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| http://exch.aptsec.org/exchange/pornchai/Inbox/Draft%20Agenda%202.docx.EML/1_multipart/image001.jpg?Security=2 | ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY |  | |  |
| **8th APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-8)** | | **Document**  **PRFP-8/OUT-04** | |
| 15-17 June 2015, Nuku’alofa, Tonga | | **Date :** 15September 2015 | |

**Secretary General**

**summary record of the 8th APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-8)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The 8th APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-8) was held from 15 to 17 June 2015 in Nukuʻalofa, Tonga. The meeting was organized by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT). The forum was hosted by the Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC), Kingdom of Tonga, and supported by the Ministry of Internal affairs and Communications (MIC), Government of Japan, and Department of Communications (DoC), Australian Government.

The agenda and the programme of the meeting are contained in Documents PRFP-8/ADM-01 and PRFP-8/ADM-02 respectively.

The Meeting was attended by 65 participants representing Members, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, International/Regional Organizations and other organizations. Document PRFP-8/ADM-03 contains the list of participants of the meeting.

1. **OPENING SESSION (Monday, 15 June 2015, 09:30-10:30)**
   1. The Forum was opened by Opening Prayer by Vicar General Fr. Lutoviko Finau.

**2.2 Welcome Address by Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity**

Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General of APT delivered the Welcome Address.

She extended her sincere thanks and appreciation through the Deputy Prime Minister to the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga, in particular the Ministry for Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications, for hosting this Meeting. In her address she emphasized APT’s commitment to supporting the Pacific through the PRFP and development projects. She then extended APT’s sincere sympathies and expressed continuing support for Vanuatu following the devastating effects of Cyclone Pam earlier this year. Lastly, the programme of the PRFP was outlined.

The full text of Ms. Areewan’s Welcome Address can be found in document PRFP‑8/INP‑01.

**2.3 Inaugural Address by Hon. Siaosi Sovaleni, Deputy Prime Minister, Kingdom of Tonga**

The Hon. Siaosi Sovaleni, Deputy Prime Minister, Kingdom of Tonga delivered the Inaugural Address.

He congratulated Ms. Areewan on her election and also for being the first woman to serve as Secretary General of the APT. He also acknowledged the important contribution made by the APT in organizing the PRFP-8 with the support of the governments of Japan and Australia.

In his address he stressed the importance of ICT and the potential of broadband for economic development. He also highlighted key ICT activities in Tonga which included activities in e-Government, cybersecurity and cyber-crime legislation and disaster management. The full text of the Inaugural Address can be found in document PRFP‑8/INP-02.

**2.4** A token of appreciation was presented to the Honorable Deputy Prime Minister by the Secretary General of APT.

**2.5** The opening ceremony was closed with a Closing Prayer by Vicar General Fr. Lutoviko Finau.

**3. Session 1 : Telecommunications in the Pacific : updates and activities (Monday, 15 June 2015, 10:30-12:15)**

**Chair :** Mr. Shivnesh Prasad, Vice-Chairman of PRFP

**3.1 Adoption of Agenda and Programme *(Document PRFP-8/ADM-01 Rev3 and PRFP-8/ADM-02)***

The Chairman introduced the provisional agenda of the meeting contained in document PRFP-8/ADM-01.

The Chairman suggested inserting an Agenda Item 3 on “Outcomes of Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2014, GA-13 and MC-38” to the agenda and sought approval.

The meeting agreed with the insertion. The agenda was then approved with modification.

The Chairman also advised that the tentative programme of the meeting was contained in document PRFP-8/ADM-02. It was noted by the meeting.

**3.2 The Outcomes of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting, the 13th Session of the General Assembly and the 38th Session of the Management Committee *(Document PRFP-8/INP-16)***

Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General of the APT presented a report on the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting. The presentation outlined the objectives of the meeting and the overall theme as “Building Smart Digital Economy through ICT.” The Ministerial Meeting adopted the “Brunei Darussalam Statement of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministers on Building Smart Digital Economy through ICT” where six key priority areas were defined.

On the outcomes of the 13th Session of the General Assembly (GA-13), the presentation highlighted the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2015 to 2017, which defines eight APT Work Programmes and associated strategic action plans. It was also reported that the GA-13 elected Ms. Areewan Haorangsi (Thailand) as the new Secretary General and Mr. Masanori Kondo (Japan) as the new Deputy Secretary General of APT for the next three-year term.

On the outcomes of the 38th Session of the Management Committee (MC-38) of the APT, it was reported that MC-38 approved the holding of a PRFP-8 meeting in the year 2015.

Lastly, the APT Work Programmes that focused on the Pacific were presented. These included recent projects and training programmes conducted in the Pacific.

