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|  | ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY | **Document:**  **PRFP-12/OUT-01** |
| **12th**  **APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-12)** |
| 1 – 3 October 2019, Nuku’alofa, Tonga | 6 December 2019 |

Secretary General

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 12TH APT**

**POLICY AND REGULATION FORUM FOR PACIFIC**

1. INTRODUCTION

The 12th APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-11) was held from 1 to 3 October 2019 in Nuku’alofa, Tonga. The Meeting was organised by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and hosted by Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change, & Communications (MEIDECC), Government of Tonga.

The Meeting was attended by 61 participants from APT Members, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, Regional/International Organization, other organization and the APT Secretariat. Document PRFP-12/ADM-03 contains the list of participants of the meeting.

1. OPENING SESSION *(Tuesday, 1 October 2019, 9:30 – 10:00 hrs.)*
   1. **Welcome Remarks by Mr. Paula Pouvalu Ma’u, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC)**

Mr. Paula Pouvalu Ma’u, Chief Executive Officer, MEIDECC, Tonga welcomed all delegates to Tonga. He mentioned time flied but ICT dashed faster and the meeting was timely to address the important issues related to ICT and Broadband. He mentioned that because the remoteness where vast distances between them equates to high transaction costs and their smallness which often reminded them that they were not operating on economies of scale, but they all believed that ICT was the best available tool that providing them the bridge to opportunities and communicating 24/7 globally.

The full text of her address is provided in Document PRFP-12/INP-29.

* 1. **Welcome Address by Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General, APT**

Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General, APT, welcomed all delegates to the Forum. She expressed her condolences and sympathies to the Government and people of the Kingdom of Tonga as well as the family of the late Prime Minister. She mentioned that Pacific was a very important sub-region for the APT and APT had put effort and continuously provided assistances through various programmes including PRFP. She highlighted that the programme of PRFP had been designed in line with the five Strategic Pillars of the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020 and also brought in the vision of “Co-creating Connected Digital Future in the Asia-Pacific” as agreed by the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting in June in Singapore.

The full text of her address is provided in Document PRFP-12/INP-01.

* 1. **Address by Ms. Unutoa Fonoti, Chairman of PRFP**

Ms. Unutoa Fonoti, Chairman of PRFP, delivered her address. She mentioned that this was her first PRFP as Chair and she was looking forward to working along with Vice-Chairs from Vanuatu and Nauru and all Pacific Island countries to continue the work that was exceptionally done by previous Chairman. She appreciated the help of the APT Secretariat, Secretary General and her staff for their support in the Pacific Region. She mentioned that Pacific had moved from challenges of access to basic telecom services, but they still face challenges and had a long way to go. She highlighted that if the Pacific countries engage in effective dialogue and understanding through collaboration and cooperation, then they could achieve common goals and purposes.

The full text of her address is provided in PRFP-12/INP-02.

* 1. **Inaugural Address by Honorable Poasi M. Tei, Minister for Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications, Tonga**

Honorable Poasi M. Tei, Minister for Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications, Tonga, welcomed all delegates to the PRFP-12 in Tonga. He mentioned that technology had changed the way all people communicate, work, and interact. He believed that a national ICT or Broadband policy was required to nurture and ensure competition and standardization and encourages growth throughout the ICT sector. He also highlighted the importance of a regulatory framework to maximize the social and economic benefits, encourage further investment and competition in the sector, incorporate international best practice, and ensure compliance and commitments.

The full text of his address is provided in Document PRFP-12/INP-03.

1. SESSION 1 - PLENARY *(Tuesday,* *1 October 2019, 10:30 – 11:00 hrs*.*)*
   1. **Adoption of Agenda *(Doc. PRFP-12/ADM-01)***

Ms. Unutoa Fonoti, Chairman of PRFP, introduced the Provisional Agenda of the Meeting and sought comments from the meeting. As there was no comment, the Agenda was approved.

