

**INAUGURAL REGIONAL MEETING OF MINISTERS OF  
ENERGY, INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION  
TECHNOLOGY (ICT) AND TRANSPORT**

**(Noumea, New Caledonia, 4–8 April 2011)**

**COMMUNIQUÉ**



## **INAUGURAL REGIONAL MEETING OF MINISTERS OF ENERGY, ICT AND TRANSPORT**

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### ***STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT USING THE KEY DRIVERS OF ENERGY, ICT AND TRANSPORT***

#### **COMMUNIQUÉ**

##### **PREAMBLE**

The inaugural joint meeting of Pacific Ministers for Energy, ICT and Transport was held at the Jacques Iékawé Conference Centre at SPC headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia, from 4 to 8 April 2011. It was attended by Ministers and/or Secretaries, Directors and senior officials from the ministries/departments of Energy, ICT and Transport of American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, France, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Pitcairn Islands, Tokelau and the United States of America did not send representatives to the meeting.

2. Also attending the inaugural meeting were representatives from CROP (Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific) organisations – Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Pacific Power Association (PPA), and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); the University of the South Pacific (USP); regional maritime associations – Pacific Islands Maritime Association (PacMA), Pacific International Maritime Law Association (PIMLA) and Pacific Transport Maritime Alliance (PMTA); and development partners – Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), Association of South Pacific Airlines (ASPA), Commonwealth Network of IT for Development (COMNET-IT), Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific (EU), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), European Investment Bank, Global Sustainable Energy Solutions Pty Ltd (GSES), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Union for Conservation of Nature/Oceanic (IUCN), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), New Caledonia Digital Observatory, One Laptop per Child, OPT, Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO), Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society (PICISOC) Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), Sustainable Energy Industry Association for the Pacific Islands (SEIAPI), United Nations-Asia and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development/Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-APCICT/ESCAP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), University of Queensland and the World Bank.

3. Ministers expressed their deep appreciation to the Government of New Caledonia and SPC for enabling the inaugural meeting to take place in New Caledonia, for the warm and generous manner in which delegates had been welcomed and the excellent hospitality accorded to all.

4. The inaugural joint meeting of ministers responsible for three key economic sectors in Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) was seen as the first of the benefits of three regional reform processes that called for the pooling of resources, rationalisation of regional mechanisms and streamlining of regionally delivered services to PICTs – the Pacific Plan for increasing regional collaboration and integration, the reform of the regional institutional framework, and SPC's own organisational reforms and restructure.

5. The meeting acknowledged SPC's establishment of a new technical division for economic development as part of its response to the reform of regional institutions, and recognised that bringing together for the first time in the region, three key drivers of economic development – energy, ICT, and transport – provided an outstanding chance for PICTs to harness the potential offered by an integrated approach, and opportunities to better achieve national development targets in areas to which these sectors contribute.

6. The meeting agreed on the following outcomes for each of the ministerial sector meetings that took place during the joint meeting as well as for the meeting segments relating to the small island states and cross-cutting priorities.

7. The meeting noted that many of the agreed outcomes and priorities are not yet funded and may need to be adjusted pending further clarity on the availability of resources from development partners and the internal prioritisation of existing SPC resources.

## **OUTCOME OF THE ENERGY MINISTERS' MEETING**

### **Preamble**

8. The meeting recalled the 40<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Forum Communiqué in which, 'Leaders reaffirmed that energy remains one of the region's key priorities, and urged members to remain vigilant in the face of growing world oil prices, not least given the potential to place pressure on scarce national resources and budgets as a result of poorly secured energy supply'.

9. Acknowledging that 'energy security in PICTs exists when all people at all times have access to sufficient sustainable sources of clean and, affordable energy and services to enhance their social and economic well-being', the meeting agreed on the need to examine strategic engagements to address challenges to the energy security of PICTs at a time when the price of oil has exceeded USD 100 per barrel, which seems likely to continue for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, PICTs are urged to set time-bound targets for the sustainable development of renewable-based electricity, recognising that some countries such as Cook Islands, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu have already adopted national renewable energy targets.

10. The meeting noted the Forum Leaders' reaffirmation in 2010 of their commitment to a renewable energy and energy efficient future based on achievable, practical and voluntary targets.

11. The meeting recognised that about 25% of oil use in PICTs is for power generation and 75% for transport and that while there are variations among PICTs, efforts to reduce economic vulnerability to volatile oil prices must support a more energy efficient transport sector.

12. The meeting noted the importance of exploring alternative cost-effective and reliable oil supply sources, such as the current sourcing of Nauru's oil supply from PNG, while at the same time reviewing current oil pricing practices and policies.

13. The meeting acknowledged the opportunity presented by regional reform processes and the rationale for convening the inaugural joint ministerial meeting aimed at enhancing greater strategic engagement and cooperation within the three key pillars of economic development under SPC's Economic Development Division - energy, ICT and transport, agreeing that addressing these areas collectively could provide greater potential for achieving energy security and contribute more effectively to achieving PICT national development targets.

