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| **The 16th APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-16)** | **PRFP-16/OUT-01** |
| 30 August – 1 September 2023, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (hybrid) | 13 November 2023 |

Secretary General

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16TH APT**

**POLICY AND REGULATION FORUM FOR PACIFIC**

1. INTRODUCTION
   1. The 16th APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-16) was held from 30 August to 1 September 2023 in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, with hybrid format (both physical and virtual/online attendance through APT Zoom meeting). The meeting was hosted by the National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA), Papua New Guinea, and supported by the generous contributions from Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, Australia and Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan. The PRFP-16 was preceded by the Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue (28-29 August 2023)”, which adopted a Ministerial Declaration on the theme “Smart Pacific, One Voice – Creating a Digital Future together for the Pacific”.

The meeting was attended by 152 participants from APT Members, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, International Organizations, and other organizations. Document: PRFP-16/ADM-03 contains the list of participants of the PRFP-16.

1. OPENING SESSION *(Wednesday, 30 August 2023, 09:30 – 10:00 hrs., UTC+10)*
   1. **Welcome Speech by Mr. Kila Gulo-Vui, CEO, NICTA, PNG** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-01)*

Mr. Kila Gulo-Vui, CEO, NICTA, PNG, welcomed all delegates to PRFP-16 at Port Moresby. He explained the importance of digital technology rapidly developing in diverse fields including mobile communications, cloud computing, artificial intelligence (AI), and the internet of things. He also mentioned the importance of making better and more meaningful use of digital technologies by having strong policies and regulations in place, as well as a climate that inspires trust among our stakeholders. This included (1) reliable and affordable ICT infrastructure, (2) skilled human resources, and (3) enabling policies and regulatory environments. Lastly, he mentioned that the Forum provided an opportunity to address the immense opportunities and challenges that digitalization and the challenges that it poses.

* 1. **Welcome Remarks by Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General, APT** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-02)*

Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General, APT, welcomed all delegates to PRFP-16. He also mentioned the Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue, which was organized prior to PRFP-16, and welcomed synergizing these two events. He congratulated for the successful event to which APT extended its support to leverage the momentum. He mentioned that PRFP-16 had more than 150 registered participants from 14 countries. He added that the APT Secretariat intended to make PRFP-16 informative and productive for APT members, especially for the members from the Pacific by reflecting key elements from the Ministerial Dialogue. He thanked Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates for joining and encouraged participants to participate actively and derive the greatest benefit from the PRFP-16.

The full text of his address is provided in Document: PRFP-16/INP-02.

* 1. **Opening Remarks by Mr. John Jack, Chair of PRFP**

Mr. John Jack, Chair of PRFP mentioned that it was his immense pleasure to deliver the opening remarks at this PRFP-16. He conveyed his sincere thanks and gratitude to the Government and people of Papua New Guinea for hosting the PRFP-16. He emphasized on the importance of signing of the “Lagatoi Declaration on the Digital Transformation of the Pacific” and that the Pacific countries needed to communicate well in terms of having one voice and greater collaborations. He highlighted the importance of ICT in the Pacific region, especially in the area of broadband connectivity, cybersecurity, and disaster management. He congratulated and thanked all participants who attended PRFP-16 for making the wise decision to attend this significant gathering where many unique Telecommunications/ICT development issues and challenges faced by the Pacific communities would be addressed and discussed.

* 1. **Inaugural Address by Hon. Mr. Timothy Masiu, Minister for ICT, PNG** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-04)*

Hon. Mr. Timothy Masiu, Minister for ICT, Papua New Guinea mentioned that it was his esteem pleasure to welcome all participants and conveyed his heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the Government and people of the Papua New Guinea. He reprised his address from the inaugural Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue, which was held here in Port Moresby on the 28th and 29th of August, titled "Smart Pacific, One Voice - Creating a Digital Future for the Pacific." He highlighted the commitment to speaking with one voice - a voice that echoes not only inside our region, but also across international and regional platforms, advocating for our common interests and concerns. Regional cooperation through existing networks, and especially through regional organizations, must speak a single language in order to improve our people's livelihoods through the use of technology such as ICTs. He gave all the very best wishes to the productive discussions and fruitful outcomes. He declared that the PRFP-16 was officially open.

The full text of his remarks is provided in Document: PRFP-16/INP-04.

1. SESSION 1 - PLENARY *(Wednesday, 30 August 2023, 10:30 – 11:000 hrs*, *UTC+10)*
   1. **Adoption of the Agenda** *(Document: PRFP-16/ADM-01)*

Mr. John Jack, Chair of PRFP, introduced the Provisional Agenda of the Meeting. He sought comments on the document. As there was no comment, it was adopted.

* 1. **Outcomes of the 46th Session of the Management Committee of the APT Relevant to PRFP** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-05)*

APT Secretariat presented outcomes of the 46th Session of the Management Committee of the APT (MC-46) relevant to PRFP. The following decisions were made:

1. MC-46 adopted the report of the PRFP that was submitted as document MC-46/INP-07.
2. MC-46 approved the revised Working Methods of PRFP, which can be found in document MC-46/OUT-04.
3. MC-46 approved the Work Programme on PRFP and the holding of PRFP-16 in 2023, which can be found in document MC-46/OUT-15.
4. MC-46 adopted the following Code of Conduct which shall be observed in all APT Work Programmes.

*“The Code of Conduct requires that all participants in connection with APT meetings or events, whether virtual or physical, must observe professional, respectful and responsible conduct at all times, bearing in mind zero tolerance on discrimination or intimidation against cultural, ethnic, religious and gender differences to facilitate a safe and inclusive environment”.*

The Secretariat further explained the actions to be taken by PRFP including:

1. APT Secretariat and APT Work Programmes to review all its documents and its Working Methods for the inclusion of the gender-neutral language.
2. APT Secretariat to inform PRFP on the revised Working Methods.

The Plenary noted the outcomes of the MC-46 relevant to PRFP.

* 1. **Introduction of Ministerial Declaration at the Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue *(****Document: PRFP-16/INP-06)*

Mr. Kila Gulo-Vui, CEO, NICTA briefly explained the background, key points of the Lagatoi Declaration and its priorities. He also mentioned that the Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting was held on 28-29 August 2023 at APEC Haus, Port Moresby with the theme “Smart Pacific One Voice- Creating a Digital Future Together for the Pacific”. He also discussed about the Declaration aligning with the 2050 strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. He also discussed and identified six strategic priorities that are critical to digital transformation and ICT development in the Pacific. He thanked all delegates who actively participated during the 4th Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting.

He asked for any views and suggestions from the Members.

Dr. Maria Myutel from Australia proposed to discuss the draft Action Plan for the Pacific based on six strategic priorities during each session of the Forum.

APT Secretariat suggested to discuss the action and measures during the closed session for Policymakers and Regulators.