* 1. **Recent Australian Developments (*Document PRFP-8/INP-18*)**

Ms. Carmen Ball, Assistant Director, International Engagement and Strategy, Department of Communications, Australia presented the document.

Ms. Ball provided an update on recent activities and events in the Australian Department of Communications for the information of the Forum, including the recent establishment of a Digital Transformation Office, the appointment of a new Children’s e-Safety Commissioner and developments in the areas of data policy, spectrum, emergency communications and regional communications.

* 1. **Samoa’s Second Submarine Cable (*Document PRFP-8/INP-12*)**

Mr. Ronnie Aiolupotea, Assistant CEO, Policy Development Division, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), Samoa presented the document.

The Samoan Government and its development partners, mainly the World Bank, Asia Development Bank and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, were working on a project called the Connectivity Project. The project aimed at improving Samoa’s international connection to the Internet. There are 3 main components identified to successfully achieve the objectives for this initiative, namely (1) construction for a submarine fiber-optic cable, (2) regulatory technical assistance, and (3) project management.

* 1. **Disaster Management/ Communications & Recovery: Case of Vanuatu *(Document PRFP-8/INP-17)***

Mr. Jackson Miake, ICT Programme Manager, Vanuatu Government, Vanuatu presented the document.

The presentation provided background on the impact of Tropical Cyclone Pam that hit Vanuatu early in the year. It also explained how Vanuatu responded to this recent disaster through coordination with various organizations. Through collaborative efforts, 85% of the telecom infrastructure was restored within only 28 days. Lastly, future planning on an emergency communications strategy was presented.

**3.6 Q&A**

* The Chairman commented on the collective efforts of the Pacific region to help each other during the disaster, demonstrating the spirit of partnership that exists in the region.
* Mr. Arumae from Solomon Islands asked a question about how the Vanuatu government responded to telecom operators with regard to the rebuilding of telecommunications infrastructure.

* Mr. Jackson responded that the government would include telecommunications rebuilding as part of a proposal to seek financial assistance. However, telecom operators were obliged to have insurance to cover their infrastructure. The government would also provide assistance in rebuilding efforts.
* Reflecting on all the presentations, Mr. Philippo from Marshall Islands commented on the importance of Public Private Partnership (PPP).
* The Chairman queried Ms. Ball from Australia regarding the online security programme for children in Australia, especially in terms of social media.
* Ms. Ball replied that the activities mentioned in her presentation were predominately focused on cyber safety initiatives and could provide further information on request.
* Chairman sought elaboration from Mr. Aiolupotea from Samoa on preparation for the potential threat of cybercrime in Samoa.
* Mr. Aiolupotea responded that following up on the outcome of the ministerial meeting in Tonga in 2011, the government tried to include cybercrime and cybersecurity as part of their criminal legislation. The ministry was establishing an institution and focal point to address the issues. There were also activities in the area of child protection and capacity building. Other activities mentioned included an awareness programme through radio and the establishment of a national Computer Emergency Response Team in Samoa.
* The Chairman sought elaboration from Mr. Jackson from Vanuatu regarding the establishment of an emergency communications rebuilding fund.
* Mr. Jackson replied that it was still ongoing and that there was also insurance available through the World Bank, to which Samoa subscribed. He mentioned that Vanuatu had received money back from their insurance plan for rebuilding telecommunications infrastructure. He added that it might not be appropriate to impose an obligation on telecom operators to collect funds for emergency communications rebuilding in a similar manner to the USO at this stage.

* Mr. Gulo-Vui from PNG queried the use of a VSAT station during the disaster in Vanuatu and whether it used the C-band frequency.
* Mr. Jackson from Vanuatu replied that the VSAT station operated on C-band and that it was used to cover areas where microwave links were lost.
* Mr. Gulo-Vui further queried Australia on the e-Safety commissioner within the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).
* Ms. Ball replied that the commissioner was an independent statutory office in ACMA but reported directly to the Minister.
* Mr. Arumae from Solomon Islands queried whether there was any consideration regarding the local interception of the big data network in Australia.
* Ms. Ball replied that Australia was considering new provisions on the interception of data.
* Mr. Arumae from Solomon Islands queried Mr. Aiolupotea on the financing of a new cable in Samoa.
* Mr. Aiolupotea replied that the project was funded by ADB, World Bank and partly from the private sector. He added that the project was in a negotiation and tendering process at the moment.

**4. Session 2 : Policy and Regulation Trends in the Pacific (Monday, 15 June 2015, 14:00-15:30)**

**Chair :** Mr. Phil Philippo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transportation and Communications, Marshall Islands

**4.1 Fiji’s Experience with the 4G LTE Auction and the Digital Television Migration (*Document PRFP-8/INP-20*)**

Mr. Shivnesh Prasad, Director Communications, Ministry of Communications, Fiji presented the document.

