Subject: Invitation to the Policy and Regulation Forum for the Pacific to be held in Honiara, Solomon Islands, 26-30 April 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

Following the Planning meeting held in Nadi, Fiji, in November 2009 and the start of the first phase of the Capacity building and ICT, Regulatory and Legislative Frameworks for Pacific Island countries (ICB4PAC) project in January 2010, the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is pleased to invite your organization to participate in the Policy and Regulation Forum which will take place from 26 to 30 April 2010 in Honiara, Solomon Islands, in partnership with APT and PITA.

The ICB4PAC is a sub-project of the global ITU-EC project encompassing Sub Sahara Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific Group of States (ACP) supported by the European Commission (EC). All the information related to the project is available at the following address: http://www.itu.int/ITUD/projects/ITU_EC_ACP/icb4pis/index.html

The objectives of the meeting are:

1. To provide an update on the ICB4PAC project;
2. To formally present, discuss and adopt the findings regarding the present situation for national ICT policy in the Pacific Islands countries;
3. To provide an update of the status of ongoing activities related to Interconnection and Cost Modeling, as well as Universal Access and Services in the Pacific;

The Preliminary Agenda (Annex I), the General Information and Registration process (Annex II), and the Fellowship form (Annex III) are attached.

You may contact directly Mrs. Gisa Fuatai Purcell, ITU-EC Project Coordinator for the Pacific, should you require any further clarification or additional information concerning this forum. (E-mail: fuatai.purcell@itu.int Tel.: + (679) 322 0285).

I sincerely hope that you will be able to participate in this important meeting which will be crucial to the success of the project.

Yours faithfully,

Sami Al Basheer Al Morshid
Director

Annexes: as mentioned
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<td>TUESDAY 27 APRIL</td>
<td><strong>08:30 - 09:00 Registration</strong></td>
<td><strong>Coffee Break</strong></td>
<td><strong>Session 2: International Connectivity for the Pacific Islands</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chairman:</strong> President, PITA</td>
<td><strong>Focus:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Session 3: Interconnection</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chairman:</strong> Mr. Kila Gulo-Vui, Director Regulatory &amp; External Affairs, PANGTEL, PNG</td>
<td><strong>Focus:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Session 4: Universal Service</strong></td>
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<td><strong>09:00~09:15 Opening Session</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Chairman:</strong> T. Yamada, Secretary General of APT</td>
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<td><strong>Focus:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Chairman:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Opening Address by Mr. Toshiyuki Yamada, Secretary General, APT</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Address by President, PITA</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Overview of Satellite System for International Connection by Mr. Maui Sanford, International Manager, OPT, French Polynesia (TBC) (Doc. No. APT/PRF-P/10/xx)</td>
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<td>- Universal Service Obligation by Mr. Kila Gulo-Vui, Director Regulatory &amp; External Affairs, PANGTEL, PNG (Doc. No. APT/PRF-P/10/xx)</td>
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<td><strong>09:15-10:30 Adoption of Agenda</strong></td>
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<td>- Cable vs Satellite: the Fiji Experience by Mr. Ioane Koroivuki, CEO, Fintel 15min (Doc. No. APT/PRF-P/10/xx)</td>
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<td>- Universal Service Fund by Mr. Kila Gulo-Vui, Director Regulatory &amp; External Affairs, PANGTEL, PNG (Doc. No. APT/PRF-P/10/xx)</td>
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<td><strong>Session 1: Capacity Building for the Pacific Islands</strong></td>
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<td>- ITU-EC Status of ICB4PAC project implementation by Mrs. Gisal Fuatai Purcell, ICB4PAC Project Coordinator, ITU</td>
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<td>ITU-EC Update of the Universal Access and Services Assessment (ICB4PAC) by Mrs. Gisal Fuatai Purcell, Project Coordinator, ITU</td>
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| WEDNESDAY 28 APRIL | **Session 5:** Public Private Partnership (PPP)  
Chairman:  
**Focus:**  
- National Broadband Network by MED, New Zealand  
(Doc. No. APT/PRF-P/10/xx)  
- Pros and cons of PPP by Mr. Stuart Davies, APT  
(Doc. No. APT/PRF-P/10/xx)  
Q&A 10 min | COFFEE BREAK | **Session 6:** E-Applications/E-Government  
Chairman:  
**Focus:**  
- Presentation by OPT, French Polynesia (TBC)  
(Doc. No. APT/PRF-P/10/xx)  
- Thematic Presentation on E-Government by Mr. Siaosi, ICT Coordinator-Outreach, SOPAC (TBC)  
(Doc. No. APT/PRF-P/10/xx)  
Mobile e-Banking by Mr. David Dillon, Digicel Pacific  
(Doc. No. APT/PRF-P/10/xx)  
Q&A 15min | **Session 7:** Regulator Panel Session  
Chairman:  
**Theme:**  
- Technology Neutral Licensing  
- Numbering  
Panel Discussion:  
• ACMA (TBC)  
• Mr. Kila Gulo-Uvi, Director Regulatory & External Affairs, PANGTEL, PNG  
• Mr. Nick Williams or Mr. R Bokelema – Experience of Solomon Islands in Setting up an Independent Regulator  
How Ministries deal with Regulatory matters by Mac Mokoroa, Secretary PMs Office, Cook Islands  
Mr. Donnie Defreitas, Regulator, Samoa - Strategic Direction of a Regulatory Office regarding convergence and technology neutrality.  
Q&A 15min | COFFEE BREAK | **Session 8:** Telecommunication Policy and Strategy for the Pacific Islands  
Chairman: Mrs. Gisa Fuatai Purcell  
**Focus:**  
- ITU-EC Presentation of the Assessment for NICT policy in the Pacific (ICB4PAC) by Mr. Eric Lie, (Macmillan Keck) ITU Expert  
- ITU-EC Presentation of structure of NICT etc. (ICB4PAC) by Mr. Eric Lie, (Macmillan Keck) ITU Expert  
(Doc. No. APT/PRF-P/10/xx)  
- ITU-EC Presentation on the Comparison of Regional Best Practices and International Best Practices of Pacific countries (ICB4PAC) by Mr. Siaosi Sovaleni, Regional Expert 20min (Doc. No. APT/PRF-P/10/xx)  
- Discussion of NICT Assessment Report |
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**Session 9: Telecommunication Policy and Strategy for the Pacific Islands (Cont.)**