Australia agreed to the Secretariat’s suggestion.

* 1. **Progress Report of Working Group on Regional Engagement**

Mr. Kila Gulo-Vui, Chair of Working Group of PRFP provided the update on key focus on the development of the declaration and key outcomes of Ministerial Meetings and preparation works. The key activities included having correspondence group meetings and participation in ITU regional conferences (WRC) through APT process by Pacific.

He thanked Australia Government for leading and initiating a proposal which was now going through the ITU process.

1. SESSION 2 – (MINISTERS SESSION)ROUNDTABLE ON UPDATES OF POLICY & REGULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION *(Wednesday, 30 August 2023, 11:00-12:15 hrs., UTC+10)*

This session was moderated by Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General, APT. He requested the Speakers to deliver their presentations or statements.

* 1. **Statement by Hon. Mr. Timothy Masiu, Minister, Ministry of Information and Communications Technology, Papua New Guinea**

Hon. Mr. Timothy Masiu, Minister, Ministry of Information and Communications Technology, Papua New Guinea delivered the statement. He emphasized on the outcomes of everyone's deliberations would not only help chart a route for region's digital transformation but will also reaffirm calls for both APT and ITU to increase its focus to the Pacific Region. He also shared that PNG’s digital transformation journey began with the Digital Transformation Policy in 2020 followed by the enactment of the Digital Government Act in 2022. The Digital Government Plan 2023 - 2027 outlined a roadmap to digitize Government-to-Citizen, Government-to-Government, and Government-to-Business digital services, establish and maintain digital service standards, and complete broadband coverage to 90 percent of the population by 2027. He discussed enabling policies including the National Cyber Security Policy 2021, Government Cloud Policy 2023, the draft Data Governance and Protection Policy 2023, and the draft National Media Development Policy 2023. He added the Pacific region will work together to achieve digital transformation. Lastly, he stated that the dialogue gave an opportunity for regulators to discuss action plans for implementing the Lagatoi Declaration while aligning with the appropriate resources and assistance.

* 1. **Statement by Hon. Toelupe Poumulinuku Onesemo, Minister, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Samoa**

Hon. Toelupe Poumulinuku Onesemo, Minister, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Samoa delivered a statement. He emphasized the importance of having one voice from the Pacific region for support and common understanding and overcome ICT challenges over the region. He emphasized the importance of Ministerial Declaration to gain support of locals in rural areas and provide digital connectivity where possible and ensure brighter future for the Pacific region. He urged everyone to work together and stay together in order to get international recognition and identify priorities and unique challenges, despite of limited resources and marketing opportunities. Lastly. he thanked all the Members to unite and be strong to face any challenges together.

* 1. **Statement by Hon. Ped Shanel Agovaka, Minister, Ministry of Communication and Aviation, Solomon Island**

Hon. Ped Shanel Agovaka, Minister of Ministry of Communication and Aviation, Solomon Islands delivered the statement. He emphasized on the importance of the Ministerial Declaration, support from technical officials and financial institutions such as World Bank and Asian Development Bank. He also supported on having one voice to avoid digital divide among the members countries and have strong networking opportunities and collaborations. He also mentioned on providing broadband services to the provinces in the Solomon Islands to ensure good internet connectivity services in the island. He also mentioned the government of Solomon Islands faced several challenges such as finance, technology, and partnership, but has been doing their best to overcome the challenges. He thanked everyone for sharing their views and experience in the Forum to better understand the connectivity situations among Pacific countries.

* 1. **Statement by Ms. Tupou’tuah Baravilala, Director General Digital Government, Transformation, Cybersecurity and Communications, Ministry of Communication, Fiji**

Ms. Tupou’tuah Baravilala, Director General Digital Government, Transformation, Cybersecurity and Communications, Ministry of Communication, Fiji delivered a statement. She mentioned that during the Ministerial Meeting, the Government of Fiji had outlined the policy landscape for Fiji on Digital Transformation. She discussed on enhancing common understanding, trusted datasets, data exchange platforms, and quick deployed digital services to ensure digital trust and security among the people. She mentioned the current challenges for the need to ensure the knowledge gap is bridged properly with digital literacy and cyber awareness among Fijians. She emphasized the needs to be resilient and have robust workforce including targeted support for girls, women, and vulnerable communities. The availability, accessibility and the affordability of digital technology had given them opportunities to be able to improve services and increase closer engagement of government ministries and agencies with Fijians.

* 1. **Statement by Ms. Carole Marchal, Senior Advisor, New Caledonia Government, New Caledonia**

Ms. Carole Marchal, Senior Advisor to Minister Muliava, New Caledonia Government delivered a statement. She thanked the APT for all their hard work to organize a very successful event. She also echoed Minister Muliava’s earlier statement that digital technology was the new ocean and a common link bringing all people together. She added that Pacific islanders shared a common heritage and faced similar opportunities and challenges. She voiced the support of the New Caledonian government to convey ‘one voice for the Pacific people’, in line with the Lagatoi Declaration, to ensure better representation of Pacific island countries and territories in international fora. She also expressed the New Caledonian Government’s commitment to contribute to identifying and progressing shared solutions to overcome digital and ICT challenges faced by countries and territories in the Pacific region. She also thanked everyone for creating such networking opportunities for the Pacific countries to be heard globally in relevant regional conferences and events.

* 1. **Statement by** **Mr. Tabotabo Auatabu, Chief Legal and Licensing Officer, Ministry of Information, Communications and Transport, Kiribati**

Mr. Tabotabo Auatabu, Chief Legal and Licensing Officer, Ministry of Information, Communications and Transport, Kiribati delivered a statement. He mentioned in 2019, the government of Kiribati updated the National ICT policy which outlined the ongoing initiatives and ensured strategies that aimed to accessing modern technology within a secured environment to all citizens of Kiribati. In 2020, the Government of Kiribati endorsed the National Cybersecurity Strategy dedicated to modernizing the public service delivery. To promote good governance, a Digital Government Plan was passed by the cabinet, and which aligned with the National Policies, Government’s Manifesto and Kiribati KV20 vision in harnessing digital solutions and management information system. He shared about small southern island of Kiribati has been selected by the Cabinet under the Smart Island project and a comprehensive digital strategy on this is in progress with the support from ITU. He also mentioned about the Digital Government Bill 2023, aimed to establish a legal framework for the government services involving the digital solutions and establish Digital Transformation Office (DTO).

* 1. **Discussion**

The Secretary General of APT, the moderator of this session thanked all the speakers and summarized on the discussions by using the title of the Lagatoi Declaration that is the outcome of the Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue, i.e., the common factors of each speech and presentation are “Smart Pacific”, and it should have “one voice”, to promote “creating digital future” and all stakeholders should work “together” “for the Pacific region”. So, it makes the common understanding be “Smart Pacific, one voice, and creating digital future together for the Pacific region”.

