



PACIFIC REGIONAL INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) OFFICIALS MEETING

16–17 June 2010

Fa'onehua Convention Centre, Nuku'alofa, Tonga

MEETING REPORT AND OUTCOMES

The Pacific Regional Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Officials Meeting was held on 16 and 17 June 2010 in Nuku'alofa, Tonga. The meeting was attended by officials from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji Islands, France, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Observers included the Asian Development Bank (ADB); Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC); Commonwealth Secretariat (ComSec); International Telecommunications Union (ITU); Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN); InternetNZ; Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC); Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society (PICISOC); Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS); Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); Pacific Islands News Association (PINA); Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA); Timor Leste; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); University of Hawai'i; University of the South Pacific (USP); and World Bank.

2. The meeting was convened by SPC with the support of the European Union through the EU ACP ICT Access for the Poor project and hosted by the Ministry of Information and Communication, Government of Tonga.

3. The meeting was opened by the Honourable Minister 'Eseta Fusitu'a, Minister for Information and Communications, Government of Tonga. The meeting was chaired by Mr Paula Pouvalu Ma'u, of the Government of Tonga.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ICT STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATION

4. Officials acknowledged that working to enhance communities' participation in ICT and to develop the sector involves a wide range of partners, stakeholders and interest groups. These include national institutions, civil society and regional and international organisations. Their participation and partnerships are vital, particularly given the limited capacity and resource constraints the countries in the region face.

5. Officials acknowledged and recognised the continued support to countries from ICT and development partners in addressing a variety of key ICT development issues and noted the presentations from the following organisations:

The University of the South Pacific (USP)

6. USP highlighted its increasing role in ICT development in the region, focusing on its regional strategy as well as the recently established Japan-Pacific ICT Centre. USP noted the importance of having cutting edge digital technology to participate more effectively in the new global knowledge economy, and particularly for USP as the regional provider for higher education. USP noted that it has been in the forefront in the use of new technologies for education (through the establishment of

USPNET and other ICT-related developments such as distance and flexible learning), training, regional information services, the development of databases, and international academic connectivity. In its presentation, USP provided information to officials on the Japan-Pacific ICT Centre, a regional initiative funded by the Government of Japan with support from the Fiji Islands Government. With the establishment of the centre there was also an upgrade of USPNET, providing an opportunity for significant improvements in the university's digital development and outcomes.

Commonwealth Secretariat (ComSec)

7. ComSec presented an overview of its Commonwealth Connects programme, which provides a platform through which the Pacific region can engage to meet its objectives under the new Framework for Action on ICT for Development in the Pacific. The initiative aims to harness the vast ICT wealth of member states with a view to sharing these with less developed members. In doing so, the objective of the programme is to facilitate collaboration and to enable technology transfer. Under collaborative efforts the work can include sharing information and/or experiences in ICT strategies, policy and regulatory frameworks, technical architectures and e-government business applications.

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

8. ICANN presented on Internet Governance and provided a summary of its role in the management of the Internet. ICANN also provided an overview of Internet resources and architecture and particularly the groups within the governance structure, namely the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), and encouraged PICTs to actively participate in GAC meetings as well as those fora addressing Internet Governance.

9. Officials noted the importance of participating in GAC and similar fora but also recognised the resource constraints (technical, funding) that can affect attendance and effective participation at these meetings. Officials noted that regional representation could be an option to ensure the region's participation at such fora. With the introduction of new generic top-level domains (gTLDs), Officials agreed to request that the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific's ICT Working Group (CROP ICT WG)¹ assess the feasibility of a Pacific regional gTLD.

Pacific Legislatures for Population and Governance (PLPG)

10. PLPG provided an update on its work, noting that it provides support for a key initiative under the Pacific Plan focusing on strengthening participatory governance. The objectives of PLPG are to promote practical actions by legislators on advocacy for population and development issues, and to strengthen the capacity of Pacific Island legislatures to improve the quality of governance in the region within the framework of legislative democracy. The PLPG Secretariat supports the implementation of a comprehensive and coordinated approach to promoting the aims and objectives of PLPG, including recognition of the important role of ICT in PLPG's Rarotonga Communiqué.