This presentation focused on the Fijian experience regarding the administration of the country’s first spectrum auction touching on aspects such as the rationale for reserved spectrum pricing, as well as covering in detail the methodology of the auction. Requirements such as coverage obligations and incentives were also discussed. The presentation then moved to discussing progress on Digital Migrations and presented a summary of the achievements to date, as well as highlighting challenges faced and the ways they were overcome.

**Q&A**

* Ms. Takahashi from Japan, asked a question on the separation of management rights for spectrum and operating licenses and whether it would be possible if any operator could get one license but not another.
* Mr. Prasad replied that theoretically that was possible but eventually the operator who provided the service needed to have an operating license.
* Ms. Takahashi commented on the unavailability of equipment for the 800 MHz band and queried further on the use of the 800 MHz band.
* Mr. Prasad replied that at the moment, Fiji was going to revisit the 800 MHz band and was also exploring the use of it for emergency communication purposes.

**4.2 Telecommunication Reform in Kiribati *(Document PRFP-8/INP-06)***

Ms. Renga Teannaki, ICT Division, Ministry of Communication, Transport & Tourism Development, Kiribati, presented the document.

The presentation highlighted the achievements of the Government of Kiribati regarding telecommunications reform. The activities and guidelines undertaken during the telecommunications reforms are based on a government initiative aligned to the concept of privatization.

**4.3 Q&A**

* Ms. Hunter from Cook Islands queried on the biggest challenge that Kiribati faced during the privatization process.
* Ms. Teannaki replied that the biggest challenge was that the government had to deal with connections to the outer islands. She added that the Island council would not be able to maintain their telecenters. She stressed the challenge of sustaining the services due to the lack of financial support; even with government support, connection to outer islands was still a problem.

**4.4 PiRRC – a Rebirth *(Document PRFP-8/INP-19*)**

Mr. Donnie Defreitas, Pacific ICT Regulatory Resource Center (PiRRC) Project Director presented the document.

The presentation provided the history of PiRRC and the vision of PiRRC. PiRRC played a key role in facilitating countries positions on ICT issues and international representation. The strength of PiRRC lied in the joint resources of regulators in the region. The presentation also discussed issues to be considered in PiRRC and the next steps forward for PiRRC.

**4.5 Q&A**

* Mr. Aumae from Solomon Islands sought clarification on the membership process for PiRRC.
* Mr. DeFreitas replied that governance rules are being developed and that the membership process was different from country to country. If the country had a regulator, the primary focal point would be the regulator.
* Mr. Jackson from Vanuatu shared the experience of Vanuatu on the support received from PiRRC in resource sharing allowing for assistance from outside such as the private sector. He mentioned the work related to the set-up of IXP where the government took the lead and the private sector showed interest in participating. He stressed the benefit of PPP approach and encouraged the region to work together with PiRRC in the future.
* Mr. DeFreitas stressed the value of PiRRC in sharing and in the exchange of the experience of experts within the region.

* Mr. Aiolupotea from Samoa wanted to know what would happen to the past work of PiRRC.
* Mr. Defeitas indicated that the work done in the past would not be wasted and that it would be made available on the website.
* Mr. DeFreitas raised the importance of certification and the training in the region. He mentioned that a training programme would be one of the key priorities of PiRRC.

1. **Session 3 : ICT Business Environment and Sustainable Development in the Pacific (Monday, 15 June 2015, 15:45-17:15)**

**Chair :** Ms. Carmen Ball, Department of Communications, Australia

**5.1E-Government for Tonga, and E-Health for NCDs in Tonga *(Document PRFP-8/INP-21*)**

Mr. Andrew To’imoana and Mr. Stan Ahio, MEIDECC, Tonga, presented the document.

The presentation provided an overview of the current status of e-Government in Tonga specifically on e-Government development and strategy. It also explored e-Health for NCDs (Non-Communicable Disease) in Tonga in terms of (1) Policy and Framework and (2) Design and Deployment.

**5.2 ICT Business Environment and Sustainable Development in the Pacific (*Document PRFP-8/INP-23* )**

Mr. John Turnbull, Director-Pacific, O3b Networks, Australia presented the document.

With twelve Pacific Island Nations and States now connected to the O3b Network, countries were now rethinking National ICT strategy. Carriers and governments with access to high throughput, low latency connectivity could now aspire to provide solutions and partner with multiple industry segments which would drive innovation and sustainable growth throughout the Pacific.

* 1. **Mobile Voice and Data in the Pacific: Penetration, Prices and Progress (*Document PRFP- 8/INP-22* )**

Dr. Suella Hansen, Network Strategies, New Zealand presented the document.