1. SESSION 3 – (BUSINESS DIALOGUE) ICT REGULATORY POLICY TO EMPOWER DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION (*Wednesday, 30 August 2023, 14:00-15:15 hrs., UTC+10)*

This session was moderated by Mr. Phillip Henderson, Vice President, Pacific Islands Telecommunication Association (PITA). He requested the Speakers to deliver their presentations.

* 1. **Views on OTT service providers**

Mr. Colin Stone, CEO, Digicel PNG shared his views on OTT service providers such as Whatsapp and Facebook. He also shared that the OTT service providers played a crucial role to connect people and other unconnected people through their platforms and contribute to the high-end socio-economic development of the island nations in the Pacific region. He also expressed that this also an opportunity for regulatory regime to raise awareness and look forward for better interconnectivity within the island nations. He said reforms needs to bring in terms of accessibility of ICT services through various subsidized schemes and services to be provided by the telecom operators.

* 1. **Broadband Universal Service for a Better-Connected Smart Islands** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-09)*

Mr. Frank Yuan, Marketing Director, Huawei Technologies presented the document. He discussed on the emerging market was needed for better broadband connectivity and urged that MBB is necessary for all population to foster education, tourism, health, and e-commerce sectors. Based on NICTA Universal Access and Service (UAS) strategic plan 2023-2027, he shared that 100% of PNG’s population will cover by reliable advanced wireless mobile telecommunications network signals (at least 4G+ quality) and increased coverage of fixed broadband services. Similarly in Malaysia, the government improved wireless 4G population coverage to 96.9% by 2022. He mentioned that the ITU recommended Digital Infrastructure Policy and Regulation in Asia-Pacific with five effective strategies (5S) like Strategy, Spectrum, Site infra share, Supportive incentive and Standards to ensure quality of service. Lastly, he shared that Huawei provided innovative, and scenario based rural solution for Smart Islands and emphasized on adopting a shared social responsibility together for better connected world.

* 1. **ICT Regulatory Policy to Empower Digital Transformation (***Document:PRFP-16/INP-10)*

Mr. Paul Komboi, CEO, DataCo, Papua New Guinea presented the document. He mentioned about the importance of Digital Infrastructure and build resiliency around the island countries and ensuring good ICT services. He talked about the challenges faced by the telecom operators in the Pacific region such as taxation, Good Service Tax (GST), managing human resources, meeting licensing and regulatory requirements of the sector specifics. He also provided a summary of how regulations could be used to preserve and protect infrastructure, data, and people. It might serve as a catalyst for bringing the remaining 50% of the world's population online and as an equalizer, ensuring that all market participants enjoy a level playing field. He stressed the role that regulation may play in creating and maintaining an environment that promotes and sustains returns on investments in digital infrastructure. He added in order to continue achieving the government's development goals, the industry players needed an environment that promoted and sustained return on investment for the local operators.

* 1. **Optimize Regulation and Support Innovation in Leo Constellation (***Document: PRFP-16/INP-11)*

Mr. Peng Zhao, Government Affairs and Policy, OneWeb presented the document. He shared that OneWeb was building an unparalleled end-to-end LEO system that supplies broadband style data speeds to every part of the world. He mentioned their network is first LEO constellation to complete its deployment, meet this truly global connectivity challenge. He shared about the Space, Ground and Operational Execution underway with 634 satellites in orbit with full coverage in Alaska, Canada, and Northern Europe. He also talked on developing new connectivity and networking solutions for a variety of markets, working with distribution partners and MNOs to do so in fields like enterprise, maritime, aviation, government and cellular backhaul. He provided information on the digital gap between urban and rural populations' Internet usage rates in 2021. He discussed the need to optimize regulation, support innovation, and how regulation serves as a tool for fostering competitiveness and bridging the digital divide.

* 1. **Project Kuiper (***Document: PRFP-16/INP-12)*

Ms. Sonja Lukic, Manager, International Regulatory Affairs, Amazon presented the document. She introduced the Project Kuiper which is an initiative to increase global broadband access through a constellation of satellites in low Earth orbit (LEO) to deliver fast, affordable broadband to unserved and underserved communities around the world.

She mentioned about the how Kuiper worked over 3,000 satellites in 3 orbital shells, with various inclinations. She also shared the customers and use cases in residential, small business, public service, enterprise and transportations, emergency services and telecommunications and talked about customer terminal types and affordability and some key milestones (2022-2029). She discussed the LEO regulatory challenges such as bridging through digital divide and explained about the enabling framework for LEO satellite connectivity through regulatory framework, spectrum access, spectrum assignments and WRC-23 future agenda item.

* 1. **Discussion**

The Moderator asked Mr. Frank Yuan about the key lessons for other countries in the region in terms of expanding mobile broadband coverage and what needs to be done.

Mr. Frank Yuan mentioned that a better world can be achieved by Connected 2030 through improved connection for sustainable development and government-driven policies that encourage universal service. He also shared that in Malaysia, wireless 4G population coverage was achieved to be 96.9% by 2022. He hoped in coming years, regulators could consider releasing more mid bands and provide smart devices in the rural areas.

Mr. Collin Stone added that they needed to set goals in terms of practicability and reasonable approaches in achieving coverage issues in the pacific island countries.

The Moderator asked Mr. Peng Zhao about the One web’s market relevance in terms of marine cable in the future.

Mr. Peng Zhao mentioned the marine cables connected islands with reliable connectivity and added having a good business model to combat the connectivity's cost effectiveness in terms of affordability.

The Moderator asked Ms. Sonja Lukic about different approach with Kuiper in the already established LEO constellation operated regions.

Ms. Sonja Lukic mentioned about additional competitor, quality of services, affordability that goes with competition, use cases and level of partnerships across the region that Kuiper could offer as different approach.

Mr. Paul Komboi expressed that there is a need of satellites connectivity with affordability as required in PNG in terms of domestic backhauling.

Mr. Peng Zhao mentioned about their current plan to connect 40-45 gateways or satellite network portals (SNPs) across the globe to serve connectivity with affordable prices and establish inter connection with the local partners.

Mr. Colin Stone mentioned paying huge amounts of satellite costs for the broadband connectivity in PNG and urged to develop mechanisms in considering affordability with connectivity.

PNG shared the need of critical digital infrastructure sharing and affordable access and connectivity in the islands in Pacific region.

Ms. Sonja Lukic mentioned about all requirements were needed to meet in terms of regulatory obligations and having open dialogues with the government to set standards in behind for customer terminals, which are in current discussion.

The moderator thanked all panelists for giving a comprehensive description and sharing their views.

1. SESSION 4 – ACCELERATING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN THEPACIFIC *(Wednesday, 30 August 20232, 15:45 – 17:00 hrs., UTC+10)*

This session was moderated by Mr. Russell Woruba, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communications Technology, PNG. He requested the Speakers to deliver their presentations.

* 1. **Accelerating Digital Transformation in The Pacific** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-13)*

Ms. Neiran Areta, Administration and Regulatory Manager Communications Commission of Kiribati presented the document. She highlighted the significance of Lagatoi Declaration and importance of having one voice among the Pacific nations for digital transformation. She also discussed the significance of data exchange, data collection, data sharing between government agencies and optimizing digital governance processes. She also discussed how submarine cables, ABS, 03b, Kacific, and JSAT satellite network operators connect Kiribati to the rest of the globe through satellite. She provided information on subscriber statistics for network, mobile, and internet coverage.

She also mentioned the World Bank supported the implementation of the Digital Government Master Plan 2021. The objective of the project is to build the foundations and strengthens the Government’s technical and institutional capacity for digital public service delivery.

* 1. **Generative AI and Regionally, Culturally Significant Languages** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-14)*

Mr. Joshua Rich, Insights Analyst, Computer Emergency Response Team, New Zealand presented the document. He explained about the Generative AI and Regionally, Culturally Significant Languages. The Generative AI is designed to generate new content on its own rather than responding to inputs from a human user. He explained about the malicious messaging which are communications aimed to deceive or cause harm (directly or indirectly) such as phishing, general scams and fraud, trust or romance scams, social media influencing and misinformation / disinformation. He mentioned about regionally, culturally significant language group and the breaking down language barriers by Large Language Models (LLMs) are being trained on a variety of different languages such as ChatGPT & Bard, large open-source communities. He also added that the AI could be managed by education campaigns, trust but verify approaches and incorporate into security training.

* 1. **Tonga 5G Strategy- Accelerating Digital Transformation for Tonga** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-15)*

Mr. William Stanton Ahio, Chief Communications Engineer, Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications, Tonga presented the document. He explained that 5G, a high-speed 5th generation of mobile technology, is intended to address the unique needs and challenges faced by the nation in order to ensure that the telecommunications sector can take advantage of the potential of 5G technology for its economic, social, and technological development. Although theoretically designed to deliver 10Gbps, 5G technology actually delivers an average of 100+Gbps worldwide. Through network coverage and capacity, fiberoptic connectivity, interoperability and standards, power supply and energy efficiency, capacity development, and spectrum allocation, he emphasized infrastructure development to enable the successful development and operation of 5G. He shared the importance of public-private partnerships in uniting the government, telecom companies, equipment suppliers, and any other key parties to share resources, knowledge, and risks.

* 1. **Discussion**

PNG asked Mr. William Stanton Ahio to explain what are the factors that has led to low utilization of fiber.

Mr. William Stanton Ahio mentioned the submarine cables were designed to a specific capacity and not fully utilized. He added that how the operators charged their plans based on volume and bandwith for broadband, fixed or mobile services.

PNG asked Mr. Joshua Rich to provide some case studies and research on investigation of regulatory interventions is based on well informed knowledge

Mr. Joshua Rich mentioned that it was difficult to track and monitor malicious activities whether it was caused by AI tools or other possible groups. For example, Iceland is training their people to help use ChatGPT to preserve their languages and their cultural identity.

Samoa (online) asked to the APT on whether they have regional approach on special spectrum allocation for the 5G.

The Secretary General of APT replied to Samoa that for the spectrum allocation, APT has been organizing APT Conference Preparatory Group (APG) through which all members discuss on suitable spectrum for 5G, Wi-Fi and satellites. He also mentioned about the APT 700-Megahertz plan which was discussed during the APT Wireless Group (AWG).

Mr. John Cholai, Director, NICTA Board PNG, shared his thoughts on the session's overview of data platforms for use by governments and the challenges in creating secured systems for governments despite being aware of the risks associated with data sharing and human resource management.

Ms. Neiran Areta mentioned the significance of capacity building for digital transformation and its implementation. She also shared the Government of Kiribati has passed the bill for the Digital Transformation.

The moderator thanked all panelists for their informative presentations and sharing their views.

1. SESSION 5 – FACILITATE DIGITAL INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP *(Thursday, 31 August 2023, 09:00 – 10:15 hrs., UTC+10)*

This session was moderated by Ms. Tupou’tuah Baravilala, Director General, Digital Government, Transformation, Cybersecurity and Communications, Ministry of Communication, Fiji . She requested the Speakers to deliver their presentations.

* 1. **Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Australia** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-16)*

Dr. Maria Myutel, Assistant Director, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, Australia presented the document. She mentioned on initiatives and programs that promoted digital innovation and entrepreneurship in Australia to help start-ups launch and scaleup into domestic and global markets. These programs include the Industry Growth Program, the Business Research and Innovation Initiative and the Boosting Female Founders Initiative. She also talked about helping women entrepreneurs overcome barriers to accessing the finance and support necessary to their startups. She shared an example of Reach by Itree, a beneficiary of Business Research and Innovation Initiative which secured $5.9 million in funding over five years and creating six new jobs and started working with all state and territory child protection agencies.

* 1. **Facilitating Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-17)*

Mr. Charles Chew, Policy Director, APAC, GSMA presented the document. He mentioned about the mobile money services growing fast globally such as transferring money using mobile phones, availability to the unbanked, offering a network of physical transaction points and mobile banking or payment services. He shared that in 2022, there were 1.6 billion registered mobile money accounts with value of transactions up to USD 1.26 trillion. He also discussed on how the regulatory framework impact the adoption of mobile money and Mobile Money Regulatory Index and accelerate the advancement of Open APIs within the MM industry. He mentioned about ensured payment systems, ensured inclusive digital financial ecosystem, key role of Central Bank and adopting flexible regulatory and policy frameworks. The importance of Responsible AI by Design was crucial as the mobile industry were already using AI for business operations and innovative products and services.

* 1. **Mr. Phillip Henderson, Vice President, PITA**

Mr. Phillip Henderson, Vice President, PITA discussed about the mobile money infrastructures, 4G service and technologies, agent networks, and banking industries in the Cook Islands. He also shared thoughts on making mobile money effective was to know your customers (KYC) and provide secured environment for transactions. He mentioned that the KYC check is a process of identifying and verifying the client's identification when opening an account and on a regular basis. He highlighted the importance of e-wallets in the digital ecosystem.

* 1. **Panel Discussion**

The Moderator asked Dr. Maria Myutel on ensuring collaboration amongst the 16 government agencies.

Dr. Maria Myutel said that the steering committee identifies different challenges, a third party does the assessment for finding solutions, and finally, an independent committee recommends the round for SMEs to apply.

The Moderator asked Mr. Charles Chew about what recommendations GSMA has for

the regulators participating in this Forum.

Mr. Charles Chew suggested the regulators to work in collaboration with industry stakeholders for all emerging technologies such as AI, Blockchain, Quantum Computing.

Mr. John Cholai, Director, NICTA Board PNG, commented on the importance of secured banking and need for mobile money with the help of government support and changing mindsets to move forward digitally.

Mr. Phillip Henderson added that the institutionalized banks were resisting integrating with the other platforms and needed cashless economy in islands.

PNG asked Mr. Charles Chew, how does regulators licensing play role in mobile money.

Mr. Charles Chew replied that mobile money regulations varied from different countries and in some countries, they tie up with micro finances and banks in order to widen the networks.

Japan asked to Dr. Maria Myutel in terms of role of public sectors, what digital areas, technologies and applications does the Australian Government intend to stimulate through business, research innovation and initiatives.

Dr. Maria Myutel said the Australian Government agencies are focusing on solutions to resolve challenges from emerging technologies such as regulations of digital platforms.

Kiribati discussed on the effectiveness of ecommerce projects and internet banking.

Mr. Phillip Henderson replied to usage of e-payment gateways through Australia and New Zealand for internet banking purposes from islands that ends up in higher costs of transactions.

Mr. Charles Chew discussed using open APIs, which are open source and might lead to the development of their own networks for ecommerce platforms.

Vanuatu asked about regulators mechanism in terms of mobile money, is there any legal entity to address such issues.

Mr. Phillip Henderson explained the process of going under extreme scrutiny and monitoring of each transaction by the banking institutions.

Fiji shared about the cases of people transferring money to wrong accounts, customer awareness on using ecommerce and mobile money.

The moderator thanked all panelists for their informative presentations and sharing their views.

1. SESSION 6 – DEVELOPING DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENABLING DIGITAL ISLANDS *(Thursday, 31 August 2023, 10:45 – 12:00 hrs., UTC+10)*

This session was moderated by Mr. Kila Gulo-Vui, CEO, National ICT Authority, PNG. He requested the Speakers to deliver their presentations.

* 1. **Digital Connectivity & Access ADB Initiatives** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-18)*

Mr. Peter Nicholls, ICT Specialist, Digital Technology for Development Division, Asian Development Bank, presented the document. He shared the digital development opportunities on ADB’s long experience and deep cross-sectoral knowledge of countries and its strong track record as advisor, convener and knowledge partner make ADB uniquely placed to support DMCs, providing accessible, affordable, and meaningful broadband connectivity to bridge the digital divide. He discussed on ADB’s approach to closing the digital divide through investment in digital infrastructure, knowledge solutions and partnership development. He mentioned some supporting innovative approaches such as Satellite for Remote connectivity and Fiber Co-deployment and sharing. He discussed on the need to re-thinking on affordability, quality, role of public funding and access gaps. He shared the ADB's technical assistance on “Expanding Digital Connectivity and Affordability to Close the Digital Divide" through innovation and inclusion, digital infra investment and knowledge and partnership.

* 1. **A progress on digital infrastructure in Samoa**

Mr. Ronnie Aiolupotea, Deputy CEO, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Samoa highlighted on the current review of the legislation, universal access policy, progress in terms of internal an international connectivity and challenges of the internal development improving the government networks. They were working areas such as spectrum management, right to information, universal access, cybersecurity, boosting IT skills, and safeguarding privacy. The Government of Samoa is working with regulators to identify solutions through funding mechanisms that require the government and service providers to collaborate and offer quality services in underserved areas. He stated that Samoa is using a combination of satellites and mobile infrastructure, submarine cables, and expanding options for international partnerships and cooperation for last mile connectivity. He emphasized on upgrading government networks to enhance digital transformation and resilient connectivity. Maintenance issues and staffing turnovers arose when providing trainings to technical staffs, were some of the challenges faced.

* 1. **5G NTN: the next generation D2D satellite network** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-F)*

Mr. Alex Orange, Vice President, Technology and Spectrum, Omnispace Australia

presented the document. He shared the company status and milestones on Satellite & Technology, market access and partnerships. He discussed on the satellite in the Network of Tomorrow such as GEO, MEO and LEO. He mentioned about the 5G from space allows a portfolio of hybrid IOT applications and hybrid architecture that combines global NGSO coverage & MNO network roaming. He discussed on how to address challenges to NTN Deployment by embracing 3GPP standards and encourage NTN operations in the 2 GHz S-band and L-band and usage of open standards. He explained on 3GPP and ITU Focus on S-band and L-band for 5G NTN/Satellite component of IMT-2020 and provided regional status on proposed S-Band WRC-27 agenda item. He suggested that the Pacific Island Nations collaborate on supporting an Agenda Item for WRC-27 to expand the MSS allocations for 2 GHz S-band.

* 1. **Enabling Universal Internet Access in the Pacific with Satellite Connectivity** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-21)*

Mr. Jacques-Samuel Prolon, Executive Vice President, Corporate Development, Kacific Broadband Satellites International Ltd. presented the document. He shared on bridging the digital gap in underserved and remote areas by providing high-speed internet connectivity. He mentioned by providing dependable and fast satellite internet services, Kacific hoped to increase access to information, healthcare, education, and employment possibilities in the Asia Pacific region. He explained how Kacific engaged services in Asia Pacific regions that creates strong partnerships that give satellite access to governments, communities, and telecom operators. He mentioned the Kacific Comms Box as an innovative item for emergency communication that may be quickly used to create connectivity. It is possible to airdrop this container into disaster zones or keep it in remote regions. He talked about services and technologies, such as Flex VNO, Mobile Backhaul & CUPs, and Gigstarter, that have been used in the Asia Pacific region for better interconnectivity and straightforward internet access with satellite connectivity.

* 1. **Developing a forward-looking licensing and regulatory regime for digital infrastructure** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-22)*

Mr. Kenny Liew, Manager, Market Access and Regulatory Affairs, Welchman Keen presented the document. He discussed the Fit-for-purpose regulations and policies and suggested on accessing digital infrastructure for better advancement applicable to both private and public sector. He emphasized that the regulation's development should be guided by four essential principles such as Look Global and Act Local, Think Big and Execute Small, Prioritize Sustainability, and Address End-User Needs. He talked about while developing a capacity or connection program, the regulatory policies framework should prioritize at local level. Along with financial or operational sustainability, this policy should emphasize environmental sustainability. He emphasized the significance of creating the appropriate scope of telecom rules. Additionally, he noted that the ASSESS framework, which prioritizes projects based on factors including accessibility, sustainability, suitability, ethics, safety, and security, were crucial when evaluating digital infrastructure or services.

* 1. **USAID Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership (DCCP) in the Pacific Region** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-23)*

Ms. Nino Nadiradze, USAID Country representative to PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, presented the document. She mentioned the primary goal of promoting open, dependable, and secure internet access that supports the development of the digital ecosystem in the region and Pacific Island nations. She shared the DCCP report on the strategic strategy and guiding principles for the Pacific Region. She emphasized the significance of digital legislation and policy that supported spectrum management and policy, streamline licensing procedures, and support innovation and the adoption of global standards. She discussed on evolving digital governance services supported the growth of data networks, cloud infrastructure and cybersecurity preparedness. By encouraging girls and women to pursue careers in ICT and making sure that persons with disabilities and other underprivileged groups benefited from digital economy, she suggested enhancing digital skills and literacy. She mentioned to accomplish its objectives, USAID's DCCP-Pacific will secure a multi-stakeholder approach through forming partnerships with the public and private sectors.

* 1. **Discussion**

The Moderator asked the floor if there were any comments and suggestions.

PNG commented on the international gateway and expressed their willingness to engage in diligent discussion for a solution that would benefit everyone.

Mr. Kenny Liew responded that Singapore benefitted from its close connectivity with the other continents, has been safe in its vicinity and has reliable infrastructure. He discussed the need for specific policies and regulations for the Pacific Island nations.

The Moderator asked Mr. Jacques-Samuel Prolon about what the competition from other constellations are.

Mr. Jacques-Samuel Prolon replied saying it’s a big task to connect the unconnected people around the world and needed collaboration and technical assistance through collaborators, partners, and regulators.

The Moderator asked Mr. Alex Orange what actions are required to enable to direct-to-device MSS services applications to organizations, businesses, and consumers.

Mr. Alex Orange mentioned on the need for willingness on the regulatory and business sides, roaming between networks, and complementary networks for satellite-based bidirectional communications.

Samoa commented on the need for capacity building through affordable trainings in spectrum management and satellite communications and thanked APT for offering fellowships so that participants could participate in regional meetings.

PNG asked ADB and USAID on digital gaps on connecting islands in the Pacific using cables and other alternative ways to overcome such difficulties.

Ms. Nino Nadiradze said that USAID and ADB are working together to address similar concerns and will discuss with PNG in the future.

The Moderator thanked all panelists for their insightful presentations and sharing their views.

1. SESSION 7 – DIGITAL SECURITY AND TRUST *(Thursday, 31 August 2023, 14:00 – 15:15 hrs., UTC+10)*

This session was moderated by Ms. Caroline Greenway, Director, National Information and Communications Technology Authority, PNG. She requested the Speakers to deliver their presentations.

* 1. **Cyber security in Aotearoa New Zealand; Information security supporting digital and data transformation** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-24)*

Mr. Ben Creet, Principal Policy Advisor, National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), New Zealand presented on the document. He shared that the NCSC was working on defend national security, raise cyber resilience, and facilitate digital transformation. He mentioned on NCSC’s strategic focus such as detect, disrupt, deter, and advise. He also shared NCSC has developed a cyber security framework that has five functions, each with five security objectives helping organize our advice, our services, and our leadership responsibilities. He discussed on NCSC's cyber security framework such as Guide & Govern, Identify & Understand, Prevent & Protect, Detect & Contain and Respond & Recover.

* 1. **Digital Security and Trust** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-25)*

Ms. Gisa Fuatai Purcell, CEO/Regulator, Office of the Regulator, Samoa presented the document. She mentioned the digital security is protecting information online, data, assets. Cybersecurity in terms of protecting infrastructure, computer systems and information and other digital components. She shared the need of safeguarding against cyber fraud and abuse, stealing money, online scams, and fostering trust and confidence in terms of security and privacy, as well as secure online transactions and privacy protection. She discussed the customer’s expectation based on digital technologies and services, corporations that provide them, protecting all stakeholders' interests, and upholding society norms and values. Finally, she emphasized on the importance of privacy legislation, the development of appropriate policies, the improvement of regulations, and seek capacity-building opportunities from APT and ITU.

* 1. **An overview of Cybersecurity policy in the Pacific** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-26)*

Dr. James Boorman, Head of Research and Capacity Building, Oceania Cyber Security Centre, Australia presented the document. He discussed about the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, Boe Declaration Action Plan and Lagatoi Declaration. He highlighted on capacity building to enable sustainable digital transformation in a culturally sensitive and cyber secure manner. He shared progress on National Cybersecurity Strategies, National CERTs, sharing information via PaCSON and PTCN, Awareness and education, accession to the Budapest Convention and Lagatoi Declaration and resulting action plan. He mentioned that the Pacific communities not only build significant cyber capacity, but also strong communities in order to strengthen capacity building and make the digital world safer, secure, and more usable.

* 1. **Discussion**

The Moderator asked Mr. Ben Creet on how NCSC addressed the issues of security and trust and digital gaps from the emerging technologies.

Mr. Ben Creet mentioned about dividing emerging technologies into classes such as Generative AI and secured by design and system application.

The Moderator asked Ms. Gisa Fuatai Purcell about role of regulators in ensuring that consumer’s information is protected online.

Ms. Gisa Fuatai Purcell mentioned that the regulators could monitor the complaints from the consumers and raising awareness about cyber threats and risks among consumers could be helpful.

The Moderator asked Dr. James Boorman about the main challenges in implementing digital trust and security frameworks in the Pacific region.

Dr. James Boorman mentioned the digital cybersecurity required all stakeholders to work together, increase awareness among key decision makers in different organization and manage resources for training staffs.

PNG asked Dr. James Boorman to share his thoughts on role of standard bodies (vendors, suppliers, manufacturers) across the world safeguarding cybersecurity in terms of products and services.

Dr. James Boorman shared that data breaches have occurred all over the world as a result of companies failing to follow standards and the nature of responding after some cybercrimes have occurred.

Dr. Maria Myutel mentioned about the Australia Government practicing the online safety and cyber security as protecting critical infrastructures.

Kiribati asked about initiatives for child online protection.

Ms. Gisa Fuatai Purcell added that in Samoa, they have been using “filters” to unwanted websites in the schools and providing general awareness for online protect to children, parents and youths.

The Moderator and Dr. James Boorman suggested to go through the ITU website which had details on child online protection and related communities.

Dr. Maria Myutel added that Australia has establish e-safety Commissioner helping their communities have safer and more positive experiences online that covers child online protection.

Samoa asked about how often it needs to review policies and regulations for emerging technologies approaching faster.

Mr. Ben Creet shared that the countries need to balance what is specified in laws and tertiary laws.

Mr. John Cholai, Director, NICTA Board PNG, asked on how to take proactive approaches to overcome the reactions of digital threats targeting country’s infrastructures.

Mr. Ben Creet shared some of the cases of cyber threats and extortions.

Dr. James Boorman suggested to go with the Government decisions on tackling digital threat issues.

The Moderator thanked all panelists for their informative presentations and sharing their views.

1. SESSION 8 – CLOSED SESSION FOR POLICYMAKERS AND REGULATORS (*Thursday, 31 August 2023, 15:45 – 17:00 hrs., UTC+10)*

This session was moderated by Mr. John Jack, Chair of PRFP. He asked Members from the Pacific to share their views and information on issues around ICT in the Pacific countries.

The Chair of PRFP shared that during PRFP-15, they have established a working group for regional engagement and the progress report of the working group was discussed during the Session 1 Plenary of PRFP-16.

Members discussed the way forward for draft action plan of the Lagatoi declaration.

The Chair of PRFP-16 would bring the outcomes of the discussion at the closing plenary.

Regarding the host of PRFP-17, APT Secretariat was asked to coordinate the issue with Members and inform the outcomes accordingly.

The Moderator thanked all members for their support during the discussion.

1. SESSION 9 – STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT *(Friday, 1 September 2023, 09:00 – 10:15 hrs., UTC+10)*

This session was moderated by Mr. Oscar Caleman, IT Emergency Preparedness and Response Officer, WFP (World Food Programme). He requested the Speakers to deliver their presentations.

* 1. **Disaster Management Policy and ICT technology usage in Kiribati** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-27)*

Mr. Tabotabo Auatabu, Chief Legal and Licensing Officer, Ministry of Information, Communications and Transport, Kiribati presented the document. He mentioned the Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Act 2019 defined disaster as a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts. He discussed KNEG, the national coordination mechanism for climate change and disaster risk management. Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan 2019–2028 was implemented to increase effectiveness and efficiency of early warnings for disaster and emergency management. He shared the Kiribati National Emergency Telecommunication Plan (NETP) was developed to review the legal and policy frameworks and organizational structures, to understand the potential natural hazards and prevent loss of life and livelihoods through early warning systems.

* 1. **Disaster Management and Telecommunication/ICT In Samoa** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-28)*

Ms. Angeline Seiuli, Assistant CEO, Office of the Regulator, Samoa presented the document. She shared the Samoa’s National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP), National Emergency and Telecommunication Plan (NETP) and National Emergency and Telecommunication Operation Plan were created and updated. NDMP is a policy framework that promotes a whole-of-country and multi-sectoral approach to disaster risk management at a local, national, and regional level. It provides a framework and mechanism to enable a coordinated national response to threats that the potential to cause a disaster and recovery from the impacts of disasters. NETP’s vision is to provide ICT tools and telecommunications services and resources to be developed to ensure effective and efficient alerting, management, mitigation, and relief operations during emergencies.

* 1. **Network Restoration Via Satellite in the Pacific** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-29)*

Mr. Robert Suber, Director, Asia-Pacific Sales, Intelsat presented the document. He discussed on the network redundancy, diversity, and reliability of submarine cables in the Pacific region, as well as how natural threats like typhoons, undersea volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis have caused significant damage to numerous undersea cables. He added that man-made threats including fishing, anchorage, and theft accounted for around 90% of all undersea cable hazards. He discussed about the disaster risk and management in Tonga, Vanuatu, and New Zealand, as well as the likelihood of natural disasters. He further added that preparedness is thinking about what recovery means in advance such as growing reliance of cable systems and there is a need for Pacific Recovery Management & Restoration. He shared two strategies for the regulators: 1) business continuity - disaggregated and 2) satellite disaster recovery architecture for the Pacific - aggregated.

* 1. **Strengthening Partnership for Disaster Management** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-30)*

Mr. Alifeleti Tuifua Tuihalamaka, Director for Communications, Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications, Tonga presented the document. He shared his experience of disaster management and preparedness in Tonga. He discussed on the topics such as the disaster management strategies and polices in Tonga, Telecom and ICT Infrastructure in Tong and Telecom and ICT services for disaster prevention, detection, and preparedness. National Disaster Management Plan was instructed by the Emergency Management Act 2007 and served as the overarching framework for disaster management in the country.

He mentioned that GIS is a powerful tool used in disaster preparedness, and usage of data analytical tools. He discussed the challenges and next steps for Tonga to overcome and improve resilience for the future natural disasters.

* 1. **Discussion**

The Moderator asked on how the National Emergency Preparedness Plan would be implemented and what steps are to be taken.

Ms. Angeline Seiuli said that Samoa is in the process of establishing a National Emergency Telecommunication Plan, and that their current challenge is to bring all sectors together to work together to overcome natural disaster management and preparedness approaches by fostering capacity building programs.

Mr. Tabotabo Auatabu mentioned bring together all relevant stakeholders and start implementing the NETP plan in Kiribati that ensured continuous learning and monitoring processes.

The Moderator asked Mr. Robert Suber about the redundant communication during the time of crisis and share thoughts on partnerships to solve such issues in the Pacific region.

Mr. Robert Suber recommended using a variety of tools to legislate funds invested in ICT infrastructure to deal with disasters and create sustainable ways to utilize the available funds on preparedness.

The Moderator asked Mr. Alifeleti Tuifua Tuihalamaka to share any experiences with the counterparts across the Pacific region.

Mr. Alifeleti Tuifua Tuihalamaka mentioned that in Tonga, they learned the importance of teamwork and work tirelessly during the time of disaster.

The Moderator thanked all panelists for their insightful presentations and sharing their views.

1. SESSION 10 – DIGITAL CAPACITY BUILDING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT *(Friday, 1 September 2023, 10:45 – 12:00 hrs., UTC+10)*

This session was moderated by Mr. Brian Winji, Regulator, Telecommunications, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator, Vanuatu to deliver their presentations.

* 1. **Need for Digital Literacy Improvement** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-31)*

Mr. Kenji Kaneko, Vice President, Japan Telecommunications Engineering and Consulting Service, Japan presented the document. He mentioned the realization of a digital society , where especially the elderly, needed to have a certain level of basic digital literacy. He discussed about the lack of IT professionals, issues with user-side digital literacy, and initiatives to increase the incentive of senior people to learn. For example -the Japanese government initiatives supported digitization include programs for the elderly and the digitalization of education. The "GIGA School Concept" and the "Digital Utilization Support Promotion Project" are two initiatives being pursued in Japan to encourage the use of smart phones for online administrative tasks to allay worries about older people's use of digital technology. Promoting the digitization of school instruction and programs for the elderly would be useful in raising the level of digital literacy across the nation.