14. The meeting reaffirmed that national energy policies and plans/roadmaps remain the principal means for achieving improved energy security in PICTs, through a 'whole of sector' approach based on the concept of 'many partners, one team', and that regional interventions must focus on value-adding initiatives that complement, supplement and enhance national development outcomes contributed to by the energy sector. These efforts must involve strategic engagement among government agencies, power utilities, oil companies, the private sector, the academic community, cultural leaders and their communities, regional organisations and bilateral and multinational development partners.

#### **Framework for Action on Energy Security in the Pacific**

15. The ministers endorsed the Framework for Action on Energy Security in the Pacific (FAESP) as a living document and welcomed the review process embedded in the plan, which aims to ensure it will be continually refined to keep abreast of changing global, regional and national environments.

#### **Implementation Plan on Energy Security in the Pacific**

16. The meeting noted that the Implementation Plan for Energy Security in the Pacific (IPESP) is for all regional organisations under CROP.

17. The meeting further noted that the IPESP must focus on appropriate, value-adding regional enabling investments that can complement country efforts in achieving energy security.

18. The meeting also noted that the IPESP is a living document and that:

- i. further details on the respective themes are to be reflected in the work programme/plan of individual regional agencies;
- ii. critical activities, e.g. energy efficiency and conservation, should be prioritised, within available resources, for early implementation to ensure gains can be achieved and practical benefits demonstrated;
- iii. innovative options for training and capacity development should be explored to address the human resource constraints faced by PICTs.

19. The meeting agreed that the IPESP's monitoring and evaluation framework, in particular the energy security indicators developed for each theme and to be applied by each PICT, provide a sound basis for measuring national-level impact and enabling the assessment of achievements and value for money.

20. The meeting also agreed that:

- i. a simultaneous approach may be adopted by members to increase their engagement in setting time-bound renewable energy targets and also implementing energy efficiency measures, including adoption and implementation of existing standards for energy efficiency labeling;
- ii. PICTs adopt energy efficiency measures in power plants;
- iii. alternative oil supply options be explored and oil pricing practices and policies be reviewed;
- iv. the financing of the plan be continually refined to ensure proper identification of the sources and application of funds; and
- v. the next ministerial be convened at around the time the implementation plan is reviewed, i.e. at year five of the ten year timeframe, noting that there will be annual updates to the implementation plan that take into account both prevailing and emerging priorities in the sector.

21. The meeting endorsed IPESP and its energy security indicators, noting the Secretariat's intention to further refine the implementation plan to more clearly link outputs and impacts with inputs required, indicators, funding sources and implementing partners.

### **Enhancing partnerships and sharing of best practices**

22. The meeting agreed that SPC, with other regional agencies, should facilitate opportunities for cooperation between PICTs on enhancing Pacific energy security; for example, the sharing of information and technical expertise on renewable energy that was agreed to between the Cook Islands and New Caledonia; the sharing of information by the Republic of Fiji on its energy efficiency programmes with other PICTs; and the sharing of information on other initiatives such as the solar credit scheme in Australia.

23. The representative of France indicated that her country was ready to share its experience in the area of renewable energies such as geothermal energy and ocean energy.

## **OUTCOME OF THE ICT MINISTERS MEETING**

### **Preamble**

24. The meeting recalled the *Tonga Declaration* that was endorsed by Pacific Island countries and territories' ICT ministers on 18 June 2010;

25. The meeting acknowledged the progress in implementing the Tonga Declaration;

26. The meeting noted that the *Framework for Action on ICT for Development for the Pacific* (FAIDP) as endorsed in the Tonga Declaration outlines a new approach to developing and improving ICT services to support development, strengthen governance and improve the livelihoods of communities in the Pacific region;

27. The meeting recognised that national ICT policies are essential for effective multi-sectoral coordination and partnerships to fully utilise ICT as a tool for development and to ensure that national development priorities are addressed;

28. The meeting recognised the key role of ICT in disaster risk reduction, disaster management and climate change;

29. The meeting noted that Pacific Island countries and territories' ICT ministers in the Tonga Declaration requested that a FAIDP 'Strategic Action Plan' be developed;

30. The meeting acknowledged the value of a multi-pronged approach to cybersafety and cybersecurity.

31. The meeting noted the statement by the representative of France concerning the upcoming G8 meeting in Deauville (France) in May 2011. The issue of the internet will be one of the priority topics on the agenda, including widespread access to this means of communication in developing countries.

### **Pacific Regional ICT Meeting Report and Outcomes**

32. The meeting agreed to endorse the recommendations in agenda items 1 and 2 of the *Pacific Regional ICT Meeting Report and Outcomes* (Annex 1).

## **Pacific Regional ICT Strategic Action Plan (PRISAP)**

33. The meeting endorsed the *Pacific Regional ICT Strategic Action Plan* in principle and requested the Secretariat to circulate a revised and prioritised implementation plan, which includes tangible and outcome-focused activities, out of session to members by the end of May 2011 for further consideration.

