# Pacific IXP National Consultations in Fiji, New Zealand and Samoa (2020)

## (Virtual Meetings)

## Summary Note

This document summarises the key outcomes of the Pacific IXP national consultations held following the "Second Working Group on Pacific Internet Exchange Point (IXP) and capacity training workshop on IXP's operational modalities" (5 August 2020).[1]

The virtual consultations were jointly hosted by the ESCAP secretariat and the Internet Society and other partners.

### First consultation (20 October 2020)

***Fiji (Telecommunications Authority of Fiji, TAF)***

Key outcomes:

- TAF expressed support to the Pacific IXP proposal.
- TAF confirmed that its domestic regulatory policies do not restrict the establishment of a Pacific IXP.
- TAF expressed support to consider hosting the Pacific IXP if no other options are available in Fiji.
- TAF recommended to present the Pacific IXP proposal to the Fiji IX Steering Committee.

Participants:

1. Mr. Kisione Finau (The University of South Pacific, USP)
2. Mr. Rajnesh Singh (Internet Society, ISOC)
3. Mr. Tevita Navila (TAF)
4. Mr. Gyanen Kumar (TAF)
5. Mr. Paul Brooks (Consultant)
6. Ms. Natasha Beschorner (World Bank)
7. Ms. Tiziana Bonapace (ESCAP)
8. Mr. Siope Vakataki 'Ofa (ESCAP)
9. Mr. Cristina Bernal Aparicio (ESCAP)
10. Mr. Christopher Ryan (ESCAP Pacific Office)

### Second consultation (13 November 2020)

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

***Fiji (Fiji Internet Exchange Steering Committee)***

Key outcomes:

- There was general support to the Pacific IXP proposal.
- The representative of Fiji IX reported that they briefed the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Communications on the Pacific IXP proposal and offered their support. Also, Fiji IX submitted a briefing paper of the Pacific IXP proposal to the Minister and offered support by both Fiji IX and the Fiji IX Steering Committee (SC), and
- The Fiji IX SC requested a Technical Steering Group (comprising of Fiji IX, New Zealand IX and Samoa IX (or responsible authority)) to be established to discuss the way forward.

Participants:

1. Mr. Elvin Prasad (Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific, CROP)
2. Mr. Gyanen Kumar (TAF)
3. Mr. Jashneel Kumar (Vodafone)
4. Mr. Salesh Kumar (Vodafone)
5. Mr. Ruveni Waqanitonga (Telecom Fiji)
6. Mr. Ricbash Chand (Digicel)
7. Mr. Jionati Luvuiyasaswa (Digicel)
8. Mr. Kisione Finau (USP)
9. Mr. Paul Brooks (Consultant)
10. Mr Rajnesh Singh (ISOC)
11. Ms. Tiziana Bonapace (ESCAP)
12. Mr. Siope Vakataki Ofa (ESCAP)
13. Ms. Cristina Bernal Aparicio (ESCAP)
14. Mr. Shivnesh R. Prasad (World Bank Fiji)[2]

## Third consultation (15 November 2020)

***New Zealand (New Zealand Internet Exchange and Internet Association of Australia)***

Key outcomes:

- There was general support to the Pacific IXP proposal from New Zealand Internet Exchange and Internet Association of Australia.

Participants:

1. Ms. Narelle Clark (Internet Association of Australia)
2. Mr. Chris Browning (New Zealand Internet Exchange Inc.)
3. Mr. Duncan MacIntosh (APNIC Foundation)
4. Mr. David Butcher (Consultant)
5. Mr. Rajnesh Singh (ISOC)
6. Ms. Tiziana Bonapace (ESCAP)
7. Mr. Siope Vakataki Ofa (ESCAP)
8. Ms. Cristina Bernal Aparicio (ESCAP)

## Fourth consultation (17 November 2020)

[2] He did not attend but presentation and questions were shared with him.

***New Zealand (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade)***

Key outcomes:

- There was no objection to the Pacific IXP proposal.
- The representative from the Ministry informed that its domestic regulatory policies do not restrict the establishment of a Pacific IXP.