SPC Regional Media Centre in partnership with Pacific Islands News Association (PINA) and Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)

11. The presentation by SPC in association with PINA and CTA was on appropriate content in communication and media and on how these should be integral parts of ICT. The presentation focused on the importance of the role of media and addressed local content in ICT and sectoral development, particularly where it is recognised that information creates awareness and enables people to make informed decisions. There was recognition that there is not sufficient local content for the Pacific but that there is great potential in this area. Similarly, it was recognised that there is potential in merging ICT tools with media to capture cultural content, particularly in cultural preservation and general information management. However, the limited resources (limited local technical capacity and funding) are key constraints for development in these areas. The SPC

¹ Members include CROP agencies, PICISOC and PITA

presentation noted there is a need for concerted effort to ensure that media is integrated into ICT to ensure that information is flowing to communities; there is sufficient local content; and there is greater participation from communities, promoted by access to media and ICT.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

12. UNESCO presented an overview of two of its key ICT initiatives – the Information for all Programme (IFAP) and the International Programme for the Development of Communications (IPDC). IFAP was established in 2001 and aims to provide a platform for international policy discussions and guidelines for action in the area of access to information. IFAP focuses on four areas - the creation, preservation, sharing and utilisation of knowledge. IPDC is a programme aimed at mobilising the international community to discuss and promote media development in developing countries and focuses on promoting freedom of expression and media pluralism, promoting the development of community media, supporting human resource development in the field of media and promoting international partnerships.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

13. UNDP presented on its regional programmes in the Pacific and highlighted the facilitated knowledge sharing services in the Pacific, which was developed with reference to the Forum Leaders Cairns Compact, to enhance data collection and the tracking of the Millennium Development Goals in the Pacific. UNDP advised that the UN recently launched PacificInfo (see www.pacificinfo.org) to help policy-makers address this data gap. The sources for the database include SPC's Statistics and Demography Programme and the respective national statistics offices.

14. UNDP also presented on the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP), a joint initiative of the United Nations Capital Development Fund [UNCDF], EU, the Australian Agency for International Development [AusAID] and UNDP). For the Pacific, this is particularly significant given the importance of support from remittances. Officials supported using ICT to improve coverage and access to financial systems, particularly in rural areas and remote communities. Officials also noted the support of UNDP to the new framework and called on SPC to work closely with UNDP in implementing the framework.

World Bank

15. The World Bank emphasised that its key role in terms of ICT in the Pacific was in infrastructure development. Recent initiatives have focused on deregulation (reducing prices and promoting better services) and regional connectivity (promoting broadband and supporting infrastructure development).

16. The World Bank highlighted the work undertaken on the Pacific ICT Regional Regulatory Resource Centre (PIRRRC) – an initiative stemming from the Wellington Declaration and implemented under the auspices of the ICT Taskforce. It is a partnership the World Bank and regional agencies (SPC, PIFS) have been working on to provide regulatory support in the Pacific.

Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society (PICISOC)

17. The PICISOC presentation covered background information on PICISOC, notably the uniqueness of its membership and structure within the global ISOC organisation. PICISOC noted that as a volunteer, non-profit regional interest group, it focused on local issues and developments of interest to the Internet and ICT users in the Pacific and aimed to represent these interests in its capacity as an impartial advisor to governments and the public.

18. Officials noted the following issues: the concerns regarding transition to IPv6; the need to ensure adequate and active participation in international governance fora; Internet safety and security; ensuring participation of women and people with disabilities in ICT; the need to ensure ICT feature prominently in national development strategies and ICT infrastructure development to

increase bandwidth, increase access and reduce costs. Officials also noted the support of PICISOC to the new framework.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That Pacific Regional ICT Ministers:

- (i) Acknowledge the ICT development partners and their respective initiatives being implemented in the region
- (ii) Recognise the CROP Heads decision for SPC and USP to co-chair of the CROP ICT Working Group
- (iii) Noting the importance of being engaged in ICT and cross-sectoral issues and recognising the resource constraints that PICTs face in participating in these meetings, request that SPC participate at global fora such as the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)
- (iv) Acknowledge the need for the media to be partners in ICT development and to build their capacity to engage more actively in this area, particularly where relevant and practical Pacific content needs to be promoted and developed
- (v) Recognise the importance of capturing traditional knowledge, historical documents, and facilitating knowledge sharing
- (vi) Urge national, regional and international agencies to collaborate better and ensure there is greater information sharing to promote effective coordination to reduce duplication and wastage of already limited resources, and in doing so to coordinate with SPC regarding ICT development in the region