* 1. **Outcomes of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 *(Doc. PRFP-12/INP-04)***

APT Secretariat presented the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 (APT-MM 2019) which had been held from 25 to 26 June 2019 in Singapore. He explained the preparation process which include two meetings of the Correspondence Group for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting, which developed the draft Ministerial Statement, draft Press Release, tentative programme for Senior Officials Meeting and Ministerial Meeting. The Senior Officials Meeting finalized the draft Ministerial Statement and the draft Press Release. APT-MM 2019 adopted the Singapore Statement of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministers on Co-creating a Connected Digital Future in the Asia-Pacific and Press Release. He further explained five Strategic Goals of the Singapore Statement and their priority areas.

The meeting noted the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting.

* 1. **Outcomes of the ITU Global Symposium for Regulators 2019 (GSR-19) *(Doc. PRFP-12/INP-05)***

Ms. Unutoa Fonoti, Chairman of PRFP presented the outcomes of the ITU Global Symposium for Regulators 2019 (GSR-19). She mentioned that the best practice guidelines contain three parts i.e. 1) core design principles for collaborative regulations, 2) benchmarks for regulatory excellence and market performance, and 3) what regulatory tools and approaches are at hand for enabling digital experimentation? She then further elaborated on those parts including seven design principles, five main clusters of benchmarks for Regulators, and thirteen tools for enabling digital experimentation.

The meeting noted the outcomes of the ITU Global Symposium for Regulators 2019.

1. SESSION 2 – ROUNDTABLE OF HIGH-LEVEL POLICY MAKERS AND REGULATORS (*Tuesday, 1 October 2019, 11:00 – 12:15 hrs.)*

Moderator: Mr. Paula Ma’u, CEO, MEUIDECC, Tonga

* 1. **Panel Discussion**

Moderator invited panelists to share recent development and achievement of policy and regulation in the Pacific and emerging challenges in policy and regulation in their respective countries.

Ms. Unutoa Fonoti, Chairman of PRFP mentioned that it was always the regulator position to have open conversation with all the stakeholders in the market to make sure that there was a common understanding on issues that they had faced every day. For Samoa, it had been changed from focus on legal perspective to discuss things in a diplomatic way which made things moving for consumer and benefit of the country economics. GSR-19 had given a lot of tools and options to consider, from collaboration and cooperation between service providers, regulators, policy makers to make sure that things were moving forward.

Mr. Brian Winji, Regulator/CEO, TRBR, Vanuatu mentioned that the challenges faced in the region were almost similar. After the GSR-19, Vanuatu noticed that the legislation was a bit limited in terms of mandating the regulator to collaborate with other stakeholders. It was looking to amend relevant Acts mandating regulator to involve in collaboration with stakeholders. Government was also working to update and review ICT policies and looked at future technologies which would be addressed in the future as long as they were fit for purpose. Vanuatu also gave incentive for 700 MHz band to operators. It continued to exercise light touch approach and partnership approach with the industry.

Ms. Tepua Hunter, ICT Director, Office of the Prime Minister, Cook Islands talked about the development in telecommunication sector and briefly touched on ICT policy. Currently it had the work that had been pipelined for some years, new telecommunication legislation that was hoped to be passed by the end of the year. Current legislation was passed in 1989 and was outdated. New regulation will allow government to establish regulator. It had also developed ICT policy for 2016-2020. Collaboration and cooperation were also important because there was not enough consultation when the policy was developed in the past so when it come to implementing it, many people didn’t aware of the policy that was passed in 2016 and this was still a challenge to overcome.

Mr. Criden Appi, Chief Regulator, Nauru mentioned that problems for Pacific countries especially for Small Islands countries were unique and had different set of problem. The bottom line was the lack of capacity, lack of human resource which were challenges they were facing. Ten years ago, they didn’t have office of regulator and not too much concern about the competition. Ten years later, they had to work with service providers and the possibility to have cable landing in 2021. Although this was happening, they still didn’t have the idea how to put policy in place especially regarding the cable and would like to discuss with Tonga cable to get the idea how they were running things. There was a lot of challenges and hope the forum would give some answer to their challenges.

Mr. Clinton J. Freese, Palau National Communications Corporation, Palau, mentioned that they had an opportunity to have submarine cable landed in Palau two years ago. The challenge was that the government established the law to be able to open the market to different companies to come to Palau and establish telecommunication company. There were challenges since they had limited number of people in the country and opening the market to other companies killed the existing companies. There was improvement that the Internet cost was reduced. There was a plan to establish new submarine cable.