Participants:

1. Mr. Paul Seaden (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade)
2. Mr. David Butcher (Consultant)
3. Mr. Paul Brooks (Consultant)
4. Mr. Rajnesh Singh (ISOC)
5. Ms. Tiziana Bonapace (ESCAP)
6. Mr. Tae Hyung Kim (ESCAP)
7. Mr. Siope Vakataki Ofa (ESCAP)
8. Ms. Cristina Bernal Aparicio (ESCAP)

### Fifth consultation (17 November 2020)

***Samoa (Ministry of Communications and Information Technology and Office of the Regulator)***

Key outcomes:

- There was general support to the Pacific IXP proposal.
- It was confirmed that the domestic regulatory policies in Samoa do not restrict the establishment of a Pacific IXP.
- In February 2021, the Minister responsible for ICT in Samoa wrote a letter to ESCAP's Executive Secretary and offered support to the Pacific IXP work, as well as requesting ESCAP to facilitate an intercountry Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the 3 target countries (Fiji, Samoa & NZ) to establish the Pacific IXP.

Participants:

1. Mr. Suetena Loia (MICT, Samoa)
2. Rousianna Aiomata (MCIT, Samoa)
3. Cecily Faasau (Office of the Regulator, Samoa – a representative connected on her behalf)
4. Mr. David Butcher (Consultant)
5. Mr. Paul Brooks (Consultant)
6. Mr. Rajnesh Singh (ISOC)
7. Ms. Tiziana Bonapace (ESCAP)
8. Mr. Siope Vakataki Ofa (ESCAP)
9. Ms. Cristina Bernal Aparicio (ESCAP)

### Sixth consultation (26 November 2020)

***Fiji (Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association, PITA)***

Key outcomes:

- There was general support to the Pacific IXP proposal.

- PITA requested ESCAP to present the Pacific IXP proposal to PITA wider members through one of PITA conferences. As a follow-up, PITA invited ESCAP to present the Pacific IXP proposal in the PITA Business Forum & Exposition (virtual conference), on 13 April 2022.[3]

Participants:

1. Mr. Fred Christopher (PITA)
2. Mr. Paul Brooks (Consultant)
3. Mr. Siope Vakataki Ofa (ESCAP)
4. Ms. Cristina Bernal Aparicio (ESCAP)
5. PITA Business Forum participants[4]

### Seventh consultation (11 August 2021)

***Fiji (Ministry of Communications)***

Key outcomes:

- The Ministry of Communications of Fiji expressed support, in principal, and interest to the Pacific IXP proposal.
- The Ministry of Communications of Fiji highlighted the need for a country regulatory assessment in the 3 target countries on cross-border deployment of the Pacific IXP and requested the support of the ESAP secretariat and partners to conduct a regulatory assessment study on the regulatory requirements in each target country.
- The Ministry of Communications of Fiji informed the meeting that it will prepare a policy brief on the Pacific IXP to brief the Minister, and requested the ESCAP secretariat for support on provision of detailed information about the Pacific IXP proposal.

Participants:

1. Ms. Tupoutua'h Baravilala, Acting Permanent Secretary (Ministry of Communications)
2. Mr. Vivek Anand (Ministry of Communications)
3. Mr. Ravneet Chand (Ministry of Communications)
4. Mr. Tevita Navila (TAF)
5. Mr. Magnesh Reddy (TAF)
6. Mr. Vijendra Sigh (TAF)
7. Mr. Elvin Prasad (ICT CROP)
8. Mr. Kisione Finau (USP)
9. Mr. Paul Brooks (Consultant)
10. Mr. Christopher Ryan (ESCAP Pacific Office)
11. Mr. Siope Vakataki 'Ofa (ESCAP)
12. Ms. Cristina Bernal Aparicio (ESCAP)

[3] https://events.pita.org.fj/PITADevelopmentExpositions#/

[4] https://events.pita.org.fj/PITADevelopmentExpositions#/speakers?lang=en