Mobile voice and data service offerings varied dramatically across different operators and different markets, so that simple price comparisons did not show the whole picture. The well-known price benchmarking technique was applied in a different way to illustrate the extent of market transformation since the first Pacific benchmarks in 2008 and to explore ICT accessibility and affordability as it really was now for Pacific consumers.

* 1. **Accelerating ICT-Enabled Development in the Pacific (*Document PRFP-8/INP-14*)**

Ms. Natasha Beschorner, Senior ICT Policy Specialist, World Bank, presented the document.

The presentation provided an overview of some of the global impacts of ICT on development trends and prospects. She reviewed the current status of ICT development, particularly in the South Pacific, and highlights the results of the recent study undertaken by the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) on economic and social impacts of ICT development in five countries, and by the World Bank on ICT and job creation. She considered the challenges still to be addressed by policymakers and regulators in the Pacific region to realize the wider benefits of technology and innovation.

1. **Session 4 : Cybersecurity and Emerging Internet Policy Issues (Tuesday, 16 June 2015, 9:00-10:30)**

**Chair :** Mr. Jackson Miake, ICT Programme Manager, Vanuatu

* 1. **Regional Cyber Security – An Australian Perspective**

Mr. Vafa Ghazavi, Adviser, International Policy, Cyber Policy Branch, Cyber Policy and Intelligence Division, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Australia delivered remarks on the topic.

Mr. Ghazavi put forward Australia’s views on current and emerging challenges in cyber security. He discussed Australia’s approach to international cyber security, which aimed to promote stability and certainty in cyberspace, and the principles which underpin this. He also pointed to some of the lessons learned from Australia’s recent Cyber Security Review process which might be relevant to other countries in the Pacific region.

**6.2 Japanese Government's Cybersecurity Strategy and the Role of MIC (*Document PRFP-8/INP-05*)**

Mr. Kunihiro Tsutsui, ICT Security Office, Information and Communications Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan presented the document.

As cybersecurity attacks have become more difficult and complicated, governments needed to consider deeply how to secure their ICT environment. In Japan, the Basic Act on Cybersecurity was enforced this year to ensure cybersecurity for the safety and prosperity of the people through a new cybersecurity framework. In this presentation, the latest actions of the Japanese Government regarding cybersecurity, including the new Basic Act, were introduced.

**6.3 Navigating a changing spam landscape (*Document PRFP-8/INP-24)***

Ms. Noelle de Guzman, Regional Programmes Coordinator - Asia Pacific, Internet Society Asia Limited presented the document.

Spam continues to be a significant cybersecurity issue in the Asia-Pacific. The Internet Society’s Combating Spam Project is a multi-pronged initiative that aims to aid the propagation of technical best practices and policy approaches to mitigate the growing global impact of unsolicited electronic communication.

**6.4Recent ICANN Developments (*Document PRFP-8/INP-09)***

Mr. Save Vocea, Regional VP – Australasia/Pacific Islands, ICANN presented the document.

Following on from last year’s PRFP-7, the presentation provided an update on the status of ICANN and the services it offers to the region, an update on the new gTLD programme and possible opportunities for new businesses in the domain industry. He also shared recent developments in the IANA stewardship transition and ICANN accountability, and the need for the region to support a model of multistakeholder governance in addressing local and global Internet issues.

**7. Session 5 : Radio Spectrum Issues (Tuesday, 16 June 2015, 10:45-12:15)**

**Chair :** Mr. Kila Gulo-Vui, Director, National Information And Communications Technology Authority, PNG

**7.1 Towards the WRC-15 (*Document PRFP-8/INP-15)***

Dr. Stephen Sheehan, Programme Officer, APT presented the document.

This presentation outlined the activities of the APT in preparation for the World Radiocommunications Conference to be held in Geneva from 2 to 27 November 2015. The presentation focused on issues of most relevance to Pacific Island nations.

**7.2 Radio Policy Vision Toward 2020 (*Document PRFP-8/INP-07)***

Mr. Maki Takahashi, Deputy Director, Radio Policy Division, Telecommunications Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan presented the document.

The presentation introduced the latest radio policy in Japan, which includes the current status of the telecommunications industry of Japan, especially the mobile industry, the future of radio wave use and related measures (4G, 5G). It also focused on frequency allocation: setting new goals of frequency allocation, measures for the effective use of frequency and direction of frequency allocation for mobile communications.

**7.3 Spectrum Management (*Document PRFP-8/INP-11)***

Mr. Stuart Davies, Consultant, APT presented the document.

