Concept Note

Subregional workshop on implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Pacific island countries

1. Title

Subregional workshop on implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Pacific island countries

2. Overview

At the first session of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) Steering Committee in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1-2 November 2017, Pacific island participants (Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu) identified four priority areas for the subregional implementation of AP-IS, namely 1) capacity building on the AP-IS four pillars; 2) connectivity and access to isolated communities; 3) infrastructure sharing policy and 4) cybersecurity and associated policies. In this context, the Pacific island participants requested that ESCAP, and its partners, provide technical support and hold a subregional capacity development meeting on these priority areas as part of the implementation of AP-IS subregional plan.

The above-mentioned four priority areas for the Pacific island countries and AP-IS subregional implementation plan were discussed at the Dhaka meeting based on ESCAP studies and analyses. According to a recent ESCAP study, 18 ESCAP member States, on average, had less than 2 per cent of their populations with fixed-broadband subscriptions in 2016. Out of the 18 countries, 8 are Pacific island countries (45%). In the case of mobile-broadband subscription, 13 ESCAP member States, on average, had less than 20 per cent of their respective populations had access to mobile-broadband services in 2016. Six are Pacific island countries (46%).

Against this background, another ESCAP study specifically reviewed the conditions, challenges and opportunities surrounding broadband connectivity in Pacific island countries. It highlighted that broadband adoption in Pacific island countries was influenced by several factors including economic development levels of countries; new demand created by access to e-government services; access to affordable electricity; access to affordable ICT devices; access to education for acquiring relevant skills; and investment in resilient ICT infrastructure. The policy recommendations emanating from the study included building analytical capacity of concerned government officials in identifying digital divide at the national and subnational levels and linking the national efforts to a subregional mechanism for effective coordination of broadband connectivity development in the Pacific island countries. By doing so, Pacific island countries could aggregate small isolated national markets into one subregional market with enough bargaining power for future negotiations with private operators on infrastructure investment (such as satellite technologies or combination with fibre-optic connectivity).

To realize this pathway, the Ministry of Communications/Telecommunications needs to be

informed of the national broadband market (by: urban/rural areas; gender; geographic regions -isolated communities/outer islands- and age). Most of these household-level data on ICT (particularly for gender dimension) are often lacking in most Pacific island countries. In addition, the Ministry of Communications/Telecommunications are the focal points for providing timely and accurate national ICT statistics to international organizations (such as ITU) and other international reporting mechanisms for tracking the progress on SDGs. While collection of ICT statistics by Ministry of Communications/Telecommunications are often costly and time consuming, national surveys (such as population census or household income and expenditure surveys) include ICT statistics at the household/individual levels. This primary information is accessible for identifying digital divide and conducting evidence-based policy analysis and formulation. The challenge, however, is for government officials from Ministry of Communications/Telecommunications to know what type of national statistics available for their analysis.

In addition, such national ICT statistics, analysis and identified digital divide could inform policy- and decision-making not only at the national but also subregional levels. By aggregating the national data and statistics, subregional organizations, such as PITA and SPC, and member countries could be in a better position to negotiate terms and conditions with telecom operators or satellite communication service providers to provide additional fiber optic cables with and within the Pacific.

3. Objective

To foster ICT for resilient and sustainable development in Pacific island countries, by strengthening the analytical capacity of government officials in making use of national statistics for identifying digital divide, effective monitoring of the ICT-related SDG indicators and evidence-based ICT policy making through the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative.

4. Implementing and Collaborating Entities

The subregional workshop is led by ESCAP's Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division with support from ESCAP Pacific Office (EPO), in collaboration with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the Pacific Islands Telecommunication Associations (PITA).

5. Key Outputs

a) Guideline on how to coordinate national ICT statistics for evidence-base policy making in Pacific island countries;
b) Subregional workshop on implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Pacific island countries;

6. Venue and Date

a) Venue: Nadi, Fiji
b) Date: 19-23 November 2018

7. Agenda

Time	19 November 2018
08:30-09:00	*Registration*
09:00-09:30	**Session 1 - Opening** • Opening remarks: (i). Iosefa Maiava, Head, Pacific ESCAP Office (ii). Mr. Ioane Koroivuki, Regional Director – Asia & the Pacific Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU (iii). Mr. Sione Veikoso, President, PITA • Welcoming remarks: Fiji (TBC) • Election of Chair • Self-introduction by participants
09:30-09:45	*Coffee/Tea Break*
09:45-12:00	**Session 2 – Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative** This session would focus on the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative supported by ESCAP (update on progress and way forward).
12:00-14:00	*Lunch Break* *Informal session for Pacific private sectors & bilateral meetings to enhance partnerships between governments and private sectors in ICT.*
14:00-15:15	**Session 3 – Infrastructure connectivity** This session would discuss opportunities and challenges on promoting cross-border broadband connectivity in Pacific island countries. • ITU (Confirmed)
15:15-15:30	*Coffee/Tea Break*
15:30-16:45	**Session 4 – Internet Traffic & Network Management** Discussions in this session will focus around measures put in place to improve efficiency in Internet traffic and network management.
16:45-17:00	**Session 5 – Wrap up** • Wrap up: ESCAP/ITU/PITA
20 November 2018	
09:00-10:15	**Session 6 – ICT infrastructure resilience to natural disasters** Discussions in this session will focus on measures put in place to enhance resilience in ICT infrastructure from natural disaster, including experiences on the use of ICT for disaster management. • UNDP (Confirmed)
10:15-10:30	*Coffee/Tea Break*
10:30-12:00	**Session 7 – Affordable broadband for all**

