

**11th APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-11)**

27-29 November 2018, Apia, Samoa

**CONCEPT NOTE**

1. **Background/Context**

Since its first meeting as the Telecommunication ICT Policy and Regulation Meeting for Pacific in Auckland, New Zealand in 2007, the APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP) continues to grow. PRFP is a significant platform to deal with unique issues faced by the Pacific countries and it has become a premium event to address common challenges in Telecommunication and ICT Development issues of the Pacific countries. Those challenges included issues such as Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity, Cybersecurity, ICT for disaster risks reduction, etc.

In November 2017, the 14th Session of the General Assembly of the APT (GA-14) adopted the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020, which serves as the guideline for APT’s activities from 2018 to 2020. Each work programme of APT including PRFP will focus its work within the following five (5) Strategic Pillars of the Strategic Plan:

1. Connectivity: Developing the digital Infrastructure;
2. Innovation: Enabling conducive environments and harnessing the benefits of new technologies;
3. Trust: Promoting security and resilience through ICT;
4. Capacity Building: Promoting inclusiveness and enhancing expertise; and
5. Partnership: Solidifying strategic cooperation with stakeholders.

This year, the 11th APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-11) will address various topics which are in line with the above five Strategic Pillars of the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020.

PRFP-11 will address emerging digital technologies trends which are primary catalyst for digital transformation as well as an enabler for sustainable development. APT Members in the Pacific will discuss ICT policy and regulation issues including international trends as well as updates for the Pacific countries, and ICT Business development and its regulatory impacts. PRFP-11 will include thematic sessions on topics such as AI and IoT; Securing Citizens and their Data in the Cyberspace; Natural Disaster Preparedness, Risk Reduction and Mitigation; and Spectrum Management. Closed Session for Policy Makers and Regulators will be dedicated for a candid exchange of views and information on the common issues among Policy Makers and Regulators in the Pacific.

In addition, in 2017, APT had taken initiative to work with its Affiliate Members from Satellite Industry to organize the “Satellite Connectivity Workshop” back-to-back with PRFP-10. This year, APT will also organize a workshop back-to-back with PRFP-11.

On 26 November 2018, prior to PRFP-11, APT in collaboration with Internet Society (ISOC) and Asia Pacific Network Information Center (APNIC) will organize the “**Internet Connectivity Workshop on Ensuring Sustainable Connectivity in Pacific**”. Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) will also join as a partner organization.

Furthermore, PRFP-11 will be followed by the e-Application Workshop organized by International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA) in collaboration with APT, to be held on 30 November 2018 at the same venue. The main focus of the workshop is to address the data protection and data sharing aspects as it would form the core for the e-application cross border sharing in the region.

1. **Objectives**

The overall aim of the forum is to provide a common platform for Pacific countries to discuss issues together for solutions, which are viable, and feasible for particular conditions of the region.

The specific objectives for PRFP-11 are to:

* update and discuss Policy and regulation trends of the Pacific countries;
* address connectivity topic with specific highlights on Internet connectivity and Spectrum Management;
* address innovation topic with specific highlights on digital technologies including Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things (IoT), and e-Application;
* discuss issues related to develop and maintain secure, trusted and resilient ICT network and services as well as challenges towards disaster preparedness, risk reduction, and mitigation;
* bring the focus of top policy makers, regulators and industry representatives of ICT sector in the Pacific countries towards the new Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020.

1. **Expected Outcomes**

The agenda of the PRFP-11 is made up of number of sessions to address the issues of concern for a policy and regulatory in Telecommunication and ICT sector development of the Pacific region. The provisional agenda and tentative programme are annexed to this Concept Note (See an **Annex A** and **Annex B** for more information).

Main expected outcomes are:

* information exchange and common issues sharing among policy makers and regulators;
* identified key policy and regulatory concerns of Member countries in the Pacific;
* enhanced understanding on various topics of thematic sessions;
* views from the Pacific on key issues of the new Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020.

1. **Timing and Location**

**PRFP-11** will be held from 27 to 29 November 2018 in Apia, Samoa in collaboration with Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), Government of Samoa.

The **“Internet Connectivity Workshop** **on “Ensuring Sustainable Connectivity in Pacific**” will be held preceding the PRFP-11 on 26 November 2018 at the same venue. The tentative programme of the workshop is attached herewith. (See **Annex C** for more information)

The **e-Application Workshop** will be organized on 30 November 2018 after PRFP-11 at the same venue.

1. **Participation**

All APT Members, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, International/Regional Organizations, and Eligible Non-Members can participate in the Forum and Workshop. For those who are under fellowship invitation will be contacted separately via focal contacts by the APT.

Non APT members may be invited to participate in the activities of the Forum as a guest at the discretion of the Chairman of the Forum and the Secretary General in consultation with the relevant Member administration as appropriate. Other non-APT members may participate as observer with the payment of the participation fee.

1. **Contact Points**

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**Annex A**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Opening
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Outcomes of the 14th Session of the General Assembly of the APT and the 41st Session of the Management Committee of the APT Relevant to PRFP
4. Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020
5. Thematic Sessions:
   1. Trends on ICT Policy and Regulation / Updates of the Pacific
   2. AI and IoT for the Pacific
   3. Internet Connectivity of the Pacific and its beyond
   4. Securing Critical Information Infrastructure
   5. Securing Citizens and their Data in the Cyberspace
   6. Natural Disaster Preparedness, Risk Reduction and Mitigation
   7. Catalyzing e-Application in the Pacific
   8. Spectrum Management in the Pacific and its Challenges
6. Closed Session for Policy Makers and Regulators
7. Way Forward
8. Any other matters
9. Closing

**Annex B**

**Tentative Programme**

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| **Time** | **Day 1 – 27 November 2018** |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | **Opening**   * Welcome Address – Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General of APT * Address – Mr. Charles Punaha, Chairman of PRFP * Inaugural Address – Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Samoa * Presentation of token of appreciation   Group Photograph |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | **Session 1** ***– Plenary***   * Adoption of Agenda * Outcomes of the 14th Session of the General Assembly of the APT and the 41st Session of the Management Committee of the APT Relevant to PRFP * Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020 |
| 10:30 - 12:15 | **Session 2** **:**- ***Trends on ICT Policy and Regulation / Updates of the Pacific***    *This session discusses a global trend in ICT policy and regulation as well as to provide updates on some policy and regulatory issues in the Pacific countries.*  *Moderator : PRFP Chairman (or PRFP Vice-Chairman)*  Topics :   * International trend on ICT policy and regulation; * Updates of ICT policy and regulation of Pacific countries; * ICT Business development and its regulatory impacts in the Pacific;   Speakers :   * Views and updates from APT Members in the Pacific |
| 12:15 – 14:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | **Session 3 :** - ***AI and IoT for the Pacific***  *This session discusses how technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) are primary catalyst for digital transformation and key enabler for sustainable development in Pacific. It also explores how to harness their benefits for the Pacific countries while the possible negative consequences are mitigated.*  *Moderator : (TBD)*  Topics :   * What are the trends and practical applications of AI and IoT; * How to ensure trusted, safe and inclusive development of AI and IoT technologies and services and to ensure equitable access to their benefits; * What are the impact to the Pacific countries with the applicable   Speakers :   * APT Members in the Pacific (e.g. Australia) (TBD); * GSMA (TBC); * Mobile Operator in the Pacific (TBD) |
| 15:30 – 15:45 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 15:45 – 17:15 | **Session 4** : ***Internet Connectivity of the Pacific and its beyond***  *Taking into account the need to reduce the digital divide within the Asia-Pacific region, it is imperative to increase broadband penetration with an emphasis on reaching unserved and underserved populations focusing on affordability and quality of service and on improving speed, cost of service and coverage. Hence, this session discusses challenges and opportunities in improving Internet connectivity and in making the connectivity sustain in the Pacific countries.*  *Moderator : (TBD)*  Topics:   * How to improve international broadband connectivity, including terrestrial and submarine cables and satellite connections; * How to promote hi-speed, affordable and sustainable broadband networks; * How to assist members in introducing and promoting Internet exchange points (IXPs) and in deploying and transitioning to IPv6-based networks; * How to deploy suitable technologies to maximize the benefits of universal service funds in the areas of access and backhaul broadband networks and source of power supply in bringing telecommunications/ICTs to unserved and underserved populations   Speakers:   * ISOC (TBC) * APNIC (TBC) * Facebook / Google (TBC) |
| 18:00 - | Welcome Dinner (To Be Confirmed) |
| **Time** | **Day 2 –28 November 2018** |
| 9:00 - 10:30 | **Session 5 :** ***Securing Critical Information Infrastructure***  *This session discusses how to ensure the critical information infrastructure secure against malicious manmade attacks. It will also cover the new developments and trends of cyber threat and attacks*  *Moderator : (TBD)*  Topics:   * Appropriate policies and strategies for cybersecurity, including critical information infrastructure protection such as terrestrial and submarine cable; * Sharing best practices in running national/regional Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Computer Security Incident Response Team(CSIRT); * Updates of IPv6 and DNS security     Speakers:   * APT Members in the Pacific *(TBD);* * ICANN (TBC) |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 10:45 - 12:15 | **Session 6 :**  ***Securing citizens and their data in the cyberspace***  *This session discusses what the measures to secure citizens are, in particular, children in the cyberspace, namely Child Online Protection (COP). The session will also covers challenges in personal data protection or privacy.*  *Moderator : (TBD)*  Topics:   * What are the challenges in securing citizens and their data in the cyberspace; What are the best practices and recommendations of the Child Online Protection; How to handle the issues of personal data crossing the national border   Speakers:   * APT Members in the Pacific *(TBD);* * Mobile Operators (TBD); * Internet Communities (TBD) |
| 12:15 – 14:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | **Session 7 :**  ***Natural Disaster preparedness, risk reduction and mitigation***  *Taking into account the vulnerability of members in the Pacific to natural disasters, challenges related to disaster preparedness, risk reduction and mitigation should be properly addressed. Thus this session focuses on how to prepare natural disasters and how to reduce and mitigate the risks*  *Moderator : World Food Programme (TBC)*  Topics:   * Sharing national emergency telecommunication/ICT strategies; * Updates on ICT based solutions to assist with disaster preparedness, risk reduction and response, including wireless and satellite-based technologies; * Sharing information and experiences on data collection and analysis, early warning systems, business recovery and network reconstruction incorporating disaster resilient features; * Strengthening collaboration and cooperation among key institutions, players and stakeholders to mitigate and manage risk in disaster management   Speakers:   * APT Members in the Pacific (TBD); * Industries involving in disaster management *(TBD)* |
| 15:30 – 15:45 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 15:45 – 17:15 | **Session 8 :** ***Closed Session for Policy Makers and Regulators***  *This session is dedicated for exchanging views and information amongst Policy Makers and Regulators from Pacific countries. The discussion topics will be decided by the participating countries.*  *Moderator: TBD* |
| **Time** | **Day 3 – 29 November 2018** |
| 9:00 - 10:30 | **Session 9 :** ***Catalyzing e-Application in the Pacific***  *Taking in the tremendous amount of interest in developing strategies to empower and enable the mobile applications ecosystem in each of the countries at an accelerated pace, it is timely to discuss the challenges in building the application which would be availability of an affordable access layer to build the applications. Thus this session will discuss the challenges and way forwards.*  *Moderator : International Telecommunication Union (TBC)*  Topics:   * Identifying key components for applications and service growth; * What would be a suitable framework for the developing applications; * Way forwards   Speakers:   * APT Members in the Pacific (TBD)*;* * Mobile Operators (TBD) |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 10:45 - 12:15 | **Session 10 :**  ***Spectrum Management in the Pacific and its challenges***  *This session discusses policy and regulatory issues and challenges on Spectrum Management for Pacific countries.*  *Moderator: TBD*  Topics:   * Spectrum management policies, practices and processes; * Sharing the broadcasting spectrum : refarming, digital dividend and white space; * The possible assistance of APT in terms of spectrum management   Speakers:   * APT Members in the Pacific (TBD); * OneWeb (TBC); * GSMA (TBC); * APT Secretariat |
| 12:15 – 14:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | **Session 11: *Panel Discussion : Future Outlook***  *Panel session by Heads of Delegations to discuss collaboration issues in overall including cooperation with other organizations/ institutions/ initiatives.*  *Moderator: PRFP Chairman*  Topics:   * Open dialogue for panel discussion on future outlook for the Pacific and potential cooperative issues; * Discussion and Q&A |
| 15:30 – 15:45 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 15:45 – 16:45 | **Session 12: *Plenary - Way Forward and Closing***   * Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of PRFP * Any other matters   + Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting in 2019   + Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of APT   Closing   * Speech by Secretary General of APT * Speech and closing by Chairman of PRFP |

**Annex C**

**Internet Connectivity Workshop on**

***“Ensuring Sustainable Connectivity in Pacific”***

26 November 2018 /Apia, Samoa

**Tentative Programme**

***Opening***

* Welcome address *(****Secretary General of APT****);*
* Objectives of the Internet Workshop *(****ISOC****, APNIC);*
* Opening remarks *(MCIT, Samoa),*

***Session 1*: *Challenges and Opportunities of Connectivity in the Pacific***

*Moderator:* ***APNIC***

* Connectivity status and pressing needs of the Pacific; (Member Administration, e.g. Cook Island)
* Social, Cultural and Environmental Issues; (GSMA / Facebook / Google)
* Recent developments and initiatives to improve Internet connectivity; (World Bank)

***Session 2*: *Enablers* for a *better connected Pacific***

*Moderator:* ***ISOC***

* Internet Exchange Points and IPv6 and CERT; (**APNIC**)
* New Satellite technologies and services; (**SES Sky**)
* DNS Security Extension (DNSSEC); (**ICANN**)

***Session 3*: *Beyond Connectivity for the Pacific***

*Moderator:* ***ICANN***

* Community networks; (**ISOC**)
* ICT applications to address the needs of the Pacific; (**ITU**)
* Country case studies demonstrating benefits of ICTs (Member Administration, e.g. Vanuatu)

***Session 4*: *Wrap-up* *Panel Discussion on* *towards sustainable connectivity in the Pacific***

*Moderator:* ***APT Secretariat***

* *Panelists: Policy Makers and Regulators from the Pacific, International/Regional Organizations;*
* Exchanging the findings from the Workshop discussion;
* Areas of collaboration among the stake holders;
* Suggestions for PRFP and APT.

***Closing***