## **OUTCOME OF THE TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING**

### **Preamble**

34. At their ministerial meeting in Nuku'alofa, Tonga (May 2009) Pacific Ministers of Transport recognised that internationally compliant transport services are imperative for economic growth and human development.

35. Safe, reliable and sustainable transport depends on governments creating the right enabling environment for the private sector to operate services in an efficient and commercially viable manner, and providing effective safety oversight. Recent maritime accidents demonstrate failures in adhering to internationally accepted standards for safe and secure services, highlighting the need for more concerted efforts in this regard.

36. The provision of safe and secure regional transport services is affected by numerous geographical, socio-economic and technical factors, including population mobility, susceptibility to natural disasters and other effects of climate change, national policies and regulations, and international instruments. Additional factors include appropriate vessel/craft operation and maintenance, route profitability, existing petroleum supply (quality and quantity), level of infrastructure, technical capacity, proximity of maintenance facilities, as well as mandatory safety and security auditing services.

### **Air transport**

37. Acknowledging the importance of improved coordination and delivery of safe, secure and competitive regional transport services, the meeting resolved to support air transport by noting the status of progress, national impacts and the gaps identified and encouraged member states to fulfil their national responsibilities. Regional collaboration between SPC and PASO will give effect to this. The meeting agreed that SPC and PASO would explore sustainable financing mechanisms that support member states' compliance with international requirements, and noted that further discussion on the Pacific Islands Air Services Agreement was required, with a desktop review to be performed of member benefits linked to trade in services of the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement and feedback to be provided to Ministers.

38. The meeting agreed that it is important to provide aviation training and to raise awareness on safety and security and noted the offer made by France and New Caledonia as part of the French Pacific Fund to make funds available to SPC for aviation training.

### **2009 maritime ministerial communiqué**

39. The meeting made special note of progress made against the maritime ministerial communiqué of 2009, namely the status of progress, national impacts and the gaps identified as well as the incorporation of the ministerial decisions into the newly developed Framework for Action on Transport Services. The meeting also encouraged member states to fulfil their national responsibilities.

### **Transport framework**

40. In endorsing the Framework for Action on Transport Services, the meeting noted and indicated support for the work of the Transport Oversight Group and agreed that the Transport Services Implementation Plan is a work in progress to be restructured with a focus on tangible activities that add value to national efforts, costed, then circulated out of session to members by the end of April 2011.

### **Search and rescue**

41. With respect to search and rescue, the meeting endorsed the memorandum of agreement among PICTs that support international lifesaving in the Pacific Ocean and noted the need for PICTs to review and update national maritime legislation to reflect recent developments in search and rescue. The meeting also agreed to consider acceding to the search and rescue convention.

### **Maritime labour convention**

42. Recognising the importance of the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 as a key pillar of the international maritime regulatory framework for quality shipping, the meeting noted the legislative gap analysis done by the Pacific International Maritime Law Association and the need for appropriate policy development and legislative drafting. The meeting encouraged PICTs to investigate what they need to do to satisfy the requirements of effective implementation with the intention of ratifying the convention as soon as practicable.

### **Maritime training convention amendments**

43. The meeting noted the importance of maintaining compliance with international seafarer training and certification standards, and recognised the need for PICTs to pass domestic legislation in the area of maritime labour, in particular to cater for the 2010 Manila amendments. The meeting recognised the pool of regional expertise in the Pacific Islands Maritime Association and the Pacific International Maritime Law Association and endorsed their work as well as their collaboration with SPC to continue assuring seafarers' overseas employment opportunities resulting in revenue gains for national economies.

### **Smaller island state shipping**

44. The meeting noted the success of the short-term solution to feeder shipping issues provided by Kiribati Shipping Services Limited and the establishment in 2010 of the Central Pacific Shipping Commission, whose interim secretariat services are provided by SPC. The meeting indicated support for SPC's work in the area of mapping trade patterns and hub ports, recognised the need for further funding to continue this work and encouraged PICTs to provide detailed trade data for 2009 and 2010 to assist with this work and updating the main SPC trade database.

### **Domestic ship safety**

45. Noting the progress made in improving safety for domestic shipping in Tonga and Kiribati through the Australia-funded pilot project, the meeting encouraged maritime administrations in PICTs to implement safe ship management systems and review maritime legislation to reflect recent changes in international maritime safety instruments. The meeting also encouraged the formation of shipowners' associations to enable active engagement of shipowners and ships' crews in promoting maritime safety in the domestic shipping industry. After noting the benefits from the pilot project, the meeting urged development partners and donors to consider financing the expansion of such a

programme to other countries and territories and noted that the lessons learned from the pilot project in Tonga and Kiribati could be of benefit for the region and should therefore be shared.

### **Disaster preparedness, mitigation and adaptation**

46. The meeting noted that the International Hydrographic Office has signed a memorandum of understanding with SPC to provide a framework for active liaison and cooperation between the two organisations to ensure efficient and effective development and coordination of hydrographic and nautical charting programmes. The meeting also noted that the International Hydrographic Office is an intergovernmental organisation of a consultative and technical nature comprising over 80 member states represented by their respective national hydrographic offices.

