

Foundation Introduction and Impact

KOICA-ESCAP Joint Capacity Building Training Program on Digital Technologies for Addressing Climate Change Impact in the Pacific

Ellisha Heppner, Portfolio Manager, Grants – Oct 2026

The APNIC Foundation

The Foundation evolved from technical roots, and it applies that knowledge to support a global, open, stable and secure Internet that is affordable and accessible for our Asia Pacific people.

The APNIC Foundation is a pre-eminent Internet and digital development organisation, with interventions across 56 economies in the Asia Pacific

We work on building Internet and digital infrastructure, developing human capabilities, driving innovation, and supporting digital transformation.

Programmes are implemented through:

- • Grants-supported projects
- • Research initiatives and fellowships
- • Foundation-led and partner-led initiatives







Background

1993

Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC)

A neutral, independent, not-for-profit, membership-based organization established in 1993

Managing Internet number resources IPv4, IPv6 and ASNs

Serving APAC region

APNIC

2008

ISIF Asia is the Foundation's grant fund. It was officially launched in 2008.

ISIF Asia provides grant and award funding for Internet development projects supporting Infrastructure, Inclusion and Knowledge in the Asia Pacific.

ISIF Asia was transferred to the Foundation from 2017.

isif asia

2017

Discussions began among the APNIC Executive Council (EC) when it set out to expand the APNIC Development Program. Those discussions led to the establishment of APNIC Foundation.

It became operational in early 2017.

APNIC FOUNDATION

2021

The School on Internet Asia (SOI Asia) is led by Keio University. It was launched in 2001 as a platform for inter-university education and research programs among institutions throughout Asia, focused on science and Internet-related domains. In 2021, SOI Asia and the Foundation began working together.

SOI SCHOOL ON THE INTERNET

Our Strategy on a Page

A new era

This strategic plan paves the way for APNIC Foundation's transformative journey from 2025 to 2028, harnessing the Internet's potential to tackle critical global challenges.

Our Belief

We believe that the Internet has the power to drive economic and social progress and transform lives.

Our Purpose

Our purpose is to serve as the collective impact backbone that connects and facilitates a network of partners. We invest in and channel resources toward digital development in APAC to drive socio-economic transformation and equity.

Our Strategic Objectives. By 2028,

As a collective impact backbone for an ecosystem of partners, we will:

1. Enhance technical capability of more than 100,000 people
2. Enhance digital inclusion for 1 million people
3. Help shape and influence techno-policy transformation in at least 10 economies

Strategic pillars and outcomes: What we will focus on

1 Building Capabilities

- **Outcome 1.1:** Internet users have reliable, safe, and meaningful access to the Internet
- **Outcome 1.2:** A robust Internet ecosystem is nurtured through collaboration and knowledge sharing by inclusive communities of practice
- **Outcome 1.3:** Communities gain better access to knowledge and have more opportunities for better livelihoods

2 Driving Digital Innovation

- **Outcome 2.1:** New and evolving Internet and digital technologies responsibly further socio-economic outcomes
- **Outcome 2.2:** Stakeholders' actions are grounded in unbiased frameworks that are vendor-neutral and tech-neutral

3 Supporting Digital Transformation

- **Outcome 3.1:** Stakeholders intervene based on coordinated and informed technical and policy advice
- **Outcome 3.2:** Governments nurture supportive techno-policy environments to facilitate digital development and further socio-economic progress
- **Outcome 3.3:** Establish leadership for collective impact for digital development

4 Business Sustainability

- **Outcome 4.1:** Financial resilience through sustained and diversified income sources
- **Outcome 4.2:** Organisational culture of operational excellence

Enablers: These underpin all that we do

1 Knowledge and Innovation

We prioritise data-driven insights, evidence-based interventions, and innovation to improve our practices and outcomes. Using this approach, we ensure agility and the capability to implement impactful solutions that lead the sector and drive meaningful change.

2 People and Partnership

Our success stems from creating an inclusive and supportive environment – including dedicated employees, strong partnerships, equitable actions, and effective funding collaborations – which will contribute to our collective success.

3 Communication and Impact

We build trust with stakeholders, demonstrate accountability, and highlight the tangible benefits of our work using effective communication and rigorous monitoring, evaluation, and learning frameworks.

Our Values

- **Excellence & Ingenuity**
- **Integrity in Action**
- **Diversity and Inclusion**
- **Collaborative Success**

Foundation Projects

The following are the Foundation's projects supporting our strategic pillars.