AGENDA ITEM 2: REVIEW OF THE PACIFIC PLAN DIGITAL STRATEGY

19. PIFS presented an overview of the review of the Pacific Plan Digital Strategy, highlighting that the review of the strategy was commissioned at the end of 2009 in response to the Cairns Communiqué whereby the Forum Leaders directed that the strategy be reviewed and updated. The review was undertaken to take into account important ICT developments in countries and across the region, since the Digital Strategy was endorsed in 2005.

20. PIFS presented challenges from the review process. One key constraint highlighted was the lack of ICT data in countries. Officials recognised the constraints in data collection, particularly pertaining to ICT data, and noted the importance of strengthening it. The review cited OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) methodology for affordability indicators. This methodology, whilst indicative, does not truly reflect the countries of the region. ITU informed Officials that it is a depository of some ICT data from its members, and that it convenes ITU Indicators Meetings to discuss indicators and statistics in ICT.

21. Officials noted that the recommendations from the review formed the basis for the new Framework for Action on ICT for Development in the Pacific, to be discussed later.

RECOMMENDATION: That Pacific Regional ICT Ministers:

- (i) Accept the report of the Pacific Plan Digital Strategy Review

AGENDA ITEM 3: ICT POLICY, LEGISLATION AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

22. Officials noted that for ICT development at national (and regional) level, it is imperative that appropriate and updated policies, legislation and regulatory frameworks are in place to set parameters to guide ICT development and provide consistent structure. The presentations in this session provided an overview of initiatives in regulatory resources, cyber legislation and Internet governance issues.

Pacific ICT Regional Regulatory Resource Centre (PIRRRC)

23. The Chair for the PIRRRRC Working Group presented an overview of the resource centre highlighting its role as the key information and technical centre for ICT regulatory issues. Officials were informed regarding the background work that resulted in the establishment of the PIRRRRC, dating back to the ICT Ministers Meeting held in 2006 where Ministers directed PIFS and its partners to explore regional approaches for ICT development under the auspices of a taskforce.

24. Officials noted the support from the World Bank and other partners but also expressed some concern about creating new organisations instead of building on regional synergies and tapping into existing organisations to rationalise the already limited resources. It was noted that the PIRRRRC would need to be an independent entity but that it would be located at the USP Japan-Pacific ICT Centre.

25. Officials noted the importance of PIRRRRC and of ensuring that regulators, and policy- and decision-makers, become actively involved with the centre and fully utilise it. Further, they noted that PIRRRRC needed to organise itself to become financially sustainable.

Strengthening cyber crime legislation in island states of the Pacific region

26. Officials noted SPC's presentation, jointly prepared with the Council of Europe, on strengthening cyber crime legislation in the Pacific. Legislative frameworks on cyber crime are non-existent in many PICTs. This area needs greater focus given the vulnerability resulting from increasing use of and reliance on ICT in the region. The presentation provided some scenarios to generate discussion and questions on the need to ensure there are legal parameters (appropriate legislation and supporting mechanisms such as appropriate procedural law and strong law enforcement) to combat cyber crime. Cyber crime legislation needs to recognise the need for intense collaborative efforts between states given the transboundary and transnational nature of the crime.

Management of Internet resources

27. ICANN highlighted the importance of Internet technology, noting that it is evolving rapidly and will continue to do so with the next generation of users. The presentation covered the 'Internet ecosystem', noting the main players (regional Internet registries [RIRs], Internet Assigned Numbers Authority [IANA], ICANN et al.), the infrastructure means, standards, and the associated policy and capacity development. ICANN noted the importance of improving knowledge of the Internet ecosystem so that there is better understanding of Internet resources and the governance/management of them. As highlighted in an earlier presentation, ICANN noted that Officials needed to map out the IPv6 transition and consider issues pertaining to IP address distribution in the Pacific, given that IPv4 address space is expected to be exhausted around mid-2011.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That Pacific Regional ICT Ministers:

