Progress on the Pacific IXP project

Capacity Building Workshop on Strengthening Digital Connectivity Infrastructure and Internet Traffic Management in the Pacific
Suva, Fiji, 20 October 2022

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Pacific IXP capacity training workshops/consultations and studies

1. Subregional workshop on implementation of the AP-IS for achieving the SDGs in Pacific island countries, Nadi, Fiji, 19-23 November 2018[5]



- Pacific island delegations mapped and aligned AP-IS pillars and activities to the Pacific Regional ICT Strategic Action Plan (PRISAP) 2015–2020.
- **A representative of Vanuatu requested ESCAP and partners to assist with conducting of a feasibility study on a Pacific IXP** to increase Internet traffic route efficiency and reduce costs.

[5] https://www.unescap.org/events/subregional-workshop-implementation-asia-pacific-information-superhighway-achieving#

Pacific IXP capacity training workshops/consultations and studies (cont.)

2. Strengthening Efficient Internet Traffic Management Through a Subregional Internet Exchange Point (IXP) in Pacific Island Countries (3-5 December 2019)[6]

- **Feasibility Study**[7] found that a Pacific IXP is technically feasible.
- The Pacific delegates recommended that the ESCAP secretariat set up a Working Group to discuss and agree on the operational principles and modalities of the Pacific IXP.
- The representative of the **Solomon Islands recommended that ESCAP supports a second study on assessing the economics and business models** of establishing Pacific IXPs.



[6] https://www.unescap.org/events/strengthening-efficient-internet-traffic-management-through-subregional-internet-exchange
[7] https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Pacific%20Regional%20Internet%20Exchange%20Feasibility%20Study%2C%20Internet%20Society.pdf

Pacific IXP capacity training workshops/consultations and studies (cont.)

3. Second Working Group on Pacific Internet Exchange Point (IXP) and capacity training workshop on IXP's operational modalities (Virtual Meeting) (5 August 2020)[7]

- **Operationalization study proposed options for establishing a Pacific IXP**.
- ESCAP secretariat in collaboration with the Internet Society proposed to:

1. Facilitate national consultations in the candidate countries (**Fiji, New Zealand, and Samoa**) on operationalization of the Pacific IXP;
2. **Develop a draft framework agreement** (MOU) for review of the Working Group on Pacific IXP; and
3. **Conduct any additional studies** (or policy advisory service) on specific issues of importance to facilitating the establishment of a Pacific IXP, when necessary.

[7] https://www.unescap.org/events/second-working-group-pacific-internet-exchange-point-ixp-and-capacity-training-workshop-ixp-s

Pacific IXP capacity training workshops/consultations and studies (cont.)

4. Pacific IXP Informal Multistakeholder Consultations in Fiji, New Zealand and Samoa (Virtual Meetings) (20 October, 13 November, 15 November, 17 November, 26 November 2020 and 11 August 2021)[8]

- **National consultations in Fiji, New Zealand and Samoa** supported in principle the Pacific IXP proposal
- **Fiji IX Steering Committee requested for a establishing a Technical Steering Group** between the three target countries to discuss on the details of establishing a Pacific IXP.
- The Hon. Minister for the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Samoa in February 2021 offered support to the Pacific IXP work, as well as requesting the ESCAP secretariat to facilitate an intercountry Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the 3 target countries (Fiji, Samoa & NZ) to establish the Pacific IXP.
- Multistakeholder consultations in 2021 to focused on: (1). Discuss **Guideline** on establishing Pacific IXP; (2). Review and provide comments on **Draft MOU**; (3). Meeting of the **3 target countries to discuss the draft MOU**

[8] https://edit.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/Summary%20note%20%28draft%29.pdf

Pacific IXP capacity training workshops/consultations and studies (cont.)

5. Pacific IXP Workshop for Fiji, New Zealand and Samoa (2 Nov 2021)

- Participants highlighted the potential benefits to Pacific island countries from building of a Pacific IXP
- The participants **requested the support of ESCAP and partners to assess the interest of Internet Service Providers**, potential latent demands for Internet traffic that may be directed through the Pacific IXP, and the interests of submarine fiber-optic cable owners and possible arrangement for the Pacific IXP proposal
- The participants of the workshop discussed the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and **agreed to explore the possibility of national Internet Exchange Point entities (or a designated competent authority in each country) as signatories to the draft MOU.**
- The Internet Association of Australia expressed its support towards the establishment and operationalization of the Pacific IXP proposal.

Pacific IXP capacity training workshops/consultations and studies (cont.)

6. Capacity Building Workshop on Strengthening Digital Connectivity Infrastructure and Internet Traffic Management in the Pacific, Suva, Fiji (20 October 2022)

Objectives:

1. To share with key stakeholders the preliminary findings of the online survey on assessing bandwidth demand for South Pacific Island Countries.
2. To discuss operationalization plan for building the Pacific IXP based on the Pacific IXP Operating Guideline.

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