	Discussions in this session will focus on opportunities and challenges on promoting affordable broadband access in Pacific island countries. • ITU *(TBC)*
12:00-14:00	*Lunch Break* *Informal session for Pacific private sectors & Bilateral meetings to enhance partnerships between governments and private sectors in ICT.*
14:00-15:15	<u>**Session 8**</u> **– AP-IS subregional ICT plan for Pacific island countries** This session will facilitate discussions by Pacific island countries' government representatives of the key ICT priorities that needs to be consolidated and reflected as the Pacific's AP-IS subregional implementation plan.
15:15-15:30	*Coffee/Tea Break*
15:30-16:45	<u>**Session 8**</u> **– AP-IS subregional ICT plan for Pacific island countries** (continued) This session will facilitate discussions by Pacific island countries' government representatives of the key ICT priorities that needs to be consolidated and reflected as the Pacific's AP-IS subregional implementation plan.
16:45-17:00	<u>**Session 9**</u> **- Closing** • Closing remarks: (i). ESCAP (ii). Mr. Ioane Koroivuki, Regional Director – Asia & the Pacific Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU (iii). Mr. Sione Veikoso, President, PITA • Way Forward: ESCAP
21 November 2018 **Training Workshop #1: Collecting ICT statistics – insights from national surveys (ESCAP)**	
09:00-10:30	• **Session 1** ICT indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals
10:30-10:45	Coffee/Tea Break
10:45-12:00	• **Session 2** ICT statistics in Pacific island countries: what is available?
12:00-13:30	*Lunch Break*
13:30-15:00	• **Session 4** National surveys and ICT statistics
15:00-15:15	*Coffee/Tea Break*
15:15-16:30	**Session 5** ICT statistics: insights from the population census data of Tonga

16:30-16:45	• **<u>Session 6</u> : Closing and evaluation** • Closing remarks (i). ESCAP (ii). Mr. Ioane Koroivuki, Regional Director – Asia & the Pacific Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU (iii). Mr. Sione Veikoso, President, PITA • Evaluation of training

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Training Workshop #2: ICT indicators and the IDI (National and Global Data Collection) (ITU & PITA)	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:30	Welcome Remarks • President PITA • ESCAP • Regional Director, ITU ASP-RO
09:30 - 09:45	**1. Introduction** 1.1 Introduction and objective of the workshop 1.2 Practical information for participants - *ITU/PITA*
09:45-10:15	<center>Group photo and coffee break</center>
10:15-11:15	**2. National ICT data collection and challenges in the Pacific** 2.1 Purpose of ICT data collection, data collection schedule and data collected 2.2 Legal provisions for data collection and/or licensing conditions, confidentiality measures 2.3 Data processing, dissemination and use of data 2.4 Challenges *Speaker: <Reps from SIDS>*
11:15-12:30	**3. Global ICT data collection: Overview of ITU's work on ICT statistics** 3.1 Collection and validation of global administrative and household ICT statistics 3.2 Development of internationally comparable ICT indicators 3.3 Dissemination of ICT trends and analysis *Speaker: Consultant, ITU*

12:30-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:00	**4. Fixed-telephone network, mobile-cellular network and international bandwidth indicators** 4.1 Fixed-telephone indicators 4.2 Mobile-cellular indicators 4.3 International bandwidth indicators 4.4 Discussion *Speaker: Consultant, ITU*
15:00 – 16:00	**5. Fixed-broadband, mobile-broadband and bundled telecommunication services indicators** 5.1 Fixed-broadband indicators 5.2 Mobile-broadband indicators 5.3 Bundled telecom services indicators 5.4 Discussion *Speaker: ITU Consultant*
16:00 – 17:00	**6. Quality of service and traffic indicators** 6.1 Quality of service indicators 6.2 Traffic indicators 6.3 Discussion *Speaker: ITU Consultant*
**END OF DAY 1**
**Day 2, Friday 23 November 2018** **Global Benchmarking**
09:00-09:15	Interaction and discussion: recap from day 1 *Speaker: ITU Consultant*
09:15 – 10:15	**7. Revenue, investment, employment and Pay TV** (Continuation of National and Global Data Collection) 7.1 Revenue indicators 7.2 Investment indicators 7.3 Employment indicators 7.4 Pay TV indicators 7.5 Discussion *Speaker: ITU Consultant*
10:15 – 10:30	Coffee break

10:30 – 12:30	**8. Composite indices: a brief look around**
	    8.1 What they are
	    8.2 What they do; and
	    8.3 Good practices in composite index construction
	
	9. The ICT Development Index (IDI)
	    9.1 Conceptual framework and methodology
	    9.2 Sub-indices
	    9.3 Indicators used and their relevance and definitions
	    9.4 Setting national goals: IDI score or rank?
	10. Reviewing the IDI
	    10.1 Need for review of indicators
	    10.2 New indicators for the IDI, and definitions
	        Speaker: Consultant, ITU

12:30 – 14:00	Lunch break

14:00 – 15:00	**11. IDI 2018, Pacific in focus**
	    11.1 What the IDI 2018 reveal and the road ahead.
	        Speaker: tbc

15:00 – 16:00	**12. Hands- on session**
	    12.1 Quiz on indicators
	    12.2 Calculation of the IDI
	    Speaker: Consultant, ITU

16:00-16:30	Coffee break

16:30-17:00	**13. Vignette:**
	    13.1 Sustainable Development Goals
	    Speaker: Consultant, ITU

17:00 – 17:30	**14. Conclusion and Way Forward**
	    14.1 Conclusions and way forward –*Consultant, ITU*
	    14.2 Closing ceremony –
	        Closing remarks:
	        (i) ESCAP
	        (ii). Mr. Sione Veikoso, President, PITA
	        (iii) Mr. Ioane Koroivuki, Regional Director – Asia & the Pacific

END OF DAY 2 **END OF WORKSHOP**	