**Chairman:** Mrs. Gisella Purcell, ITU-EC Project Coordinator for the Pacific, ITU

**Focus:**
- Digital Strategy (Discussion)
  - 20min
  - Recommendations and Formulation of Digital Strategy II by CROP Agencies (TBC)
  - ITU-EC Presentation of Gaps and SWOT analysis (ICB4PAC) by Mr. Siaosi Sovaleni Senior Regional ICT Expert
- Discussion of Gaps and SWOT Analysis

**Session 10:**

**Chairman:**

**Focus:**
- Telecommunication Policy and Strategy for the Pacific Islands (Cont.)
- APT Ministerial Plan of Action (Action Item Matrix for the Pacific) by APT
  - (Doc. No. APT/PRF-P/10/xx)
- Finalize of Digital Strategy II (Doc. No. APT/PRF-P/10/xx)

**Recommendation for Ministerial**
- (Doc. No. APT/PRF-P/10/xx)

**L U N C H**

**Session 11:** ITU Related Issues

**Chairman:**

**Focus:**
- APT Preparations for PP-10 and WTDC-10 by Mr. Stuart Davies, Telecom Expert, APT
  - (Doc. No. APT/PRF-P/10/xx)
- Presentation by ITU
  - (Doc. No. APT/PRF-P/10/xx)

