

REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI



APT young professional and students programme (APTYPS 2023)

ICT Symposium on *Leveraging digital knowledge to
young generation*

*Abaiang Island, Republic of Kiribati
7-9 September 2023*

Final Report

Prepared by:

Digital Transformation Office

Ministry of Information Communications & Transport

<http://www.mict.gov.ki>

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

APT young professional and students programme (APTYPS 2023) ICT Symposium on *"Leveraging digital knowledge to the young generation"* is to encourage young professionals and students from APT member countries to develop their skills and understanding on Information Communication & Technology (ICTs). The programme was conducted in Kiribati from 7th - 9th September 2023, and was organized by the Digital Transformation Office under the Ministry of Information Communications & Transport with the objective of:

- i. To disseminate knowledge about developments in the ICT sector;
- ii. To facilitate in developing ICT applications
- iii. To promote ICT career to young generation
- iv. To raise awareness on cybersecurity
- v. To provide a platform to discuss ICT related issues;
- vi. To understand the potentials of ICT in solving socio-economic issues;
- vii. To raise awareness of the APT activities;
- viii. To encourage them to participate in the APT activities;
- ix. To encourage women in the ICT and contribute gender mainstreaming.

The events were targeted to college students with an objective to upscale their knowledge and understanding on ICT and further to guide the young minds as they start embarking towards their journey of building a career in the ICT sector. The event was conducted on the Island of Abaiang in the northern part of Kiribati. Abaiang island has a land area of about 17 km² and the atoll is approximately 37 km long, but no more than 1km wide. There are 16 villages of Abaiang accessible by road while Ribono and Nuotaea are the inhabited villages located on separate islets. There are over 5,000 people live on Abaiang Island making it the fourth largest population of any atoll in the nation. The distance from Abaiang Island to the capital Tarawa is about 61.0 km, equivalent to 1-2 hours by boat and 10 minutes by flight.

The program is designed to enable the participation of two mission senior secondary schools and one Government Junior secondary school. This event completion report covers two programs in details;

Program 1: School visit: 7th - 8th September 2023: Visiting three schools: Promoting the benefits of ICT to young generation, ICT Careers, cyber security awareness, updates from the Government on ICT related.

Program 2: ICT Symposium: 9th September 2023: Full day program held at Terau Resort Tebero Village.

2. EVENT DETAIL

a) School Visit

School visit was a two-day program conducted from 7th September 2023 Thursday to 8th September 2023 Friday visiting three schools on the island. The objective of the school visit is to create a general awareness and understanding on what ICT is, awareness on benefits of ICT, awareness on uses of ICT to students, and future

careers in ICT for students to consider ICT as one very useful and marketable field. Awareness on cybersecurity and protection online was also conducted for students to understand their safety online , promotion of Girls in ICT program, and updates from the Government through the Digital Transformation Office on ICT related projects. All students in the school visited were participating as well as teachers and staff for each school. The two days school visit was organized and conducted as follows:

DATE	TIME	SCHOOL
7 th September 2023	7:30pm - 9:30pm	St Joseph's College Tabwiroa; Catholic mission senior secondary school
8 th September 2023	12:00pm - 2:00pm	Ueen Abaiang Junior Secondary School Government School
	4:00pm - 6:00pm	Stephen Whitmee High School Senior Secondary School of Kiribati Uniting Church Mission

b) Symposium

The ICT symposium event took place on 9th September 2023 Saturday from 8:00am - 6:00pm at Terau beach hotel. There were 30 students from the two senior secondary schools St Joseph's College and Stephen Whitmee High School participating in the program making 60 students in total. The participants are selected by the school Admins were mainly science and ICT students. The program was started with registration by participants followed by a formal opening ceremony joined by the principals and a few teachers from the two schools, Island council workers. The formal opening ceremony was led with a short prayer followed by welcoming remarks by the Deputy Secretary who represented the Secretary of the Ministry of Information Communication & Transport following the program set out for the day. The event was aimed to allow students to learn the meaning of ICT through the means of discussion and questions, exchanging of ideas and knowledge in ICT and engaged in talking techs, career talks and presentation. The event for the day was set out as follows:

Time	Activity	Remarks
0800-830	Registration	At the Hotel Maneaba (Meeting place)
0830-0850	Arrival of Guest	To the Hotel Maneaba
0900 -	Program Start	Opening prayer
0915 -	Opening Remarks	Deputy Secretary (MICT) Aoniba Riaree
0930 -	APT Keynote	Secretary General Masanori Kondo (virtual)
0955 -	Guest Speaker	Mayor Abaiang (represented by one of the staff)
1010 -	Group Photo	Taken at the venue
1015 - 1030	Morning Team	Students & Guests
1030 -	Introduction to ICT	Presentation by Tabotabo Auatabo -DTO roles & responsibilities - Communication Act 2017 - Cyber Crime Act 2021 - Digital Government Act 2023

1000 -	Career Talk	Presented by Atanrerei Kabiriera <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to ICT - Future Career in ICT - Application of ICT in real-life - Benefits of ICT in real-life
1100 -	Talking Tech	Atanrerei Kabiriera (DTO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Google Technology - Uses & benefits of Google Drive - Application of Google drive in study - Demo on uses on Google Drive
		Terianna Kourabi (DTO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Password Manager - The password problem - Key Features - Benefits of Using a Password Manager
		Bongraoi Arebaio (DTO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Artificial Intelligence - ChatGPT - Uses of ChatGPT - Benefits of ChatGPT
1230 - 1315	Lunch	Lunch at the hotel
1330 - 1430	Group Work	Group work on tech-topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Atanrerei's Grp - Terianna's Grp - Bongraoia Grp Insight & Application of tech-topic in real life
1430 - 1500	Student Presentation	Group Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Atanrerei's Grp - Terianna's Grp - Bongraoia Grp Student present understanding on tech-topic to reallife scenario
1515 - 1545	Feedback	Survey & feedback from students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - via survey from
	Closing	Formal Closing : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closing remarks: Deputy Secretary Aoniba Riaree - Formal closing : MICT Team, Students & Teachers
1600	Transport back to schools	Student return to their respective schools

