1</b>	<b>Topic 2</b>	<b>Topic 3</b>	<b>Topic 4</b>	<b>Topic 5</b>	<b>Topic 6</b>	<b>Topic 7</b>	<b>Topic 8</b>
Samoa	3	3	3	2	2	2	4	3
Kiribati	1	3	3	4	1	3	2	4
Nauru	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Vanuatu	2	3	2	3	3	2	2	2
Fiji	1	3	3	2	2	3	3	2
Papua New Guinea	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3
Cook Island	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Niue	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	2
FSM	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	2
RMI	3	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Tuvalu	1	2					1	1
Palau	2	2		2		2	2	2
Timor Leste								
Tonga								
Solomons	1	3					1	1

**2.2 Title of the Project**

With regards to the title of the project, Samoa points out that the word “telecommunication” should feature more prominently in the title. Samoa also pointed out previously my email that the acronym (ICB4PIS) is not a suitable acronym for the project. This issue is best left to the meeting to decide although there was a lot of support by other recipient countries. This issue was acknowledge by the project team and will be discussed at the meeting.

**2.3 Project Objectives**

Samoa also proposes that a greater emphasis should be placed on knowledge sharing between the countries with higher level of development and those who are still considering moving towards the achievement of those countries such as Samoa, Fiji and Papua New Guinea. The paper specifically recommends that “Countries with higher level of development should be facilitated (through this project) in sharing its experience and expertise to other states where issues concerning telecommunications and ICTs are less developed.

**2.4 Approach**

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Samoa supports the bottom up approach where experience and expertise in this sub-region is shared. The paper specifically points out that donor organisations maximize synergies to avoid duplication and conflicts between different development programmes.

With regards to in-country training programmes, Samoa offers 4 capacity building programmes that may be interest to other recipient countries of this project. The paper strongly recommends that Pacific island countries must publicize the in-country training in their countries making slots available for participants from other interested countries. The in-country trainings and workshops that will be held in Samoa in the near future include:

- Development of a National Emergency Telecommunication Plan for Samoa with a workshop in early December to finalize the plan;
- Revision of the National Numbering Plan with a workshop in the fist quarter of 2010 to finalize the plan;
- Revision of Spectrum Management and Monitoring Plan with workshops scheduled for the first quarter of 2010 and
- Revision of Telecommunications Act with a proposal to have proposed amendment with justification for January 2001.

The main recommendation by Samoa in this section is to establish a resource database for the sector through this project, and maintained by the project.

Comments regarding the list are synthesized in section 3.

### **3. Proposed List of Topics - Comments**

#### **3.1 National ICT Policy**

**Samoa** has a national ICT Strategy that is due for a review. The most important statement in Samoa's contribution is that the regulator needs to pay attention to the convergence issues ensuring that the telecommunication regulatory frameworks facilitates rather than inhibits.

**Kiribati** considers this topic as its priority because it does not have a national ICT Policy. A first national ICT policy draft was done in 2005 during the PacINET meeting in Kiribati, but no further work was done on it until recently.



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About two months ago, the technical assistance (TA) from ITU and SOPAC conducted the first ever national ICT workshop in Kiribati jointly planned by the Office of the Regulator, Ministry of Communication and the Transport and Tourism Development office. While there are ICT plans incorporated into Kiribati's 4 year Development plan, the Government needs a comprehensive National ICT policy that will incorporate ICT development in different sectors. The Government of Kiribati hopes that its national ICT policy can be finalized through this project.

**Nauru** states that this topic has been earmarked in the Pacific Plan and hopes that this project will address this issue in Nauru and other Pacific Islands that do not have national ICT policies.

**Tuvalu** states in its contribution that a National ICT policy is one of the key priorities for Tuvalu and wishes to move forward with the implementing of its national ICT policy through the ICB4PAC project.

### **3.2 Frequency/Spectrum Management**

**Samoa** considers this topic critical. They are in the process of reviewing its existing Spectrum Management Plan which will involve interactive consultation with the stakeholders and culminate with a workshop in the first quarter of 2010. The workshop will address the following to be included in the plan.

- Allocation that takes into account the new technologies and convergence
- Allocations for public services and disaster/emergency planning and disaster/emergency planning
- Appropriate pricing of the Spectrum to encourage efficient use of the Spectrum
- Efficient dispute/interference handling processes and
- Appropriate penalties for non-compliance with enforcement mechanisms

**Kiribati** considers this topic as very important and requests specialized training on Frequency Assignment and Spectrum management. Kiribati acknowledges the ACMA and other ITU training in the past very relevant and proposes to continue these training with more participants from the Pacific Islands.

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Kiribati also considers the SMS4DC (software) very useful but requires and requests more improvement to the software especially where the digital map of the Pacific is concerned. The digital map is not good and needs to be addressed by this project.

**Nauru** states that this topic is new to its regime and assistance from this project and from those countries with experience will be useful for Nauru.

**Vanuatu** also considers this topic relevant for them as they are still in the process of establishing their independent regulator.

**Fiji** has a Spectrum Management Plan but requests a TA to assist in implementation of the plan.

**Tuvalu** is still paying exorbitant fees to satellite providers and would like some assistance in getting linked to any of the submarine cables being planned currently.

### **3.3 Numbering Plan**

**Samoa** considers this topic as critical and is willing to share experience/expertise and will make available slots for other Pacific Island countries if they are interested in a workshop for Numbering planned for early 2010.

**Kiribati** also considers this topic very important and requests that through this project, a workshop or training is done for the issue of mobile country codes (MCC) and Mobile Network Codes in another country. This is one of the main controversy issues between a regulator and operators. Kiribati states that such a workshop was conducted for the Caribbean regional in the past and therefore requests ITU to hold the same workshop for the Pacific for all regulators, GSM operators, Government and other stakeholders. Should such a workshop cannot be done at the regional level, then Kiribati request a TA to address this issue.

**Nauru** states that this is one critical area which is new to its recently established Regulator office.

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**Vanuatu and Fiji** also consider this topic very important for them and would like to see something done through this project to assist them.

### **3.4 Universal Services Access**

**Samoa** is interested in this area and will develop and implementation mechanism for 2010.

**Kiribati** has commenced work in this area. However, there is a need to review, amend and establish policy and regulations. The key issue is the difficulty to identify the purpose of the fund, which services are required to be universal and which areas should this service should apply to. More importantly is the question of who the universal services providers should be and who should be obliged to contribute to this fund.

**Nauru** being a new regulator also finds this topic new to its new regulatory body.

**Vanuatu and Fiji** are also interested in this topic. Vanuatu has developed a policy and is presently implementing a tender for the extension of mobile service to remote areas based on offering a donor-funded subsidy.

### **3.5 Cyber Security**

**Samoa** considers this topic important though there is a need to develop regulatory and compliance mechanisms.

**Kiribati** requires a comprehensive cyber-security legislation to create a safer cyber environment for Kiribati citizens.

**Nauru** has little or no experience at all in this area and would hope that this project will help develop cyber security legislation or other means to ensure it is adequately addressed.