- (i) Endorse the establishment of the Pacific ICT Regional Regulatory Resource Centre (PIRRRC), to be located at USP's Japan-Pacific ICT Centre
- (ii) Endorse the establishment of the PIRRRRC Working Group that was established in the Pacific ICT Officials Meeting in Honiara April 2010 to progress the governance framework of the Centre and report back to PICTs
- (iii) Direct their Officials to work with SPC, the Council of Europe, ITU and development partners on developing appropriate policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks and strategies to combat cyber crime and promote Internet safety and security, including child online protection

- (iv) Urge Officials to engage with the regional organisations, the private sector and civil society to prepare for the transition of critical IP-based infrastructure to IPv6 due to IPv4 space exhaustion

AGENDA ITEM 4: ICT CAPACITY BUILDING

28. It is well known that the Pacific region faces severe capacity constraints and this was clearly shown at the meeting. A variety of initiatives are being implemented in this area by regional/international agencies. The presentations in this session, from ITU, SPC jointly with United Nations Asian Pacific Training Center for ICT for Development (UN APCICT) and USP, summarised projects on ICT human resource development.

29. Officials recognised that there are varying skill levels available nationally. The constraints that limit human resource and institutional development are well known and common across the PICTs: limited access to information infrastructure for training for individuals, schools, and organisations; training being limited to a small number of people in both the public and private sector; budgetary allocations for ICT training and development being inadequate in comparison to other budgetary components in private and public sector budgets; lack of qualified personnel; retention problems; and the high costs involved in IT – for example for training and equipment. And despite more Pacific Islanders being trained in ICT-related fields, human resources and capacity in the PICTs remain limited, a situation that continues to make progress somewhat difficult and force reliance on resources and expertise from outside the region.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That Pacific Regional ICT Ministers:

- (i) Encourage USP to work with ITU, PITA, SPC and partners to develop appropriate higher education and training programmes in ICT policies, regulations and telecommunications management
- (ii) Request SPC and USP to collaborate with partners to ensure that human and institutional capacity building initiatives are developed in accordance with the Pacific Plan and the regional ICT framework to address the capacity constraints in the PICTs.
- (iii) Agree to request the ITU to liaise with the European Commission and ACP Secretariat to extend the ICB4PAC project beyond the original two year time frame.

AGENDA ITEM 5: ICT INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACCESS

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

30. ITU has played a key role in telecommunications and ICT development in the Pacific in particular. ITU's development arm (ITU-D) and its Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific have worked in close collaboration with regional organisations in the Pacific such as SPC, PITA and USP and have assisted member countries in various areas including policy, legislation, regulation, technical assistance and human capacity building.

31. Officials noted that in many countries access has improved and some prices have fallen. In others, however, problems remain, including limited and unequal access to ICT, high costs of equipment and services, insufficient telecommunications bandwidth, low investment in networks, and a limited number of Internet service providers. Telephone penetration is generally good in urban areas but is still generally poor in rural areas. However, this is changing – albeit slowly. Mobile phone usage has increased over the years and in some countries the number of mobile users (mainly

through prepaid cellular services) exceeds the number of land lines. A lot of bigger PICTs have fibre optic links. The challenge of connecting up the other PICTs will require a collaborative effort.

32. Officials heard three other presentations under this agenda item. PITA presented on the need to tap into technological advancements and new innovations to address key regional challenges. ITU presented on work being undertaken on an Asian and Pacific regional Platform for Disaster Communications Management. Officials supported SPC, ITU and PITA to work on implementing the regional Platform for Disaster Communications Management. Officials were encouraged to sign the Tampere Convention. Huawei Technologies, a member of PITA, presented on technical solutions to address infrastructure and access challenges by rolling out broadband for rural areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That Pacific Regional ICT Ministers:

- (i) Call on PITA, SPC, and USP to collaboratively explore options for ICT infrastructure and access development using new and innovative technologies, and to ensure that such information is transmitted to key national ICT focal points or provided at appropriate regional meetings
- (ii) Call on SPC, in collaboration with SOPAC, ITU and PITA, to develop a Regional ICT Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework to be tabled at the next ICT Ministers Meeting, planned for 2012