* 1. **Addressing the digital skills gap in the Pacific** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-33)*

Mr. Ashish Narayan, Programme Coordinator, International Telecommunication Union presented the document. He mentioned the popular digital skills context such as OECD, EU and ITU contexts and Last Mile Connectivity (LMC) being an enabler for digital skills development initiatives such as Education, out of school youth, adult reskilling, underrepresented populations (women, refugees) and life in digital economy. He also introduced the Digital Skills Assessment Guidebook, Digital Skills Toolkit 2018 and ITU Academy training catalogue. Digital Transformation Centres (DTCs) are one of the ITU initiatives that has trained 190,000+ participants since 2020. He shared about the EU STREIT programme on digital skills, digital financial literacy, resource centres and e-learning operating in two provinces of PNG. He discussed the significance of digital literacy as a foundational element of the Pacific Girls in ICT Day initiative and the Smart Villages and Smart Islands project. He emphasized the importance of developing digital skills at the national and community levels as well as partnerships to address the digital skills gap.

* 1. **Digital Capacity Building & Skills Development** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-32)*

Mr. Roger Jimmy, Manager, Market, Competition and Consumer Affairs Telecommunications, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator (TRBR), Vanuatu presented the document. He also mentioned some initiatives as part of consumer awareness such as Community Consumer Champion, Girls in ICT Day celebration, SMART Sista project, Celebration of Consumer Rights Day, and National ICT Days and TRBR APP to learn online and knowledge sharing. He shared the importance of partnership agreement to enhance digital skills capacity with CERT, Vanuatu Qualification Authority and National Youth Council. TRBR is currently conducting a user experience survey as part of an evaluation mechanism to understand the knowledge and skills of consumers in digital literacy in order to identify the areas in which information can be disseminated to improve their digital knowledge. Also, collaboratively working with the Office of Chief Information to develop a road map to accelerate digital capacity.

* 1. **Global IPv6 Capacity Building** *(Document: PRFP-16/INP-34)*

Prof. Emeritus Sureswaran Ramadass, Chair, IPv6 Forum Malaysia, Malaysian Technical Standards Forum Bhd, Malaysia presented the document. He mentioned about the capacity building in IPv6 by creating global expertise in IPv6 and working in close cooperation with governments and organizations from around the world to promote, train, consult and deploy IPv6 technology. He shared some of the training initiatives for government officials in many countries such as Malaysia, Sudan, Singapore, Thailand , Australia, Sultanate of Oman, India, Viet Nam, China, Indonesia, Morocco, and Tanzania. Additionally, he talked about the APAC v6 Council and how it was established to facilitate IPv6 testing and deployment, build a strategic plan, and promote awareness and education. It also tracks and evaluates progress.

* 1. **Discussion**

The Moderator asked Mr. Ashish about what some of the ways are to take some digital skills that can be useful for communities.

In his response, Mr. Ashish emphasized the value of partnerships in dealing with local communities by giving experts training and resource sharing.

The Moderator asked Prof. Sureswaran if there was a choice of not implementing IPv6.

Prof. Sureswaran replied saying that it’s a choice of being connected or disconnected, but there is no strict rule to implement IPv6 in current scenario. The APAC v6 Council will assist all the nations who require help in developing road maps.

The Moderator asked Mr. Kenji Kaneko to explain about the digitization are lagging behind in Japan.

Mr. Kenji Kaneko responded that there is no specific cause for this and that it is likely due to local and national government administrations' poor digitization and processing skills.

The Moderator asked Mr. Roger what kind of challenges were faced while performing duties under the legislation focused to awareness in the Pacific.

Mr. Roger responded that some of the challenges faced were linguistic and cultural barriers, and he collaborated with the Vanuatu Language Service to develop all awareness factsheets into the local language so that people could comprehend them.

PNG asked about the leadership and ICT awareness at many levels to reach important decision making at national level.

Prof. Sureswaran replied saying organizing various awareness events that are aimed at government officials to make them aware of ICT knowledge and how it might be used to better comprehend public interest and national views.

Mr. Kenji Kaneko shared that there are numerous initiatives underway in Japan to raise digital literacy and skill levels, including national policies and work plans that must be put up at the national level.

Dr. Jongbong Park from APT Secretariat wished to collaborate with IPv6 forum in Malaysia.

Japan expressed to provide budgetary contributions to APT for imitating capacity building activities promoting digital literacy in Pacific countries.

The Moderator thanked all panelists for their insightful presentations and sharing their views.

1. SESSION 11 – PLENARY AND CLOSNG (Friday, 1 September 2023, 15:45 – 17:00 hrs., UTC+10)
   1. **Way Forward (Future outlook and potential cooperative issues)**

The Chair requested members to express their insights on how the Forum was organized and share views on improving the forum topics.

There were no issues raised from the floor.

* 1. **Date and Venue for PRFP-17**

The meeting agreed that PRFP-17 will be held in Tonga.

Chair suggested that the date would be same as this year and the last year, which was 30 August – 1 September. There was no objection to that suggestion. The date of PRFP-17 will be confirmed accordingly in consultation with the host country and office bearers.

* 1. **Any Other Matters**

No issue.

* 1. **Closing**

On behalf of NICTA, Mr. Mr. Noel Mobiha delivered the closing remarks. He congratulated to the APT Management and Secretariat for the successful forum in Port Moresby. He mentioned the Ministerial meeting culminated the signing of the Lagatoi Declaration. He mentioned this forum had very good discussions and recommendations in addressing challenges faced in the Pacific and create a Smart Pacific with one voice in creating a digital future together. He highlighted on PNG been committed to working closely with the APT and all its members in the Pacific and abroad for the brighter future of the Pacific. He expressed the future of ICT to create a journey of digital transformation for benefits of the Pacific people. He wished all participants safe travel back to their home country.

Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General of APT, delivered his closing remarks. He mentioned that there were very informative sessions covering various ICT issues for the Pacific, including the Roundtable for Ministers and Head of Regulators and Business Dialogue providing opportunity for the technological advancements led by the ICT industry and the policy and regulatory directions. He expressed the PRFP-16 forum added great value to all participants and the PRFP will continue to play an essential role to support the Pacific members effectively and lay the foundation for the concrete implementation of the Lagatoi Declaration as agreed at the Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue. He thanked all speakers, panelists, and moderators for sharing their experiences and insights. Especially, he thanked the host country, the government, and the people of Papua New Guinea, for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements. He also thanked Australia and Japan for their kind support extended to this Forum. He also thanked the Chair of PRFP, Mr. John Jack.

Mr. John Jack, Chair of PRFP, delivered his closing remarks. He expressed his gratitude to all participants for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend this important meeting. He said that the PRFP-16 was successfully organized. He offered the APT Secretariat his sincere thanks for all of their hard work in making this forum a success. He remarked that it was wonderful to see all of his Pacific colleagues and emphasized the value of cooperation among them. He thanked all Pacific members for their outstanding and diligent work. He acknowledged that active participation was key to the success of PRFP and thanked all panelists, presenters, and moderators for their contributions. He emphasized that working together to address common issues will maximize the rewards of our joint efforts. He wished all participants safe travel back to their home country.

The Chair declared PRFP-16 closed.