Capacity Building Workshop on Strengthening Digital Connectivity Infrastructure and Internet Traffic Management in the Pacific

Suva, Fiji, 20 October 2022

Key Outcomes

1. The Capacity Building Workshop on Strengthening Digital Connectivity Infrastructure and Internet Traffic Management in the Pacific was held on 20 October 2022, Suva, Fiji. The programme of the workshop is attached at the end of this document (Annex 1).
2. The Workshop was attended by various stakeholders from Fiji, New Zealand, and Samoa, who are directly involved with the Pacific Internet Exchange Point project (Annex 2 for list of participants).
3. The participants of the workshop welcomed the preliminary findings of the survey report on Internet Service Provider (ISP) potential demand for the Pacific IXP proposal, prepared by Dr. Paul Brooks.
4. The participants provided country updates on the work of their respective national Internet Exchanges.
5. The participants of Fiji, New Zealand, and Samoa reiterated their strong commitment to work together and accelerate the establishment of the Pacific Internet Exchange Point (IXP) proposal. As a result, each country agreed to submit to the ESCAP secretariat a letter of intent to signal their strong commitment and support by November 2022.
6. The participants of the workshop discussed and agreed to establish a Pacific IXP Taskforce. The IXP Taskforce is to be composed of the participants from the three countries that attended the workshop. The objective of the Taskforce is to discuss and agree on operationalization of the Pacific IXP, including the following issues:
    a) registration of the Pacific IXP as legal entity (agreed for NZIX to explore registering the Pacific IXP in New Zealand, pending legal assessment);
    b) development of Constitution of the Pacific IXP (agreed to adapt the NZIX constitution for the purpose of the Pacific IXP); and
    c) discuss and agree on other operational and governance issues.

7. The participants of the workshop agreed for the Pacific IXP Taskforce to meet every 2-weeks (virtually) and requested the ESCAP secretariat to support the Pacific IXP Taskforce work and operation. The participants of the workshop further requested the support of the ESCAP secretariat on conducting two studies to enhance understanding focusing on: (1). Assessment of the legal aspects of operating a not-for-profit organisation within the 3 project countries; (2). Conduct survey of Pacific cable operators and possible bandwidth arrangement for the Pacific IXP
8. The participants thank the ESCAP secretariat for the continued support given on this area and requested the Secretariat to continue supporting the key stakeholders from Fiji, New Zealand, and Samoa on facilitating inter-country dialogue on operationalizing the Pacific IXP.

End.

Annex 1:

List of Participants:

Fiji

Mr. Vivek Anand, Senior Engineer for Communications, Ministry of Communications

Mr. Tevita Navila, Manager Technical Regulatory, Telecommunications Authority of Fiji

Mr. Avnil Bali, IT Officer, Telecommunications Authority of Fiji

New Zealand

Mr. Chris Browning, Chief Executive Officer, New Zealand Internet Exchange Inc., New Zealand

Mr. Dave Mill, Treasurer, New Zealand Internet Exchange Inc., New Zealand

Samoa

Ms. Faleula Sakaria, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

Mr Letoa Matini Faasino, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

Internet Society

Mr. Paul Brooks, Expert, Internet Society, Australia

Secretariat

Ms. Andie FONG TOY, Head, Subregional Office for the Pacific, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Mr. Siope Vakataki ‘Ofa, Economic Affairs Officer, ICT and Development Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Annex 2: Programme

Thursday 20 October 2022 (09:00 – 16:00 hrs.) ***(Moderator: Mr. Siope Vakataki 'Ofa, Economic Affairs Officer, ICT and Development Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP)***		
Ms. Andie Fong Toy, Head, ESCAP Pacific Office	Opening Remarks	09:00 – 09:05
Session 1: Review of preliminary findings of the online survey on bandwidth demand in South Pacific Island Countries		
Mr. Siope Vakataki 'Ofa, Economic Affairs Officer, ICT and Development Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP	Update on the progress of ESCAP support to the establishment of the Pacific IXP	09:05 – 09:20
Dr. Paul Brooks, ESCAP consultant	Preliminary findings of the online survey on bandwidth demand in South Pacific Island Countries - Discussions and country comments.	09:20 – 11:00
Morning tea/coffee		11:00 – 11:15
Session 2: State of Internet Exchanges in Fiji, New Zealand, and Samoa		
Representatives of Fiji, New Zealand & Samoa	Presentations on state of play, opportunities, and challenges of implementing Internet Exchanges:	11:15 – 12:00
Lunch		12:00 – 13:00
Session 3: Technical and Governance considerations for the Pacific IXP		
Dr. Paul Brooks, ESCAP consultant	Presentation of the Pacific IXP Operating Guideline[1] focusing on: (1). Pacific IXP topology, intern-node links, and physical infrastructure (2). Organisations and Governance (3). Peering and Interconnection policies	13:00 – 14:30
Afternoon tea/coffee		14:30- 14:45

[1] https://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/pacific-ixp-operating-guideline

Session 4: Draft operational agreement for the Pacific IXP		
Mr. Siope Vakataki 'Ofa, Economic Affairs Officer, ICT and Development Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP	• Presentation of the draft operational agreement • Discussions • Future actions	14:45 – 15:50
Mr. Siope Vakataki 'Ofa, ESCAP	Wrap up and way forward	15:50-16:00