**ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY**

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Title: ICT Development Impacts: Pacific Potential

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Abstract:

Abstract.: “ICT Development Impacts: Pacific Potential”

The presentation provides an overview of some of the global impacts of ICT on development trends and prospects. It reviews the current status of ICT development, particularly in the South Pacific, and highlights the results of the recent study undertaken by the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) on economic and social impacts of ICT development in five countries, and by the World Bank on ICT and job creation. It considers the challenges still to be addressed by policymakers and regulators in the Pacific region to realize the wider benefits of technology and innovation.

Biodata:

Natasha Beschorner is a Senior ICT Policy Specialist in the World Bank’s Global Practice for Transport & ICT. She was educated at Oxford, London and Johns Hopkins universities. Natasha has been with the World Bank since 1993, and is currently based in the World Bank’s office in Singapore. Her areas of expertise include applied ICT for development planning and decision-making, This covers areas such as e-government/e-services; connectivity/telecommunications sector reform and development, particularly extending the reach of information and communications infrastructure to rural and remote areas. Natasha’s principal responsibilities include: design and management of investment projects and technical assistance programs in telecommunications, and ICT for development/E-Services development in East Asia and the Pacific Region. Focus countries are: China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and the Pacific Islands.