**Vanuatu and Fiji** also see this topic as critical and would like this project to address the gaps in both Administrations. Vanuatu has not yet done any work on this topic but would be interested to see the development of model cyber laws.

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**Tuvalu** would like to have a cyber legislation developed with the assistance of this project. This is one of the priority areas for Tuvalu.

### **3.6 Licensing**

**Samoa** is at present consolidating its licensing regime and states that a complete review is needed to take into account convergence and technology neutrality. It is expected that this process will start in 2010.

**Kiribati** states that there is an urgent need to revise existing laws, policies and also licensing regimes to take into account the convergence of telecommunication, broadcasting and technologies.

While ITU assisted in revising its licensing regime in line with development in the telecommunication sector, it still requires further assistance and support to improve its current licensing regime in order to have the skills and knowledge to effectively regulate the telecommunication and ICT services.

**Nauru** having a newly established Regulator sees this topic as crucial in its endeavors to develop its regulatory and legislative framework.

**Vanuatu and Fiji** both consider this topic very important and would like assistance through this project to improve its current situation.

### **3.7 Interconnection and Cost Modeling**

**Samoa** considers this topic critical. Although Samoa has the benefit of a court case, Tribunal ruling, judicial review and rate setting process that it can share, Samoa still sees this topic as critical and very important. It states that the importance of modeling of networks and determination of the cost of interconnection services cannot be under scored.

The key issue Samoa raises is that the cost are generally very traffic sensitive for small networks and in the beginning there is very little traffic data that can be used for modeling the networks. There is also a need to have some proxy value to be used when providers cannot agree on prices.

**Kiribati** considering capacity building in this area as critical and recommends that this project should consider specific training in this area for all independent regulators and those regulators that are still governed by the

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Ministries. Such training can benefit all countries of the Pacific in dealing with Interconnection issues.

With regards to cost modeling, ITU has assisted Kiribati and wishes to continue training of staff responsible in making cost models.

**Nauru** supports these two topics as the key areas for any regulator to have the experience and skills to deal with them, and in particular, those countries that are preparing themselves with the eminent introduction of competition in a once monopolized environment. Where cost modeling is concerned, Nauru wishes to gain knowledge through this project in various cost modeling.

**Fiji** also considers these two topics as of key importance to them. There is so much to learn in a Regime where the Regulator was recently appointed within the Ministry aiming at developing an independent Regulator.

**Vanuatu** has a renegotiation of interconnection prices coming up next year so this topic is of special interest to them.

### 3.8 Other Proposed Topics

Surprisingly, there were ten new topics proposed by different countries. These are listed in the table below:

No	Topic	Proposer	Issue	Benefit
1	VOIP	Fiji	Awareness Regulated?	Cost savings – from phone and mobiles
2	International Roaming	Fiji Cook Islands	Multiple SIM cards Awareness of options	Converge to one SIM card
3	e-Commerce	Fiji	Lack of Awareness and Regulatory needs	Speed of online shopping, banking etc
4	e-Government and Internet Governance	Fiji, Cook Islands, Vanuatu	Lack of Awareness, expertise and skills	Transparency in Government, ease of reference
5	Applications	RMI and Vanuatu	Too costly for governments	Effectiveness and efficiency
6	Documenting Experience of Pacific Island countries	Samoa	Lack of documents by Pacific Island countries on the issues they faced	Pool of Knowledge Ability to share information with

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			and how they were resolved	others
7	Treatment of Customer complaints	Samoa		
8	Quality of service objectives and their enforcement	Samoa		
9	National Emergency Telecommunication Plan	Samoa	Vulnerability during the time of natural disasters	Can still use communications to help with disaster management
10	Dominance Market Power and managing anti-competitive behaviour	Vanuatu		

#### **4 Meetings with Regional Organisations**

The regional organizations were not required to provide contributions. However, meetings were held with some regional organizations to ascertain their feedback and thoughts on the project. The organizations the Project Coordinator met with are:

- Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS)
- SPC
- SOPAC
- PITA

##### **4.1 PIFS**

During a meeting with the Secretary General of the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, Mr. Tuiloma Slade stated that it appears that development in the telecommunication and ICT sector at the regional level is fragmented. That is many regional organizations appear to work on similar issues and there is a need to make sure that synergies are build among donors and regional organizations to ensure maximum benefits to the Pacific island countries and avoid duplication. In the Forum Secretariat itself, he stated that the PIFS should strictly be dealing with political issues while all operations should be transferred to the SPC. As of this moment, PIFS is trying to address this issue, starting with a possible merger between SOPAC and SPC.

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In regards to this project, Mr. Tuiloma said that the topics are all relevant to all the Pacific island countries and it will not be a challenge to find common grounds. However, he is concerned with the location of this project office. He stated that he thinks the office of the ITU-EC project for the Pacific Islands may be best situated at the office of the SPC to ensure there is collaboration and sharing of resources. His reasoning is that he is aware of other ICT projects that SPC is working on and therefore this project needs to make sure there is no overlap. He was going to discuss this issue further with the Director General of SPC, Dr. Jimmy Rogers.

Meetings were also held formally and informally with Mr. John Budden who is a former ITU staff member and has worked for a long time in telecommunication development issues in the Pacific. He is excited and supportive of the project. However, since it is capacity building, he advised to liaise with ITU regional office in Bangkok, the World Bank, AUSAID, ADB and NZAID to ensure savings where workshops, training and other relevant meetings can be held back to back to share costs.

This project Mr. Budden said may also look at how it can contribute to the Pacific Island Regulatory Resource Center (PIRRC) which has been established in the Pacific by ITU and co-funded by other donors. Mr. Budden advised that the last ICT Task Force meeting recommended that the PIRRC be co-located with the ICB4PAC office in the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat premises. The recommendation is great except the ICB4PAC is a project and it has a start and an end time.

#### **4.2 SPC**

During a meeting with Mr. Ian Thompson, he expressed his full support on behalf of Dr J Rogers and the SPC for the project saying that in the Pacific Islands right now, countries cannot wait until a regulatory and legislative framework is established, so countries have development many different kinds of telecommunications/ICT projects including the projects implemented by SPC such as the RICS and OLPC. Many Pacific Island countries have now implemented RICS and other projects managed by the SPC. Most recently, Fiji has expressed its support for the OLPC project to be implemented in Fiji while the some RICS have been implemented. However he said, there is an urgent need in the Pacific Island countries for developing policies, regulation and a legislative framework to bind all different telecommunication/ICT developments that has been done.

#### **4.3 SOPAC**

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An informal meeting was held with Mr. Siaosi Sivoleni, the ICT Advisor for SOPAC. At this meeting, he discussed an ICT project for the Pacific Island countries funded by EU that he is working on. He stated that there is a need for the two projects to work together making sure that there is no overlap and that workshops can be held back to back. Having said this, he knows that each project has specific outcomes to achieve and can do this through building synergies with other donors and organizations.

