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| 1. **Welcome**

Bula! Welcome to Nadi and we hope you find your stay in Fiji both enjoyable and productive.This workshop promises to be productive, beneficial to the countries and a pleasant working experience. The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT) have provided top experts in the field and the participants themselves are the countries specialists. This provides a mix that would allow you to have a great networking experience. Take the opportunity to find out from your colleagues and the experts possible solutions to your problems and to build the support network to serve you in the future.PiRRC is proud to be associated with ITU, Ministry of Science and ICT of the Republic of Korea, Ministry of Communications of Fiji and the APT in the presentation of this event; through our joint action we are able, not only to assemble the impressive team of experts but also to ensure that most of our participating countries are represented.1. **Introduction**

The Ministers of the Pacific responsible for Information & Communication Technology, in a meeting held on 18 June 2010 in Nuku’alofa, Tonga, endorsed the establishment of the Pacific ICT Regulatory Resource Centre (PiRRC), to be located at the University of the South Pacific (USP). After a successful two-year pilot project co-funded with ADB, the World Bank in support of this request from the Ministers approved the funding of a Pacific ICT Regional Regulatory Development Project through a grant established under a Financing Agreement between the International Development Association (IDA) and the University of the South Pacific (USP).The development objective of the Project is to strengthen the capacity of ICT regulatory institutions in the Participating Countries (Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu), and enhance regional collaboration and knowledge sharing on ICT regulatory issues. The primary beneficiaries of the Project are the nine Pacific island regulatory institutions that are referred to in the Financing Agreement as Participating Counties. Indirect beneficiaries include other Pacific Island governments that will have access to most Project outputs, consumers, businesses (including telecommunications operators), government agencies, researchers/academia and communities. All should eventually receive improved ICT services as a result of enhanced regulatory outcomes derived from the Project.PiRRC has a developed a work program that includes data collection, spectrum management, disaster management & mitigation, Internet governance, open access, regulation of OTTs, quality of service standards for broadband and digital readiness. In spectrum management the approach is first to determine the countries’ needs, the problems they face and then provide possible solutions. In the belief that no one size fits all, the various options/solutions presented will always take into account the various stages of development in each of the Project’s Participating Countries.In spectrum management PiRRC involvement is guided by the countries’ need for effective intervention to improve spectrum management and forms part of the overall strategy of capacity building in the offices of the Regulators. PiRRC has engaged the services of experts to address spectrum harmonization and spectrum management.In spectrum management PiRRC has decided to utilize SMS4DC as the most cost effective spectrum management tool for the smaller Pacific Countries and the PiRRC intervention includes: 1) Spectrum Harmonization; 2) SMS4DC; and 3) National Emergency Telecommunications Plans.1. **Spectrum Harmonization**

 The Project contracted the services of Dr. Andrew Kerans for spectrum harmonization and his deliverables are:a) Compilation and review of existing National Spectrum Plans in participating countries; b) Report on a strategy for a harmonized approach to spectrum management in the region;c) Preparation of a Report highlighting considerations for participating countries for national/regional approaches for upcoming World Radio Conferences; d) Development of a regionally harmonized Spectrum Plan with Frequency Allocations.e) Provision of training through a regional workshop for regulators on spectrum management and best practices in harmonizing frequency allocations;The current workshop is part of the work on spectrum harmonization and in keeping with our stated objectives of collaboration, this is being done with ITU and APT.It is expected that in the first quarter of 2018 a follow up workshop on spectrum harmonization to discuss the deliverables from Dr. Kerans will be held; most likely in Fiji.1. **SMS4DC**

PiRRC contracted the services of Dale Stacey of SAT Pty Ltd to provide assistance to the countries in the application of SMS4DC as a spectrum management software.His scope of work included:* Advice on and coordination of activities relevant for the successful deployment and use of the SMS4DC system in the participating countries.
* Assessing the participating countries’ long term requirement for frequency assignments taking into account new emerging telecommunication technologies and National and International Frequency Allocations and configuring the SMS4DC system to accommodate the requirement
* Setting up the operating systems and relevant software (purchased to ITU specification for SMS4DC Version 4.0 - Spectrum Management System for Developing Countries Edition 2012); installation, configuration and if required, customization of the SMS4DC software for the circumstances of spectrum management and frequency assignment in the participating country.
* Transferring existing data from the presently used systems and local records to SMS4DC, and commissioning the SMS4DC system into use.
* Development or if it exists use, of a National Frequency Allocation Table / Spectrum Plan, based on existing practices, frequency assignments, likely future spectrum demands and latest ITU-R radio regulations and if available, separately provided draft policy, and radio regulations, and incorporate into the SMS4DC system.
* Propose and develop supplementary tools as required for the circumstances.
* Train local staff on frequency assignment mechanisms, coordination, interference calculation, determination of Satellite Earth Station coordination zone and microwave link budget calculation and the other related subjects relevant to use of SMS4DC features and functions and any developed tools.
* Prepare separate reports for each country and a consolidated report with comparative study for all participating countries to be submitted on the completed work to the Director of the Project.
* Conduct a regional workshop on the use and application of SMS4DC

The deliverables for the assignment are: * A configured and functioning SMS4DC system for three workstations in each participating country
* Transfer of all existing accessible data into the SMS4DC system instrument and database for recording numbers allocated or otherwise in use.
* A National Frequency Allocation Table / Spectrum Plan incorporated into the SMS4DC system
* A report for the regulator on completed work and advice about any further work that is relevant including capacity-building/training.
* Skills transfer on spectrum management and regulation.

Countries are encouraged to submit their frequency allocations/assignments so that the databases in the network can be populated.1. **National Emergency Telecommunications Plans**

Don Wallace was engaged to assist countries in the preparation of their national Emergency Telecommunications Plans (NETP). He has since provided an analysis of the use of the Telecom/ICTs in Emergency and Disaster Management in Pacific region including national practices and produced a comprehensive report on “A Model on how to develop National Emergency Telecommunication Plans (NETPs) in Pacific Island States.” Countries participated in a knowledge sharing event on best practices in developing National Emergency Telecommunications Plans and are now working on developing their own national plans. The draft plan discusses the alignment of existing NETPs with Tampere Convention and proposes regionally coordinated frequency allocations/assignments for emergency communications. countries.1. **Other initiatives**

In addition to the above mentioned activities, PiRRC will procure the services of a specialist firm to assist the member countries in:* Quality of service Benchmarks and Measurement methodologies for mobile broadband;
* Understanding Options for Regulation of OTT services;
* Regional Strategy for critical infrastructure;
* Broadband Price /cost analysis & affordability;
* Wholesale price analysis and
* Regional Digital Readiness

Collaboration is also being worked out with ICANN, ISOC, GSMA, ITU and PITA for addressing the issues of:* On-line child protection
* Open Access
* Mobile Money and Financial Inclusion
* Mobile Privacy Guidelines development
* Radio Signals and Health
* Regulation in the Digital Age
* Women in Mobile
1. **Conclusion**

Considering that all of this has to happen before project closure in August 2019 we have a busy schedule ahead. The input from countries is critical for success and you are invited to volunteer to host workshops on any of the above-mentioned activities.Returning to the reason why we are here. Spectrum harmonization can only be achieved if first we agree to collaborate and also agree on standardization.Your input is critical and the success of our workshop depends largely on you.Be involved and we welcome your comments and input.Thank you,Donnie DefreitasProject Director |
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