## **OUTCOME OF THE SMALLER ISLAND STATES MINISTERIAL MEETING**

### **Preamble**

47. Pacific Regional Smaller Island States (SIS) Ministers met at SPC headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia on 7 April 2011 to discuss cross-cutting issues of particular concern to them. In attendance were delegations from Cook Islands, Kiribati, France, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Wallis and Futuna.

48. SIS face unique and complex challenges with respect to their geographical locations, the scattered nature of the islands, their small population size, the vulnerability and importance of their ecosystems and a general lack of resources. The fragility of SIS ecosystems and their vulnerability to natural disasters and adverse weather conditions also add to costs through the high insurance premiums faced by transport operators and the increasing regulatory costs that impact the transport industry more generally.

### **Smaller island state shipping**

49. The meeting reaffirmed support for the work being done by SPC for SIS shipping.

### **The Pacific Petroleum Project (PPP)**

50. Noting the progress of PPP and assistance provided to the signatory countries with their supply chains, the meeting acknowledged that there was little practical prospect for bulk procurement amongst the current five members but that sub-regional opportunities existed. The meeting also noted that PPP reports included a draft tender process and contract that any member country could use to conduct an expression of interest or an open tender.

51. The meeting accepted the completion of phase 1 of the project following the presentation of milestone 5 and noted that milestone 6 had become part of a petroleum advisory service to be delivered by SPC, following the signing of a memorandum of understanding between SPC and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

### **e-Government for smaller island states**

52. Acknowledging that there are special challenges to ICT development in SIS, the meeting encouraged SIS governments to adopt a more coordinated and planned approach to developing ICT as a key tool for sustainable development. The meeting stated its support for SPC's e-governance for SIS project.

## **OUTCOME OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING ON CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES**

### **Preamble**

53. Common threads among the economic development sectors of energy, ICT and transport were explored at the Combined Plenary of Regional Energy, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Transport Ministers Meeting, which was held at SPC headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia on 7 April 2011.

54. The meeting agreed on the need for a new way of thinking and working within and between these sectors for the full potential to be realised, and members committed to pursuing this new paradigm at the national level through the 'many partners, one team approach', similar to the 'whole of government' or 'whole of country' approaches that many PICTs already take.

55. Issues discussed spanned topics related to liberalisation of trade in services, the impact of petroleum pricing on Pacific Island economies, enhancing climate change responses, disaster preparedness, hazard mitigation and adaptation, and food security.

### **The Pacific Islands Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA)**

56. The meeting noted the update on the progress of the PICTA trade in services negotiations and the need for appropriate consultation with relevant stakeholders as PICTA trade in services negotiations progress. The meeting also noted the need to progress the ratification of the Pacific Islands Air Services Agreement (PIASA), and urged Forum Island countries yet to ratify it to do so as a matter of priority.

### **Pacific petroleum pricing**

57. The meeting noted with interest the efforts being pursued by SPC on petroleum pricing and the harmonisation of fuel quality.

### **Enhancing climate change responses**

58. Acknowledging the integrated approach required for climate change approaches, the meeting noted the need to build an information base regarding risk in the Pacific Islands, with cost implications informed by cost-benefit analyses. The meeting also noted that although climate change adaptation incurs high costs, its growing importance could be built into a business case. Climate change responses have strong links to disaster risk management activities, so there is a need to recalibrate future weather risk profiles and design standards and locate assets based on past information.

### **Reducing risk to infrastructure with a focus on the transport and energy sectors**

59. The meeting reaffirmed its support for the work being done by SPC through its SOPAC Division on disaster risk management. The meeting expressed support for continued technical assistance from SPC to small island economies on reducing risk to and vulnerability of infrastructure, particularly in the transport and energy sectors.

60. Given the usefulness of information on vulnerability and risks faced from natural hazards and climate change to inform national decision-making at all levels, the meeting supported the adoption of nationally owned and driven policies and action plans that secure and maintain healthy and resilient natural environments so as to ensure the ability to cope not only with the natural hazards of today but also with future hazards and changes in climate.

61. The meeting agreed that up-to-date geographic information systems (GISs) should be integrated across all sectors at the national level and supported by appropriate regional mechanisms to ensure that land and coastal resources, including infrastructure, can cope with the impact of development. The meeting further agreed that support from SPC and other regional and international partners would ensure that these critical cross-cutting issues are addressed in an integrated manner at national level.

### **Gender and women's human rights**

62. Recalling the decisions of the 11<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of Pacific Women in 2010, the meeting highlighted the need to integrate the critical development factors of gender equality and women's human rights into activities in the energy, ICT and transport sectors.

### **Enhancing food security**

63. Recognising that 'food security is everyone's business', the meeting acknowledged the need to strengthen transport systems and infrastructure in the region and within countries and the urgency for increased access to energy and energy security for food production, storage and transportation. The meeting considered the respective sectors' roles and contribution towards food security, both individually and where synergies exist.