#### **4.4 PITA**

The Project Coordinator attended the PITA meeting in Sydney 13-14 October 2009. During this meeting, discussions were held with the President and Manager of PITA in which they expressed their support for the project and look forward to working together and consolidating in the future. PITA, a non-profit organisation was formed in 1995 to represent interests of the small island countries and states in the field of telecommunications and has been involved in a lot of training and capacity building initiatives for the Pacific Island countries. PITA is one of the regional organizations that are a partner of this project.

## **5 Priorities**

From the above compilation of country contributions, it is evident that all the topics are critical to the Pacific Island countries, even for those countries that have moved ahead with establishing independent Regulators. Therefore it is extremely difficult to find a list of topics that are of priority among all the Pacific islands countries. As mentioned earlier, each country is at a different level of development in this sector, however, there is no harm in inviting countries to share their experience if they want for the benefit of less developed countries.

According to the general comments and specific contribution for each topic, it appears that while there is a distinction between countries with independent regulators and countries whose regulatory issues are still within the Ministry of Communications, the issues are the same. Therefore, it can be said that what ever priorities that will be agreed and adopted at the planning meeting will be the list of topics that are relevant to all the Pacific Island countries and activities will be planned according to country needs raised in their country reports.

Furthermore, every effort will be made to ensure that a priority list of topics will be favourable to all Pacific Islands that are recipients of this project.

While it has been difficult to assess the topics in terms of priority, the analysis suggest that priority projects from highest to low are as follow:



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- a) National ICT policy
- b) Interconnection and Cost Modeling (National and International)
- c) Frequency/Spectrum Management (although we may propose to leave this out as it is too large for our time frame, unless we do Frequency Table such as national frequency allocation table? SMS4DC train the trainer which is an ITU specific and may not apply)
- d) Cyber security e.g. CERT (while Aust supported cyber SPAM I found it very limited)
- e) Universal Service/Access - Scope of Concept, developing an investment policy that meets USO objectives etc.)
- f) Licensing
- g) Numbering

## **6 Recommendations**

Based on the contributions summarized above, the following are either specific recommendation as requested by individual countries or those in their general comments.

### **6.1 Country Recommendations**

The following recommendations are based on specific request of countries. The requests below can be looked at as activities to be addressed by the project based on the topics that will be agreed at the planning meeting.

- 6.1.1 A Steering Committee is not a suitable means of Governance for the project since it has 18 months left to run and also proven to be an added cost to the project.
- 6.1.2 Focal points for this project must be agreed at the planning meeting

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- 6.1.3 Use focal points and regional organizations to review and agree on all Terms of References and reports from the project team instead of a steering committee
- 6.1.4 Technical assistance to help develop a National ICT policy
- 6.1.5 Specialized training on Spectrum Management
- 6.1.6 Assistance for ACMA training
- 6.1.7 More training on SMS4DC software for Spectrum Management
- 6.1.8 Workshop on Universal Services/Access – what is the purpose of the fund, who are the USA partners, which areas to be served by this fund, who are contributors to help develop a USA policy.
- 6.1.9 Develop a cyber security regulatory and compliance mechanism
- 6.1.10 Assistance to revise and review current licensing regime
- 6.1.11 Specific training on Interconnection for Regulators
- 6.1.12 Workshops on Cost Modeling
- 6.1.13 Develop a knowledge sharing mechanism to put great emphasis on knowledge sharing
- 6.1.14 Maximise synergies with other programmes and donors
- 6.1.15 Publicize in country training programmes and make slots available to other neighboring countries
- 6.1.16 Workshop on VOIP issues
- 6.1.17 E-Commerce awareness workshop or similar

## **7 Conclusion**

During telephone call interviews with all the recipient countries and contributions received, it was found that all the Pacific Island and countries fully support this project. In analyzing the country contributions, it was found that it was extremely difficult to prioritize the topics at the regional level. This is due largely to the fact that every country is at a different level of telecommunication development. However, the general concession during these phone calls is to leave the approved list of topics until the planning meeting and what ever topics will be agreed then those are the topics that will cover all countries. This suggestion is a valuable one considering the time left to implement this project.

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Another important finding is that there is clearly a distinction of development of the telecommunication sector between countries like Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Fiji and the rest of the Pacific Island countries, in that these countries have had some experience in particular, telecommunication liberalization, while some countries are contemplating the move towards liberalization. It can be said that some countries may never move towards liberalization, however, there are also instances where the services provided by the monopolies have been opened to the market.

The regional organizations that were interviewed were also supportive of the project with recommendations including the need to build synergies with other players in the region to ensure that resources can be maximized through the efficient use of resources and funds.

## **Annex 3 Detailed Report of the ICB4PAC Planning Meeting**

### **1 Introduction**

The ICB4PAC is the sub project of the ITU-EC project for ACP countries. The ICB4PAC will be focused on Capacity Building aiming to bring up those countries that are lagging behind to the level where other countries including Samoa, Fiji and Papua New Guinea are at now in liberalization of the telecommunication/ICT sector.

### **2 Background**

#### **2.1 Overview and Context**

The Pacific island countries are characterized by small island land masses, the vast distances between them, sparse populations, and the huge differences between the smallest and the largest countries in the region. The Pacific Ocean Region covers one third of the globe consisting of thousands of islands scattered over approximately 54 million square kilometers of ocean. More than anywhere else in the world, due to their geographic position and other factors, the importance of Telecom/ICT is evident in the Pacific.

Development of Telecom/ICT in the Pacific region has been a long, complicated and costly process. Due to the nature of their topographical structure, the Pacific islands are not well endowed with natural resources and most are very dependent on foreign aid. These economies are still primarily based on subsistence agriculture and fishing. Furthermore, the unique geographic and demographic characteristics of developing and least developed countries in this region, causes the construction and operational costs of established networks remain well above the world average. This limits the ability of small telecommunication operators to improve and expand their telecommunication services.

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**Figure 1: Map of the Pacific Islands**

Nevertheless, few inhabitants of the Pacific Island Countries are able to enjoy the benefits of access to telecommunications and the Internet. Those with access are faced with slower speeds and much higher prices than in the developed world. Most of the population in the Pacific Island Countries is living in rural areas. There is also inequality in ICT access, with women, youth and people with disability being amongst the most disadvantaged groups. There is a real need to develop capacity building in ICT policy, regulation and legislative frameworks in the Pacific.

In April 2004 and again in 2006, Leaders of the Pacific Island Forum declared that the serious challenges facing the countries of the Pacific require the pooling of scarce regional resources of governance and the aligning of policies to strengthen national capacities. In 2005, they adopted the Pacific plan which provides a framework for strengthening regional cooperation and integration between Forum countries. The importance of telecommunications and ICT to the Pacific Island Leaders resulted in developing a regional Digital Strategy to form part of the Pacific Island Plan aiming to improve the uptake of development in telecommunication and use of ICTs in the region.

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The following objectives of the Pacific Digital Strategy relate to the ICB4PAC project.