Moderator further added that the collaboration and cooperation seemed to be the way in the Pacific.

Panelists widely discussed on the topics including free market issue whether there was consultation and discussion or let the market force to determine the tariff, quality of service issue, type approval issue, best practice issue, and cybersecurity issue.

1. SESSION 3 – DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: ENABLING POLICIES AND TECHNOLOGIES *(Tuesday, 1 October 2019, 14:00 – 15:30 hrs.)*

Moderator: Mr. John Jack, Vice-Chairman of PRFP

* 1. **Digital Transformation for the Pacific Islands *(Doc. PRFP-12/INP-06)***

Mr. Paul Ulrich, Senior Policy Manager, APAC, GSMA presented the document. The presentation looked at the progress that the Pacific Islands have made, in the context of the GSMA’s framework of analysis and with findings from GSMA’s most recent Mobile Economy report on the Pacific Islands. The presentation used some recent IMF data to show how greater use of foundational IDs and training in mobile-enabled financial services could speed up the region’s digital transformation and penetration of mobile internet. A boost to usage would complement the greater coverage enabled by the laying of many more submarine cables to the region during the past decade.

* 1. **ICT Ecosystem Drives Digital Transformation *(Doc. PRFP-12/INP-25)***

Ms. Mary Lim, Spectrum and Regulatory Affairs Manager, Sigfox, presented the document. The presentation covered the technology (Sigfox) enable massive IoT, where the IoT ecosystem drives digital transformation, enabling the growth of business through strengthening the current business models and the creation of new offerings, services and products.

* 1. **Discussion**

There was a discussion regarding security vulnerability of IoT. GSMA mentioned IoT devices were inexpensive especially unlicensed devices and didn’t have computing ability to prevent cyber hacks. It was easy for hacker to access and attack through IoT devices, so it had to be careful on the security issue. The meeting also discussed on frequency band used for IoT devices, revenue model for IoT service, IoT application for developing small nations.

1. SESSION 4 – CONNECTIVITY IN THE PACIFIC *(Tuesday, 1 October 2019, 15:45 – 17:15 hrs.)*

Moderator: Mr. Paul Wilson, Director General, APNIC

* 1. **Status of International connectivity in the Pacific Islands region and perspectives *(Doc. PRFP-12/INP-07)***

Mr. Maui Sanford, Manager, MS Consulting Tahiti, French Polynesia presented the document. The presentation provided delegates, with a status of International connectivity in the Pacific including in particular: Effective International capacity usage on Submarine cables/design capacity/End of life; Satellite usage situation; Benchmark on International capacity wholesale pricing Satellite and Submarine cables; New developments on Satellite and Submarine Cables; Challenges to overcome and solutions and perspectives for the future.

* 1. **NGSO constellation - Space based global broadband connectivity *(Doc. PRFP-12/ INP-08)***

Dr. Siok Tan, Director of Regulatory Affairs, APAC, OneWeb presented the document. Global demand for data was growing exponentially, and terrestrial solutions cannot keep up. Satellite industry has been transforming to meet increasing data demand. The presentation covered the Innovative OneWeb System which provided lower cost per bit, services comparable to terrestrial networks, and high elevation and global coverage. It also discussed how the system works, how different it is, its progress, the markets it supports, powering source options, etc. Finally, it discussed the OneWeb opportunity to bridge the digital divide, potential options to market OneWeb solutions, and holistic strategy required to connect the highly rural/remote regions.

* 1. **Bringing More People Online to a Faster Internet in the Pacific *(Doc. PRFP-12/ INP-09)***

Mr. Tom Chottayil Varghese, Manager, Connectivity & Access Policy, Facebook, presented the document. With half of the world’s population unconnected there is need to explore new technologies, business models and policies to close the digital divide. Facebook Connectivity is working with partners around the world exploring innovative ways to bring fast, reliable internet to those without it. The presentation focused on how the challenges of accessibility, affordability and relevance of broadband services could be addressed in the Pacific.

* 1. **Remaining Connectivity Challenges in the Pacific World Bank engagement-update *(Doc. PRFP-12/INP-10)***

Ms. Natasha Beschorner, Senior Digital Development Specialist, World Bank, made a remote presentation. The presentation introduced initial challenges in the Pacific and the outcomes of the development which had significant increase in basic mobile services. It then provided the 2019 snapshot of the Pacific internet usage. For mobile broadband penetration, affordability remained a concern even though it was improving. The presentation further discussed the need for faster, more reliable and cheaper internet. Finally, it covered the Pacific Regional Connectivity Program, remaining access gap, and Digital Government, Digital ID investments.

* 1. **Regional Submarine Cable Update (Doc. PRFP-12/INP-27)**

Mr. Pepe Christian Fruean, Director Government Relations, Digicel Tonga presented the document. The presentation introduced the challenges for regional submarine cables and discussed the One Pacific Cable strategy. The project achieved CAPEX reduction with the solution for Islands nations to work together to develop mesh topology for the region which stimulate ICT innovation and Digital Transformation, increase the interaction between the islands and open opportunities for digital transformation, and provide restoration path for the existing infrastructure. Pacific island based datacenters with shared resources reducing international capacity requirements. Finally, it showed capacity forecast for 2016 – 2032.

* 1. **Discussion**

Facebook was asked regarding its work on High-Altitude Platform Stations (HAPS) in comparison with others such as Google Loon, and LEO satellite including CAPEX efficiency. Facebook replied that the principle on how the platform work was not different when comparing HAPS to Google Loon. Currently there was a lot of interest and many companies would like to invest. If spectrum was allocated, there would be a lot of commercial deployment and could see which platform would be succeed and work in practice.

Moderator asked panelists to nominate key policy and regulatory issues.

Mr. Maui Sanford suggested on bringing the label of quality of services to real broadband to maximize the use of investment.

Dr. Siok Tan suggested on technology neutrality, the open sky policy for satellite service, cost for frequency, and certification of equipment by international organization.

Mr. Tom Varghese highlighted on how regulators enable the competition in the best possible and technology neutral way and avoid selecting winner from the technology, and also spectrum issue.

Ms. Natasha Beschorner highlighted on infrastructure sharing, open access, nondiscriminatory pricing, infrastructure collaboration across sectors, and facilitating right of way.

Mr. Pepe Christian Fruean highlighted on open license regime, and consumer protection.

1. SESSION 5 – ISSUES IN TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES *(Wednesday, 2 October 2019, 09:00 – 10:15 hrs.)*

Moderator: Mr. Paul Ulrich, Senior Policy Manager, APAC, GSMA

* 1. **The Pacific Number Misappropriation & Premium Numbers *(Doc. PRFP-12/INP-11)***

Ms. Jo Quinn, Head of Carrier Solutions, Telecom New Zealand International presented the document. The presentation first discussed the number misappropriation issues and the reason the Pacific is targeted such as high termination rates, call rounding practice, and relatively small retail calling volumes. It also discussed what the impact are, and the current state. The presentation later covered the premium numbers issue including scenarios and issues. Finally, it talked about the TNZI managed service.

* 1. **Challenges of Small Operators in the Pacific – Aspects of MVNO *(Doc. PRFP-12/INP-12)***

Mr. Douglas Creevey, Telecommunications Consultant, PCL Consultants 2018 Ltd (NZ) presented the document. A broad review of the ICT landscape across the Pacific revealed mammoth advances in recent years, providing residents and visitors with new modern networks and new large-capacity submarine cables interconnecting the islands with each other, opening up international access. This had created many new market entrants to the islands bringing vigorous competition to the benefit of local customers, however expensive new infrastructure does still require payback. The presentation discussed some common aspects of competition implemented or available in telecom services for the Pacific, what had been the common choices, and what new options might be considered adaptable to respective market with the focus on MVNO.

* 1. **Mobile Roaming and Challenges for small operators in the Pacific *(Doc. PRFP-12/INP-13)***

Mr. Stuart Davies, consultant, presented the document. He mentioned that the APT Workshop on International Mobile Roaming (IMR) in Hong Kong in 2011 suggested that IMR was on its way out due to smartphone and OTT voice applications. Although IMR had gone through some radical changes, IMR was still there. However, the complaints were still with occurring, particularly with the small Pacific Islands operators. The presentation discussed what had been done in Europe, what the situation in the Pacific was, what would be the impact of LTE and VoLTE, and how to avoid roaming charges.

* 1. **Discussion**

APNIC added that the biggest IPv6 deployment happening these days was in the transition to LTE networks. It was possible to put IPv6 when deploying LTE networks from the beginning. The meeting discussed on the roaming cost issue, inter-operator costing arrangement. It also discussed whether MVNO was captured in the telecommunication legislation in the Pacific countries, whether AI was used in the fraud detection, whether there was any connectivity issue between host and MVNO networks, and possibility of MVNO case in Papua New Guinea.

1. SESSION 6 – DIGITAL INCLUSION: PROMOTING ICT ADOPTION FOR ALL *(Wednesday, 2 October 2019, 10:45 – 12:00hrs.)*

Moderator: Ms. Tepua Hunter, ICT Director, Office of the Prime Minister, Cook Islands

* 1. **Digital Inclusion: Promoting ICT Adoption for all *(Doc. PRFP-12/INP-14)***

Ms. Lydia Lemalu Jahnke, Assistant CEO – Policy and Planning, MCIT, Samoa presented the document. Digital Transformation is a national priority for Samoa and is making significant progress towards this goal. A commitment to provide an enabling environment for ICT development through improved connectivity and access for all to drive digital transformation, ensure continued socio-economic growth, innovation and better delivery of public and private services. The presentation then covered communication sector plan & national ICT policy, its implementation and the progress of various projects.

* 1. **Digital Inclusion in Tonga *(Doc. PRFP-12/INP-15)***

Mr. Stan ‘Ahio, Senior Telcom Engineer, MEIDECCC, Tonga presented the document. The presentation provided background of ICT in Tonga which was the first country in the Pacific to initiate ICT. The presentation then highlighted government priorities for Sustainable Development Goals/Tonga Strategic Development Framework II, regulatory frameworks, regulatory functions as a Ministry and as a Regulator. It also covered digital outputs & activities in Tonga “Projects” including connectivity projects and disaster and emergency projects.

* 1. **Building an Inclusive Internet for all (*Doc. PRFP-12/INP-16)***

Mr. Tom Chottayil Varghese, Manager, Connectivity and Access Policy, Facebook, presented the document. While half of the global population is connected to the internet, the digital divide appears to be widening at the bottom on the income pyramid, risking a reversal of past progress. The presentation looked at the latest research on the inclusive internet, and the main barriers facing the unconnected in the areas of access, affordability and awareness. It also looked at how data could be utilized for social good and the work undertaken by Facebook to strengthen digital literacy.

* 1. **Encouraging Digital Inclusion using QoS Measurements *(Doc. PRFP-12/INP-17)***

Dr. Jovan Barac, CEO Peritus and Advisor Athenasys, presented the document. The presentation provided delegates with ideas on how to use the regulatory environment to encourage digital inclusion and in particular how to define Quality of Service metrics, measure the Quality of Service, and set Quality of Service target. It discussed on using wireless QoS to encourage digital inclusion, dimensions of wireless digital inclusion, key approaches to measuring wireless QoS, and evaluation of measurement approaches.

* 1. **Discussion**

There was a discussion regarding the GSR-19 in Vanuatu where there was a question put forward to Facebook about the community standards given the fact that the culture in Asia-Pacific had a component that was different from other regions. Facebook replied that as a platform of 2.7 billion people on it, it shouldn’t be just Facebook that decide what type of content was allowed or not allowed. Facebook has announced the establishment of oversight board for community standards to put together a board of external experts to advice and make final decisions around dispute around community standard with the aim to have one set of community standard that apply globally. Facebook would try to engage more with delegates to get feedback particularly on content issue.

1. SESSION 7 – Cybersecurity : Managing Threats, Misleading Content and Data Privacy *(Wednesday, 2 October 2019, 14:00 - 15:15 hrs.)*

Moderator: Mr. Criden Appi, Chief Regulator, Nauru

* 1. **Online Safety in Australia *(Doc. PRFP-12/INP-18)***

Mr. Joseph McCarroll, Assistant Director, Department of Communications and the Arts, Australia presented the document. The presentation provided overview of Australia’s experience with internet regulation and online safety, how they get to where they are, how they currently do things, and the challenges they are facing. The eSafety Commissioner was established with broad roles that spans coordination, education and prevention. The presentation also explained various online issues including Cyberbullying, Cyberbullying complaints, Image-based abused, image-based abuse complaints, online content scheme, safety by design, abhorrent violent material.

* 1. **DNS Ecosystems Threats and Challenges *(Doc. PRFP-12/INP-19)***

Mr. Save Vocea, Vice President Stakeholder Engagement, Pacific, ICANN presented the document. The presentation provided information on current global security threats that compromised multiple country-code top level domains putting all the traffic of every domain at risk. New threats happen all the time so measures have already been implemented by ICANN to address these threats and discuss ways in which the multi-stakeholder community can best support their implementation. An example is the recommendation to implement DNSSEC.

* 1. **Routing Security in the Pacific *(Doc. PRFP-12/INP-20)***

Mr. Adrian Wan**,** Outreach Manager, Asia-Pacific, ISOC, presented the document. Internet routing failures happen every day. The most recent high-profile incident involved Verizon, causing outages at Cloudflare, Facebook, Amazon, among others, for nearly three hours in June. A few weeks prior, another routing failure by China Telecom lasted two hours and caused massive disruption in Europe. There was a clear need for network operators and the wider security community to improve routing security. The presentation explained why network operators should consider the Mutually Agreed Norms for Routing Security (MANRS), a community-driven global initiative that prevents such glitches by taking on security as a shared responsibility among networks. It also provided a technical overview of the related challenges and risks and showed the impact of recent incidents in the Pacific and the four actions operators could adopt.

* 1. **Discussion**

GSMA asked Members in the Pacific whether they provided any public service announcement on radio and television for those who were not using the Internet both to explain them potential benefits as well as to educate them on the potential risk if they went online. Samoa mentioned that it was a part of awareness that the regulator was doing. Cook Islands mentioned that it didn’t have radio announcement, but the police had the program to carry out the awareness in the school. Also, there was tablet training for senior citizens and women in the community to read update on climate change and emergency management. They also used opportunity to talk about the danger online and how to protect themselves. Papua New Guinea had projects awareness targeting on cybersecurity and cyberbullying issue but not yet policy for child online protection. Vanuatu launched CERT in 2018 and it went out to community and school in the provinces to do awareness as well as through television and national radio, and there were also other awareness programs done by other agencies.

There was also a discussion regarding the blocking of content for children in Australia whether the service provider had the obligation to block it before it reached the consumers. Australia replied that it was primarily complaint-based system.

1. SESSION 8 – CLOSED SESSION FOR POLICY MAKERS AND REGULATORS *(Wednesday, 2 October 2019, 15:45 – 17:00 hrs.)*

Moderator: Ms. Unutoa Fonoti, Chairman of PRFP

* 1. **Discussion**

Chairman requested Members to propose topics for discussion prior to the session. The topics proposed included:

* Stock take on where they were in the region on terms of development
* OTT services related issues and how to work collectively to address the issue
* Support services available for policy and regulation review
* Harmonization of spectrum
* Expansion of LTE and APT 700 MHz Band plan
* Capacity Building including the spectrum management area
* Digital Transformation policy and regulation
* Cybersecurity
* Digital Inclusion
* PiRRC issues and where and how it was heading
* Online safety activities
* ICT in Climate change

Policy makers and regulators widely discussed these issues including issues on PACCERT and national CERT of Pacific countries and issue on setting up of working group similar to those of the South Asia Telecommunication Regulators Council (SATRC).

Secretary General also raised an issue on the last-minute cancellation of participation by fellowship recipients due to their internal approval issue and she encourage Members to submit the internal approval at the same time they submitted fellowship application. In addition, she also explained the endorsement procedure for Preliminary APT Common Proposals (PACPs) for ITU WRC-19 and encouraged Members to contact APT Secretariat if they did not understand the process or importance of the endorsement.

