**ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY**

**8th APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-8)**

**(15-17 June 2015, Nukuʻalofa, Tonga)**

Title: Palau's experiences in international connectivity

Speaker: Mr. Rhinehart Silas

Special Assistant to the President of Palau

Abstract:

The presentation is intended to share with the APT audience/members Palau's experiences to date with its efforts to obtain a submarine cable connectivity, in partnership with Yap of the Federated States of Micronesia. The highlights of the presentation will point to the specific governance and other critical factors required of our ensuring that we have a cable that will ultimately deliver to Palau's long standing need to improve its international connectivity.

Aside from the cable pursuit, the presentation will also share a quick overview of our recent movement to the use of O3b satellites.

The presentation will conclude with some flavor on the current efforts underway to put in place a new legal and regulatory framework to govern Palau's telecommunications/ICT sector.

Biodata:

Mr. Rhinehart Silas serves as Special Assistant to the President of Palau with main assignment

focused on the procurement of fiber optic cable for Palau, with a role as a the Co-Chairman of the Micronesia and Palau Fiber Optic Committee. He also currently serves as the Chairman of Palau's National Communications Corporation, a state-owned enterprise.