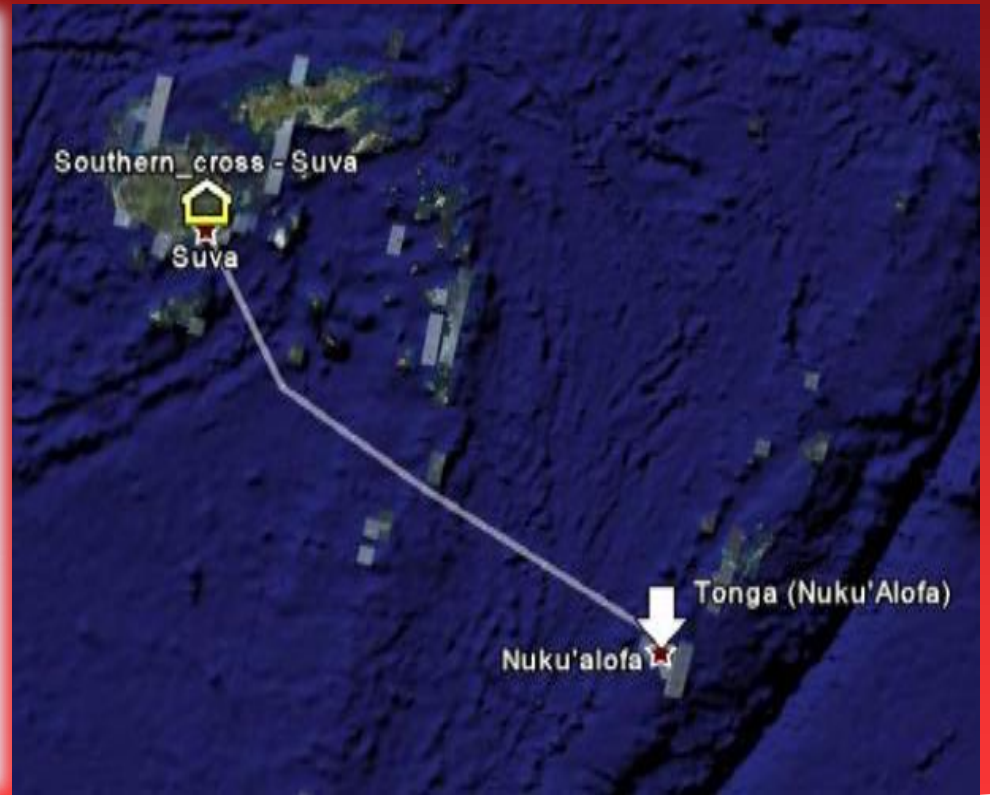


# ITU/PITA Workshop on enhancing Access to submarine Cables



## TONGA Country Presentation

Timote Katoanga (TCL) & Keith Moala (Government of Tonga)

# PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

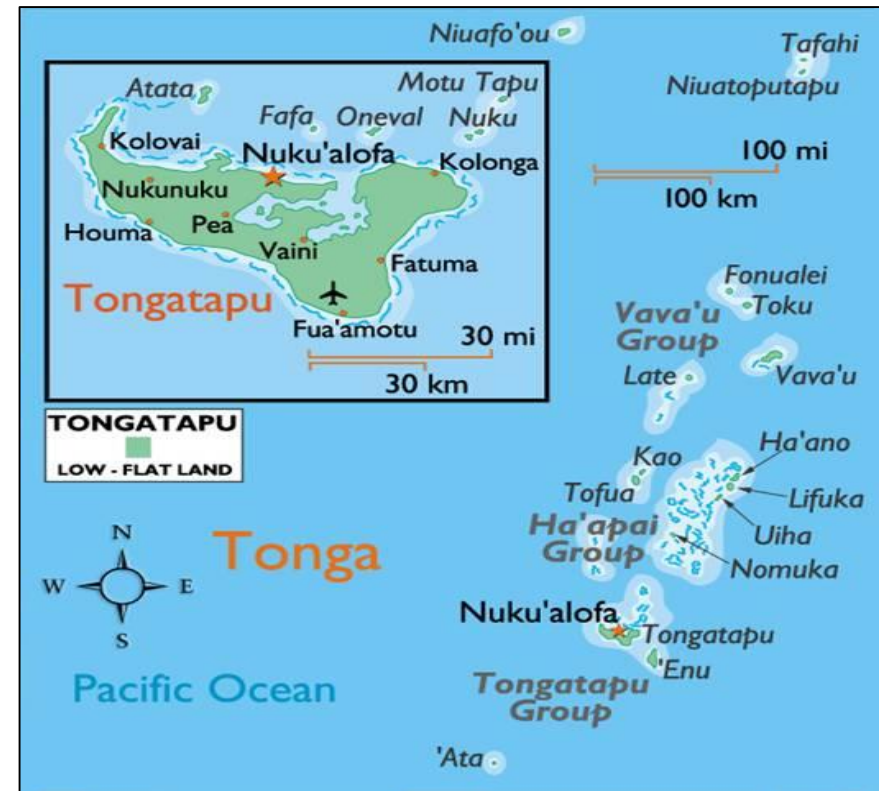


- \* **About Tonga.**
- \* **Telecom Network Status.**
- \* **International Connectivity – Cable vs Satellite capacity.**
- \* **Internet Access Prices (Today)**
- \* **Plans To Enhance Access Bandwidth & Speed.**
- \* **Policies & Regulations.**
- \* **Challenges Pertaining To Enhancing Access to Cable.**

# ABOUT TONGA



- ✓ Total number of islands: 176.
- ✓ 3 main groups of islands:  
Tongatapu, Vava'u, Ha'apai
- ✓ Plus two Niuas in the north
- ✓ Total population: 105,323.
- ✓ Total land area: 750 sq.kms
- ✓ Capital: Nuku'alofa.
- ✓ Reigning King: Tupou VI.
- ✓ Currency: Tongan Pa'anga.