OUTCOME & FEEDBACK

Symposium Outcome & Feedback from students

A survey form was provided for the students to share feedback on what they have learned from the ICT Symposium, the challenges they faced and their suggestions to improve the symposium activities and ways forward for the future students at each school to bring ICT to the next level.

Takeaways

These are the actionable items and key discussion points the students take after the ICT Symposium.

- Understand ChatGPT and how it is useful to their study
- Understand the use of Google drive and its benefits
- Aware on cybersecurity and safety online
- The benefits of using a Password manager
- Understands careers in ICT
- Understand the benefits of ICT to study
- Understand the benefits of ICT in real life applications
- How ICT and technology make a business more efficient and effective
- How ICT can assist business activities including distribution, sales and feedback.

Challenges

- Slow internet connection
- A shortage of computers
- Improperly set up computer systems
- Not enough computers and usually not set
- Low lifespan of Computers and machines
- Lack of computer maintenance
- Shortage of electricity
- Shortage of ICT Teachers

Potential Solutions

- More awareness programs to high schools and the community
- Sharing information about ICT and its benefits on the radio and on any other social media platforms.
- Spread of ICT news using text (similar to what Vodafone does by sending messages about top up deals and others)
- Video promotions and presentations (similar to what we showed about Child Online Protection)
- Work experience for high school students
- Promotion of ICT through tiktok competitions
- Inclusion of ICT basic subjects in primary schools

ORGANIZERS

The Digital Transformation Office and Admin team within the Ministry of Information Communications and Transport is collaborating in organizing the training/event program as per the APT requirement and expectation. The Team contributes to the planning the program as follows:

Team Name	Designation	Organization
Ms. Renga Teannaki	Senior Policy Analyst	MICT (DTO)
Ms. Atanrerei Kabiriera	Chief Digital Service Officer	MICT (DTO)
Mr. Tabotabo Auatabu	Chief Legal Licensing Officer	MICT (DTO)
Ms. Terianna Kourabi	Senior Information Security Analyst	MICT (DTO)
Ms. Bongraoi Arebaio	Information Security Analyst	MICT (DTO)
Ms. Tienimatang Reuee	Assistant Secretary	MICT (Admin)
Ms. Betty Mapuola	Senior Assistant Secretary	MICT (Admin)

The execution of the program involved the Digital Transformation Office team, admin team and the Broadcasting Publications Authority which is a state-owned enterprise operating under the Ministry of Information Communications and Transport responsible for providing reports on the ICT symposium event to the public via newspapers and radio broadcasting. The team take part in the execution of the program are as follows:

Team Name	Designation	Organization
Ms. Aoniba Riaree	Deputy Secretary (MICT)	MICT (Admin)
Ms. Atanrerei Kabiriera	Chief Digital Service Officer	MICT (DTO)
Mr. Tabotabo Auatabu	Chief Legal Licensing Officer	MICT (DTO)
Ms. Terianna Kourabi	Senior Information Security Analyst	MICT (DTO)
Ms. Bongraoi Arebaio	Information Security Analyst	MICT (DTO)
Ms. Taiboo Teemeta	Newsroom Reporter	Broadcasting Publications Authority

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

The ICT Symposium event is the first event that has been carried out by the Department (DTO) especially to an outer island school in Kiribati. The first two days are mainly on awareness and updates on ICT technologies, benefits, and importance as well as careers to be considered by students in relation to the ICT field. Day 3 is a full day program on ICT Symposium where 50 students from 2 different schools are participating. The program does not have many hands-on practical due to very limited time, but the students were provided with real life experiences and scenarios to come up with solutions and identify where technology can come in as a solution through panel discussions and workgroups.

The event has given the students the opportunity to share their experiences in life and education in relation to ICT, and to share their opinions on how to improve their schools in STEM especially ICT, share their experiences and feedback on the ICT symposium and how they can improve the program in the future.

As part of the program, the organizing team from DTO decided to provide certificates to the students. This is to serve as a formal recognition of an individual's successful completion of the program and as a simple of their accomplishment. The certificates provided only to the students participating in the ICT Symposium only and these certificates are cosigned by the APT Secretary General and the DTO OIC, and to be presented to these students during their school graduation at the end of term 3 around November 2023.

It is believed that the ICT Symposium carried out in September 2023 at Abaiang island served as an important platform for sharing knowledge and fostering collaboration between ICT experts in Kiribati and students, and the insights generated during this event will undoubtedly contribute to the ongoing dialogue and progress in this area. And based on the feedback received from students and the organizers, a continuous program like this should be considered with longer periods of time to allow more time for the students to have the opportunity to take up practical and hands on activities to better understand and engaged in ICT and technology trends to enable them to easily solve problems and understand the risks and to develop new ideas and solutions in the technology trend.

ANNEX

Certificate:- Template copy of the certificate provided to students participating in the ICT Symposium.



Pictures

ICT Symposium Abaiang



DAY 1-2, SCHOOL VISIT - AWARENESS