**The Way Forward**:

**Closing**:
- Closing Address by PITA
- Closing Address by Mr. Toshiyuki Yamada, Secretary General, APT

**C O F F E E B R E A K**

**ITU-EC Special Session**

**Chairman:** Gisella Purcell

**Focus:**
- Presentation of summary of previous sessions by Mr. Eric Lie (Macmillan Keck) ITU Expert
- Group Discussion the way forward – next steps to address needs of countries
- Group Presentation
- Presentation of the draft workshop report by Mr. Eric Lie, (Macmillan Keck) ITU Expert
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<td><strong>ITU-EC Special Session cont’d</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Chairman: Wisit Atipayakoon</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Focus:</strong></td>
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<td>- Presentation of Consolidated set of comments by Participants by Mr. Siaosi Sovaleni, Regional Expert</td>
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<td>- Final Presentation of Assessment Report with comments by participants by Mr. Eric Lie, ITU Expert</td>
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<td>- Presentation of Follow up Activities by Mr. Siaosi Sovaleni senior Regional expert</td>
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<td>- Endorsement - Agree final draft Reports and Statement of Agreement by Participants</td>
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<td>- Closing: Mrs. Gisa Fuatai Purcell, ICBAPAC Project Coordinator ITU</td>
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ANNEX II – General Information

POLICY AND REGULATORY FORUM
26-30 April 2010
Honiara, Solomon Islands

PARTICIPANT GENERAL INFORMATION

Meeting Room Venue
The meeting venue will be at the Main Conference Room at the Kitano Mendana Hotel, Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Participants
Meeting participation is open to all stakeholders including government representatives, regulators, regional associations of regulators, regional association of operators and manufacturers, associates in the ITU Pacific region, representatives from the civil society and international organizations. Participation to the workshop is on invitation and registration only.

The number of delegates from an organisation is not limited. However, only one fellowship or partial fellowship is available for each country. Ideally an organisation should send at least one representative involved in the ICT Policy, Regulatory and Legislative Frameworks. Taking into account the objectives of the meeting described above, the participation of delegates with decision-making capacity is highly recommended.

Pre-Registration and fellowships
Pre-registration for this event will be exclusively online by clicking here.

The deadline for online pre-registration is 21 April 2010. Registration will also be done on-site (please see Annex I).

Subject to availability of funds, a selected number of fellowships will be available for confirmed participants, if duly authorised by their corresponding Administrations. While the number of delegates from any given country is not limited, participants from whom fellowships cannot be provided can participate at their own expense. Due to budgetary constraints, the beneficiaries of a fellowship may have to contribute partly to the costs of the fellowship.

Participants eligible for fellowships may complete the application form attached as Annex III.

The deadline for submitting fellowship requests is 9 April 2010.
Name Badges & Admittance

Name badges will be at the Registration Desk during registration. Name Badges are required for access to meeting venue and social functions.

Dress

Casual Business Attire, Ties discouraged, Bula/Aloha/Island Shirts encouraged

Hotel Accommodation

We recommend participants to stay at the host hotel – Kitano Mendana Hotel
More information on the hotel can be found at this website
solomon-kitano-mendana-hotel&catid=33%3Ahoniara&Itemid=72

Booking Information.
Contact Person: Group Reservations
Maggie Simi
Telephone: +677 20071
Fax: +677 23942
Email: reserv@mendana.com.sb
Internet Access at their Business Centre

Room rates
Range from SB$900.00 – SB$1800.00 per room per night (less 15% for Telekom)
You can contact hotel directly for any other hotel information.

Rates: all in Solomon Island Dollar currencies.
Rates may have changed without notice.
Delegates are required to book directly with the hotels.

A list of alternative hotels is included at the end of this information.

Transportation and Transfer from Airport to Hotel

Arrivals/departures – Host will organise pick up at Airport to hotel – Delegates are required to send their flight itinerary (flight no. time and date and name(s) to Rosa Kola (see email contact below), by no later than 8th April 2010. Meeting times, functions - pickup from recommended hotel to Venue will be organised by host, including transportation for emergency needs.

Visa and Immigration Requirements

All travelers to Solomon Islands must have a valid passport for at least three months of the date of arrival. Please check with your travel agents the appropriate visas and documentation necessary for your entry into Solomon Islands.

Countries from the Pacific needing Visa to enter Solomon Islands are: Tuvalu, Nauru, and Kiribati.

