Multistakeholder consultations in Pacific island countries on the Pacific Internet Exchange Point (IXP) Proposal

Virtual Meetings (24-26 August 2021)

Key Outcomes

This document summarizes the key outcomes of the Pacific IXP multistakeholder consultations held in Fiji, Samoa, and New Zealand.[1]

(a). Multistakeholder consultations in Pacific island countries on the Pacific Internet Exchange Point (IXP) Proposal in Fiji

1. The Multistakeholder Consultations for Fiji on the Pacific Internet Exchange Point (IXP) Proposal was held on 24 August 2021, 15:00-16:30 (Suva Time).

2. The objective of the multistakeholder consultation was to share with key stakeholders a draft operational Guideline for comments on 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.

3. Participants from the Fiji Ministry of Communications, Telecommunications Authority of Fiji, Internet Society, University of the South Pacific, and ESCAP secretariat attended the event (see List of participants and programme in Annex 1).

4. The meeting discussed and highlighted the following issues:

    a) The Ministry of Communications of Fiji requested the ESCAP secretariat and partners to support the establishment of a Working Group to discuss the details on establishing of the Pacific IXP.
    b) The Ministry of Communications of Fiji requested the ESCAP secretariat for a copy of the Operational Guideline study to facilitate further internal discussions and to prepare a national position for the upcoming consultation on 5 November 2021 with the other two node countries (Samoa and New Zealand).
    c) TAF requested the ESCAP secretariat to provide addition information on the Mutually Agreed Norms for Routing Security (MANRS).

End.

[1] https://edit.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/Summary%20Note%20of%202020-2021%20Pacific%20IXP%20Consultations.pdf

(b). Multistakeholder consultations in Pacific island countries on the Pacific Internet Exchange Point (IXP) Proposal in Samoa

1. The Multistakeholder Consultations for Samoa on the Pacific Internet Exchange Point (IXP) Proposal was held on 25 August 2021, 15:00-16:30 (Suva Time).

2. The objective of the multistakeholder consultation was to share with key stakeholders a draft operational Guideline for comments on 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.

3. Participants from the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Samoa, the Samoa Office of the Regulator, Internet Society, University of the South Pacific, and ESCAP secretariat attended the event (see List of participants and programme in Annex 2).

4. The meeting discussed and highlighted the following issues:

a) The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Samoa reiterated the commitment of Samoa towards the establishment of the Pacific IXP.
b) The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Samoa requested ESCAP a copy of the operational guideline, for further discussions internally.

End.

(c). Multistakeholder consultations in Pacific island countries on the Pacific Internet Exchange Point (IXP) Proposal in New Zealand

1. The Multistakeholder Consultations for New Zealand on the Pacific Internet Exchange Point (IXP) Proposal was held on 26 August 2021, 15:00-16:30 (Auckland time).

2. The objective of the multistakeholder consultation was to share with key stakeholders a draft operational Guideline for comments on 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.

3. Participants from the New Zealand Internet Exchange, the Internet Association of Australia, Internet Society, University of the South Pacific, and ESCAP secretariat attended the event (see List of participants and programme in Annex 3).

4. The meeting discussed and highlighted the following issues:

a) The representatives from New Zealand Internet Exchange and the Internet Association of Australia expressed continued support in principle to the Pacific IXP Proposal but requested the ESCAP secretariat and partners to facilitate a meeting of the 3 countries to clarify details of the Pacific IXP proposal.
b) The representative of the Internet Association of Australia informed the meeting that the planned meeting of the 3 target countries (Fiji, New Zealand & Samoa) on 5 November 2021 will be problematic for New Zealand/Australia participants as there will be a major event on that day already. ESCAP secretariat that the date is flexible, and a new date will be communicated soon.
c) The representative of the Internet Association of Australia expressed support to the Pacific IXP proposal and requested that it be given a formal recognition to support the Pacific IXP in the operational guideline and draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
d) The representatives from New Zealand Internet Exchange expressed willingness to negotiate with Fiji and Samoa the draft MOU and possibly to sign the draft MOU on behalf of New Zealand but requested that the New Zealand Government needs to endorse it. ESCAP and NZ IX to consult with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand.

End.