- a) Encourage policies and regulations that facilitate development of the sector and are appropriate to the people and the cultures of the Pacific
- b) Promote a competition-driven environment
- d) Encourage business/private sector investment and participation
- e) Intensify cooperation among member countries
- f) Ensure easy access to information through ICTs that strengthens cooperation between stakeholders, fosters good governance, develops the private sector and improves service delivery.
- g) Ensure open and non-discriminatory access to public networks for all information providers and users in accordance with domestic laws and regulations
- h) Ensure universal access to public services in telecommunications
- i) Ensure the protection of privacy, data security and intellectual property rights including cultural property
- j) Ensure ICTs will be used to inform and connect Pacific Island populations and that they will benefit from flexible and appropriate education and training

In particular, the strategy identified the need to provide leadership at both national and regional level, improve communications between stakeholders and decision makers and harmonize the activities of the different players in the sector. A Pacific ICT Task Force was also established to monitor the implementation of the Digital Strategy in partnership with regional organizations. The focus the ICT Task force to date concern issues on Policy, Regulation and Legislative. The agreed priorities of the Task Force are as follow:

- A report has been made on the establishment of a Pacific Island Regional Regulatory Resource Center (PIRRC) that will provide countries who seek it, advice on regulation, reform and development of their ICT sector. This report has been circulated to the region's major donors for their views.

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- The Pacific Island Forum Secretariat will produce national quantitative indicators of ICT development, with member countries with ICT policies providing the Forum Secretariat with copies of their policies as an information-sharing tool for member countries without national ICT policies of their own.
- Developing web portal access and email access across government agencies of taskforce member countries
- Developing ICT initiatives across the region (with projects being investigated including the provision of health and education services, particularly isolated rural communities
- Carry out two short projects on rules for the operation of public park unlicensed segments of the radio frequency spectrum and rules for operation of Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP).
- In this connection, Australia is assisting Pacific Island countries on their anti-spam legislation. However, there are other issues that are also of interest to members that the Task Force will seek direction from Ministers on addressing such as e-security, electronic transactions and e-commerce.
- The Task Force is seeking advice from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and is looking at other opportunities for substantive engagement on advice and possible funding for ICT development in the region with the World Bank, ADB and the region's other major donors.

## **2.2 The ITU-EC Project for the Pacific Islands Content Focus**

Today, some of the Pacific Island countries have their respective Telecommunication Acts in place and a number of them have or are now in the process of setting up regulatory authorities and introducing competition in the provision of telecom services. There are also other countries that have yet to review the old Postal Acts that they are still using and have requested assistance in having these old Acts reviewed.

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Most of the countries still have monopoly in fixed lines, mobile and long distance. Some of them are struggling to develop “competition” policies or regulation on opening the fixed lines, mobile and long distance to the market. On the other hand, there are also some countries in this sub-region that feel they are too small to entertain the idea of opening the telecommunication sector to competition, especially where fixed lines are concerned. These are due to many reasons especially small land mass and populations.

The key issue to be addressed by this ITU-EC project for Pacific Island countries is to assist in legislative and institutional frameworks to provide the capacity that will enable setting up of regulatory authorities, introducing competition, and building regulatory capacities to help countries implement telecommunication reform in traditional areas of telecommunication/ICT regulations while at the same time move towards embracing the entire realm of telecommunications/ICTs.

Leveraging on its areas of competence in telecommunications/ICTs, the ITU in partnership with the European Commission approved this project specifically developed for Pacific island countries to focus on human capacity in ICT policy, Regulatory, and Legislative Frameworks. This ITU-EC project will help strengthen the initiatives that are a result of the ITU's interaction with beneficiary countries and sub regional organizations.

### **2.3 Preparation for the Planning Meeting**

Before the planning meeting, the project Manager, Mr. Sandro Bazzanella and Project Coordinator, Mrs. Gisa Fuatai Purcell held a meeting with the Head of the Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, Dr. Eu-jun Kim and her senior staff. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce Gisa to the Head and staff of the ITU Regional office for Asia and the Pacific and to prepare with the ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ASP) the launch of the ICB4PAC project.

Two presentations were conducted by the Project Coordinator to increase awareness of the project. One was during the CTO/ITU-T meeting in Nadi, Fiji 14-16 September 2009 and PITA meeting in Sydney, 13-15 October 2009.

The Project Coordinator moved from Samoa to Suva, Fiji on 21 September 2009 to take up office at the premises of the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat.

Preparation for the launch and planning meeting started immediately with an information letter, tentative list of topics to be addressed, introductory presentations together with a request for country contribution sent to all the recipients of this project.



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The recipient countries are:

Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, FSM, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

All these countries were contacted by the Project Coordinator by telephone and by email to ensure that everyone understands the nature of the project, encourage decision makers to participate in the planning meeting, and to encourage countries to review the list of proposed topics. It was also an opportunity to stress each country the importance of preparing a country contribution to the meeting. The synthesis of country contributions is attached as Annex 2.

On 30 October 2009, the official invitations were sent out to all the above countries together with registration and fellowship application forms. The launch and planning meeting was held back to back with the Pacific Rural Internet Communication System workshop organized by the Secretariat of Pacific Communities in partnership with the ITU Asia Pacific Regional Office.

### **3 The Meeting Sessions**

#### **3.1 The Opening Session**

The opening session provided a mix of content that was very useful in setting the stage for the meeting.

Dr. Eun-Ju Kim provided a background to the project from the initial stage of the proposal until an agreement was signed by the ITU and the European Commission in 2007. She also stated that the ICT4PAC aims to build **human capacity** in the field of ICT through a range of targeted training, education and knowledge measures. As well as regional activities, the sub-project will implement the transposition of regional guidelines into the national legislative and regulatory frameworks of beneficiary countries in coherence with the national strategies of each of them. If time and funds permit, a second row of of actions will consider institutional and human capacity building at national level with a focus on **national experts**.

Mr. John Budden provided a history of telecommunication development in the Pacific Island countries and summary of the Digital Strategy. He highlighted the shift in telecommunication development from connectivity issues to the need for regulations and emerging new players including PRRC, USP IT Center, OLPC, UNDP, EU etc. John also highlighted some of the continuing key issues facing the telecommunication/ICT sector in the Pacific Island countries. He also provided guidance and advice on how to best utilize this project to assist countries who now have independent regulators and also those that are moving

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towards liberalization keeping in mind that there are countries that cannot liberalize due to obvious factors.

Mr. Bernard Blazkiewicz delivered Ambassador and Head of the EC delegation in the Pacific, H. E. Mr. Van der Goot's speech as he was unable to attend the meeting at the last minutes, due to unforeseen circumstances. In the speech delivered by Mr. Blazkiewicz, he provided a background of the EC work in the Pacific, and their commitment to support this project. He explained that the EC office is focusing on Infrastructure development in the Pacific. He also advised that the EC for the Pacific will continue to support this project and he has been appointed as the contact person for the ICB4PAC.

The last speaker for the Opening Session was Mrs. Taina Tagicakibau, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Public Enterprise, Industry, Tourism and Communication for Fiji, who was appointed to deliver the Minister's opening address. She first of all expressed a sincere apology from the Minister, Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaium for not been able to attend the meeting as planned due to urgent matters involving the national budget. She also passed on his best wishes for a productive and good meeting.

