



Security and regulatory issues for the Pacific Islands

Maui Sanford - President

**PACIFIC ISLANDS
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION**

ITU Regional development Forum - Hanoi 16 September 2008

About PITA

- Formed in 1996 and based in Suva, Fiji
- A Non profit organisation dedicated to :
 - improve, promote, enhance, facilitate and provide telecommunications services within the Pacific.
- 107 members
 - (33 operators, 8 regulators & 66 industry suppliers and services providers)
- different fields of activities : Workshops, Training, CEO meetings, working groups ...etc...
- Major commitment for cooperation with partner organisations (ITU, APT, CTO, PIFS, SPC, SOPAC, WB, ICANN, APNIC...)

Challenges to overcome in the Pacific Is..

- Thousands of small islands with very small population
- Bigger islands with unfriendly topography
- High operational & access costs
- Lack of local resources
- Lack of trained regulators to manage regulation

1. The Pacific is impacted by illegitimate and / or fraudulent activities

- Illegitimate use of national numbering plans
 - Since 2005 : number hijacking
- International Mobile roaming fraud
 - Generated through number hijacking
 - Similar incidences in Asia where mobile operators face!! huge losses

!!2. Cybersecurity issues

- SPAM is a real problem – (consumer, bandwidth congestion...)
- Denial of Service attacks – ccTLDs, ISP
- Website spoofing (eg. Banks, govt agencies, etc)
- Infected hosts: malware, botnets, viruses
- Lack of skilled staff to mitigate problems
- New Internet users falling for scams

!!3. Consequences to the Pacific Islands countries

- Compromised economies : loss, trade, tourism, diplomacy are impacted
- Credibility and trust tarnished within the international community
- Degradation of Quality of Service
 - Internet Bandwidth congestion (unsolicited traffic)
 - Lost communications (voice and fax)
- Unhappy consumers

!!4. How are we addressing these issues?

- Common proposal in WTSA process to address number hijacking
- Anti-spam measures implemented by some countries
- Cybersecurity workshops
 - PITA/ITU/APT
 - Pacific Network Operators Group (with assistance from ICANN, APNIC, ISOC, Cisco, PITA, NSRC)
 - ccTLD registry training (APTLD, ICANN)
- Awareness building on cybercriminality for govts.

!!5. Conclusion / moving forward

- Enhance cooperation, collaborations, partnerships
- Develop guidelines/standards to protect developing countries
- Encourage study groups participation from region
- Share information among regulators, operators, consumers

Malo, Vinaka , fa'afetai,
Maoro, mauruuru, meitaki,
Kalangen, Kam rabwa, mesulang
Thank you

pita@connect.com.fj

www.pita.org.fj