The presentation briefly covered the importance of Spectrum Management today, especially with the new services of 4G and in the near future 5G. The presentation also mentioned the APT AFIS system and the reasons to protect the C Band for the Pacific.

* 1. **Q&A**
* Mr. Arumae from Solomon Islands wanted to know about the consideration of methods of spectrum allocation in Japan. He sought elaboration on the comparison of the methods of beauty contest and spectrum auction.
* Ms. Takahashi replied that this was a controversial and political issue. She said that the current government does not prefer an auction. She also mentioned, however, that other political parties recommended the use of auction. Those supporting an auction claimed that the method introduced more competition and that the beauty contest process was not clear and created difficulty for new entrants. They also claimed that with auction, frequency went to the bidder with higher price and some spectrum for new entrants could be reserved. She also added that it was difficult to define conditions. Japan would like to promote new entrants. In the Beauty Contest method, criteria for social responsibility such as coverage area could be set. She added that MIC had undertaken a lot of surveys to consider the introduction of auction but that the decision had yet to be concluded.
* Mr. DeFreitas queried Mr. Davies on AFIS and SMS4DC. He commented that SMS4DC did not seem to work well. He asked whether the APT Training Workshop on Spectrum Management to be held in Fiji could provide information on the comparison of the SMS4DC and AFIS to help countries to consider their options.
* Mr. Davies replied that the training workshop would not provide such comparison but it would discuss the use of AFIS. He further mentioned that AFIS was a good tool and the new management of APT agreed to make it available, if requested.
* Mr. Defreitas requested APT and PNG consider the AFIS as a point of discussion during the Heads of Delegations Meeting (HoD).
* Chairman stated that this PRFP provided a good opportunity to finalize a proposal from the Pacific. He Invited Mr. Panny from PNG to report on the progress of a proposal from PNG.
* Mr. Panny from PNG stated that the draft contribution would be available for the HoD meeting to consider. He said that this would be the last contribution for the Pacific region as a multi-country contribution to be submitted to APG15-5.

**8. Session 6 : Enhance International Connectivity (Tuesday, 16 June 2015, 14:00-15:30)**

**Chair :** Mr. Paula P. Ma'u, CEO, Ministry of Communications (MEIDECC), Kingdom of Tonga

**8.1 Experiences in International Connectivity Project in Palau (Submarine cable and O3B) *(Document PRFP-8/INP-13)***

Mr. Paul McCann, Managing Director, McCann Consulting International, presented the document on behalf of Mr. Rhinehart Silas, President’s Special Advisor on Communications, Office of the President, Palau.

The presentation shared Palau's experiences to date with its efforts to obtain submarine cable connectivity, in partnership with Yap of the Federated States of Micronesia. The highlights of the presentation pointed to the specific governance and other critical factors required to ensure that Palau has a cable that would ultimately deliver to Palau's long standing need to improve its international connectivity.

Aside from the cable pursuit, the presentation also shared a quick overview of Palau’s recent movement to the use of O3b satellites.

The presentation concluded by touching on the current efforts underway to put in place a new legal and regulatory framework to govern Palau's telecommunications/ICT sector.

* 1. **Regional Review of Pacific Cable Projects *(Document PRFP-8/INP-04*)**

Mr. Paul McCann, Managing Director, McCann Consulting International, presented the document.

Apart from the development of Satellite connectivity across the Pacific, as of today there were upward of five (5) submarine cable projects being planned or underway in the Pacific Region. These projects all varied in terms of connectivity, capacity, and cost. Some of these projects would not proceed as planned – they might join together, or other projects might ignite and come in their place. This represented a lot of cable activity and investment for the Pacific Region, and the Pacific Region remained an attractive, dynamic and changing environment attracting investment from public and private sectors around the globe. As leaders of telecommunication organizations operating in the Pacific Region, it was important to understand and remain aware of all that is going on in the Pacific region. This presentation gave a quick overview of all the projects underway or planned as of today and stimulated thought and ideas for on-going connectivity development within the Pacific Region. The presentation covered the latest developments in undersea international fiber optic cables in the Pacific, particularly noting the Samoa-Fiji Cable initiative currently planned for implementation by end-2016.

* 1. **International Connectivity :Challenges & Opportunities (*Document PRFP-8/INP-08*)**

Mr. Haggai Arumae, Director, TCSI, Solomon Islands presented the document.

The presentation provided information about the network / backhaul and international connections in Solomon Islands which currently relies on satellite and is being migrated to O3b trunking backhaul. He also touched on challenges of international connectivity in Solomon Islands covering various aspects including funding, geography and politics. High speed broadband and the growth of other sectors and services provided opportunities for improving international connectivity in the country. Projects in progress in Solomon Islands included a submarine fiber optic cable planned in 2016, O3b High Throughput Satellite (HTS) in 2015 and Kacific in 2017.

