

(The IGF 3rd meeting, in Hyderabad, India, is to be held from 3-6 December 2008.)

Getting the Pacific Online Workshop

Access Challenges, Issues and Opportunities in the Pacific Islands

Organised by Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA)

Spanning in an Ocean space the size of one third of the globe, the Pacific Island countries challenges could be as vast as the span of the ocean itself, with thousands of islands and small populations spread over this huge span of ocean. Satellites in almost all cases is the only way for access, to inter connect the islands and to connect the islands to the international highway.

Unlike other regions and in developed regions where the scale of economy is a positive factor, the issue of ACCESS will remain the top and critical factor for connecting the communities online with the least developed and developing economies from this region and small island countries.

Why access is so critical for the Pacific Islands?

This workshop is aimed to help answer this question and to raise awareness of the unique issues of access and subsequently the needs for partnerships, cooperation and provisions in special case considerations. Addressing access (physical links) and demand (bandwidth) are two important elements in access which are both costly for the Pacific and is multi-stakeholder problem to be solved by multi-stakeholder approach. Providing access and services to all gives everyone more equal opportunities across all age groups, and gender

The Presenters and the Panelists will show and discuss the attributes that characterizes why access in this sub region is a critical resource in the equation of getting the Pacific online, examining the physical and economic disadvantages of the Small Island developing states and how some special considerations, alternatives and models could be of help to address this greatest challenge, of access in the Pacific Islands.

Introduction & Moderator:

1. Mr Fred Christopher, Manager PITA, Fiji

Round Table Panelist

1. Country Case studies, Regulatory & Policy Issues and Enablers
 - By Richard L Mische, Republic of Palau
2. Creating new diversities and connecting the unconnected-
 - Satellites & VSAT advantage & applications for the Pacific Islands.
 - By Praveen Sharma, GILAT India.
3. Opportunities for access:
 - Affordability & Optimisation
 - The opportunities of localization, common exchange point, aggregation and new possible access models.
 - International collaboration
 - By Maui Sanford, French Polynesia [President PITA]



About PITA www.pita.org.fj

The Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association [PITA] is a non profit organisation formed to represent the interests of the Pacific Islands in the field of communications. It has its members from the Service Providers of Telephony, Mobile, Internet, VoIP, Radio & Data Communications or telecommunications operators, including national and regional Carriers and Regulators from 22 Pacific Islands states and territories. Also included as Associated Members are the suppliers and vendors of communication services, equipment and some international operators from around the world. Altogether there are 110 members.

The objective of PITA is to promote communications and its development in the Small Islands countries and the Pacific. Activities by PITA include development and working group projects, representations of issues for Pacific Is, coordinating training, workshops, technical cooperation and exchange amongst members and external experts, coordinating and participating in regional and international meetings on key communications issues and development. PITA has a MoU with ITU, APT, APNIC, ICANN, APSCC, SPC, SOPAC, CTO, AFTRA and works closely with other regional and international organisations, Security and Fraud agencies, GSMA and governments including international Regulators and Operators for the development of communications in the Pacific

One of the first projects for PITA in its initial years was to set up a PITANet which was a sort of package supply that was only possible through consolidating the Pacific Islands internet needs at the times when costs were very high and individual needs were not justifiable for suppliers. Several countries in the Pacific have so far upgraded with the growing needs and options available but most had their first internet experience through PITANet. The consolidation of members' needs and issues is a key feature of PITA, forming a forum for engendering greater regional cooperation, attracting reputable solution providers and attracting international and regional agencies who would find it cost effective to work with PITA for the region.

PITA remains committed and is adapting where necessary to continue to provide the forum for the Pacific Islands, to find addresses and benefits through bringing together common needs, issues, experiences and cooperating with relevant agencies and organisations, regionally or internationally.

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