To assist delegates from these countries for VISA on Arrival, Application forms with copy of front page of passport are to be forwarded to Rose Kola (see contact information below) before 31st March 2010. Letter of approval will be faxed to each applicant that should be
presented at immigration upon arrival.

**Departure taxes**

Departure taxes are normally included in tickets so just ensure that this is so with your tickets.

**Climate**

Solomon Island has a tropical warm climate but rainy in April; temperatures ranging between 31-35 degrees Celsius; some cool clothing is recommended and umbrella if staying in alternate venues.

**Malaria Precautions**

Participants need to prepare before travel, medical assistance is available for blood testing for malaria from a number of sources in Honiara.

**Electricity**

Electricity voltage is 240 volts with pin configuration similar to Australia, NZ and most European countries. You are advised to take along your universal adaptor if you are from the USA, Japan or any other country with dissimilar pin configurations and voltages.

**Currency**

Solomon Island Dollars. International Banks operating in Honiara are Westpac, ANZ and BSB.

Their Buying Exchange rates is approximately SB$1.00: US$0.1333 or AUD$0.1472

Major Credit Cards accepted at the hotel and other major outlets and ATMs.

**Time**

Local time is GMT +12hrs (00.00)

**Communications and GSM Roaming**

Our Telekom has roaming with the following operators

- PNG BeMobile  (PNG)
- Cingular/AT&T  (US)
- Optus Australia  (AUS)
- Telstra Australia  (AUS)
- Vodafone Fiji  (Fiji)
- Vodafone Netherlands  (The Netherlands)
- Vodafone NZ  expected in March 2010
- Telecom NZ  "
- Japan  "
Contact Persons in Honiara

ITU CONTACT
Mrs. Gisa Fuatai Purcell
Project Coordinator
Ph: +679 3312600, Fax: +679 3220
Mobile: +679 958 3059
Email: fuatai.purcell@itu.int

HOST CONTACT:
Steve Tusler: steve.TUSLER@telekom.com.sb
Joanne Unga: joanne.UNGA@telekom.com.sb

Alternative Hotels

KING SOLOMON HOTEL
Room rate: $125 AUD—$160 AUD per night
Walking Distances to main shopping Center & PITA Conference.
Telephone—677-21205
Email: reservations@kingsolomon.com.sb
Prepay Internet Access available either via Hotspots or Business Centres

HONIARA HOTEL
Room rate: $891.00/night SBD. 25% discount applies upon confirmation of booking.
Telephone: 677-21737
Email: reservation@honiarahotel.com.sb
Prepay Internet Access available either via Hotspots or Business Centres
Also sells Bumble Bee Cards

HERITAGE PARK HOTEL
Across the road from Telekom HQ, next door to Mendana Hotel. Newly Built, walking
distance to main meeting venue. Room rates ranges from $1320.00 - $2720.00 SBD per
night. Room type—Executive room to Presidential Suite.
Telephone: 677-24007
Email: reservations@hph.com.sb
Internet Access at their Business Centre
Heritage Park Hotel ONLY Hotel that caters for Halal Meals

Delegates are required to book directly with the hotels.
ANNEX III – Fellowship Application form

POLICY AND REGULATORY FORUM FOR THE PACIFIC
HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS
26-30 April 2010

Please return to: Planning, Budget and Administration (PBA)
ITU/BDT
Geneva (Switzerland)
E-mail: bdfellowships@itu.int
Tel: +41 22 730 5487 / 5095
Fax: +41 22 730 5778

Request for a fellowship to be submitted before (9 April 2010)
Participation of women is encouraged

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CONDITIONS:
1. One fellowship per eligible country.
2. One return ECO class air ticket by the most direct/economical route.
3. A daily allowance to cover accommodation, meals and incidental expense
4. Imperative that fellows be present first day/end of the xxx.

Signature of fellowship candidate Date

TO VALIDATE FELLOWSHIP REQUEST, NAME AND SIGNATURE OF CERTIFYING OFFICIAL DESIGNATING PARTICIPANT MUST BE COMPLETED BELOW WITH OFFICIAL STAMP.

Signature: Date: