

Charles S. Punaha
Chairman of APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific, and CEO of NICTA, PNG

OPENING REMARKS & STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES SATELLITE CONNECTIVITY WORKSHOP 2017

Thank you, Areewan, for your welcome address. And thank you to the Government of Fiji for hosting us this week.

The APT is pleased to be holding this Satellite Connectivity Workshop ahead of the 10th Policy & Regulatory Forum for Pacific.

Satellites have been providing essential connectivity in the Pacific for many years – and we sometimes take them for granted. But then we remember how important they are when we lose a fishing vessel or a natural disaster strikes or a submarine cable gets cut.

Of course, satellites do more than just public safety or disaster recovery. They have helped us bridge our island geographies and to extend our communications networks to the parts of our country that are otherwise be too hard or too expensive to reach. They connect passengers on planes and ships that visit our countries. And they enable e-Inclusion initiatives such as e-government, e-health and e-banking.

At this Workshop, the Pacific nations have an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with the satellite industry –

- to share information about our connectivity needs, and how satellites can help meet them;
- to learn more about the new satellite technologies and services that are being deployed right now in the Pacific, and
- to understand the spectrum and regulatory frameworks that will enable us to take advantage of these innovations.

I would encourage everyone attending the Workshop to engage actively with the panelists, to ask questions, and to share relevant experiences.

Finally, I want to thank the members of the satellite community for organizing the workshop. Specifically, I want to thank –

- CASBAA and APSCC – two satellite industry associations that are active in the Asia-Pacific region; and
- ABS, AsiaSat, Inmarsat, Intelsat, Kacific, Measat, O3b, OneWeb, SKY Perfect JSAT and SES – all satellite operators that are serving the Pacific Islands today.

Without further ado, I declare this Satellite Connectivity Workshop open!