AGENDA ITEM 6: INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIVITY

33. The World Bank; ADB and SPC; and InternetNZ made presentations covering issues pertaining to international connectivity. In doing so, they highlighted initiatives being planned and/or being implemented in the region. Officials noted the following:

- 1. An updated report on the International Connectivity project by the World Bank. The project is to be implemented in four countries in the Pacific: Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Officials acknowledged the commitment of governments and telecommunications service providers to work together to invest in new regional communications infrastructure, such as submarine fibre optic cables;
- 2. The ADB/SPC joint study on ICT for Inclusive Growth and Poverty Reduction, a two-phased project to assist SPC in exploring appropriate and innovative ICT services and applications to assist Pacific developing member countries in promoting inclusive growth and poverty reduction;
- 3. A report from InternetNZ on the plans to host a Pacific Internet Governance Forum in 2011; and
- 4. A statement by the representative of France about the study currently underway on the fibre optic project to link the three French territories in the region. This link will be accessible to a number of neighbouring countries.

34. Reducing international connectivity cost – not only for developing national telecommunications/ICT sectors but also for supporting new applications development, including, for example, e-government, e-education and e-health – is a key component of the new framework for ICT development. Officials further supported the Pacific Regional Connectivity Program by World Bank, ADB and development partners

RECOMMENDATIONS: That Pacific Regional ICT Ministers:

- (i) Encourage PICTs to participate in the joint ADB/SPC study on ICT for Inclusive Growth and Poverty Reduction

- (ii) Support the proposal to organise a Regional Internet Governance Forum in the Pacific in 2011

AGENDA ITEM 7: CYBER SECURITY AND ICT APPLICATIONS

35. Officials noted that as Pacific communities gain increasing access to ICT infrastructure and services, there is an increasing potential for unwanted and criminal activities. These activities are usually in the form of cybercrimes or using ICT for criminal purposes, and other forms of illegal interventions. For the Pacific this is an important area to combat given our more vulnerable state where our capacities in cyber security, cybercrime policy and regulation, is limited, and/or in some cases nonexistent.

36. In terms of ICT applications, the session covered two key issues – applications for telecentres and the management of e-waste. Officials noted that to ensure that rural and remote communities can access ICT services, there must be recognition and adoption of alternative and cost effective applications (including free and open source software) .

37. Officials noted that with the continuous and rapidly changing technology and decreasing costs, much more ICT equipment/hardware is being sold. As a result a growing amount of electronic waste is being generated. Whilst there are technical solutions available, it is important to note that such solutions need supporting mechanisms like appropriate policies, regulation and legislation to manage the process of collecting and managing e-waste. Further, there are associated costs for collection and appropriate disposal. Whilst most items can be recycled or reused, some of this waste still ends up in landfills and incinerators around the region, where it can have a serious impact on vulnerable island communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That Pacific Regional ICT Ministers:

- (i) Endorse the establishment of a Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team (PacCERT), to be hosted at USP's Japan-Pacific ICT Centre
- (ii) Support SPC, ITU, and other development partners to implement the ICT applications for Telecentre project
- (iii) Encourage PICTs to establish e-waste programmes

AGENDA ITEM 8: FRAMEWORK FOR ICT DEVELOPMENT

38. ICT is universally acknowledged as a powerful tool for development. Information fundamentally underpins empowerment and empowerment underpins people-centred sustainable development. In the Pacific, as countries strive to achieve the Millennium Development Goals through the implementation of locally appropriate national development strategies, it is essential that the power of ICT is harnessed for the benefit of all Pacific people, particularly marginalised or disadvantaged groups.

39. The Pacific has problems caused by large distances, small scales and scattered populations and markets, lack of infrastructure and human resources, and high costs of connectivity. The ICT Ministers recognised these challenges in their 2009 Pacific ICT Ministerial Forum Communiqué, which called for *'increased coordination amongst all stakeholders in the Pacific at regional, sub-regional and national levels to consolidate efforts to improve connectivity,'* and acknowledged *'the need for a strategic approach to the development and use of these technologies that recognises the important role of the private sector and the value of building synergies with developments in other sectors, including health, education and energy'.*

40. The roles of ICT in development are captured in the outcome of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) 2005 World Summit and in Resolution 64/187 of the UN General Assembly, of 21 December 2009, on information and communication technologies for development. The resolution recognised the importance of partnerships with all relevant stakeholders in enhancing access to ICT. It also recognised the fact that ICT has the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalisation, and can foster economic growth, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, poverty eradication and social inclusion that will help to expedite the integration of all countries, particularly developing countries, into the global economy.

