Concept Note (Draft)

1. Title

Multistakeholder Consultations for Fiji on the Pacific Internet Exchange Point (IXP) Proposal (Virtual Meetings), 24 August 2021, 15:00-16:30 (Suva Time)

2. Overview

The establishment of subregional Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) can improve Internet's affordability, latency and traffic capacity. Yet, in the Pacific, few countries have established IXPs. Papua New Guinea and Fiji established national IXPs in 2017 with assistance from Internet Society, APNIC and other partners. It resulted in a 10% decrease of Internet services price in PNG[1] and Internet latency in Fiji between local operators improving significantly from 60ms to 2ms.[2] However, the majority of other Pacific island countries does not have IXPs.

To this effect, a capacity building workshop of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) was held in 2019 to discuss improving Internet traffic management through an IXP. Seven Pacific island countries[3] expressed interest. Solomon Islands requested the ESCAP secretariat to organize a follow-up capacity building workshop, to exchange ideas on how to operationalise the Pacific IXP proposal.[4] A second capacity building workshop was held in 2020[5], which was followed by national consultations in the target countries (Fiji, Samoa and New Zealand) to raise awareness of various domestic stakeholders (regulators, national Internet exchanges, telecom operators, and ministries of ICTs) regarding possible options to build the Pacific IXP.

The national consultations found general support from various domestic stakeholders in the target countries towards establishing the Pacific IXP and Samoa requested the ESCAP secretariat and partners to facilitate building consensus and arrangement on establishing of the Pacific IXPs through a memorandum of agreement among key stakeholders (service providers) of the 3 target countries.

3. Objective

The objective of this multistakeholder consultation is to share with key stakeholders a draft Guideline for inputs on the operationalization strategy plan for building the Pacific IXP in the platform of Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS). In addition, to discuss a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the establishment of the Pacific IXP.

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[1] https://news.pngfacts.com/2017/01/connection-to-ixp-facility-to-see-fall.html
[2] https://www.pacnog.org/pacnog22/presentations/Fiji-IX-update.pdf
[3] Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Tonga, Vanuatu
[4] https://www.unescap.org/events/strengthening-efficient-internet-traffic-management-through-subregional-internet-exchange
[5] https://www.unescap.org/events/second-working-group-pacific-internet-exchange-point-ixp-and-capacity-training-workshop-ixp-s

4. Dates and Mode of Meeting

a) Dates: 24 August 2021, 15:00-16:30 (Suva Time)

b) Mode: Virtual meeting (MS Teams)

5. Target Participants (By Invitation Only)

Government officials in the Ministry responsible for ICT, Internet Exchange Point Authority, Regulator, and Internet Service Providers.

5. Programme (Draft)

FIJI **Multistakeholder consultations in Pacific island countries on the Pacific Internet Exchange Point (IXP) Proposal (Virtual Meeting), 24 August 2021, 15:00-16:30[6] (Suva Time)** (1.5 hours) Programme (Draft)
Moderator: Ms. Cristina Bernal Aparicio, Consultant, ICT and Development Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP
Opening (2 mins) • Mr. Tae Hyung Kim, Chief of Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP
Update on Progress – Pacific IXP (5 mins) • Mr. Siope Vakataki Ofa, Economic Affairs Officer, ICT and Development Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP
Guideline study on operationalizing Pacific IXP: (10 mins) • Dr. Paul Brooks, ESCAP consultant
Comments/Questions (30 min) • Comments/remarks Ministry of Communications of Fiji • Comments/remarks Telecommunications Authority of Fiji (TAF) • Comments/remarks Fiji Internet Exchange Steering Committee (TBC) • Comments/remarks by University of the South Pacific

[6] Suva, Fiji Wed, 25 Aug 2021 at 15:00 FJT
Bangkok, Thailand Wed, 25 Aug 2021 at 10:00 ICT
Sydney, Australia Wed, 25 Aug 2021 at 13:00 AEST
Madrid, Spain Wed, 25 Aug 2021 at 05:00 CEST

Presentation of the Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (10 mins)

- Mr. Siope Vakataki ‘Ofa, Economic Affairs Officer, ICT and Development Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP

Discussions on the Draft MOU (30 min)

- Comments/remarks Ministry of Communications of Fiji
- Comments/remarks Telecommunications Authority of Fiji (TAF)
- Comments/remarks Fiji Internet Exchange Steering Committee (TBC)
- Comments/remarks by University of the South Pacific

Closing & way forward: (3 mins)

- Mr. Siope Vakataki ‘Ofa, Economic Affairs Officer, ICT and Development Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP