Multistakeholder consultations on the Pacific IXP proposal (24-26 August 2021)

Update on progress of preparatory work on Pacific IXP

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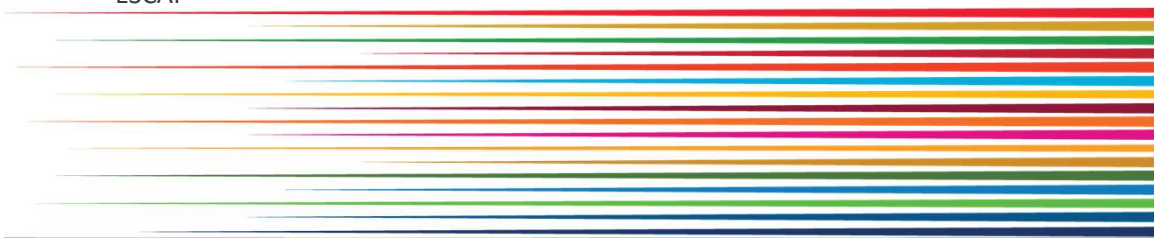

Content

- ESCAP mandates
- Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) initiative
- Pacific IXP capacity training workshops/consultations and studies

ESCAP Mandates

- **Resolution 75/7 (4 June 2019):** [3]

Requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue support to the ongoing activities on the implementation of the Asia Pacific Information Superhighway initiative;

(b) To support member countries with policy advice, technical studies and capacity-building, upon request, in relation to the development and implementation of subregional implementation plans for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative;

- **Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation on its third session (19-20 August 2020):**[4]

Recommendation 6. The Committee recognizes that the establishment of carrier-neutral Internet exchange points can promote increased intraregional content exchange and improve the reliance, quality and cost of Internet connectivity and recommends that the secretariat continue to study and promote the work on those issues, with a focus on least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Pacific small island developing States.

[3]https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Resolution%2075-7.%20Advancing%20the%20implementation%20of%20the%20Asia-Pacific%20Information%20Superhighway%20initiative%20through%20regional%20cooperation.pdf
[4]https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/Final%20report%20CICTSTI3%2C%20English.pdf

Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS)

- AP-IS Master Plan 2019-2022
- Four pillars (Infrastructure connectivity, Internet traffic & network mgt, e-resilience, and broadband for all)
- IXPs for quality Internet in Pacific island developing economies & CLV + Thailand
- Co-deployment of ICT, Transport and Energy infrastructures in selected NCA economies + Mongolia
- Policy experimentation through regulatory sandboxes on frontier technologies in selected economies – landlocked, least developed



AP-IS Steering Committee Session

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 focus 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

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