64. The meeting recognised the relevance of climate change adaptation strategies to ensuring future food security and acknowledged SPC's cross-cutting work in assisting PICTs to develop adaptation strategies.

65. The meeting further recognised the need to improve transport infrastructure, including roads, port facilities such as wharves and food storage facilities, as well as the expansion of ICT coverage to rural and remote areas.

### **APPRECIATION**

66. **The ministers and heads of delegations** thanked SPC and the Government and people of New Caledonia for hosting the inaugural joint ministerial meeting and for the hospitality extended.

67. The representative of New Caledonia expressed appreciation to government ministers and other representatives of SPC members and all meeting participants, noting the importance of regional cooperation and his government's commitment to supporting SPC's work in the future.

New Caledonia

8

April

2011

**SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY**

**PACIFIC REGIONAL INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) MEETING**

(4 April 2011, Noumea, New Caledonia)

*Strategic engagement for economic development using the key drivers of energy, ICT and transport*

**MEETING REPORT AND OUTCOMES**

1. The Pacific Regional Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Meeting was held on 4 April 2011 at SPC headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia. The meeting was attended by senior officials from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Observers included the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC), Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT), Commonwealth Secretariat (ComSec), Digital Observatory of New Caledonia, European Investment Bank (EIB), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), InternetNZ, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), One Laptop per Child (OLPC); OPT; Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society (PICISOC), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), The University of the South Pacific (USP) and the World Bank (WB).
2. The meeting was convened as part of the Inaugural Regional Meeting of Ministers for Energy, ICT and Transport organised by SPC with the support of the European Union through the *EU ACP ICT Access for the Poor* project.
3. The meeting was chaired by Mr Henao Iduhu, Secretary, Department of Communication & Information, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

**AGENDA ITEM 1: STATUS OF PROGRESS AGAINST THE TONGA DECLARATION**

4. The meeting recalled the Tonga Declaration made at the Pacific Regional ICT Ministers meeting of 18 June 2010, Fa'onelua Convention Centre, Nuku'alofa, Tonga.
5. The meeting further recalled the Framework for Action on ICT for Development in the Pacific (FAIDP) that was endorsed by the Pacific Island countries and territories' (PICTs) ICT ministers at their June 2010 meeting in Tonga as part of the Tonga Declaration. In the declaration, PICT ministers requested SPC to coordinate the implementation of FAIDP in collaboration with USP and other development partners.
6. The meeting: (i) acknowledged the work undertaken by partners in the ICT sector; (ii) noted that SPC and USP are alternately chairing the CROP<sup>1</sup> ICT Working Group; (iii) noted that SPC is now an official observer of the Government Advisory Committee (GAC); (iv) noted the efforts of partners to assist the media and build their capacity; (v) emphasised the importance of capturing traditional knowledge and historical documents, and facilitating knowledge sharing, and requested SPC and partners to seek funding to assist PICTs; (vi) while acknowledging efforts to collaborate more and to coordinate efforts, expressed concern that there was still some duplication of activities and lack of coordination; (vii) noted that the review of the Digital

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<sup>1</sup> Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific

Strategy was accepted at the ICT ministers meeting in Tonga; (viii) noted that the PIRRC<sup>2</sup> Working Group met a number of times and will report under Agenda Item 2 (g); (ix) noted that an assessment of cyber legislation in PICTs was carried out by ITU/ICB4PAC<sup>3</sup> and that SPC, in partnership with the Council of Europe and the Australian Government's Attorney-General's Department will conduct a cybercrime legislation workshop at the end of April 2011 and encouraged these partners to continue collaborating to develop regional strategies to combat cybercrime; (x) noted that PICTs needed to have an IPv6<sup>4</sup> transition plan and encouraged partners to monitor their status and report back to PICTs; (xi) recognised efforts to mainstream ICT in formal courses of study including the diploma in telecommunication management and the requirement to take an ICT course in all USP programmes; (xii & xiii) noted the increased partnerships between SPC, USP, PITA<sup>5</sup>, ITU, UN-APCICT/ESCAP<sup>6</sup> with other partners in capacity building initiatives; (xiv) noted that ITU have discussed the future of the ICB4PAC project with the European Commission; (xv) requested SPC, USP and PITA to continue exploring and sharing cost-effective solutions and sharing best practices with PICTs; (xvi) acknowledged work currently being undertaken to draft ICT4DRR<sup>7</sup> and disaster management guidelines and training materials for PICTs; (xvii) noted that ADB is currently considering potential projects; (xix) noted the Pacific Internet Governance Forum convened by SPC and partners in Noumea, New Caledonia (9–10 April 2011); (xx) noted that PacCERT<sup>8</sup> is hosted at USP's Japan Pacific ICT Centre; (xxi) noted that ITU continues to work on ICT applications for telecentres; (xxii) noted that SPC and SPREP signed a letter of agreement relating to the development of a regional e-waste programme and (xxiii) that this has been completed; (xxiv) noted that a draft implementation plan for FAIDP has been developed; (xxv) acknowledged that SPC, USP and development partners continue to work on implementing FAIDP; (xxvi) noted plans to review FAIDP in 2013; and (xxvii) recognised the financial requirements for convening a Ministerial to consider the findings of the FAIDP review.