In the Minister's opening speech, he stated the importance of such projects for the countries in the Pacific as they present the opportunity for policy makers and regulators to interface and interact with one another and to discuss, in the global context of building human and institutional capacity in the field of ICT through training, education and knowledge sharing measures. It will also be useful to discuss issues that are of common interest and relevant to developing island economies. He advised the participants that when considering the outcomes of the meeting they should focus on options and decisions to make that are actually practical and relevant for us, with respect to the realities we face.

In relation to Fiji, the Minister stated that the challenge lies in balancing the public interest against the industry interest as Fiji progresses the transition to market liberalization. The key components Fiji will use in this transition are to place a New Policy Directions for Telecommunications that will create a level playing field for all players in the market. He also stated that the Government is currently undergoing a major sectoral restructuring exercise and exploring strategies and actions that will promote market liberalization and enable competition. He emphasized to the participants the important role of developing policies to ensure healthy and sustainable competition in markets to deliver benefits to all communities in society. Competition is possible under a regulatory framework that is practical, appropriate and effective. The rest of the speech focused on the Government's efforts in moving Fiji towards liberalization. Finally, the meeting

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was declared opened and participants were urged to take full advantage of this great opportunity for all the Pacific Island countries.

Mr. Sandro Bazzanella, Project manager for the ITU-EC project delivered the vote of thanks to the speakers of the Opening Session.

### **3.2 First Session**

The first session was for the ICB4PAC project team. The Project Manager, Mr. Sandro Bazzanella provided a background of the ITU-EC project at the global level highlighting the importance of the planning meeting and wishing participants the best during the two day meeting. He also introduced the Project Coordinator for the Pacific, Mrs. Gisa Fuatai Purcell. After Mr. Bazzanella's speech, Gisa conducted her presentation which was specifically for the ICB4PAC project.

Gisa's presentation focussed on the objectives of the meeting, the expected outcome and the proposed list of deliverables for the meeting. Gisa also advised the meeting of the 9 key expected outcomes to be achieved by the end of the meeting. These expected outcomes included:

1. Agree Project Name
2. Agree list of Topics to be addressed
3. Agree Implementation Modality
4. Agree Structure
5. Agree Focal Points - Commitment
6. Propose Experts to set up an Expert Roster
7. Agree Country Contributions
8. Agree Title of Final Meeting Report
9. Agree Final Meeting Report

### **3.3 Second Session**

The second session was an opportunity for the participants to hear from the International organisations with programmes and projects in the Pacific. These speakers added to the opening session information that set the tone for the rest of the planning meeting. The speakers included Mr. Wisit Atipayakoon of the ITU

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regional office for Asia and the Pacific, Mr. John Haydon of the World Bank and Mr. Donnie Defreitas, Regulator for Samoa given his experience in the Caribbean region and Samoa. Both Wisit and John summarised what the ITU and the World Bank respectively are doing in the Pacific Islands while Mr. Defreitas focused his speech on the topics at hand, and in particular, regulatory issues and legislative frameworks. Mr. Defreitas started his presentation by suggesting a name change of the project from ICB4PIS because the PIS at the end of the name could be misinterpreted. He then moved on to suggest that the best way of categorizing intervention should be policy first, legislative then regulatory framework. He suggested that the meeting must define priorities recognizing differences in the state of development and needs of member states. He also stressed the importance of establishing policies before producing legislation because otherwise, the legislation could end up with gaps leading to ad hoc amendments which is not the best practice. Mr. Defreitas suggested that the meeting should address ownership, governance, coordination and a regional telecommunication/ICT approach to disaster mitigation and management.

With reference to Regulatory Framework, Mr. Defreitas suggested building a database of Telecommunication Acts in the region so that Pacific Island countries can share knowledge. In terms of implementation, he suggested using local resources and facilitating horizontal cooperation. Furthermore, based on his experience in the Caribbean and Samoa he suggested the development of template legislation for telecoms covering such topics as Data protection, e-transaction, cyber crime and child protection.

### **3.4 Third Session**

Session three was the opportunity for participants to understand what projects existed or planned on the topic of telecommunication/ICT development in the Pacific Island Countries at the regional level. This session was chaired by Mr. Wisit Atipayakoon, the Pacific Focal Point for the ITU regional office for Asia and the Pacific. The speakers for this session were:

- Mr. John Budden (PIFS)
- Mr. Siaosi Sovaleni (SOPAC)
- Mr. Fred Christopher (PITA)

Mr. Budden highlighted the key issues of telecommunications in Pacific Island Countries, and the three shifts in development from shift one of focussing on connectivity issues, to shift two, the need for regulations and to shift three which is need for support in e-applications and the emergence of new issues such as cyber security etc. which has prompted the need to address such issues regionally. Mr. Budden closes his speech with the current review of the Digital Strategy.

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Mr. Siaso Sovaleni of SOPAC delivered his presentation on the many ICT projects funded by various organisations. One such project was the “ICT for the poor” funded by the EC for the Pacific. In addition, Mr. Sovaleni spoke about SOPAC’s map regarding ICT development activities in the Pacific Island countries. This map is important for the ICB4PAC project to consider in terms of holding activities back to back.

The third speaker was Mr. Fred Christopher, Manager for PITA who firstly commended on Dr Eun-Ju Kim’s call for greater synergies. As such, Mr. Christopher requested that a mechanism for greater inter-agency coordination be implemented such as a common online activity calendar and others to avoid fragmentation and duplication of activities, quoting on the growing number of new players in ICT as reported by Mr. John Budden of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat., and of the limited resources in the Pacific Islands often resulting in one person responsible for many departments, particularly for the smaller economies.

He then moved on to brief the meeting of the key challenges and issues from PITA’s perspectives which included the gaps in capacity and critical knowledge of Pacific Islands both of the industry and regulatory, citing the extent of smaller country cases that have largely become dependant on vendors or offshore expertise and running possible risks of non-effective solutions and waste of limited resources resulting in higher costs, or simply stagnancy. He explained how PITA, a non-profit organisation was formed and grew through common needs and common aims of the Pacific Islands and discussed examples of benefits from such common platforms for overcoming lack of expertise and disadvantages; characterising the small island developing states special issues and challenges.

He also stated that one of the key activities of PITA include coordinating technical exchanges, cooperation and many useful and practical telecommunication workshops and training based on common needs for Pacific Island countries. Mr. Christopher also provided the list of PITA activities in the region and further mentioned the support of PITA to the concept of common approaches, collaboration and partnership of common needs that could be of benefit to the ICB4PAC project and all stakeholders to build synergies and collaborate with PITA. He reported the process to collate needs and priority analysis has already started for PITA and to be discussed in the PITA meeting in January in Honolulu during the Pacific Telecommunications Council (PTC) meeting, so it is timely to start collaboration.

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### **3.4 Session 4**

This session was chaired by Mr. John Budden given his experience in the sub-region. The purpose of this session was to discuss the list of proposed topics and agree the order of priority. His task was to provide participants with a comfortable environment to discuss and debate the list of proposed topics and try to come to an agreement by the end of the session.

