

# Improving access to Digital Services in the Pacific

Sibesh Bhattacharya sbhattacharya@adb.org





#### **FOUNDED IN 1966**



- 68 members; 49 in the region
- 37 borrowing members in 2019
- Focusing on Asia and the Pacific
- 3,572 employees, spanning 64 nationalities



# **ADB Membership**







# 77

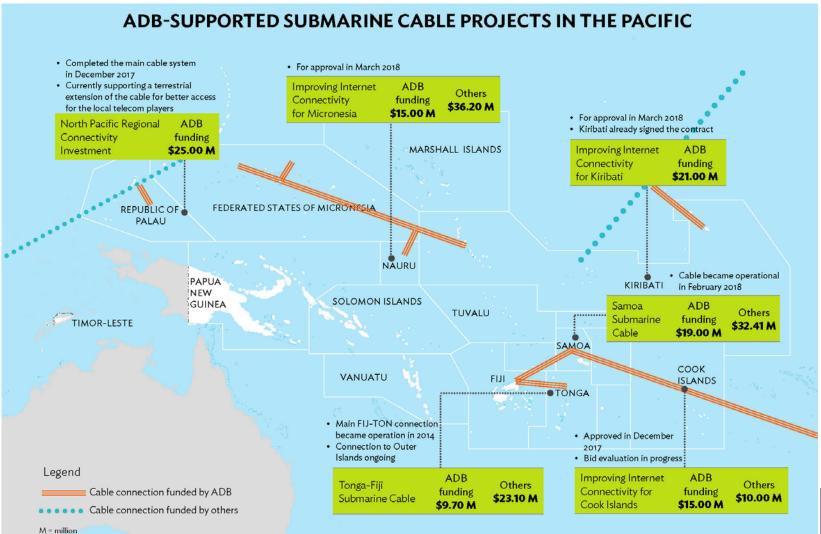
# Why investing in subsea cables?

- Impact of digital technologies in all sectors
- Economic benefit and employment opportunities
- Limited and costly connectivity services in Pacific region
- Fiber optic cable: most reliable and cost-effective longterm solution





### **Portfolio**







## **ADB's Goal**

- Not profit, but development impact
- Affordable quality internet service
- Efficient social service delivery
- Private sector development





## Challenges

- Minimizing capital and operating cost
- Different organizational structure
- Regional approach
- Policy and regulatory environment
- Bandwidth utilization





#### Next

- Connecting the unconnected outer island, remote communities
- Resilient cable system
- Domestic connectivity
- Applications e-Government, e-education, digital islands etc.





www.adb.org