**8.4 Pacific Islands challenges and opportunities for improving national connectivity (*Document PRFP-8/INP-25*)**

Mr. Maui Sanford, MS Consulting Tahiti, French Polynesia presented the document.

The presentation covered benchmarks with a focus on connectivity beyond submarine cables, including International IP transit costs, local and national connectivity including satellite communications which remains a major challenge towards viability for Telecom operators in the Pacific Islands.

1. **Session 7 : Closed Regulator’s session (Tuesday, 16 June 2015, 15:45-17:15)**

**Facilitator :** Mr. Donnie Defreitas, PiRRC Manager

* 1. The session proceeded with lively discussions and the agreed focus was on learning from previous sessions and on action-oriented outcomes.
  2. A brief review of the outcomes from PRFP-7 was undertaken followed by reports on the development of ICT in different Pacific Islands. Developments in Digital Television transition were highlighted. Fiji indicated that they were in a testing phase and others indicated the existence of National Roadmaps with definite dates for switchover.
  3. IXP was another area of common interest. Vanuatu had already installed an IXP, Samoa expected one in July and PNG were to reactivate their earlier initiative. Countries reported on the developments and implementation of National Infrastructure Plans and the introduction of new policies and legislation. Several of the countries reported that they would soon benefit from the landing of new submarine cables.
  4. The participants discussed the importance of a “Needs Assessment” for Pacific Countries so that any planned activity would be based on empirical data and actual findings.
  5. Training was identified as an area of common interest with the need to consider modalities like job attachments and ensuring that there was in house capacity to absorb knowledge transfer from consultants engaged in the region.
  6. Frequency coordination and harmonization throughout the region was identified as a priority.
  7. The ITU outlined some of their important initiatives focused on the Pacific including those in Spectrum Management; continuous training in areas identified by countries and cost modeling.
  8. The imminent launching of new submarine cables and the need for National CERTS was highlighted. It was argued that the case for a regional CERT (PACCERT) had to remain on the table especially for the smaller island states with limited human resource capacity.
  9. PiRRC reported that it was now moving to fill vacant posts and improve its web site to better serve its members. Focus was now on a draft work plan to be approved by a soon to be convened Steering Committee and Annual General Meeting.
  10. In summary, the following areas of future work were identified:
* cooperation at a regional level on issues of common concern
* a needs assessment for Pacific Countries
* enhancing knowledge development, sharing and cooperation among regulators and hosting workshops on policy and regulatory best practice
* hosting of a regional IXP forum with ICT regulators focussing on their role in encouraging growth of local content,
* making available information for regional regulators on relevant ICT developments.

**10. Session 8 : Telecommunications Technology Related Issues (Wednesday, 17 June 2015, 9:00-10:00)**

**Chair :** Mr. Geoffrey Harris, Secretary For Telecommunications and Media, Ministry of Telecommunications and Media, Nauru

**10.1Overview of Smart Space Projects & Technology in Republic of Korea *(Document PRFP-8/INP-27)***

Mr. Jeong-Hwan Park, Consultant, National Information Society Agency (NIA), Republic of Korea presented the document.

Mr. Park’s presentation provided an overview of current issues in the technology of Smart Space (U-city) in the Republic of Korea. He also provided an introduction to the National Information Society Agency (NIA) and R&R of Smart Space Projects. This was followed by a general case study of Smart Space Solution & Service. Lastly, consideration was given to how Korea’s Smart Space Technology might be adopted more broadly.

**10.3 New Internet Connectivity Options for the Pacific *(Document PRFP-8/INP-26)***

Mr. Paul Harwood, Emerging Market Access Evangelist, Google, Singapore presented the document.

The presentation gave an overview of the benefits and opportunities of using High Altitude Platforms (HAPS) as access solutions in synergy with existing satellite, cable and mobile solutions and players.

* 1. **Q&A**

- Mr. DeFreitas sought elaboration on the spectrum required for the HAPS. He also asked for more information on the M-Lab to be applied to the Pacific.