# TELECOM NETWORK STATUS



- \* **Services:** Mobile, Fixed line, ADSL, Internet and Digital TV.
- \* **Three Network Operators:** Tonga Communications Corporation , Digicel and AirChord (Nuku'alofa only)
- \* **Overall coverage:** More than 90% of the geographical areas but more than 95% of the population.
- \* **Mobile customers:** more than 70K subscribers.
- \* **Mobile generation:** 2G, 3G & 4G.

# INTERNATIONAL & DOMESTIC CONNECTIVITY and CAPACITY



- \* **GENERAL TREND – Reduced Satellite Capacity, Increase OF Cable Capacity**

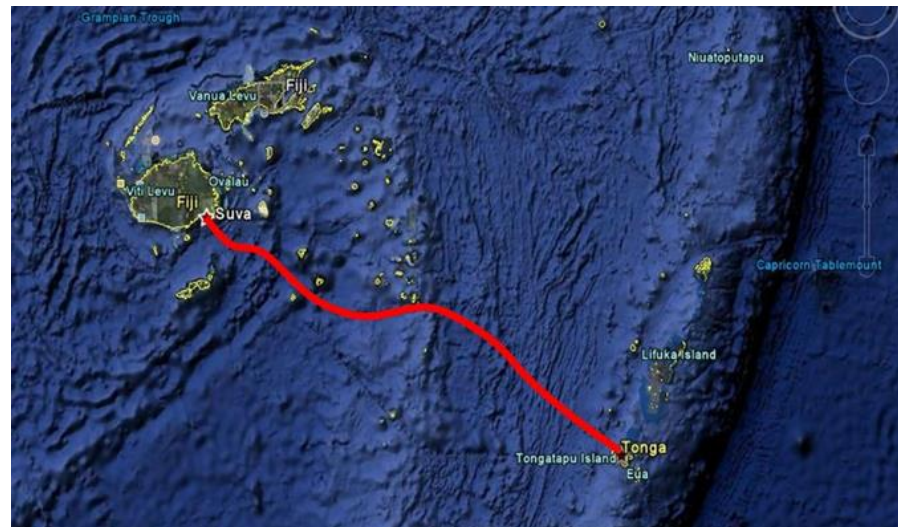
- \* **International Capacity:**

  - Submarine Cable via Fiji – 1.21Gbps (Cross 1Gbps mark - July 2017)

  - Satellite – 105Mbps

- \* **Domestic OF Cable Plan**

**Inter-island Cable Project to connect Tongatapu, Ha’apai and Vava’u. (Complete Mid 2018)**



# INTERNET ACCESS - PRICES



- \* PRE-PAID (Wide variety of Plans to choose from).

T\$1.50 for 15Mb (24 hrs)	T\$5 fo 350Mb (4 days)	T\$20 for 2Gb (20 days)
T\$2 for 130Mb (24 hrs)	T\$5 fo 65Mb (Week)	T\$25 for 2Gb (Month)

- \* POST-PAID (Wide variety of Plans to choose from).

T\$25 for 5Gb	T\$49 for 12GB	T\$750 unlimited
T\$59 for 5Gb	T\$165 for 15GB	T\$999 for 400G



# PLANS TO ENHANCE ACCESS BANDWIDTH & SPEED



- \* Plan to equally divide up the GSM 1800 Band amongst the 3 Network Operators. (4G/LTE)
- \* Domestic Submarine Fiber Optic Project to connect Tongatapu, Ha'apai and Vava'u by Mid-2018.
- \* Work closely with Network Operators - promoting Price Reduction to end users. (Think Volume!)



# POLICIES & REGULATIONS

## Relating to International Connectivity



- \* TCL ongoing (4 times since launched in 2013) reduction of wholesale prices of international submarine cable capacity.
- \* Radio Spectrum Reform Plans to enhance backhaul for Fixed and Mobile Services by Network Operators
- \* Interconnection Access Rules 2017 (Submarine Cable Services)

### Purposes:

1. To reduce the whole price for accessing to the international submarine cable.
2. To make broadband services more available to people throughout Tonga at affordable prices.



# CHALLENGES PERTAINING TO ENHANCING ACCESS TO THE CABLE



- \* **Legislation: Only two Licensing categories – Network Operator and Service Providers.**
- \* **Pricing Structure is not in the favor of small Network Operators and Service providers (New entrant starters).**
- \* **Government's (Revenue Dep't) introduce 15% CT on all outbound international calls from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017**
- \* **Complex dependency of 'service volumes' on prices!**

# MALO 'AUPITO

