

IGF 2016 Workshop Report Template

Session Title	SIDS Roundtable: Death, Disaster & the Internet
Date	Thursday 8 December 2016
Time	1200
Session Organizer	Tracy Hackshaw, Dr. Patrick Hosein
Chair/Moderator	Tracy Hackshaw
Rapporteur/Notetaker	Tracy Hackshaw/Aida Mahmutović
List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations	<p>Dr. Patrick Hosein, Chair, Multistakeholder Advisory Group of Trinidad & Tobago (TTMAG) and Administrator, Trinidad & Tobago Network Information Centre (TTNIC)</p> <p>Ms Maureen Hilyard, National Environment Service, Dot.ASIA, Telecommunications Advisory Committee</p> <p>Ms Salanieta Tamanikawaimaro, South Pacific Computer Society, Pasifika Nexus Limited</p> <p>Rhea Yaw Ching - Covela Foundation, Advisor to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States</p> <p>Mr Carlton Samuels, ICT4D Consultant at Carlton Samuels & Associates</p> <p>Mr Bevil Wooding, Chief Knowledge Officer, Congress WBN and Internet Strategist at Packet Clearing House</p>
Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are highly vulnerable to natural disasters which cause significant loss of life and damage to property and infrastructure 2. Discussants and participants shared some real stories of natural and man-made disasters in the Caribbean and Pacific Islands regions and demonstrated how the Internet and ICTs, in general were utilized to either predict, react to, or recover from the effects of same 3. Participants and discussants exchanged views on the view that climate change and emerging environmental

	<p>challenges have affected and will continue to affect the SIDS in the years ahead while addressing whether the increasing use of the Internet and Internet-related technologies contributed in any way to these challenges</p> <p>4. Finally, the Roundtable considered the impacts to the SIDS in relation to the UN SDGs and how can the Internet and Internet-based technologies be deployed to mitigate these impacts.</p>
<p>If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each Presentation</p>	<p>The Roundtable format did not cater for presentations as the discussions were led through moderated lead discussants.</p>
<p>Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session: (3 paragraphs)</p>	<p>Broadening the traditional definition of ICT beyond the Internet and even traditional telephony was important in dealing with natural disasters given the significant role that radio and related communications can play in getting information out to communities and citizenry before, during and immediately after disasters. Examples were provided from the 2010 Haiti earthquake, hurricanes/cyclones in Fiji and Vanuatu as well as the 1995 Kobe earthquake and the 2011 Japan tsunami. In Haiti, it was clear that the majority of the mobile infrastructure was damaged and radio communications became crucial. In Tonga, Early Warning Systems are critical to the predictive ability of the state apparatus, While SMS has been utilized thus far, it takes as long as 20 minutes for messages to be distributed throughout the country. So, like other territories, they are also turning to radio-based communications to ensure that Early Warning messages get out - potentially using the FM radio frequency.</p> <p>Another important and little discussed issue is the role of the power grid which almost always fails during disasters and the resulting requirement for diesel power. The Internet, specifically</p>

was mentioned as being utilized for prediction and information dissemination (Tsunami warning systems) as well as recovery through use of mobile money and crowdsourcing.

The issue of accessibility and the lack of disability disaggregated data were also significant concerns. The Internet and ICTs, in general, could assist with providing information and the availability of accessible venues. The IEEE Smart Villages initiative was important in Haiti where an entrepreneurial solar trailer system was set up giving people the power to charge their cellphones, In addition, given that Haiti was not properly mapped, the Open Street Maps initiative was critical in helping rescue workers find people after the earthquake.

In discussing the role of Climate Change in the debate on Internet and Disaster, several references were made to the now mothballed IGF Dynamic Coalition on Climate Change, and the recommendations it had made with regard to the need for more efforts in addressing climate change challenges, in a multistakeholder approach. To this end, participants were clear that there are still challenges related to the effective deployment of the Internet and Internet-based technology on small islands in general, far less to have them deployed and customized for disaster preparedness and disaster prevention. It is therefore most critical to accelerate efforts to deploy ICTs, including Internet and Internet-based technologies given their obvious and proven role in collaboration and experience sharing.

In examining the issues of the SIDS in relation to Climate Change and Disaster Management, the discussions pointed to the fact that

	<p>the management and mitigation of climate change and disaster was not only an issue of making use of technologies, but also a question of incorporating institutional, inherent, traditional and cultural practices as the way towards more effective mechanisms.</p>
<p>Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways: (3 paragraphs)</p>	<p>Recommendations were made to make the information on warnings available for people with disabilities. A good practice example mentioned was the Pacific Disability Forum, which worked with five Pacific Islands to set up a disability inclusive disaster response service. It was suggested that the Caribbean Islands and other SIDS could explore ways in replicating the Pacific Islands experience by working in collaboration with the Pacific Disability Forum and similar apparatus.</p> <p>Ongoing Collaboration in sharing ideas and technology tools between the Caribbean and Pacific Islands was seen as a major recommendation given the similarities between the Islands and there was a strong recommendation to establish a Dynamic Coalition on Small Island Developing States issues within the IGF framework to facilitate this ongoing collaboration and sharing of information,</p> <p>DiploFoundation recommended that Caribbean and Pacific Islands seek to participate in an initiative they have been running in the Pacific recently, with an expansion currently underway for the Caribbean - CD Multi. This initiative has travel funds available for the SIDS to come and participate in policymaking sessions of interest at the various meetings happening in Geneva at the UN - many of which are still in their early stages of discussion on these particular issues.</p>