Pillars	Projects
Building Capabilities	• Building Capabilities in the Asia Pacific • ISIF Asia • Foundation Community Assistance • Trust Discretionary Funding
Driving Digital Innovation	• ISIF Asia • Foundation Community Assistance • Trust Discretionary Funding • Driving Digital Transformation
Supporting Digital Transformation	• Driving Digital Transformation

Our investment in the Pacific

Through these mechanism we have been able to partner with organisations that focus on Internet users having reliable and safe access to the Internet, cultivating communities of practice, and informing policy for an inclusive Internet.

Information Society Innovation Fund (ISIF Asia)
Competitive annual grant giving mechanism

Foundation Community Assistance funding mechanism to support activities in the technical community on a discretionary basis. It also looks at leveraging advocacy and outreach opportunities as part of the support to further the Foundation's profile and visibility.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8QgGBt9lr0&t=617s

Enabling Meaningful Connectivity via ISIF Asia Fund Across the Asia Pacific



Information Society Innovation Fund (ISIF Asia)

Grants range from large-scale collaborations across multiple organizations and stakeholder groups, through to small scale community projects – All focused in some way on digital development.

Our grants program seeks to empower communities in the Asia Pacific region to research, design and implement Internet-based solutions for their own needs, placing emphasis on the positive role the Internet has in social, economic and human development.

Connectivity and Affordability
Power
Stable Internet (Resilience, Reliability and Monitoring)
IPv6
Cybersecurity (Security) and Privacy
Technical Training
Diversity
Digital Literacy & Education
Environment & Disaster Preparedness
Health and Livelihoods
Accessibility
Collaboration (Language, Outreach)
Research, Regulation & Policy
Adopting New Technology

Discover the work of ISIF Asia grantees and awardees.

Collective efforts towards connectivity in the Pacific



BlueWave

Samoa District Connectivity Project



Boom Inc

Broadband for All - Yap State FSM



SATSOL

OASIS Data Garden Project



Kacific Broadband Satellites Ltd

Connecting 100 facilities

IPV6 Deployments

- VakaNet Limited (Cook Island)
- Boom! Inc. (Yap Micronesia)
- Tonga Communication Corporation (Tonga)
- SATSOL Ltd. (Solomon Islands)

1. **Addressing Critical IPv4 Exhaustion to Enable Unconstrained Growth**
The proliferation of Internet-enabled mobile devices has pushed the limited IPv4 address space to its breaking point, causing address exhaustion and inefficient routing. Transitioning to IPv6 is not merely an upgrade but a necessity for sustainable growth.

2. **Future-Proofing Infrastructure and Avoiding Escalating Costs**
Delaying IPv6 deployment creates significant financial and operational risks. The additional costs from postponement—such as acquiring scarce IPv4 addresses, maintaining complex systems, and managing dual-stack environments—will ultimately burden organisations through higher fees and reduced service quality.

3. **Driving Innovation and Maintaining Global Interoperability**
IPv6 deployment is the foundational solution for the future of the Internet. By transitioning, it is not just solving a technical limitation but also ensuring its network remains interoperable with the global Internet's evolving standards and capable of supporting future innovation.

IPv6 Grants are still available – Come Chat

Strengthening the Pacific (CERTs)

Under Foundation Community Assistance grants, we are supporting Pacific economies to invest in critical infrastructure and people.

"Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST) Asia-Pacific Incident Response Fellowships enable participation from the Pacific.

The initiative was designed to provide participants with the opportunity to engage with each other, learn from leading incident response experts and regional peers, connect with FIRST mentors, and participate in training opportunities."