**RECOMMENDATIONS: Pacific ICT ministers are invited to:**

- (i) Acknowledge the efforts of SPC, USP, CROP agencies and development partners in implementing the Tonga Declaration, recognise the need for national and regional resources to support the implementation of the Tonga Declaration, and request SPC and USP to continue monitoring progress in implementing the Tonga Declaration.

**AGENDA ITEM 2 (a – m): PARTNERS AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES**

- 7. The meeting acknowledged and recognised the continued support from ICT and development partners on assistance to countries in addressing a variety of key ICT development issues and noted the presentations from the following organisations:

*Pacific Islands Computer Emergency Response Team (PacCERT)*

- 8. The meeting noted the update on the activities and status of the Pacific Islands Computer Emergency Response Team (PacCERT) since the last ICT ministerial meeting held in Tonga in June 2010. The meeting also noted: (i) USP's hosting of PacCERT in Suva, Fiji, and provision of the initial resources and staffing to progress PacCERT operations; (ii) the establishment of a

<sup>2</sup> Pacific ICT Regulatory Resource Centre

<sup>3</sup> Capacity Building and ICT Policy, Regulatory and Legislative Frameworks for Pacific Island Countries

<sup>4</sup> Internet Protocol version 6

<sup>5</sup> Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA)

<sup>6</sup> United Nations - Asia and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development/Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

<sup>7</sup> ICT for disaster risk management

<sup>8</sup> Pacific Islands Computer Emergency Response Team

PacCERT Board, comprising USP, SPC, PITA, PICISOC, and representatives from Polynesia, Melanesia, and Micronesia with USP as the chair of the board; (iii) JICA's contribution for office equipment and the proposed training of PacCERT staff; (iv) ITU contribution of USD 10,000 for staffing of PacCERT; (v) the financial and staffing constraints and the board's attempt to seek a permanent solution, while putting in place temporary measures to fulfil PacCERT's objectives. The meeting also noted the opportunity presented by the Ministry of Communication in Fiji to consider addressing the value added tax (VAT) issue relating to purchase of PacCERT equipment.

*A regional approach to e-waste management*

9. The meeting noted the proposed activities of SPC and SPREP to better manage e-waste in the Pacific Islands region. The meeting also noted: (i) that e-waste management is one of the strategies of the endorsed FAIDP; and (ii) the signing of the letter of agreement between SPREP and SPC, which forms the basis of a collaborative approach to e-waste management in the region. Furthermore, the meeting noted the key actions undertaken by SPC and SPREP in addressing e-waste in PICTs, which included: (i) completion of a report on lessons learned from the highly successful Cook Islands e-waste day held in November 2010; (ii) development of a generic model for organising regional e-waste days based on the Cook Islands experience; (iii) completion of a Regional (Pacific) E-waste Strategy to support and promote local initiatives and enacting of national legislation to support implementation of these initiatives. Australia advised that Standards Australia is developing a joint Australia and New Zealand Standard for the collection, handling, and transportation and recycling of e-waste to ensure that occupational health and safety (OHS) and environmental performance are addressed. The Australian government offered to share information on the development of this standard to SPC and other interested parties, which may contribute to the development of the Regional (Pacific) e-waste strategy.

*Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society (PICISOC) update*

10. The meeting noted progress on PICISOC's initiatives to support the growing interest in the development of ICT and Internet in the Pacific. The meeting also noted: (i) the 'Green IT' approach adopted by PICISOC to address initiatives and issues surrounding climate change and environmental sustainability, which in turn support the initiatives of SPC to reduce the carbon footprint in the Pacific – making it a top priority in 2011; (ii) the inaugural Pacific Internet Governance Forum (IGF) being organised in New Caledonia, 9–10 April 2011; (iii) PICISOC's work towards facilitating broader involvement of Pacific nations in ICANN discussions and decision-making; and (iv) the strong focus of PICISOC on the rights of people to have equitable access to information on the Internet. The meeting also noted the submission by PICISOC that is currently under consideration by ICANN to create another region (or special interest group) that represents the needs and concerns of Pacific small island developing states at ICANN.

*APNIC: Strategic linkage between government policies and IPv6*

11. The meeting noted APNIC's presentation on the strategic linkage between government policies and IPv6, focusing on issues relating to the exhaustion of IPv4 addresses and the need for countries to adopt IPv6. The meeting also noted: (i) the immediate and prolonged impact of the exhaustion of IPv4 addresses; (ii) the APEC TEL IPv6 Guidelines for information sharing; and (iii) concerns on transition costs, which could be avoided by having a plan to factor in costs into the replacement of old equipment with new ones.

