

PACIFIC ICT REGULATORY RESOURCE CENTRE AND SUPPORT FOR LOWERING PACIFIC BROADBAND PRICES

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PIRRC: WHO WE ARE

- Formerly, a World Bank-ADB joint project
- Now, World Bank project, USD\$5 Million over three years, directly benefitting nine PICs: FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
- Administered by USP, with a Steering Committee of representative beneficiaries recommending the work plan
- Act as a Centre of Excellence for data gathering, policy research, capacity building
- Staffed with industry experts rather than program administrators



PIRRC: Activities to Date

- Disaster Management Workshop and Template
- SMS4DC training
- Information Notes: Net Neutrality, Over the Top, Zero Rating, Paid Prioritization, Regulators and Predation
- Pricing Study
- Broadband penetration data review
- Review of literature on economic impact of broadband in developing economies

PIRRC: Activities of Interest to AP-IS Spectrum Management Capacity Building

- Identified need for availability of more spectrum
- Digital transition has freed up some, but not enough for the long term
- Time to rationalize and standardize
- Program will kick off among countries in Nadi at the end of the month

PIRRC: Activities of Interest to AP-IS

Open Access Initiative

- Identified likely scarcity of capital for operators
- As operator debt goes up, so do interest rates, which is passed on to consumers through rates
- Open Access should reduce the need for capital expenditures
- Additionally, once passive infrastructure is no longer strategic, it can be spun off, eliminating operator need to earn a return on the assets
- Infrastructure companies can efficiently monetize neutral infrastructure, allowing new areas to be built out

PIRRC: Activities of Interest

The Samoa Digital Inclusion Study

- ITU and GSMA penetration methodologies, which are also used by World Bank, seem to undercount penetration rates in rural Pacific communities
- The methodologies ignore the “communal nature” of such societies, and rely on subscriptions, even in “sharing” cultures.
- The PIRRC survey team will work to develop a metric that can be used to better estimate rural broadband penetration and internet usage patterns
- Questions? Lipton_m@usp.ac.fj or marcilipton@Hotmail.com