

**1 Opening Session Speech by Dr. Eun-ju Kim, Head of the ITU regional office  
for Asia and the Pacific.**



ITU-EC Project (ICB4PIS) Kick-off Meeting  
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Nadi, Fiji Islands

Opening Remarks  
Eun-Ju Kim Ph.D.  
Head  
ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Honorable Minister of Public Enterprises, Tourism and Communications, and Attorney General, Mr. Ayaz Sayed-Khaiyum, His Excellency, Ambassador and Head of the European Commission for the Pacific, Mr. Van der Goot,

Distinguished Delegates and Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Good morning,

It is an honour for me to be at this opening of the very launch of the “Capacity Building and ICT Policy, Regulatory and Legislative Frameworks Support for Pacific Island” the third sub-project of the ITU-EC global project.

Let me give you short background of this project. As you may recall, since the adoption of the Resolution 17 of the Doha Action Plan in 2006 aiming at implementing five Asia-Pacific regional initiatives which one of them is “*The Unique Telecommunication/ICT Needs of Pacific Islands and Small Island Developing State (SIDS) in the Asia-Pacific Region*”, ITU and particularly its regional office for Asia and the Pacific had made efforts in developing project proposals and looking for partners in order to make the initiative achieve its objectives. One of these proposals drew attention from the European Commission (EC) to look into telecommunications/ICT issues in the Pacific in particular.

Having had its objectives in line with those of proposals for other regions, the proposal for the Pacific was successfully included into a 4-year planned assistance by ITU and EC. Hence both organisations entered into a cooperation agreement in December 2007 for implementing the action entitled “Support for the Establishment of Harmonized Policies for the ICT Market in the ACP”, which

is an umbrella framework of three separate sub-projects in the Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific respectively.

The ITU\_EC sub-project for the Pacific Islands in particular aims to build **human capacity** in the field of ICT through a range of targeted training, education and knowledge measures. As well as regional activities, this sub-project will implement the transposition of regional guidelines into the national legislative and regulatory frameworks of beneficiary countries in coherence with the national strategies of each of them. If time and funds permit, a second row of actions will consider institutional and human capacity building at national level with a focus on **national experts**.

The objective for the Pacific Island sub-region is to provide capacity building support based entirely on what the recipient country have identified as their urgent needs. This sub-project is for you and you are here to express what those needs are the together, we can determine and ascertain whether we can address those needs in this project or another one of the many ITU initiatives that I will briefly talk about.

Dear colleagues and participants,

If I may bring to your attention that the project is among other ITU projects and activities underway in the Pacific region, for instance, ITU in partnership with the Telecom of Andorra has still assisted Pacific Island Countries in deployment of rural and outer island communications. Also with support from the Department of Broadband, Communications, and the Digital Economy (DBCDE), Australian Government, ITU has provided direct country assistance in various subject areas. Furthermore, the very recently, ITU in collaboration with Nokia-Siemens Networks has selected Tonga and Vanuatu to be the first two countries for implementing a trial of the Village Connection Solution.

Last but not the least, I would like to thank our long-time partners who have supported us in various ways and activities: the Australian Government and particularly the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy; the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), and the Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA). We will continue collaborating with you and will always appreciate your supports for any activities underway and what yet to come.

We are also grateful to others such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), SOPAC, and The World Bank for their cooperation with ITU. And not less importantly, our appreciation is to our ITU Member States and all of you here.

THANK YOU