ANNEXES

Annex 1:

List of Participants:

1) Mr. Vivek Anand (Ministry of Communications, Fiji)
2) Mr. Tevita Navila (TAF)
3) Mr. Magnesh Reddy (TAF)
4) Mr. Vijendra Sigh (TAF)
5) Mr. Elvin Prasad (Pacific ICT CROP Taskforce – USP)
6) Mr. Kisione Finau (USP)
7) Mr. Paul Brooks (Expert)
8) Mr. Rajnesh D. Singh (ISOC)
9) Mr. Christopher Ryan (ESCAP Pacific Office)
10) Mr. Tae Hyung Kim (ESCAP)
11) Mr. Siope Vakataki 'Ofa (ESCAP)
12) Ms. Cristina Bernal Aparicio (ESCAP)
13) Ms. Quynh Huong Nguyen (ESCAP)
14) Mr. Edward Kim (ESCAP)
15) Mr. Chang Yong Son (ESCAP)
16) Mr. Dae-Keun Cho (Expert)
17) Mr. Mike Hwang (Expert)

Programme:

FIJI **Multistakeholder consultations in Pacific island countries on the Pacific Internet Exchange Point (IXP) Proposal (Virtual Meeting), 24 August 2021, 15:00-16:30 (Suva Time)** [2] **Programme**
Moderator: Ms. Cristina Bernal Aparicio, Consultant, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP.
Opening (2 mins) • Mr. Tae Hyung Kim, Chief of Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP.

[2] 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

Progress on the Pacific IXP work (5 mins)

- Mr. Siope Vakataki Ofa, Economic Affairs Officer, 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 by University of the South Pacific

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

- Mr. Siope Vakataki 'Ofa, Economic Affairs Officer, 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 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.

Annex 2:

List of Participants:

1) Mr. Talatalaga Mata'u (Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, MCIT)
2) Ms. Suetena Loia (MCIT)
3) Mr. Alexander Ah Poe (Office of the Regulator)
4) Ms. Cecily Faasau (Office of the Regulator)
5) Mr. Andrew Kelekolio (Digicel Group)
6) Mr. Kisione Finau (USP)
7) Mr. Paul Brooks (Consultant)
8) Mr. Rajnesh D. Singh (ISOC)
9) Mr. Tae Hyung Kim (ESCAP)
10) Mr. Siope Vakataki 'Ofa (ESCAP)
11) Ms. Cristina Bernal Aparicio (ESCAP)
12) Ms. Quynh Huong Nguyen (ESCAP)
13) Mr. Edward Kim (ESCAP)
14) Mr. Chang Yong Son (ESCAP)
15) Mr. Dae-Keun Cho (Consultant)
16) Mr. Mike Hwang (Consultant)

Programme:

SAMOA **Multistakeholder consultations in Pacific island countries on the Pacific Internet Exchange Point (IXP) Proposal (Virtual Meeting), 25 August 16:00-17:30 (Apia time)[6]** **Programme**
Moderator: Ms. Cristina Bernal Aparicio, Consultant, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP.
Opening (2 mins) • Mr. Tae Hyung Kim, Chief of Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP.
Progress on the Pacific IXP work (5 mins) • Mr. Siope Vakataki Ofa, Economic Affairs Officer, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP.

Guideline on operationalizing the **Pacific IXP (10 mins)** • Dr. Paul Brooks, ESCAP consultant.
Comments/Questions (30 min) Comments/remarks by Samoa's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. Comments/remarks by Samoa's Office of the Regulator.
Presentation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (10 mins) • Mr. Siope Vakataki 'Ofa, Economic Affairs Officer, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP.
Discussions on the draft MOU (30 min) Comments/remarks by Samoa's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. Comments/remarks by Samoa's Office of the Regulator.
Closing & way forward (3 mins) • Mr. Siope Vakataki Ofa, Economic Affairs Officer, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP.

Annex 3:

List of Participants:

1) Mr. Chris Browning (New Zealand Internet Exchange)
2) Mr. Dave Miller (New Zealand Internet Exchange)
3) Ms. Narelle Clark (Internet Association of Australia)
4) Ms. Tanzia Hewer (Internet Association of Australia)
5) Mr. Kisione Finau (USP)
6) Mr. Paul Brooks (Consultant)
7) Mr. Aftab Siddiqui (ISOC)
8) Mr. Tae Hyung Kim (ESCAP)
9) Mr. Siope Vakataki 'Ofa (ESCAP)
10) Ms. Cristina Bernal Aparicio (ESCAP)
11) Ms. Quynh Huong Nguyen (ESCAP)
12) Mr. Edward Kim (ESCAP)
13) Mr. Dae-Keun Cho (Consultant)
14) Mr. Mike Hwang (Consultant)

Programme:

NEW ZEALAND **Multistakeholder consultations in Pacific Island countries on the Pacific Internet Exchange Point (IXP) Proposal (Virtual Meeting), 26 August 2021, 15:00-16:30 (Auckland Time)** [6] Programme
Moderator: Ms. Cristina Bernal Aparicio, Consultant, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP.
Opening (2 mins) • Mr. Tae Hyung Kim, Chief, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP.
Progress on the Pacific IXP work (5 mins) • Mr. Siope Vakataki Ofa, Economic Affairs Officer, 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 by NZ Internet Exchange
- Comments/remarks by Internet Association of Australia

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 by NZ Internet Exchange
- Comments/remarks by Internet Association of Australia

Closing & way forward (3 mins)

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