UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

DRAFT SUBMISSION OF [SAMOA] **Broadband Priorities for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Master Plan** [28/10/2017] **Objective:** This form is sent to the representative of each country in order to prioritise activities and better align broadband connectivity gaps with solutions. All country submissions will be consolidated as per AP-IS Pillar and subregion to develop an implementation plan for 2018 and will be presented by the Secretariat during the First Session of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) Steering Committee, 1-2 November 2017, Dhaka, Bangladesh. A similar template is sent to partners to identify their planned activities. Please complete this form and submit to ESCAP (escap-ids@un.org) by **no later than 25 October 2017.**
(a). Background Information
(i). Government Ministry/Organization in charge of ICT connectivity: [Ministry of Communications and Information Technology]
(ii). National Broadband Policy: [Samoa National Broadband Policy 2012]
(iii). Completed/Current/planned fibre-optic broadband project: [SAS-ASH Submarine Fibre Cable a joint initiative between Samoa and American Samoa launched in 2009 with connectivity to Hawaii and on to the mainland USA] (Tui-Samoa Submarine Cable a WB/ADB/Samoa initiative with cable from Samoa to Fiji with branching units to Wallis, Futuna and Savusavu Fiji slated to be RFS January 2018)
(b). Challenges and Opportunities on promoting broadband connectivity: Within the scope of the AP-IS four pillars (1). Connectivity; (2). Internet Traffic & Network Management; (3). E-resilience; and (4). Broadband for all, ESCAP member countries and partners outlined seven strategic initiatives in the AP-IS Master Plan (http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/pre-ods/CICTSTI1_2E_rev1.pdf) to be implemented between 2016-2018 (please refer to attached chart of AP-IS 4 Pillars and AP-IS Strategic Initiatives).

The AP-IS seven strategic initiatives are as follows:

1. Identification, coordination, deployment, expansion and integration of the regional backbone networks at the cross-border intra- and interregional levels, in collaboration with member countries and subregional organizations;
2. Establish a sufficient number of Internet exchange points at the national and subregional levels and set out common principles on Internet traffic exchange to prevent Internet traffic tromboning, decrease transit costs and improve service quality
3. Regional social and economic studies;
4. Enhancing ICT infrastructure resilience in the Asia-Pacific region;
5. Policy and regulations for leveraging existing infrastructure, technology and inclusive broadband initiatives;
6. Capacity-building; and
7. Asia-Pacific information superhighway project funding mechanism based on public-private partnerships

(c). AP-IS 7 Strategic Initiatives Implementation Plan 2016-2018: priority challenges and proposed activities

In order to match country's sub-region's and region's priorities within the scope of the AP-IS seven strategic initiatives, please complete the matrix below accordingly. Please add a row as deemed necessary.

Priority Challenges	Focus Area	AP-IS Strategic Initiatives (1-7)	AP-IS Pillars (1-4)	Remarks
Priority Challenges:	(i) Focus on cyber security resilience and setup of CERT. Very limited capacity in technical knowledge as well as tools to assess if existing infrastructure can support a CERT setup. (ii) Extend the fibre infrastructure around the country and get telcos to share existing fibre network with each other.	(i) The availability of attractive data bundles and the pending RFS of the Tui-Samoa cable means we have to ensure that our citizens are aware of the threats and dangers they are faced with every time they go online. (ii) A prime example is the fact that all carriers have to build their own infrastructure to get to the	(i) Cyber security can be categorised as an issue under Pillar 2: Internet Traffic & Network Management (ii) Pillar 1 Connectivity and maybe Pillar 3 Broadband for all (iii) Pillar 1 and Pillar 3 (iv) Pillar 2 and Pillar 3	

	(iii) Look at ways to to allow private users to connect to government SNBH network to provide connectivity and in return allows government to get revenue from them. (iv) Make use of the local IXP infrastructure in place	Tui-Samoa cable landing station and this is something that government can consider and address to give equal access to all ISPs. (iii) The infrastructure is already there just need to be connected and have the regulatory issues sorted out. (iv) All ISPs need to be connected through the local IXP to	
Opportunities	(i) Australia has indicated funds of over 14m for cyber security that we can tap into for technical assistance. PACSON is also well underway. (ii) Encourage more regional cooperation in cyber space as most of our conditions and issues are the same and its not usually just a matter of scale	
Proposed solutions/actions	(i) Create and enabling environment and build the right infrastructure to entice the big players like Google, Amazon to come to the pacific. (ii) Revisit telecom regulatory oversight and processes to ensure that it allows for businesses and entrepreneurs to thrive and not be the stumbling block.	

(d). Update to terrestrial/submarine fibre-optic cable projects: Based on the ESCAP/ITU interactive transmission map (access via link: http://www.unescap.org/our-work/ict-disaster-risk-reduction/asia-pacific-information-superhighway/asia-pacific-information-superhighway-maps **),**
please check and list down if there is any recent fibre-optic cable project completed/planned for your country, which is not reflected in the interactive map. The input provided below will be used to update the interactive map accordingly.

   (i)   The Manatua Cable which is French Polynesia initiative will connect Niue, Cook Islands, and Samoa from Tahiti. This cable is slated for RFS by the

end of 2018. For Samoa this will provide additional redundancy and restoration capabilities.

(e). Any other suggestions/issues:

(i)   Can we re launch the Pacific CERT project or look at getting our Asian countries involved as they are much more developed in this area.