

First Session of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Steering Committee, 1-2 November 2017, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

DRAFT SUBMISSION OF the Republic of Vanuatu
Broadband Priorities for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Master Plan
23rd October 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 Prime Minister/Office of the Government Chief Information Officer

(ii). National Broadband Policy:

National ICT Policy 2013

Universal Access Policy 2013

(iii). Completed/Current/planned fibre-optic broadband project:

1. 2007 – [Government Broadband Network] connecting all Government Offices to broadband internet spanning over 700 KM local fibre optic and microwave terrestrial links to outer islands;
2. 2014 - [Interchange Submarine Cable, 1200KM, Private-Public-Partnership]– connecting Vanuatu to the Southern Cross Submarine Cable Network peering from Fiji Landing Station;
3. 2016 – [Fibre-optic-to-home] – Private ISP’s rollout out fibre optic connection to homes in capital city, Port Vila;
4. [Planned domestic submarine cable]

(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) Expand the Vanuatu Internet Exchange Point capabilities to allow more Content Distribution Networks to co-locate their services on the existing infrastructure;	(i) 2 (ii) 1 (iii) 1 (iv) 5 (v) 2 (vi) 7 (vii) 6	(i) 2 (ii) 1 (iii) 4 (iv) 3 (v) 2 (vi) 1 (vii) 4	Universal Access Policy requires 98% coverage of population by 1 January 2018. We are well on the way to achieve this target, and our priority after this deadline is to introduce e-

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ii) Deployment of e-Application services to utilize the expanded broadband infrastructure now available throughout the country; (iii) Leverage on the current school connectivity program, tablet to student and internet café to allow e-services to be widely available to the population; (iv) Develop an e-Government policy and legal framework to support the existing e-Government infrastructure to roll our e-services; (v) Establishment of a National CERT to tackle Cybersecurity issues; (vi) Expand the telemedicine project to more health centres in rural areas; (vii) Expand capacity building opportunities including online 	(viii) 3	(viii) 4	<p>services to the citizens of Vanuatu for Agriculture, Education, Health, Tourism, Finance, Weather, Disaster, National ID system, and others.</p> <p>A Bill for Cybercrime is currently being consulted for approval by Parliament in Q1, 2018.</p> <p>Local capacity building is needed to ensure our initiatives are well thought out and supported in a local context.</p>
--	---	----------	----------	---

	education to all citizens of Vanuatu; (viii) Feasibility study to identify areas that we can improve;			
Opportunities	(i) Expand Internet Exchange Point establishment throughout the Pacific; (ii) Make available e-Services to citizens of Vanuatu [includes Financial Inclusion, Weather, Agriculture, Education, Disaster, Tourism, Trade, Health and others]; (iii) Expand presence of Content Distribution Networks on the Vanuatu IXP to give internet consumers to enjoy fast internet; (iv) Make available relevant local content with a Vanuatu context; (v) Numerous submarine cable networks are being deployed around the Pacific like the Moana, Tui, Hawaiiiki and other cable networks means more countries are now being connected to the superhighway;			Make available services and content that will empower people to contribute to the economic development of Vanuatu and the Pacific Islands as a whole;
Proposed solutions/actions	(i) Make available local content to populate content distribution networks; (ii) Ensure policy and legal frameworks are in place to foster growth in e-Services; (iii) Encourage Private-Public-Partnerships in ICT and telecommunications development programs; (iv) Encourage multi-stakeholder engagement in sector specific ICT policy development;			Cybersecurity Centre E-Government; Connect 2 nd submarine cable
<p>(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.</p> <p>(i) N/A</p>				
<p>(e). Any other suggestions/issues:</p> <p>(i) N/A</p>				