John instigated an excellent discussion and debate on the list of proposed topics by providing his own views and examples of what he knew was happening in various island countries.

Before the end of the session, participants agreed on the following list of topics in order of priority:

- National ICT Policy
- Interconnection
- Cyber-security
- Licensing
- Universal Access
- Numbering
- Frequency and Spectrum Management

It was agreed that the Frequency/Spectrum Management was already well covered by the many programmes of the ITU as well as other donors e.g. AUSAID etc. So the top priority for the Pacific Island countries is National ICT policy. A question was asked what a National ICT policy was. Gisa explained that the policy in question is a high level comprehensive policy highlighting the issues and country needs. For example, the policy would state that the country should use ICT in Education, Health and that the Ministry of Telecommunication must develop a Telecommunication/ICT policy to address liberalisation of the sector including introducing new players to the market to foster competition. During the implementation phase, the Education department will develop its sector ICT policy, the Health department a Health ICT policy to improve communication of patient care between the national hospital and health care centres while the Ministry of Communications develops a sector policy on liberalisations encouraging competition. This clarification further confirmed that this topic remains on the top priority.

### **3.5 Session 5**

The purpose of session five was to discuss Governance, Structure of the Project, Implementation Modality and to agree Activities for each topic to be addressed by this project should time and budget permit.

Mr. Ian Thomson of SPC chaired this session. Much discussion took place and in the end, participants agreed on a simple structure given the time left to run this project and the budget. The participants agreed that a Steering Committee was not suitable and instead it was best to select country Focal Points to work together with the Experts and managed by the Project Coordinator.

The final session of the day was the closing remarks by Mr. Sandro Bazzanella, the Project Manager for the ITU-EC project at the global level. He thanked all the participants for a great day and in particular their commitment in contributing for the meeting discussions and debates which all resulted in agreement among all.

### **3.6 Meeting Outcomes**

On the last day of the meeting, the 9 expected outcomes as listed on page 16 were achieved except for the last two.

It was recommended by the participants that the Project Coordinator complete the draft report and email it to them by Monday the following week, because some were leaving in the afternoon, and also, they prefer to take time to review the meeting report rather than using time during the meeting on drafting. This was agreed. The final part of the meeting was agreeing the Action Points for the Project Coordinator.

The closing remarks for the meeting were given by Mr. Bazzanella and Dr. Kim of ITU. Mr. Bazzanella again thanked the participants for a very successful meeting and acknowledged the good work and constructive contributions by all. Dr. Kim also thanked the participants and acknowledged the work of Mr. Budden in the Pacific. She announced that Mr. Budden is retiring in December and wished him all the best.

## **4 Conclusion**

Feedback from the participants was that the kick-off and planning meeting was “productive” and a “good meeting”. This feedback was proposed and agreed by the participants to form part of the report. The meeting was enjoyed by all and in the end the expected outputs of the meeting were achieved as explained above except for the scoping report. It was agreed to name the final meeting report the “Scoping Report” – the structure of which was also agreed, as shown above.

## **5 Recommendation**

The following recommendations were a result of discussions and agreement by the participants:

i) Regional and national activities that can fit within the budget and timing of the project is as follow:

3 National ICT Policy/Strategy

- Regional workshop to agree principles and guidelines
- Transpose outcomes of regional workshop to the national level by way of in-country support

4 Interconnection

Regional workshop covering three separate sub-topics as follows:

- 4) International Mobile Termination rates
- 5) International Roaming
- 6) Cost Modeling Training

5 Cyber-security

- Regional Workshop on model Cybersecurity Legislation

6 Licensing

- Regional Workshop - Reviewing existing licensing regime taking into account convergence and technology neutrality
- Transposing results of regional meeting to the national level.

7 Universal Services Access

- Regional Workshop on the what, why, when, where, and how with contributions from those countries with Universal Services Access policies in place

8 Numbering

- Regional Workshop on numbering



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- ii) It is recommended, based on the budget and timing, that only two topics be extended to the national level. These are topic one (national ICT policy and topic 4 licensing).
- iii) It is also recommended that regional activities for other topics can be combined; e.g. cyber-security and numbering etc.
- iv) Each country to recommend any experts to Gisa to put into the pool of experts for this project
- v) It was recommended that each country provide a focal point for this project who will be committed to the review of documents such as Terms of References, draft reports, legislation etc.

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**Annex 4 – Agenda**



**PRELIMINARY AGENDA**

**Planning Meeting and Launch of the “Capacity building and ICT policy, regulatory and legislative frameworks in the Pacific” project**

**Novotel Hotel, Nadi, Fiji.  
26-27 November 2009**

The objectives of the meeting are:

1. To formally present the ICB4PIS project to Pacific Islands stakeholders
2. To solicit inputs from ICT stakeholders regarding the main areas of regional focus and the priorities for the project
3. To identify relevant resources and technical cooperation requirements in the region
4. To define the project’s scope of work, including the list of priorities (topics) at the regional and country levels
5. To determine mechanisms for stakeholders’ participation
6. To propose the project plan of action and implementation scheme
7. To identify the key point of contact / liaison for each country.

Day 1 (Thursday, 26 November 2009)	
7.30 – 8.45	<b>Registration</b>
8.45 – 10.00	<b>Opening Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome remarks, Dr. Eun-Ju Kim, Head, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</li> <li>• Mr. John Budden, Economic Infrastructure Advisor, Pacific Island Forum</li> <li>• Mr. Bernard Blazkiewicz, European Commission, Pacific.</li> <li>• Key Note Speaker – Mrs. Taina Tagicakibau (on behalf of the Minister) Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Enterprises, Industry, Tourism and Communications</li> <li>• Vote of Thanks, Mr. Sandro Bazzanella, ITU_EC Project Manager</li> </ul>
1000 1020	<b>Session 1: Introduction of the Project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Sandro Bazzanella, Project Manager, ITU-EC</li> <li>Mrs. Gisa Fuatai Purcell, Project Coordinator for the Pacific</li> </ul>
1020-1035	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>