*ITU- EC: Capacity Building and ICT Policy, Regulatory and Legislative Frameworks for Pacific Island Countries (ICB4PAC)*

12. The meeting noted the update on the ICB4PAC project and acknowledged the efforts of ITU in assessing and strengthening ICT policy and capacity building in the ACP Pacific member countries through incountry support and priority topics agreed in planning meetings. The meeting noted that the recommendation tabled last year and is in the Tonga Declaration and requested ITU to liaise with EC and ACP to extend the ICB4PAC project beyond September 2011.

*Enhancing information and communication for empowerment and development in the Pacific*

13. The meeting noted an update on the progress of UNDP's initiatives in support of the Pacific Regional Digital Strategy and FAIDP in the Pacific. Furthermore, the meeting noted: (i) the role of ICT in supporting financial services access; (ii) the launch of the 'Pacific Solution Exchange' by UNDP in partnership with ADB, PIFS and USP; (iii) the launch of the Pacific Parliaments Network (<https://sites.google.com/site/pacificpin/home>) by the UNDP Pacific Centre, in partnership with the New Zealand and Australian parliaments; and (iv) the launch of 'PacificInfo' (see [www.pacificinfo.org](http://www.pacificinfo.org)) to help policy-makers address data gaps in socio-economic and demographic areas.

*Establishment of the Pacific ICT Regulatory Resource Centre (PIRRC)*

14. The meeting noted progress on the establishment of the Pacific ICT Regional Regulatory Resource Centre (the Centre) as an operating unit within USP and the recommendations concerning membership and governance of the Centre. The meeting also noted that a Director for the Centre had already been recruited and will be based in Suva soon. The meeting agreed that membership fees will be discussed on an individual basis with PICTs.

*ICT human capacity building: disaster risk management and climate change adaptation frameworks and ICT and information management systems for disaster risk management in the Pacific*

15. The meeting noted the capacity building initiatives in the Pacific region in the use of ICT for national and regional disaster risk management and climate change adaptation through the utilisation of new training modules of the "Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders Programme" (the Academy), developed by UN-APCICT/ESCAP. The meeting also acknowledged the need to develop national and regional human resources and institutional capacity to effectively use ICT to enhance DRR and support climate change adaptation. The meeting acknowledged the progress in the Pacific region on ICT and information management for disaster risk management including the Pacific Disaster Net and the need for dedicated resources to address and satisfy the information needs for DRM in the Pacific region.

*The University of the South Pacific ICT initiatives*

16. The meeting noted and accepted the progress report from USP on implementation of ICT initiatives since the last ministerial meeting in Tonga in June 2010, and recognised that USP extends its work in ICT to all PICTs. The meeting also noted that: (i) student numbers at USP continue to grow, with an increase of 10% being predicted; (ii) USP has reduced member contributions by 2%, taking into consideration financial situations; and (iii) all USP students are now required to take a course in communication and information literacy. The meeting commended USP for demonstrating 'next-generation thinking' to build ICT capacity in the region through innovative solutions and noted the issues related to 'brain drain' in the ICT sector in PICTs. The meeting also noted the close collaboration by USP with SPC, PITA, ITU, JICA

and UNAPCICT. The meeting noted the establishment of the Working Group on ICT and Education and its work plan.

*SPC Pacific ICT Outreach (PICTO) Programme*

17. The meeting noted the activities of the PICTO Programme of SPC's Economic Development Division and the focus areas: (i) assisting PICTs in reviewing and developing ICT policies; (ii) assisting PICTs to strengthen cyber legislation; (iii) supporting e-Government initiatives and assisting in the development of e-Government plans; (iv) supporting capacity building, especially using the Academy of ICT essentials; (v) providing support to Pacific ACP Parliaments; (vi) implementing the PacRICS (Pacific Rural Internet Connectivity System) and OLPC (One Laptop Per Child) projects; and (vii) undertaking coordination. The meeting also supported recommendations that PICT ICT projects incorporate monitoring and evaluation frameworks. The meeting further noted the combined regional ICT activities and requested SPC to continue compiling a schedule of the activities of development partners in the Pacific and to inform member countries regularly. The meeting noted that SPC continues to work with PICTs to trial the OLPC approach to computers in basic education and to ensure children have access to educational content relevant to Pacific needs (there are currently more than 4600 XO computers being used by children in 41 schools in 10 Pacific countries). PacRICS is now scaling up to widespread deployment following successful sustainable commercial operation. There are over 120 systems currently deployed, delivering life-saving services to government, schools and villages.

*ICT applications for telecentres*

18. The meeting noted apologies from ITU for not being able to present at the meeting and the request to consider the recommendations in the paper tabled. The meeting also noted that the recommendations were the same as last year's and requested ITU to report on progress made since the last ICT meeting in Tonga.

*Asia-Pacific Telecommunity in the Pacific*

19. The meeting noted APT's programmes in the Pacific and also in the wider regional programme for Asia and the Pacific. APT also assists PICs in preparing for ITU global forums and preparatory meetings. The meeting acknowledged APT's continuing engagement with PICs to develop ICT in the region.