1. SESSION 9 –E-APPLICATION AND ITS ROLE IN THE PACIFIC *(Thursday, 3 October 2019, 9:00 – 10:15 hrs.)*

Moderator: Dr. Hlekiwe Kachali, ETC Coordinator, WFP

* 1. **E-Applications - PNG e-Agriculture Projects Implementation Experiences *(Doc. PRFP-12/INP-21)***

Ms. Mollina Mercy KAPAL, Principal Projects Engineer – ICT Applications, NICTA, Papua New Guinea presented the document. The presentation introduced the e-Agricultural pilot projects which were based on the PNG e-Agriculture Strategy that aimed at harnessing the ICT potential of the country in achieving the agriculture goals and further strengthening the role of ICTs in accelerating the growth of the agriculture sector in a sustainable and equitable manner. It described various pilot projects delivered under e-Agriculture Strategy. The presentation also highlighted the project on Pigs Traceability Using Blockchain Technology. It also discussed various challenges such as digital literacy, access to smart phones, etc., and the providing solutions for them.

* 1. **Development in Digital Business – E - Tourism *(Doc. PRFP-12/INP28)***

Mr. Clinton J. Freese, Property/Resources Duty Manager, Palau National Communications Corporation, Palau, presented the document. The presentation first highlighted the increasing speed of uptake of technology and then discussed the definition of E-Tourism and its outcomes. It then discussed characteristics of tourism, problems with traditional approach, drivers for e-Business in tourism, history of ICTs in tourism. The presentation also covered e-business and industry value chains, benefits of ICTs for tourism, and issues with E-Tourism.

* 1. **Mobile Money Solution *(Doc. PRFP-12/INP-22)***

Mr. Anthony Seuseu, CEO, Digicel Tonga presented the document. The presentation first explained the concept of Digicel Mobile Money which was endorsed by the National Reserve Bank of Tonga and launched in the Kingdom of Tonga in January 2011. It further explained the background to have the service in Tonga, key features of the service, the available products, and subscriber experience – USSD Menu. It finally discussed how International Money Transfer (IMT) works and the IMT statistics.

* 1. **Discussion**

The meeting widely discussed on mobile money issue including the issue on who would regulate and checking terms and condition for the mobile money if there was a customer complaint. Digicel commented that it was needed to ensure that consumers feel that they would be able to get assistant if they had problem. So, the first person would be the operator which own the customer. They should also have the ability to raise the issue with the regulator and ensure that necessary communication protocol was in place to be able to answer them. When it comes to financial regulation, the central and reserve bank would be the appropriate one. The meeting also discussed on issue of e-application as outreach activity to expand the scope of financial service to rural area, and the awareness program to educate users on those services.

It also discussed on usage of blockchain to establish trust in e-agriculture, sharing of source code for the e-Agriculture Application to other Members, the need to look at legislation for e-Application.

In addition, the meeting discussed how PNCC Palau play a role in e-tourism value chain, the benefit it received.

1. SESSION 10 – DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN THE PACIFIC *(Thursday, 3 October 2019, 10:45 – 12:00 hrs.)*

Moderator: Ms. Unutoa Fonoti, Chairman of PRFP

* 1. **National Emergency Telecommunication Plan - Disaster Management related Project in the region *(Doc. PRFP-12/INP-23)***

Mr. John Jack, Deputy Chief Information Officer, OGCIO, Vanuatu, presented the document. All ICT tools can be designed to work perfectly to enable us to achieve tasks and goals. In times of disaster, ICT is equally important. However, lack of proper coordination and collaboration can be detrimental to the achieving targets and goals despite the best technology used. As such, a National Emergency Telecommunication Plan (NETP) is very important for Island nations considering limitation in resources and susceptible to natural activities. The presentation introduced the structure of the Vanuatu National Emergency Telecommunication Cluster (NETC) and explained purposes and scope of NETP, phases of a disaster, activities in the phases of a disaster, and example of technologies used.

* 1. **SES: Providing Critical Connections in Asia-Pacific *(Doc. PRFP-12/INP-26)***

Dr. Tare Brisibe, Senior Legal & Regulatory Counsel, Asia-Pacific, SES World Skies, presented the document. Each year, natural disasters and premeditated incidents cost the world billions of dollars in economic losses, and uncountable loss of life. Restoring communications is key. Where terrestrial networks fail, satellite communications can deliver guaranteed connectivity across continents while pushing through ever-higher data rates for a broad variety of crisis management applications. The presentation highlighted rapidly deployable crisis connectivity solutions including satellite assets, ground systems, network services and lifecycle services to ensure smooth deployment and operation throughout the entire mission, whilst showcasing related projects in the Pacific region and beyond.

