# Pacific ICT Officials’ Meeting

Nuku’alofa, Tonga, 17-18 June 2015

# OUTCOME OF PACIFIC ICT OFFICIALS’ MEETING

## Preamble

The Pacific ICT Officials’ Meeting (the Meeting), organised jointly by the University of the South Pacific (USP) in its capacity as Chair of the Council of Regional Organisation of the Pacific (CROP) ICT Working Group and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), took place on 17-18 June 2015, in Nuku’alofa, Tonga. The Meeting included officials and representatives of countries and organisations listed in Appendix A.

The meeting thanked USP, ITU and the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga for organizing the Meeting, as well as partners, particularly the Australian Government Department of Communications, Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT), United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA), Tonga Communications Corporation (TCC), Tonga Cable Limited (TCL), Internet Society (ISOC) and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

Other relevant meeting documents attached to this paper include:

* The minutes of the meeting at Appendix B;
* The 2010 Framework for Action on ICT for Development in the Pacific (FAIDP) Review, by the CROP ICT Working Group at Appendix C; and
* The draft Pacific Regional ICT Strategic Action Plan (PRISAP) 2016-2020

The meeting also noted the outcomes of the APT 8th Policy and Regulatory Forum for the Pacific, which was held immediately prior to this meeting.

## Outcomes of the Meeting

Participants of the ICT Officials’ Meeting found, through their discussions and the results of the FAIDP Review, that the following key issues were a challenge in implementing the FAIDP, and remain a challenge to achieving ICT objectives in the Pacific:

1. Lack of coordination and information around ICT initiatives within the Pacific region countries by countries, donor agencies and international organisations that could benefit from common approaches, standards, resources and infrastructures in ICT that could provide the force multiplier effect through cooperative development scaling and multi-purposing of technical resources. This includes human resource development and harnessing of available expertise and resources.
2. Common knowledge and supporting data to facilitate decision-making in countries of the Pacific around ICT initiatives and ICT support for sustainable development. A central regional repository that shares common knowledge and public domain data from various regional and international sources would foster common perspectives and approaches to benchmarks, targets and planning objectives.

The meeting proposes that Pacific ICT Ministers, at their meeting on 19th June, consider the following:

1. endorse the FAIDP Review undertaken by the CROP ICT Working Group and supported by this meeting, noting that the Review highlighted the challenge of ensuring CERT capability in the region, among other challenges;
2. progress agreement of the PRISAP to enable its finalization and adoption as soon as practicable; and
3. encourage Pacific countries to engage with the CROP ICT Working Group and other relevant partners, such as the ITU and the Pacific ICT Regional Resource Centre (PiRRC), to develop an effective mechanism for coordination and data collection on ICTs that will enable improved decision-making, investment and assessment of progress against Pacific ICT objectives.