PACIFIC ISLANDS TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION

ICT / Disaster Risk Reduction

Presenter: Mr. Ivan Fong : PITA President
Background Disasters

- Pacific Islands susceptible to natural disasters
  - Cyclones, floods, earthquake, tsunami, landslides
- Increasing exposure to cyber threats as ICT supply increases
- ICT can be an effective tool for DRR
- Also requires the ordinary person on the street to also accept relevance / prepare / take heed
  - Warning System / Tonga subsea earthquake / Samoa
- Therefore challenges for implementing holistic integrated DRR systems
- Usually no separate / public ICT infrastructure for DRR
ICT Development

- Focus on competition
  - Driving penetration, especially in mobile
  - Prices somewhat decrease, affordability concerns remain
  - Limited access to broadband

- Similar situation for Internet / Broadband
  - ADSL and wireless access
  - Other supporting infrastructure
  - End user devices

- Some cable but still satellite dependent for transmission – high costs

- Increasing ICT development also brings new cyber threats
Key Private Sector Challenges

Business models are changing

- Traditional revenues shrinking
- Hard to compete against OTT
- Regulatory philosophy
  - Consumer Protection
  - Price regulation / Rate of return
- Scale / Scope are becoming more important, especially for application development
- But is regulation stifling innovation?
- Private sector (traditional businesses) barely afloat
Resulting Challenges

- Private sector has more pressing issues
- Public sector is under-resourced
- Decisions to be made on cooperation / PPP
- Disaster planning, DRR and DR are usually not considered until an event occurs
- Low priority given to DRR
- Opportunity to leverage ICT for DRR
- Any considerations must also consider the human element
Possible areas of cooperation

- Resources available that could assist in a technical sense could be mobilised
- Role of new media, the cloud etc. towards education, outreach, early warning and disaster communication
- Possibility to take advantage of access to applications available
- Utilise know how and capacity already available to address the increasing cyber threats resulting from ICT / broadband development
About PITA

- Formed in 1997 from the members of Forum Secretariat Telecom Division
- From 9 members representing 8 Pacific Islands Countries & Territories to 43 members from 22 PICTs
- Members are Telecommunications entities from Pacific - Operators, Carriers & Govt. Regulators
- Currently 14 members are Regulators
- Associate Members are suppliers of telecommunications equipment, applications & solutions – 83 Associate Members
Thank You!

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