* 1. **Policy and regulation as instruments in emergency telecommunications preparedness: national and regional strategies *(Doc. PRFP-12/INP-24)***

Dr. Hlekiwe Kachali, ETC Coordinator, WFP presented the document. The Pacific region experiences an average of three major disasters per year. ICTs allow us opportunities in all segments of the disaster management cycle. Telecommunications regulators are an invaluable part of the emergency telecommunications scene. The presentation introduced the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Cluster System, the Emergency Telecommunication Cluster (ETC) and its mandate, national challenges for Emergency Telecommunications, ETC in the Pacific, Strategic Priorities, and ETC in the Pacific.

* 1. **Discussion**

Tonga thanked WFP for their assistance in the area of telecommunication in emergency situation and shared its experience and lesson learnt from cyclone in previous years. It also discussed about Tampere Convention and the assistance received during the emergency, incentive for service providers during disaster, and common spectrum for disaster management equipment and its circulation.

1. SESSION 11 -- FUTURE OUTLOOK AND CLOSING *(Thursday, 3 October 2019, 12:00 – 12:45 hrs.)*

Moderator: Ms. Unutoa Fonoti, Chairman of PRFP

* 1. **Discussion**

Chairman opened the floor for comments especially on how to take PRFP to the next steps and what would be the actions that it needs to work on in order to avoid coming to the next PRFP and discuss the same issues repeatedly. The issues and topics suggested for consideration were:

* Circulation of topics for discussions to Members for their reviews and comments
* The need for the meeting to produce outcome and action and how to translate the discussion into action and how to use PRFP to support that
* Having more interactive sessions to share experience
* Competitive tariff rate for the affordability
* Quality of Service
* Roaming
* National security issue
* Climate change and ICT

It was also suggested that instead of putting down subjects for discussion, the topics for conversation during the forum could start with several questions that want answers during the forum. Then to have a review and discuss whether the session would answer the questions adequately and professionally.

Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA) commented that the issues for PRFP were also common issue to PITA as well and regulators were welcomed to PITA forum. There was a suggestion to establish a council with involvement of Pacific countries similar to that of SATRC. Australia proposed to organize a workshop to discuss this issue.

* 1. **Date and Venue of PRFP-13**

Secretary General informed that Vanuatu would be the next host for PRFP-13 in 2020. Vanuatu confirmed that the government approved the hosting of PRFP-13 in 2020 in Port Vila and hoped to see all delegates there. The date would be confirmed and informed later. Chairman thanked Vanuatu for kindly accepting to host PRFP-13.

* 1. **Any other matters**

There was no other matter.

* 1. **Closing**

Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General of APT delivered closing remarks. She mentioned that the contribution had been very fruitful for the meeting even though it could not have all Members of the Pacific attending this meeting. She encouraged those who attended the meeting to attend PRFP-13 in 2020. She added that Secretariat would try its best to coordinate on the format for PRFP-13. She thanked the host, Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change, and Communication, for all the hospitality and arrangement as well as its Secretariat team. She thanked Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, speakers, moderators, and all participants for making PRFP-12 happen and ensured that Secretariat would try to facilitate to provide coordination for Pacific sub-region.

Mr. Paula Pouvalu Ma’u, Chief Executive Officer, MEIDECC delivered his remarks. He thanked all delegates to spend their time in Tonga. He thanked Secretary General and Secretariat team, office bearers, participants, as well as industry sponsors. He mentioned that the participants had developed common bonds among them to help each other anytime and anywhere in this internet world, and by working together they could achieve a lot to help the people they serve.

Ms. Unutoa Fonoti, Chairman of PRFP thanked APT for organizing PRFP successfully and hope it to be continued. She thanked CEO of MEIDECC and his staff for the warm welcome and hospitality during the whole week. She also encouraged policy makers and regulators in the Pacific to consider GSR-19 Best Practice Guidelines to draft their work plan. She mentioned that the establishment and operation of national and regional partnerships between regulators, policy makers, and service providers would be a critical enabler for them to move forward.

She then declared the meeting closed.

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