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1035 – 1130	<p><b>Session 2: Telecommunication/ICT Development in the Pacific – international perspective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Wisit Atipayakoon, Pacific Focal Point, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</li> <li>- Mr. Donnie Defreitas, Regulator, Independent State of Samoa</li> <li>- Mr. John Haydon, Senior ICT Policy Specialist, The World Bank (TBC)</li> </ul> <p>Audience Discussion of Presentations</p> <p><b>Session Chair: Sandro Bazzanella</b></p>
1130 - 1245	<p><b>Session 3: Update of Telecommunication/ICT Development in the Pacific – Pacific perspective:</b></p> <p>Mr. John Budden, Economic Infrastructure Advisor, Pacific Island Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Fred Christopher, Manager, PITA</li> <li>- Mr. Siaosi Sovaleni, SOPAC</li> </ul> <p>Audience Discussion of Presentations</p> <p><b>Session Chair: Mr. Wisit Atipayakoon</b></p>
1245-1345	Lunch Break
1345-1445	<p><b>Session 4: Round Table Discussion 1: Tentative List of Topics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National ICT Policy/Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Frequency/Spectrum Management</li> <li>• Numbering Plan</li> <li>• Universal Access and Service</li> <li>• Cybersecurity</li> <li>• Licensing (convergence etc)</li> <li>• Interconnection</li> <li>• Cost Modeling</li> <li>• <b>Other Topics as proposed by countries</b></li> </ul> <p>Country Inputs on this tentative list and any other topics not on it</p> <p><b>Session Chair: Mr. John Budden</b></p>
1445 – 1500	Coffee Break
1500 – 1630	<p><b>Session 5: Round Table Discussion 2: Project Implementation Approach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structure of the Project</li> <li>• Implementation Modality</li> <li>• Activities (prioritized)</li> <li>• Timeline (e.g. provisional calendar of events / direct country assistance)</li> </ul> <p><b>Session Chair: Mr. Ian Thomson</b></p>
1630 – 1730	<p><b>Wrap up of the Day</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandro Bazzanella, Project Manager, ITU-EC</li> </ul>

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Day 2 (Friday, 27 November 2009)	
0900 – 0930	<p><b>Summary of the Previous Days Outcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation - Gisa Fuatai Purcell</li> <li>• Q&amp;A and Discussion/Amendments</li> </ul>
0930 – 1030	<p><b>Session 6: Round Table Discussion 3: Project Stakeholder and Cooperation Mechanism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance</li> <li>• Discussions/Amendments</li> </ul> <p><b>Session Chair: TBD</b></p>
1030 – 1045	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
1045 – 1230	<b>Session 7: Draft Meeting Report</b>
1230 – 1400	Lunch Break
1400 – 1500	<b>Session 8: Review and Agree Meeting Report</b>
1500 – 1515	Coffee Break
1515 – 1630	<p><b>Session 9: Agreement and Conclusion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation by Gisa Fuatai Purcell               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. List of Topics</li> <li>b. Priority Areas</li> <li>c. Structure</li> <li>d. Implementation Modality</li> <li>e. Work Plan</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Final Report</li> </ul>
1630 - 1700	<p><b>Closing Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandro Bazzanella, Project Manager, ITU-EC Project</li> </ul>

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**Annex 5 – List of Focal Points**

<b>N o</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Countr y</b>	<b>Organoisati on</b>	<b>Designatio n</b>	<b>Email</b>
1	Mr. Tune	Teakai	Kiribati	Ministry of Communications Transport & Tourism Development	National ICT Policy Officer	<a href="mailto:ttune@mcttd.gov.ki">ttune@mcttd.gov.ki</a>
2	Laukon	Cathney	Marshall Islands	Ministry of Transportation and Communications	Director, Telecommunication Department	<a href="mailto:carthney@hotmail.com">carthney@hotmail.com</a>
3	Gulo	Kila Vai	PNG	Papua New Guinea Regulatory Authority	Director	<a href="mailto:kgulo@pangtel.gov.pg">kgulo@pangtel.gov.pg</a>
4	Vakata	Fe'ao	Tonga	Ministry of Communications and Information Technology	Acting Secretary	<a href="mailto:Fvakata@yahoo.com">Fvakata@yahoo.com</a>
5	Tuiloma	Jonati	Fiji	Department of Communication	Acting Director	<a href="mailto:jutuloma@kidanet.net.fj">jutuloma@kidanet.net.fj</a>
6	Enele	Sopoaga	Tuvalu	Government of Tuvalu	Acting Director ICT	<a href="mailto:osimati@gov.tv">osimati@gov.tv</a>
7	Tuaimalo	Ah Sam	Samoa	Ministry of Communications and Information Technology	CEO	<a href="mailto:a.ahsam@mcit.gov.ws">a.ahsam@mcit.gov.ws</a>
8	Crook	John	Vanuatu	Office of the Telecommunications Regulator	Telecommunications Regulator	<a href="mailto:john.crook@telecomregulator.gov.vu">john.crook@telecomregulator.gov.vu</a>
9	Appi	Criden	Nauru	Department of Transport & Telecommunications	Director of Telecommunications. (Regulatory)	<a href="mailto:criden.appi@cenpac.net.nr">criden.appi@cenpac.net.nr</a>
10	Aberaam	Bwanouia	Kiribati	Telecommunications Authority of Kiribati	Chief Executive Officer	<a href="mailto:bwanouia.aberaam@tak.ki">bwanouia.aberaam@tak.ki</a>
11	Heka	Tutuli	Niue	Niue Post and Telecom	Director	<a href="mailto:tj@niue.nu">tj@niue.nu</a>
12	Johnnyboy	Jolden	FSM			<a href="mailto:transcom@mail.fm">transcom@mail.fm</a>
13	Bokelema	Robert	Solomon Islands	Communications Department	Director, Communications Department	<a href="mailto:spectrum@dcam.gov.sb">spectrum@dcam.gov.sb</a>
14	Tepua	Hunter	Cook Islands	Prime Ministers Office	Chief of Staff	<a href="mailto:mac@pmoffice.gov.ck">mac@pmoffice.gov.ck</a>
15	Timor Leste		Timor Leste			

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**Annex 6 – Presentations**

- 1 Keynote Speech by the Hon. Minister of Public Enterprises, Industry, Tourism, and Communications, Mr. Ayaz Sayed-Khaium, delivered by Mrs. Taina Tagicakibau, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Enterprises, Industry, Tourism and Communications.**

**INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION AND EUROPEAN COMMISSION FORUM**

**Capacity Building and ICT Policy, Regulatory and Legislative Frameworks Support for Pacific Island Countries.**

November 26-27, Novotel Hotel, Nadi, Fiji

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS**

**Honorable Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum**

Attorney General Minister for Public Enterprises, Tourism and Communications

Officials of the ITU, participants of this forum, representatives of the ACP member countries, training experts, and representatives of other regional and international organizations,

Ni sa bula vinaka

At the outset, I would like to thank the ITU for this privilege to officiate on this occasion, the ITU-EC Project on "Capacity Building and ICT Policy, Regulatory and Legislative Frameworks Support for Pacific Island Countries".

On behalf of Government and my Ministry, I extend to you all our warmest welcome to our shores. For those visiting Fiji for the first

time, I extend a special welcome and wish that your brief stay would be enjoyable and memorable.

Forums such as this one are essentially important for the countries in the Pacific as they present the opportunity for policy makers, regulators to interface and interact with one another and to discuss, in the global scheme of building human as well as institutional capacity in the field of ICT through training, education and knowledge sharing measures, and issues, those that are of common interest and relevant to developing island economies. My advice is when considering such scheme we should be self-determinant about what options and decisions we make that are actually practical and relevant for us, with respect to realities we face.

Our reality here in Fiji poses challenges in balancing the public interest against the industry interest as we progress the transition to market liberalization. And the key components we will use in this transition are to place a New Policy Directions for Telecommunications to create a level playing field to all players in the market.

