Capacity Building Workshop on Strengthening Digital Connectivity Infrastructure and Internet Traffic Management in the Pacific
(Suva, Fiji)
20 October 2022 (09:00-16:00 hrs)

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 and Internet latency in Fiji between local operators improving significantly from 60ms to 2ms. Samoa is in the process of establishing a national IXP.

To this effect, ESCAP and partners\(^1\) have supported Pacific Island Countries through conducting of technical studies followed by capacity building workshops on strengthening awareness on establishing a Pacific IXP.\(^2\)

Action 6 of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Action Plan 2022-2026,\(^3\) highlighted the need for multistakeholder partnerships on promoting Internet quality and digital connectivity in the subregions through subregional Internet exchange points in Pacific Island developing countries. In response, the ESCAP secretariat is conducting a

\(^1\) Internet Society, APNIC Foundation, University of the South Pacific as Chair of the CROP ICT Working Group, and the Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association.

\(^2\) See events in [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021a](#), & [2021b](#).

\(^3\) See Annex 1, available at: [https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/ESCAP_CICTSIT_2022_INF_1.pdf](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/ESCAP_CICTSIT_2022_INF_1.pdf)
capacity building workshop for key stakeholders in the Pacific IXP target countries (Fiji, New Zealand, and Samoa).

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop are twofold:

- To share with key stakeholders the preliminary findings of the online survey on assessing bandwidth demand for South Pacific Island Countries.
- To discuss operationalization plan for building the Pacific IXP based on the Pacific IXP Operating Guideline.\(^4\)
- To discuss and agree on the governance structure for establishing the Pacific IXP.

Date and Venue of Meeting

a) Date: 20 October 2022, (09:00-16:00 hrs)

b) Venue: Conference Room, UNESCAP Pacific Office, 5\(^{th}\) Floor, Kadavu House, 414 Victoria Parade, Suva, Fiji

Target Participants (By Invitation Only)

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

For further information, please contact Siope Vakataki 'Ofa, ICT and Development Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP at escap-ids@un.org.

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