* Mr. Harwood replied on the question regarding spectrum that there would be a study on what spectrum should be used for HAPS. He mentioned a study about the use of C-band and Ka-Band in particular and that the result of the study would be reported back to WRC.
* Mr. Arumae from Solomon Islands queried on the monitoring of HAPS.
* Mr. Harwood replied that HAPS operated at a height which was lower than the level of a normal airplane. He explained that in operating the HAPS, the air traffic control authority would also be reporting the flight of the HAPS.
* Mr. Jackson from Vanuatu commented that he would like to see the involvement of Google in the establishment of IXP in the Pacific

**11. Session 9 : Panel Discussion : Future Outlook (Wednesday, 17 June 2015, 10:45-12:15)**

**Facilitator :** Dr. Stephen Sheehan, Programme Officer, APT

**Panelists :**

1. Mr. Paula P. Ma'u, CEO, Ministry of Communications (MEIDECC), Kingdom of Tonga
2. Mr. Phil Philippo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transportation and Communications, Marshall Islands
3. Mr. Ronnie Aiolupotea, MCIT, Samoa
4. Mr. Jackson Miake, ICT Programme Manager, Vanuatu
5. Mr. Ivan Fong, President of Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA)

**11.1 Actions to implement the Brunei Darussalam Statement**

The panel discussed the path forward for the development of ICT in the Pacific, building on the priorities identified in the Brunei Darussalam Statement.

Mr. Paula P. Ma'u discussed the development of e-government in Tonga, building on the landing of a fibre-optic cable in 2013. The government in Tonga is the biggest employer and e-government helps to improve the quality of service delivery. The most important applications of e-government are education and health. The submarine cable would also help to drive down the cost of internet access to the public.

Mr. Jackson Miake indicated that they were expecting 10 times more data traffic in 10 years’ time and that 50% of this would be video. He discussed the National ICT Policy of Vanuatu and the first-ever Toolkit for Mobile Governance that had been developed by Vanuatu and was available for other countries in the Pacific to use.

Mr. Ronnie Aiolupotea outlined a number of issues of importance that included international connectivity, sustainable solutions, the protection of people and infrastructure through cybersecurity, facilitating competition and a level playing field for business. He also emphasised the importance of sharing experiences and learning from the experiences of other countries in the Pacific.

Mr. Phil Philippo discussed how in April their fibre optic cable had been operationalized. The challenge now was to sustain operations. He reported that 90% of connectivity was through satellite. He expressed that he would like to learn from other countries in the Pacific about their experiences and to apply best practice in the Marshall Islands.

Mr. Ivan Fong spoke about the problems of access and connectivity. Satellite options were driving prices down but while the corporates and affluent customers could take care of themselves there was a need to continue to cut the cost to the consumer so as to ensure access. He also discussed that capacity building in the Pacific should not just focus on ICT skills but on a broad range of skills including legal, human resources and financial skills.

**11.2 Contribution to Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting**

The panel was asked to nominate a key contribution to the Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting.

Mr. Paula P. Ma'u emphasised the need for ICT for disaster management before, during and after a disaster strikes. He also identified the need for institutional development and that Tonga had recently set up an independent regulator.

Mr. Jackson Miake emphasised the need for countries to actively engage in the commitments that they made at meetings such as this and the Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting that would follow.

Mr. Ronnie Aiolupotea emphasised the importance of the sustainable development of ICT and the importance of sharing experiences in the Pacific.

Mr. Phil Philippo emphasised the importance of assisting the islands of the Pacific to bridge the digital divide. He also drew attention to the importance of public/private partnerships and putting words into action.

Mr. Ivan Fong emphasised the importance of capacity building and that this needs to be broader than just ICT.

**12. Session 10: Way Forward (Wednesday, 17 June 2015, 10:00-10:30)**

**Chair :** Mr. Shivnesh Prasad, Vice-Chairman of PRFP

**12.1 Other Business**

**Establishment of a Working Group on Multi-Country Contribution to APG15-5**

* + 1. Chairman reported to the meeting that in the Heads of Delegation (HOD) meeting on 16 June, it was proposed that a Working Group (WG) on a Multi-Country Contribution to APG15-5 would be established. The Working Group would be chaired by Mr. Kila Gulo-Vui from PNG. He further reported that PNG had agreed to prepare a working document for consideration by the WG. He invited interested participants to join a meeting of the Working Group following the current session.
    2. The meeting agreed to the establishment of the Working Group (WG) on the Multi-Country Contribution to APG15-5 under the chairmanship of Mr. Kila Gulo-Vui from PNG.

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| **Decision No. 01 (PRFP-8)** |
| Meeting agreed to the establishment of Working Group (WG) on Multi-Country Contribution to APG15-5. |

* + 1. Chairman asked the WG to meet and come back with a report before the end of the PRFP.

**Review of the Summary Record of PRFP-7**

* + 1. Chairman reported that PNG proposed to revise the text of the Summary Record of PRFP‑7. He then invited PNG to present the proposed changes to the text.
    2. Mr. Gulo-Vui from PNG referred to the Summary Record of PRFP-7 (Document PRFP-7/OUT-01). Because of the brief nature of the text in the Summary Record, PNG proposed a more elaborate account in Section 13.2.
    3. Chairman asked for comments from the floor.
    4. As there were no comments from the floor, the meeting agreed to the changed text proposed by PNG and approved the revised Summary Record of PRFP-7 as contained in Document PRFP-8/OUT-01.