41. The resolution also stresses the important role of governments in the design of public policies and in the provision of public services responsive to national needs and priorities through, *inter alia*, making effective use of information and communication technologies, on the basis of a multi-stakeholder approach, to support national development efforts.

42. Previous regional strategies include the Communication Action Plan (CAP, 1999), the Pacific Islands ICT Policy and Plan (PIIPP, 2002) and most recently the Pacific Plan Digital Strategy (PPDS, 2005).

43. The Framework for Action on ICT for Development in the Pacific was formulated in response to the call from Forum Leaders at the 40th Pacific Islands Forum in Cairns (August 2009) for PPDS to be reviewed and updated. This direction reaffirmed the continuing importance of ICT as a tool for development in the region and further supported the ICT Ministers' Wellington Declaration where they declared that *'We recognize that information and communication technologies (ICTs), while not an end in themselves, have a key role as a basis for economic development, while also promoting and enhancing social cohesion, cultural enrichment and environmental conservation'*.

44. In response to the direction from the Forum Leaders, PIFS commissioned a review of PPDS. The gaps and recommendations identified in the PIFS review, the outcome of the ITU assessment of Pacific national ICT policies, inputs from CROP ICT WG and development partners, and more importantly inputs from PICTs contributed significantly to the development of the Framework for Action on ICT for Development in the Pacific.

45. The process was led by SPC in collaboration with CROP ICT WG and development partners.

46. The draft framework was first tabled for discussion with PICTs in Honiara at the APT/PITA Telecommunication and ICT Policy meeting. It has undergone a few iterations due to inputs from consultations with CROP agencies and development partners. As emphasised above, valuable inputs from PICTs have also been incorporated when the draft was circulated for comments.

Framework for Action on ICT for Development in the Pacific

Guidance

47. The framework is to provide guidance to PICTs to enhance their national efforts to achieve accessible and affordable access to ICT and, keeping in line with principles of the Pacific Plan, to clarify how regional services through ICT can assist countries' sustainable development, socio-economic growth, governance, and security, and in particular how they can assist countries to implement their national plans.

Guiding principles

48. The framework has 12 guiding principles that provide parameters for the relevance and appropriateness of regional initiatives and the modality of engagement between partners, and

between partners and PICTs. These guidelines also include consideration of the region's challenges, appropriate technologies, climate change, gender and cultural issues, and sustainable livelihoods as well as the need for leadership, improved coordination and planning, capacity development, and monitoring and evaluation strategies.

Themes

49. This framework outlines seven themes for action aimed at effectively utilising ICT for sustainable development, governance, and improving livelihood of Pacific communities. This will be supported by a set of guiding principles, an integrated approach for a joint action plan for the region based on 'many partners, one team, one implementation plan', and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Its purpose is to help guide future actions, policy direction and funding decisions and to support the implementation of national policies and plans on:

1. Leadership, governance, coordination and partnerships;
2. ICT policy, legislation and regulatory frameworks;
3. ICT human capacity building;
4. ICT infrastructure and access;
5. International connectivity;
6. Cyber security and ICT applications; and
7. Financing, monitoring and evaluation.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That Pacific Regional ICT Ministers:

- (i) Endorse the Framework for Action on ICT for Development in the Pacific
- (ii) Request SPC to work with USP, PICTs and development partners to develop the 3 year rolling Strategic Action Plan that will be updated annually, and to report back on targets set in the framework, and outline upcoming ICT activities in the region
- (iii) Request SPC to coordinate the implementation of the framework in collaboration with USP, and other CROP agencies and development partners;
- (iv) Agree that the framework be reviewed before mid-2013
- (v) Convene a Pacific ICT Ministers Meeting after the review to consider the findings and provide direction to the implementation of the framework

AGENDA ITEM 9: OTHER BUSINESS

None

18 June 2010
Nuku'alofa, Tonga