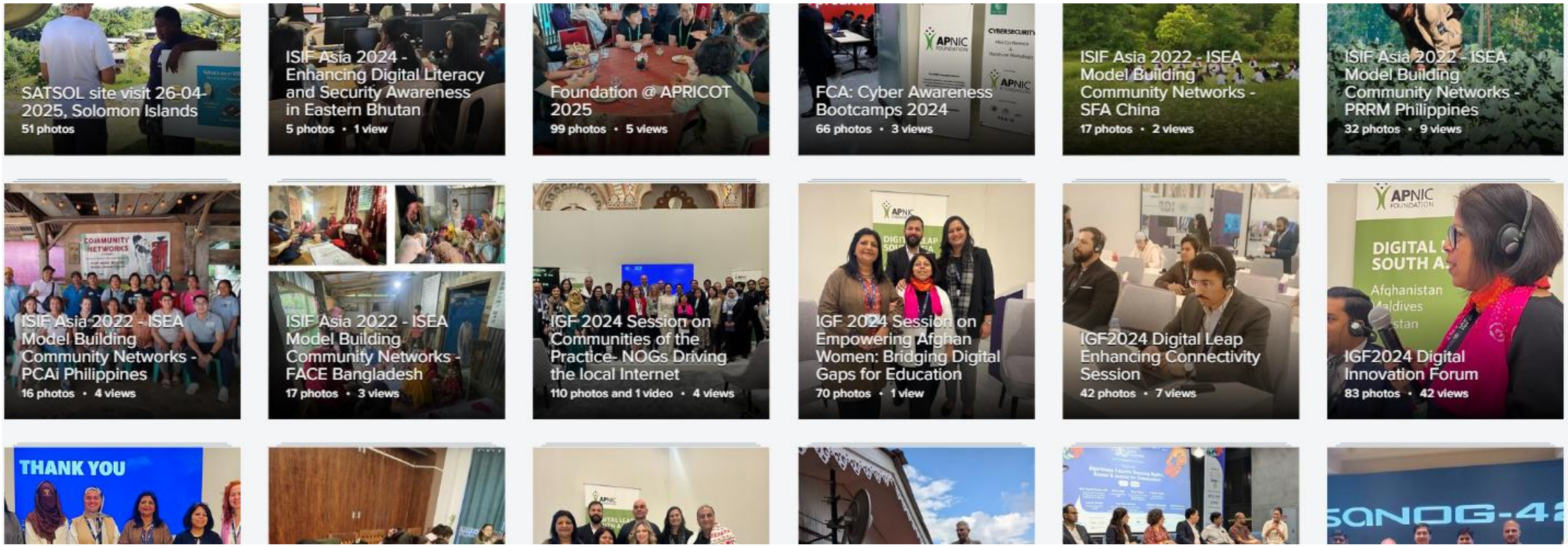




Topics highlighted by grantees

- Public locations eg schools, hospitals, key land resources require extensive consultation and approvals with governing bodies or land owners. How to effectively maintain and engage government bodies and advocate
- Incumbent providers and their roles and responsibilities in the region
- Energy crisis become connectivity crisis: Power supply and sources are critical for connectivity
- Context specific solutions for funding connectivity for sustainability
- Problem solving and project management skills, evolve through hands on experiences
- Key person risk consideration
- Challenges for shipping, logistics and commuting
- Leveraging with each other for impact
- Many project are ill equipped with connectivity for their own projects and staff to be effective

Creating and supporting agents of change



Our Foundation supports opportunities to amplify the multi-stakeholder views and voices: Conference attendance, participation, speaker diversity, networking and discussions.

EmpowerTech Pacific – Oct 2026

Balance, Resilience and Talent: Building sustainable digital infrastructure, how best to ensure it has the people and funding it needs to endure.

Digital investment must follow national priorities.

Projects deliver more durable outcomes when governments and local institutions define the problem and set the priorities.

Donor funding must be coordinated.

Multiple donors on occasion may sometimes converge onto a single issue, which isn't necessarily the top priority of a national government. Resources often follow donors, resulting in a fragmented approach

Sustainability must be designed in from the start

Infrastructure carries ongoing costs for operations, maintenance, upgrades, skilled personnel and eventual replacement, and these lifecycle costs belong in project design and funding models from the outset

Partnerships must endure, and policy must be built from the ground up.

Many partnerships end with the project. The ones that work are collaborative and last beyond a single funding cycle, with Pacific institutions as the custodians of their own digital transformation

Resilience is an investment made before the disaster.

The resulting damage to telecommunications and digital infrastructure can isolate whole communities and cut off essential services.

Infrastructure is as sustainable as the people who run it. The Pacific diaspora is an asset.

A coordinated regional approach to skill development could reduce duplication and give small economies access to specialist expertise that none of them can sustain alone. **The Pacific diaspora is an asset.**

APNIC FOUNDATION

How can you work with the Foundation?

- The ISIF Asia grants will be open for applications first quarter next year. For notifications, join our mailing list – send an email to apnic-foundation-discuss@apnic.foundation

- Know an organization that wants to work with us? Email us at partnerships@apnic.foundation. We're open to all kinds of partnerships, and the work we do needs funding to scale further

- Follow us on social media, particularly LinkedIn

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Questions, Thank you