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| **Decision no. 02 (PRFP-8)** |
| Meeting approved the revised Summary Record of PRFP-7 as contained in Document PRFP-8/OUT-01. |

* 1. **Changes to the Working Methods for PRFP**

12.2.1 Chairman invited the APT Secretariat to introduce some proposed changes to the Working Methods for PRFP.

* + 1. Dr. Sheehan presented the changed text of the Working Methods to include provision to deal with the event that Chairman and/or Vice-Chairmen could not fulfil their duties. The revised Working Methods for PRFP also proposed to have two Vice-Chairmen for PRFP. He sought approval of the PRFP for the revised Working Methods.
    2. Chairman asked for comments from the floor.
    3. As there were no comments from the floor, the meeting approved the revised Working Methods for PRFP as contained in Document PRFP-8/OUT-02.

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| **Decision no. 03 (PRFP-8)** |
| Meeting approved the Revised Working Method of PRFP as contained in Document PRFP-8/OUT-02 and referred the document to the APT Management Committee for further consideration. |

**12.3** **Topics for the PRFP-9**

12.3.1 Chairman invited suggestions from participants on topics for the PRFP-9. No suggestions were made on topics for the PRFP-9.

**12.4 Date and Venue for PRFP-9**

12.4.1 Chairman invited PRFP Members to consider the hosting of PRFP-9 which would be held in 2016.

12.4.2 PNG offered to host the PRFP-9. The proposal was seconded by Solomon Islands. PNG mentioned that the exact venue and date would be communicated at a later stage.

12.4.3 Chairman thanked PNG for this generous offer.

12.4.4 The meeting accepted that PNG would host the PRFP-9 in 2016.

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| **Decision no. 04 (PRFP-8)** |
| The meeting accepted that PNG would host the PRFP-9 in 2016 and requested the APT Secretariat to refer this proposal to the Management Committee for approval. |

12.5 **Output Documents**

12.5.1 Chairman invited Mr. Kila Gulo-Vui, Chairman of the Working Group on the Multi-Country Contribution to APG15-5 to present the report of the working Group.

12.5.2 Mr. Gulo-Vui presented the report. He mentioned that apart from the Federated States of Micronesia which was absent and Palau which needed internal approval, the proposal contained in the report was supported by most of the member countries in the Pacific.

12.5.3 Chairman asked for comments from the meeting.

12.5.4 As there was no comment, the meeting approved the Report of the Working Group on the Multi-Country Contribution to APG15-5 as contained in Document PRFP-8/OUT-03.

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| **Decision no. 05 (PRFP-8)** |
| Meeting approved the Report of the Working Group on the Multi-Country Contribution to APG15-5 as contained in Document PRFP-8/OUT-03. |

12.5.5 Chairman summarized that there were three documents presented and adopted by the PRFP which were:

1. Revised Summary Record of PRFP-7 (Document PRFP-8/OUT-01)

2. Revised Working Method of PRFP (Document PRFP-8/OUT-02)

3. Report of the Working Group on the Multi-Country Contribution to APG15-5 (Document PRFP-8/OUT-03)

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| **Decision no. 06 (PRFP-8)** |
| Meeting adopted the following documents:  1. Revised Summary Record of PRFP-7 (Document PRFP-8/OUT-01)  2. Revised Working Method of PRFP (Document PRFP-8/OUT-02)  3. Report of the Working Group on the Multi-Country Contribution to APG15-5 (Document PRFP-8/OUT-03) |

**13. Closing**

13.1 The draft summary record would be prepared and sent to the participants for comments. The APT Secretariat will submit the summary record to the Management Committee for its approval.

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| **Decision no. 07 (PRFP-8)** |
| The draft summary record would be prepared and sent to participants for comment before publishing on the PRFP website. The APT Secretariat will then report the Summary Record to the Management Committee. |

13.2 An address was delivered by Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General of APT.

In her address, she summarized key discussion points of the PRFP. She thanked the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga, in particular Mr. Paula Ma’u, the CEO of MEIDECC and his team for their outstanding hospitality and for hosting a successful forum. She also thanked the Department of Communications, Government of Australia, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Government of Japan, for their financial support for the Meeting.

She assured continuing support of the APT for the Members in the Pacific.

13.3 A token of appreciation was presented to Mr. Paula Ma'u, CEO, MEIDECC, Kingdom of Tonga by the Secretary General of APT.

13.4 Closing Address was delivered by Mr. Paula Ma'u, CEO, MEIDECC, Kingdom of Tonga.

13.4 The meeting was closed with closing prayer.

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