Amongst the challenges Fiji faces as we restructure our sector are –

- appropriate regulatory institution for competitive markets;
- rationalization of prices and tariff rebalancing;
- licensing and spectrum management; and
- USO matters and rural telecommunications development.

Government is currently undergoing a major sector restructure exercise and exploring strategies and actions that will steer in market liberalization and enable competition. As you all are aware, generally, when competition is introduced, benefits, particularly in terms of lowering costs of products and services, availing wider range of choices to the consumers and attracting new investments into the

sector will surface. These amongst other benefits are what we expect will develop.

Since taking up office in Communications, Government has renewed and reaffirmed its commitment towards developing the telecommunications markets and the strategies that have been identified for national development as outlined in the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) and the National Export Strategy. The strategies that are identified for developments in the information and communications technology include –

- telecommunications services liberalization and competition;
- pricing and tariff rationalization;
- restructure of regulatory framework; and
- provision of access to all communities.

I need to emphasise the important role of developing policies to ensure healthy and sustainable competition in markets to deliver benefits to all communities in society. Competition is possible under a regulatory framework that is practical, appropriate and effective.

As participants in this forum I understand you have a role in identifying the actions to under take in order to formulate policies that would be appropriate for your island states.

In Fiji's case we plan to institute a regulatory framework that is structured to initially steer smooth competition amongst the industries and to adequately resource our regulatory institution to handle the related aspects of a competitive telecommunications industry. Amongst these aspects are –

- licensing;
- disputes resolution mechanism and arbitration;
- access and interconnection;
- pricing and tariff; and
- regulating dominance in markets.



Our intention is that, more regulation is administered in the liberalized sector, and we anticipate that as healthy and sustainable competition settles, more appearance of self-regulation within competitive markets will set in.

Our Telecommunication deregulation allows the expulsion of exclusive rights given to the telecommunication service providers, and this in turn allows for the implementation of relevant laws to allow the maximization of utilization of resources (frequencies). It also allows competition in telecommunication services especially in broadcasting, mobile communications and introductions of various technologies to bridge digital divide. Exclusive rights given to telecom service providers in Fiji has hindered development by the slow introduction of new technologies, unavailability of infrastructure, and lack of industry commitment to share available resources (frequency) to allow introduction of new players into the market.

That has resulted in the recent enactment of our new **Regulation for National Frequency Spectrum.**

I note from the forum agenda that participants will share country experiences in policies and regulatory matters, either in form of presentations or general discussions. I also note the scheduled modular training programme to be delivered by ITU expert for the benefit of ICT policy makers in our Pacific region.

I thank the ITU and especially their resource officers for this generous contribution to the success of this forum, and I urge all participants to take full advantage of this special training opportunity.

In concluding, I wish that the participants to these two-days of deliberations and interactions will be fruitful and beneficial and that the knowledge and skills you will acquired from this forum will become useful in your respective line of work. I do hope that you will

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also find time to enjoy the Fiji hospitality and delights during your short stay here in Nadi.

I acknowledge and thank the ITU, for your initiative and effort in organising your two-day meeting and I look forward to the successful outcome of this forum.

Thank you again for extending this privilege to officiate on this occasion. I wish you well in your discussions and training and take pleasure in now declaring this ITU-EC Project on "Capacity Building and ICT Policy, Regulatory and Legislative Frameworks Support for Pacific Island States" forum officially open.

Vinaka vakalevu.

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**2 Opening Session Speech by Dr. Eun-ju Kim, Head of the ITU regional office for Asia and the Pacific.**



ITU-EC Project (ICB4PIS) Kick-off Meeting  
26 November 2009  
Nadi, Fiji Islands

Opening Remarks  
Eun-Ju Kim Ph.D.  
Head  
ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Honorable Minister of Public Enterprises, Tourism and Communications, and Attorney General, Mr. Ayaz Sayed-Khaiyum, His Excellency, Ambassador and Head of the European Commission for the Pacific, Mr. Van der Goot,

Distinguished Delegates and Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Good morning,

It is an honour for me to be at this opening of the very launch of the “Capacity Building and ICT Policy, Regulatory and Legislative Frameworks Support for Pacific Island” the third sub-project of the ITU-EC global project.

Let me give you short background of this project. As you may recall, since the adoption of the Resolution 17 of the Doha Action Plan in 2006 aiming at implementing five Asia-Pacific regional initiatives which one of them is “*The Unique Telecommunication/ICT Needs of Pacific Islands and Small Island Developing State (SIDS) in the Asia-Pacific Region*”, ITU and particularly its regional office for Asia and the Pacific had made efforts in developing project proposals and looking for partners in order to make the initiative achieve its objectives. One of these proposals drew attention from the European Commission (EC) to look into telecommunications/ICT issues in the Pacific in particular.

Having had its objectives in line with those of proposals for other regions, the proposal for the Pacific was successfully included into a 4-year planned assistance by ITU and EC. Hence both organisations entered into a cooperation agreement in December 2007 for implementing the action entitled “Support for

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the Establishment of Harmonized Policies for the ICT Market in the ACP”, which is an umbrella framework of three separate sub-projects in the Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific respectively.

The ITU\_EC sub-project for the Pacific Islands in particular aims to build **human capacity** in the field of ICT through a range of targeted training, education and knowledge measures. As well as regional activities, this sub-project will implement the transposition of regional guidelines into the national legislative and regulatory frameworks of beneficiary countries in coherence with the national strategies of each of them. If time and funds permit, a second row of of actions will consider institutional and human capacity building at national level with a focus on **national experts**.

The objective for the Pacific Island sub-region is to provide capacity building support based entirely on what the recipient country have identified as their urgent needs. This sub-project is for you and you are here to express what those needs are the together, we can determine and ascertain whether we can address those needs in this project or another one of the many ITU initiatives that I will briefly talk about.

Dear colleagues and participants,

If I may bring to your attention that the project is among other ITU projects and activities underway in the Pacific region, for instance, ITU in partnership with the Telecom of Andorra has still assisted Pacific Island Countries in deployment of rural and outer island communications. Also with support from the Department of Broadband, Communications, and the Digital Economy (DBCDE), Australian Government, ITU has provided direct country assistance in various subject areas. Furthermore, the very recently, ITU in collaboration with Nokia-Siemens Networks has selected Tonga and Vanuatu to be the first two countries for implementing a trial of the Village Connection Solution.

Last but not the least, I would like to thank our long-time partners who have supported us in various ways and activities: the Australian Government and particularly the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy; the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), and the Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA). We will continue collaborating with you and will always appreciate your supports for any activities underway and what yet to come.

We are also grateful to others such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), SOPAC, and The World Bank for their cooperation with ITU. And not less importantly, our appreciation is to our ITU Member States and all of you here.

THANK YOU

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- 3 Speech by Mr. John Budden at the Opening Session**
- 4 The Powerpoint Presentations by Mr. Wisit Atipayakoon of ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, John Haydon of the World Bank, and Mr. Donnie Defreitas, Regulator for the Government of Samoa, Mr. Siaosi Sovaleni, ICT Advisor for SOPAC, Mr. John Budden on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session, and Fred Christopher of PITA are posted separately.**