*World Bank - Pacific regional connectivity*

20. The meeting noted the World Bank's report on progress towards improving international/regional connectivity in the Pacific region. The meeting noted the interest of private and public sector stakeholders in the development of additional submarine cable networks in other Pacific countries, including prospectively Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, and noted the potential financial support from the World Bank and other development partners to facilitate such projects through public-private partnerships or other catalytic mechanisms. The meeting acknowledged the progress made with the preparation of the Tonga-Fiji Connectivity Project to build a submarine cable from Nuku'alofa to Suva in 2012, with the support of the World Bank and the ADB, and led by the Tongan Government's Steering Committee (Cabinet Sub-Committee on ICT).

RECOMMENDATIONS: Pacific ICT ministers are invited to:

- i. Encourage PICTs to join PacCERT for a membership fee to be set by the PacCERT Board;
- ii. Request ITU to provide financial support to PacCERT and to continue assisting PacCERT to ensure it is sustainable as it is a key initiative for the Pacific, recognising the economic significance of a cyber security breach and the impact on the lives of the Pacific community;
- iii. Recognise the key role of ITU in ICT and telecommunication development in the Pacific and request ITU to re-establish a subregional office in the Pacific and request to extend the ICB4PAC project;
- iv. Request SPREP and SPC to strengthen regional collaboration in addressing emerging e-waste problems in the Pacific region and develop a regional e-waste programme;
- v. Encourage all PICTs to participate in ICANN, APT preparatory meetings for global ITU meetings, and APT General Assembly and Management Committee meetings to ensure that Pacific issues are addressed and that endorsed priorities are incorporated in these organisations' working programmes;
- vi. Assist industry in the Pacific region by providing certainty and support in the process of IPv6 take-up and request SPC, USP, PITA and relevant partners to develop a Pacific Regional IPv6 Action Plan for the Pacific in collaboration with expert organisations and relevant stakeholders;
- vii. Recognise UNDP's initiatives in Pacific Island nations to enhance the role of ICT in development, especially in facilitating access to financial services and knowledge sharing;
- viii. Support the invitation to Forum Island member countries to join the PIRRC for a membership fee as set by the Centre Management Committee and for non-Forum Pacific member countries and territories to apply for membership of PIRRC; endorse the governance arrangements for the Centre as proposed in the PIRRC paper; and authorise the PIRRC Working Group to conclude the necessary administrative arrangements with USP to allow the Centre to commence operations;
- ix. Support the initiatives of SPC and USP in national and regional capacity development; and support the implementation and delivery of training on UN-APCICT/ESCAP's Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders program, especially on ICT for development, DRR, and climate change;
- x. Recognise and continue to support the cross-cutting work in ICT that is being undertaken by all donor partners;
- xi. Support closer collaboration and information sharing with the energy and transport sectors;
- xii. Recognise the significance of improved connectivity for broad-based economic and social development in the region, in particular the impact of broadband Internet on socio-economic development in PICTs; and
- xiii. Encourage PICTs to establish national-level steering committees to review and refine international/regional connectivity needs and consider investment options, and to establish a clear mechanism for coordination with external partners.

**Agenda Item 3: Pacific Regional ICT Strategic Action Plan (PRISAP)**

21. The meeting noted that PRISAP had been formulated in response to the request from Pacific Regional ICT Ministers in June 2010 to develop an implementation plan for the 'Framework for Action on ICT for Development in the Pacific' (FAIDP). The PRISAP objective is to capture ICT activities in the Pacific region, identify actions and activities to implement the objectives and strategies in FAIDP, and provide guidance to regional interventions.
22. Furthermore, Pacific ICT ministers requested SPC to coordinate the implementation of FAIDP in collaboration with USP and development partners. The coordination role is not about controlling partners' work programmes but rather to provide mechanisms to ensure duplication is minimised and synergies and complementary activities are exploited. These mechanisms include better arrangements for sharing of data and information, and more regular consultations between partners on ICT activities in the region.
23. The development of PRISAP was led by SPC in collaboration with USP, the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP) ICT Working Group, Special ICT Advisory Group (SIAG), development partners, and Pacific Island countries and territories. The meeting noted the important role SIAG plays in ensuring regional ICT activities are relevant locally and can contribute to the implementation of national ICT policies.
24. New Zealand had questions about the case for SPC undertaking all of the actions that are attributed to SPC in the ICT and other two (energy & transport) implementation plans. They wish to explore this further during ministerial meetings this week, and therefore reserved their positions on the ICT and other two plans.

**RECOMMENDATIONS: Pacific ICT Ministers are invited to:**

- i. Endorse the Pacific Regional ICT Strategic Action Plan (PRISAP);
- ii. Request SPC, USP and development partners to work with PICTs to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of PRISAP; and
- iii. Request development partners to continue working with regional agencies to enhance coordination and collaboration in implementing PRISAP.

4 April 2011  
 Noumea, New Caledonia